

**REGENERATION, CULTURE AND
ADULT EDUCATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

Wednesday, 7th March, 2012
at 6.00 pm in Committee Room 2 at the Council House, Dudley

PRESENT:-

Councillor K Turner (Chairman)
Councillor Islam (Vice Chairman)
Councillors Attwood, Caunt, G.H. Davies, Evans, Knowles, Mottram and
J. Woodall.

Officers

Assistant Director, Housing Strategy and Private Sector (Lead Officer to the Committee); Director of Corporate Resources; Assistant Director, Culture and Leisure; Assistant Director, Economic Regeneration; Head of Planning; Head of Museums, Greenspaces and Bereavement Services; Head of Economic Regeneration Delivery and Economic Development Manager (all Directorate of the Urban Environment) and Mr. J. Jablonski (Directorate of Corporate Resources)

Also in attendance

Cabinet Member for Environment and Culture

34. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors Ali and Mrs. Simms.

35. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors Evans and K. Turner declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 8 - Annual Review of the Dudley Borough Economic Development Strategy, 2011/12-2013/14 in respect of any reference to Dudley Zoological Gardens as they were Trustees of Dudley Zoo.

36. MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 18th January, 2012, be approved as a correct record and signed.

37. PUBLIC FORUM

No matters were raised under this item.

38. STREET TRADING

A report of the Director of Corporate Resources was submitted on issues in relation to street trading raised at the meeting of the Committee held on 18th January, 2012.

The Director of Corporate Resources commented on the content of the report submitted, together with the information contained in the five Appendices attached to the report.

Following the comments made by the Director of Corporate Resources, members asked a number of questions and particular responses were given as follows:-

- It was understood that the street trading fees indicated in Appendix 5 to the report submitted were annual fees and if this was not the case, the Director of Corporate Resources would arrange for the annual amounts to be notified to members.
- That the issue of fees would be considered as part of the work still to be carried out in relation to the newly created General Power of Competence, introduced by the Localism Act, 2011, as indicated in paragraph 14 of the report.
- That there were also the wider issues in relation to street trading to be considered, as indicated in paragraph 16 of the report submitted, and that a report on this would be submitted to a future meeting of the Licensing and Safety Committee, following the completion of the review to be undertaken, together with consideration of the level of fees to be charged by that Committee.
- That the Director of Corporate Resources would arrange for a check to be made as to why Tansey Green Road, Pensnett, was a Prohibited Street and arrange for a response to be sent direct to Councillor Caunt on this.
- In response to concerns raised as to whether all costs were being taken into account in the fee charged to street traders in the Borough, with particular reference to the use by traders of electricity to power heat and light for stalls with a view to a more realistic fee being charged, it was noted that work was currently on-going to review fee levels so that all eligible costs were included.

As regards the specific issue of the use of electricity by traders, it was noted that the Director of Corporate Resources and the Assistant Director, Economic Regeneration would arrange for further consideration to be given to the issues raised, together with consideration of the related safety aspects, and that an e-mail would be sent to Members on the outcome of such considerations.

- The Director of Corporate Resources would arrange for the Market Charter in relation to Dudley Market to be checked to clarify whether it prohibits street trading within a designated area of the market.

RESOLVED

That the information contained in the report, and Appendices to the report, submitted on street trading and as reported at the meeting, be noted and that the Director of Corporate Resources be requested to ensure that all relevant comments made by this Committee were taken into account when the reviews to be undertaken were completed and a report submitted for consideration by the Licensing and Safety Committee.

39. STRAY AND ILLEGALLY GRAZING HORSES - POLICY DEVELOPMENT

A report of the Director of the Urban Environment was submitted on the work undertaken by the working group appointed to review issues relating to stray horses and illegal grazing in the Borough.

The Assistant Director, Culture and Leisure introduced the report and the Head of Museums, Greenspaces and Bereavement Services commented on the policy document for stray and illegally grazing horses attached as an Appendix to the report submitted. Paragraph 3 of that draft policy set out the four related policies on the Council's proposed approach for dealing with this issue.

Arising from the comments made, members made a number of comments and in response to one comment made, the Assistant Director, Culture and Leisure reported that he would arrange for further information that was available, together with a related map, on the land the Council leases for grazing to be e-mailed to all members of the Committee.

A further comment was also made as to the role of the Cabinet Member for Environment and Culture in ensuring that proposals for carrying out the work in relation to stray and illegally grazing horses were properly funded for the first time.

RESOLVED

That the information contained in the report, and Appendix 1 to the report, submitted on policy development in respect of stray and illegally grazing horses be noted and that the draft policy for stray and illegally grazing horses be forwarded to the Cabinet Member for Environment and Culture for approval.

40. ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE DUDLEY BOROUGH ECONOMIC STRATEGY, 2011/12-2013/14

A report of the Director of the Urban Environment was submitted on the Annual Progress Report for the period 2011/12 on delivering the Dudley Borough Economic Development Strategy for 2011/12-2013/14.

Arising from a presentation of the content of the report and the Appendices to the report submitted, members made a number of comments/queries and arising from this a request was made that a larger print version of Appendix 1 to the report submitted be e-mailed to all members of the Committee. The Assistant Director, Economic Development undertook to arrange for this to be done.

RESOLVED

That the information contained in the report, and Appendices to the report, submitted on delivering the Dudley Borough Economic Development Strategy for the period 2011/12, be noted.

41. REGENERATION OF CRADLEY/WINDMILL HILL

A report of the Director of the Urban Environment was submitted updating the Committee on the delivery of the Cradley/Windmill Hill Regeneration Strategy. Arising from the presentation of the report submitted, members made particular comments regarding the major problem in the area in relation to traffic and a suggestion was made that the introduction of a red route through the area might provide a solution.

RESOLVED

That the information contained in the report, and Appendix to the report, submitted on the progress made in delivering the Cradley/Windmill Hill Regeneration Strategy, be noted.

42. PLANNING OBLIGATIONS UPDATE REPORT - APRIL TO SEPTEMBER, 2011 AND RELATED MATTERS

A report of the Director of the Urban Environment was submitted on contributions received and approved under the Town and Country Planning Act, 1990 (as amended), during the first six months of the 2011/12 financial year, together with information on the Section 106 and Unilateral Undertaking Legal Agreements that were signed during the same six month period.

As part of the presentation of the content of the report, and Appendices to the report, submitted the Head of Planning also referred to the service improvements indicated in paragraph 15 of the report submitted with particular reference to the development of a Planning Obligations Interactive Search Facility which would be available from 1st April, 2012.

The Head of Planning gave a visual demonstration of this new facility at the meeting and reported that she would arrange for a link to the facility to be sent to all members of the Council. She also asked that members using the site provide feedback and any comments they would wish to make, in particular, as to any improvements to the facility.

RESOLVED

That the information contained in the report, and Appendices to the report, submitted on contributions that had been received and approved under the Town and Country Planning Act, 1990 (as amended) during the first six months of the 2011/12 financial year, together with information on the Section 106 and Unilateral Undertaking Legal Agreements that had been signed during the same six month period, be noted.

43. DRAFT WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2012/13

A report of the Lead Officer to the Committee was submitted on a draft Work Programme of the Committee for the 2012/13 municipal year. Arising from consideration of this item, Councillor Caunt reported that despite previous requests for action, appropriate notices indicating that canal users were in the Borough had still not been displayed.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the content of the draft Work Programme for the Committee for 2012/13, as set out in the report submitted, be noted.

- (2) That the comments made regarding the non-display of appropriate notices on canals indicating that canal users were now in the Borough, be referred to the Cabinet Member for Culture and Leisure and that the Assistant Director, Economic Regeneration be requested to investigate this matter and, following such investigation, e-mail to members of the Committee details, including the reasons for the delay in carrying out the work and timescales for carrying out the work.
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44. COMMENTS MADE BY THE CHAIRMAN

As this was the last scheduled meeting of the Committee in the current municipal year, the Chairman thanked members and officers for the contributions they had made to the work of the Committee.

The meeting ended at 7.55 p.m.

CHAIRMAN