
Halesowen Area Committee – 1st July 2009

Appointment of Working Groups

Report of the Area Liaison Officer

Purpose of Report

1. To consider the appointment and reappointment of Working Groups of the Committee for the 2009/10 Municipal Year.

Background

2. During the previous Municipal Year, the Area Committee appointed the following Working Groups:-

- Halesowen Area Committee (Halesowen Town Centre Consultation Exercise) Working Group to steer the consultation exercise. The remit of the Working Group was extended to cover wider progress on the re-development of the town centre.

It is proposed to rename this Working Group to Halesowen Area Committee (Halesowen Town Centre Development) Working Group.

Details of previous Membership and the proposed Terms of Reference of the Working Group are given below:-

Previous Membership

Previous membership of the Working Group consisted of the Chairman of the Area Committee and one Member from each Ward namely Councillors Mrs Faulkner, (Chairman), James, Hill, Ms Partridge Taylor and K Turner.

Proposed Terms of Reference

The proposed terms of reference of the Working Group are as follows:-

- To receive regular progress reports from Officers detailing regeneration and transportation activity (including Halesowen in Bloom) taking place in the Town Centre
- Identify and resolve any constraints to progress on action
- Guide public relations and communication issues
- To report recommendations and findings to the Area Committee on a regular basis.

- Halesowen Area Committee (Cradley/Windmill Hill Regeneration Plan Delivery) Working Group. Details of previous Membership and the proposed Terms of Reference of the Working Group are given below:-

Previous Membership

Membership of the Working Group consisted of one Member from each of the affected Wards namely, Belle Vale, Cradley and Foxcote and Hayley Green and Cradley South Wards and the Chairman of the Area Committee. The three Members that were nominated from those particular Wards were Councillors Mrs Dunn, Ms Partridge and K Turner and Mrs Faulkner as Chairman of the Halesowen Area Committee.

At its meeting of the Committee held on 12th November, 2008 the co-option to the Working Group of Mr Kevin Powis, a local resident of Cradley, as a speaking but non-voting member for the remainder of the current municipal year was approved.

Proposed Terms of Reference

The terms of reference of the Working Group were agreed as follows:

- Receive regular progress reports from the Local Centres Officer
 - To agree priorities for action
 - Identify and resolve any constraints to plan progress
 - Guide public relations and communications for the plan
 - Report progress to the Committee on a regular basis
 - To review the regeneration plan annually.
- Halesowen Area Committee (Community Renewal) Working Group. The Council's Constitution (paragraph 10.2) allows Area Committees to develop local Community Plans for their areas. At their meeting on 31st October, the Cabinet directed that greater involvement of Area Committees with the Community Renewal Service in the Directorate of Adult, Community and Housing Services be secured. Details of previous Membership and the proposed Terms of Reference of the Working Group are given below:-

Previous Membership

Membership of the Working Group comprised the Chairman of the Area Committee and one representative from each Ward (with the exception of Wards with representatives from more than one political group where the minority party would also attend the Working Group), namely Councillors Mrs Faulkner (as

Chairman of the Area Committee), Hill, Ms Partridge, Ms Nicholls, K Turner and Vickers.

Proposed Terms of Reference

- To regularly review the progress of the Halesowen Area Community Renewal Plan and make changes and additions, as needed, within the broad framework of the Plan.
- To report progress and changes to the Area Committee on a regular basis.
- The Community Renewal Service will keep the Working Group informed about the work of the Community Renewal Steering Group where there is also Member representation and ensure appropriate linkage.
- A final Plan will be brought to the Area Committee within the course of the municipal year.
- To submit a revised and updated plan to the March 2010 Area Committee. The Local Community Renewal Plan will need to take into account and cohere with the overall Council Plan and the Dudley Community Plan.

Finance

3. Any costs arising from the appointment of Working Groups will be met from existing resources.

Law

4. Since Working Groups do not have the status of formal Committees, the rules of proportionality which relate to seats on Committees under Section 18 of the Local Government and Housing Act, 1989 and the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations, 1990 are not applicable.

Equality Impact

5. This report complies fully with the Council's policies on equality and diversity.

Recommendation

6. That the Committee considers the re-appointment of Working Groups for 2009/10 and determines the composition and membership.

7. That the appropriate Lead Officer for individual Working Groups that are re-appointed be requested to submit regular written reports to the Committee.



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List of Background Papers

Halesowen Area Committee Minutes – 2nd July 2008 and 12th November 2008