

## **Meeting of the Council - 18<sup>th</sup> July, 2011**

### **Annual Report of the Regeneration, Culture and Adult Education Scrutiny Committee**

#### **Purpose of Report**

1. To submit the Annual Report of the Regeneration, Culture and Adult Education Scrutiny Committee for 2010/11.

#### **Background**

2. Article 6 of the Council's Constitution requires Scrutiny Committees to report annually to the full Council on the work carried out over the previous municipal year, making both recommendations for key areas for future work programmes and any amended methods of working, if appropriate.
3. As in previous years, the work programme for the year was rooted in the Council's overall objectives in terms of both the key issues but also identifying the timetable for reports back.
4. Given the wide range and coverage of the Committee with its remit to cover not only regeneration initiatives in the Borough, cultural initiatives and adult education, but also its remit for Corporate Human Resources, Equality and Diversity and ICT matters, it is difficult to single out a number of key issues.
5. However, the following areas have been identified:-
  - a: Scrutiny of the Council's performance with regard to Equality and Diversity issues.
  - b: The remit for the scrutiny for planning policy and development involved in the ongoing issue of an examination of Section 106 or the planning obligations placed on developers to ensure that they contributed to improvements in the community infrastructure. This covered housing, public open spaces, transportation and community development areas.
  - c: Update on implementation of Healthy Towns Programme – Recreational Element
  - d: Dudley Borough Economic Assessment and Dudley Borough Economic Development Strategy 2011/12 – 2013/14.
  - e: Progress reports on regeneration of the sixteen Local and District Centres and on the regeneration of Cradley/Windmill Hill.

6. Notwithstanding these important issues, the Committee's work programme for the 2010/11 municipal year, also included:

- Revenue budget strategy 2011/12
- Quarterly Corporate performance reports
- Progress report on Corporate ICT strategy 2008/13
- Economic Development and Regeneration Partnership update
- Heritage, Culture and Leisure Partnership update
- The Black Country Joint Core Strategy update
- London 2012 – Community Games and Schoollympics
- Indoor sports facility provision – national facilities enquiry
- Update on the progress of Brierley Hill Area Action Plan
- Glass Museum Feasibility Study

7. A continuing feature of meetings of the Committee in 2010/11 has been the involvement of the public through the use of the public forum item on Agendas.

In the main, questions have been posed on issues relating to the Revenue Budget Strategy 2011/12.

Members of the public have welcomed the opportunity to speak on matters raised.

8. Planning Obligations – Section 106 Agreements

The importance of Section 106 Agreements to the regeneration of the Borough continues to be recognised by the Committee. Further review and scrutiny was given to this matter in 2010/11 with Members commenting in particular on the new procedure for Ward Member engagement in relation to the Planning Obligations process as developed by the Committee. Further work was requested on the actual process involved in response to Member comments.

Regular reports on this matter will continue to be submitted to the Committee.

9. Update on implementation on Healthy Towns programme – recreational element

Detailed consideration was given to the recreational element of this programme. The arrangements for developing the programme were highlighted, in particular, together with a review of the effectiveness/impact of the project in approximately three year's time.

Further update reports will be submitted to the Committee.

10. Dudley Borough Economic Assessment and Dudley Borough Economic Development Strategy 2011/12 – 2013/14.

A presentation was received on the draft assessment and strategy for 2011/12 – 2013/14. Comments made on the two-year assessment and strategy were considered as part of the consultation process in respect of these documents.

11. The Committee considered progress reports on the regeneration of the sixteen Local and District Centres and in respect of the Cradley/Windmill Hill regeneration. The latter will be considered further by the Committee.

## Work Programme for 2011/12

12. Items for the Work Programme to be considered by the Scrutiny Committee in this municipal year will include:-

- Dudley Archives and Local History relocation
- Brierley Hill Action Plan
- Update on Planning Obligations
- Black Country Library Proposals
- Update on the work of the New Heritage Regeneration Limited
- Leisure Centre development

### **Conclusion**

13. The Scrutiny Committee with its remit of Regeneration, Culture and Adult Education continues to be central in driving forward regeneration in its wider sense. The interweaving of these various elements is a major fillip to ensuring that the economic regeneration of the Borough is viewed in its wider community context.

### **Finance**

14. There are no direct financial implications arising from this report at this stage.

### **Law**

15. The requirement of the Committee to submit an annual report to the Council is contained in Article 6 of the Constitution.

The relevant statutory provisions regarding the Council's Constitution are contained in Part II of the Local Government Act 2000, together with Regulations, Orders and guidance issued by the Secretary of State.


### **Equality Impact**

16. This report complies with the Council's policy on Equality and Diversity and has taken these issues into account whilst scrutinising the areas of work described.

17. The Committee has the over-arching responsibility for the scrutiny of corporate Equality and Diversity issues and, therefore, receives both the Council's Annual Review of Equality and Diversity, as well as the annual Equality and Diversity reports from the Chief Executive's Directorate and the Directorate of the Urban Environment.

### **Recommendation**

18. That the Annual Report for 2010/11 be noted.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'J' or 'G' followed by a smaller, less legible signature.

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**Chairman of the Regeneration, Culture and Adult Education Scrutiny Committee**