

Urban Environment Scrutiny Committee – Wednesday 1st October 2014

Report of the Scrutiny Committee Lead Officer

Inward Investment in Dudley Borough and the Black Country

Purpose of Report

1. To provide Members of the Scrutiny Committee with a draft work programme to support the scrutiny of inward investment activities in Dudley Borough and the Black Country.

Background

2. On the 10th September 2014, Members of this Committee considered a report from the Lead Officer detailing contextual information to support the scrutiny process. Following comments and recommendations raised by Members this report outlines the agreed areas for detailed consideration by Scrutiny Committee Members during the remainder of 2014/15.
3. Table 1 below outlines the proposed areas of scrutiny and tasks to be undertaken.

Table 1: Proposed Work Programme

Area of Scrutiny	Proposed Tasks
Black Country City Deal	<p>Assessment of the agreed outputs of the City Deal, the bidding process and the opportunities this presents for Dudley Borough.</p> <p>Assessment of the funding commitments from Government to stimulate the local commercial land market.</p> <p>An overview of the governance arrangements of the Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership and representation from Dudley MBC.</p>
Best Practice	<p>An overview of the current structure and functions of the Council's inward investment service.</p> <p>Review of the structure and scope of inward investment teams/agencies within other Local Authorities; to include Black Country Local Authorities, Manchester, Derby and Liverpool.</p>
Strategic Employment Land	Review the availability of current employment sites

Review (evidence based document to inform the Development Plan Document)	<p>and identify which sites have the potential to become high quality and the mechanisms and scale of funding required to achieve this.</p> <p>Review of inward investment enquiries received at a local and sub-regional level and an assessment of the match between land supply and the demands of inward investors.</p>
Funding	<p>Review the current funding process businesses experience in order to access external funding.</p> <p>Review case studies of local businesses who have secured grant funding planning permission to expand on site or relocate within the Borough.</p>

Witnesses

4. It is proposed that the following witnesses and organisations are invited to Scrutiny Committee and/or asked to provide written representations for consideration, namely: -

Invest Black Country
Land & Property Agents
Recipients of grant funding
Black Country Consortium / Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP)
Developers
Homes and Communities Agency (HCA)
Owners of Employment Site

Timescales

5. It is proposed that a final report is presented to Scrutiny Committee on 30th March 2015. An additional working group is proposed for December 2014 / January 2015 in order for Members to comment on an interim report.

Finance

6. The cost associated with the scrutiny arrangements is delivered within existing budgetary allocations.

Law

7. Scrutiny Committees are established in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 1972 and the requirements of the Council's Constitution, which was adopted under the Local Government Act 2000, subsequent legislation

Equality Impact

8. Provision exists within the recommended scrutiny arrangements for overview and scrutiny to be undertaken on the Council's policies on equality and diversity.

Recommendation

9. It is recommended that:-
 - Scrutiny Committee notes the contents of the report.



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List of Background Papers

DUE Scrutiny Committee Working Group (10th September 2014)