

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC REGENERATION

Thursday, 1st July, 2004, at 6.00 p.m.

PRESENT:-

Councillor K Turner (Chairman)
Councillors Body, Mrs Cowell, Islam, Jackson, Knowles, Rogers and C Wilson together with the Assistant Director of Housing (Strategy and Private Sector) (as Lead Officer to the Committee), Chief Executive, Director of Law and Property, Director of Finance, Director of Education and Lifelong Learning (as Corporate E-Champion), Head of ICT Services, the Assistant Director of the Urban Environment (Economic Regeneration), Mr Manson (Chief Executives Department), Ms Flavell (Directorate of Finance, ICT and Procurement) and Mrs Johal (Directorate of Law & Property).

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors Ms Harris, Johnston and Mrs Patrick.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No Member made a declaration of interest in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct.

3 MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of the former Select Committee on Economic Vitality and Jobs held on 26th April, 2004 be approved as a correct record and signed.

4 CHANGE IN ORDER OF BUSINESS

Pursuant to Council Procedure Rule 13(c), it was

RESOLVED

That the remaining items of business be considered in the following order:

| <u>Agenda Item No</u> | <u>Item</u> |
|-----------------------|---|
| 9 | Chief Executive's Directorate Equality and Diversity Annual Report 2003/04 |
| 8 | Annual Review of Equality and Diversity 2004 |
| 10 | Equality and Diversity Annual Report of the Directorate of Finance, ICT and Procurement for 2003/04 |
| 11 | Best Value Performance Indicator BVPI and ODPM Priority Outcomes – Progress Report |
| 5 | Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure of the Committee |
| 6 | Appointment of Working Groups |
| 7 | Work Programme Confirmation |
| 12 | Questions Under Council Procedure Rule 11.8 (If any) |

5 CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S DIRECTORATE EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ANNUAL REPORT 2003/04

A report of the Chief Executive seeking consideration of the Chief Executive's Directorate's equality and diversity annual report for 2003/04 was submitted.

RESOLVED

That the equality and diversity annual report for 2003/04 of the Chief Executive's Directorate attached to the report submitted, be noted and supported

6 ANNUAL REVIEW OF EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY 2004

A report of the Director of Law and Property seeking consideration of the annual review of equality and diversity was submitted.

The Director of Law and Property informed members that a stairlift wheelchair lift was to be installed in due course enabling access from the landing outside Committee Room 2 to the Council Chamber for wheelchair users.

A member queried whether a detailed audit had taken place in relation to disabled access at Council-owned buildings. In response the Director of Law and Property commented that as there were 1000 buildings a formal audit would have cost at least £250,000. However he informed members that an annual programme of priorities had been compiled based on existing technical information and the views of building managers.

RESOLVED

That the annual review of equality and diversity of the Directorate of Law and Property attached to the report submitted, be noted and supported.

7

**EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
DIRECTORATE OF FINANCE, ICT AND PROCUREMENT FOR
2003/04**

A report of the Director of Finance seeking consideration of the Directorate of Finance, ICT and Procurement's Equality and Diversity Annual Report for 2003/04 was submitted.

The Lead Officer to the Committee commended the Directorate in relation to the figures for employing disabled staff and highlighted that they were twice the Council average. In response the Director of Finance commented that concentrated efforts and commitment of dedicated support by the Directorate (ie flexible working, term time working, special equipment for disabled) had achieved retention of staff.

RESOLVED

That the equality and diversity annual report for 2003/04 of the Directorate of Finance, ICT and Procurement attached to the report submitted, be noted and supported.

8

**BEST VALUE PERFORMANCE INDICATOR BVPI 157 AND ODPM
PRIORITY OUTCOMES – PROGRESS REPORT**

A report of the Director of Education and Lifelong Learning, as Corporate E-Champion, updating members with the latest information on the Council's performance against BVPI 157 and regarding the monitoring of the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) 'Priority Services and Transformation Outcomes', was submitted.

The Director of Education and Lifelong Learning, as Corporate E-Champion offered to facilitate a presentation to the Committee to demonstrate the achievements in the area.

RESOLVED

That the information contained in the report submitted be noted and that regular update reports be submitted to the Committee.

9 TERMS OF REFERENCE AND RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE COMMITTEE

A report of the Lead Officer to the Committee setting out the Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure of the Committee was submitted.

RESOLVED

That the information contained in the report submitted be noted.

10 APPOINTMENT OF WORKING GROUPS

A report of the Lead Officer to the Committee seeking consideration of Working Groups to be appointed in the 2004/05 municipal year was submitted.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the ICT Policy Working group be not re-appointed and that reports that would previously have been referred to the Working Group be submitted direct to the Committee.
 - (2) That the Economic Strategy Working Group be re-appointed and renamed the Economic Regeneration Working Group for the 2004/05 municipal year with the terms of reference of the former Working Group and with a membership to be determined.
 - (3) That the Equality, Diversity and Inclusivity Working Group be re-appointed and renamed the Equality and Diversity Working Group for the 2004/05 municipal year and that its terms of reference be those of the former Equal Opportunities and Disability Discrimination Working Group with a membership to be determined.
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11 WORK PROGRAMME CONFIRMATION

A report of the Lead Officer to the Committee confirming the provisional work programme for the year as outlined at the meeting of the Committee held on 23 March 2004, was submitted.

The Chairman requested that a glossary itemising abbreviations be included on future agendas for the benefit of new Members.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the provisional work programme, as outlined in the report now submitted, be approved but that it be acknowledged that an extra meeting may be necessary to ensure completion of the full work programme.
- (2) That a presentation on the Committee Management Information System (CMIS) be made to a future meeting of the Committee with a view to gearing towards receiving electronic agendas and minutes in the future.
- (3) That the September meeting of the Committee include agenda items on future diversification of manufacturing in Dudley's economic base, operational management of Town Centre Plans and Unitary Development Plan and background issues.

The meeting ended at 8.25 pm.

CHAIRMAN