

SELECT COMMITTEE
ON REGENERATION, CULTURE AND
ADULT EDUCATION

Wednesday 9th June 2010, at 6.00 pm
in Committee Room 2 at the Council House, Dudley

PRESENT:-

Councillor K Turner (Chairman)
Councillor Mottram (Vice Chairman)
Councillors Ali, Attwood, Caunt, Mrs Cowell, G H Davies, Evans, Knowles, Ms Partridge and J Woodall.

Officers

Assistant Director, Housing Strategy and Private Sector (Lead Officer to the Committee), Assistant Director Policy and Improvement (Chief Executive's Directorate), Assistant Director Economic Regeneration and Assistant Director Culture and Leisure (both Directorate of the Urban Environment), Head of Human Resources and Principal Human Resources Officer (Supporting the Directorate of the Urban Environment) and Mr J Jablonski (all Directorate of Law, Property & Human Resources).

Also in attendance

Councillor L Jones (Cabinet Member for Regeneration)

Together with Two members of the public

1

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No Member made a declaration of interest in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct in respect of any matter to be considered at this meeting.

2

MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 3rd March, 2010, be approved as a correct record and signed.

3

PUBLIC FORUM

The two members of the public present commented on the position regarding the vacant site left arising from the demolition of Coseley Baths in Peartree Lane, Coseley. They commented on the problems residents of that street were experiencing with youths and anti-social behaviour and asked that the site be secured and that the boards that had previously been erected be re-erected.

Arising from further comments made by Members it was requested that warning signs be displayed on the site.

As this site was now the responsibility of the Directorate of Law, Property and Human Resources, the Assistant Director Culture and Leisure undertook to contact the relevant Officers in that Directorate to pass on the comments and requests made regarding the site.

4

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S DIRECTORATE'S EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ANNUAL REPORT 2009/10

A report of the Chief Executive was submitted on the Chief Executive's Directorate's Equality and Diversity Annual Report for 2009/10.

Following an introduction by the Assistant Director Policy and Improvement a number of comments were made by Members on the content and layout of the report together with a number of queries on certain aspects of the Equality and Diversity Annual Report 2009/10 attached as an Appendix to the report submitted.

Arising from the comments made it was:-

RESOLVED

1. That the Chief Executive's Directorate's Equality and Diversity Annual Report for 2009/10 be noted subject to the following comments:-

The Assistant Director Policy and Improvement arranging for changes to be made to the corporate template in respect of such reports so that his and other reports from Directorates include:

- i) Actual numbers as well as percentages particularly in relation to the tables used;
- ii) Reference as to whether employees were full time or part time.

- iii) Details of BME employees in relation to salary grade.
 - iv) Mention of equality and diversity in the mission statement.
 - v) A more user friendly layout so that the content, in particular the comparison tables, could be more readily understood; and
 - vi) Information as to the age profile of the workforce.
2. That, arising from comments made on the content of the report, and Appendix to the report, submitted:-
- i) The Assistant Director Policy and Improvement be requested to e-mail to all Members of the Committee the areas of inequality referred to as being identified in paragraph 3.2 of the report submitted.
 - ii) That the Assistant Director Policy and Improvement be requested to inform the Chairman as to when the consultation referred to in objective CE13 would be undertaken.
 - iii) That in respect of objective CE5 point (5) – Develop engagement with young Muslim women across the borough through the PVE programme and plan and deliver capacity building events – and comments made regarding the lack of information and in particular Member involvement in this initiative, the Assistant Director Policy and Improvement be requested to pursue the comments made so that there was a broader engagement with Members.
 - iv) Arising from comments made in respect of objective CE9 – increase percentage of employees with a disability – and comments made regarding what had been done on a practical level arising from the approval of the HR strategy, the Assistant Director Policy and Improvement undertook to contact the Assistant Director Human Resources and Citizenship with a request that she arrange for a response to be sent, via e-mail, to all Members of the Committee.

- v) In respect of comments made in respect of objective CE15 – Progress community cohesion work – point (2) – Work with the Directorate of Children’s Services to develop a plan for engaging schools in preventing violent extremism activity and consider how to use available funding – the Lead Officer to the Committee be requested to write to the Director of Children’s Services , and other interested persons, to ascertain whether this matter was included or could be included in the work programme of the Select Committee on Children’s Services so that relevant information including whether children would be monitored for extremist activity could be reported on and scrutinised.

5 DIRECTORATE OF THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT’S EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ANNUAL REPORT 2009/2010

A report of the Director of the Urban Environment was submitted on the Directorate of the Urban Environment’s Equality and Diversity Annual Report 2009/10.

Arising from an introduction of the content of the report by the Head of Human Resources, the Principal Human Resources Officer, supporting the Directorate of the Urban Environment, highlighted aspects of Annual Report attached as an Appendix to the report submitted.

Arising from comments made it was:-

RESOLVED

1. That the Directorate of the Urban Environment’s Equality and Diversity Annual Report for 2009/10 be noted subject to:-
 - i) Appropriate links being included in the report and Appendix to any associated documents to ease reference to such documents.
 - ii) Inclusion of the Lead Officer responsible for meeting the targets on the objectives included in the Appendix.
2. That arising from comments made in relation to objective DUE 5 in respect of recycling and recent proposals by Central Government, the Principal Human Resources Officer undertook to ascertain the position as to whether the Officers concerned were preparing and had plans for future implementation of the new recycling proposals and contact the Chairman direct once she had received a response.

6

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE FOR 2009/2010

A report of the Leader Officer to the Committee was submitted on the Annual Report of the Select Committee for 2009/10.

Arising from consideration of the report and in response to a request made the Assistant Director Economic Regeneration undertook to forward to Councillors Knowles and Ali, and any other member who wished a copy, details of the Small Business Engagement Accord that had previously been referred to the Committee.

RESOLVED

That the Annual Report of the Select Committee for 2009/10 be received and noted and referred to the Council.

7

WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2010/2011

A report of the Lead Officer to the Committee was submitted on the proposed work programme of the Committee for the 2010/11 municipal year.

Arising from a comment made regarding the availability of the Inspector's Report on the Joint Core Strategy which it was considered would be received in October, 2010 enabling a report to be submitted to this Committee at its meeting in November, 2010, it was agreed that the update on the Joint Core Strategy now be considered in November, 2010.

RESOLVED

1. That the work programme of the Committee for 2010/11, as updated, be approved, as follows:-

Date of Meeting	Item
09/06/10	Chief Executive's Directorate Equality and Diversity Annual Report for 2009/10.
	Directorate of the Urban Environment's Equality and Diversity Annual Report for 2009/10.
	Work Programme for 2010/11
	Annual Report of the Select Committee
13/09/10	Quarterly Corporate Performance Management Report

	Annual review of Equality and Diversity
	Report from the Economic Development and Regeneration Partnership
	Report from the Heritage, Culture and Leisure Partnership
	Update on Planning Obligations
	Leasowes Restoration Project
	Update on Regeneration of Local and District Centres (including Cradley and Coseley).
03/11/10	Update of the Council's Capital Strategy
	Playing pitch strategy
	Update on Joint Core Strategy
	Indoor Sport and Recreation Strategy
	Impact of the Small Business Accord
	Update on recreational dimension of the Healthy Towns Initiative
19/01/11	Council Budget
	Quarterly Corporate Performance Management Report
	Review of Corporate ICT Strategy
	Visitor Economy Update
	Update on Dudley Archives and Local History Service relocation
	Aquatic Strategy
10/03/11	Dudley Borough Economic Strategy 2011/12
	Quarterly corporate performance management report

Chief Executive's Directorate Equality
and Diversity Action Plan 2011/12

Indoor Sport and Recreation Strategy

Glass Feasibility Study Stage 2

Directorate of the Urban Environment's
Annual Equality and Diversity Action
Report 2011/12

Update on planning obligations

Update on Brierley Hill Action Plan

2. That no formal working groups be appointed in 2010/11 but that should it be considered that a specific issue requires the appointment of a working group then an ad-hoc working group be appointed on a time limited basis to consider the specific issue and report back to the Committee.

The meeting ended at 6.56 p.m.

CHAIRMAN