

**SELECT COMMITTEE ON REGENERATION, CULTURE AND
ADULT EDUCATION**

Wednesday 6th June 2007 at 6 p.m.
in Committee Room 3 at the Council House, Dudley

PRESENT:-

Councillor C Wilson (Chairman)
Councillor Mottram (Vice Chairman)
Councillors Jackson, Jones, Rahman, Southall, Tomkinson, K Turner,
Tyler and Wright

Officers

Assistant Director Housing Strategy and Private Sector (Lead Officer to the Committee), Assistant Director Economic Regeneration, Assistant Director Culture and Community, Head of Policy and Executive Support and Senior Personnel Officer (Directorate of the Urban Environment), Senior Assistant Director Directorate of Finance ICT and Procurement and Mr J Jablonski (Directorate of Law and Property)

Also in Attendance

Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration

1

WELCOME

The Chairman welcomed members, especially those members new to the Committee, to this the first meeting of the Committee in the new Municipal year.

2

APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence from the meeting was submitted on behalf of Councillor Woodall.

3

SUBSTITUTE MEMBER

It was reported that Councillor Wright had been appointed as a substitute member for Councillor Woodall for this meeting of the Committee only.

4 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Councillor Rahman declared a personal interest in any matter referred to on the agenda in relation to Leisure Centres in that he was a user of Dudley Leisure Centre.

5 MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 6th March, 2007, be approved as a correct record and signed.

6 PUBLIC FORUM

At this juncture the Chairman reported on a recent meeting he had had with the Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration regarding a proposed site for an Innovation Incubation and Enterprise Centre for the borough. The proposed site was located at Castle Gate, fronting the Birmingham Road, and comprised a site of 65,000 square yards on a 9.1acre site. He further commented that this was a prestigious site and would lead to great benefits for the Borough.

In further commenting on this matter the Chairman referred to the groundwork undertaken by previous and current Members of the Committee over a number of years, to enable the matter to progress thus far and thanked all those who had been involved and had supported the project over the years, and also referred to the Officers involved.

At the invitation of the Chairman, the Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration then addressed the Committee and thanked those involved for the work that had been done under the committee's auspices .He also commented that this was a very good example of the sort of work that could be undertaken by Select Committees not only in their scrutiny role but also in the formulation of policy.

It was further noted by Members that a report on the Innovation Incubation and Enterprise Centre would be submitted to the next meeting of the Committee

7 CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S DIRECTORATE'S EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2006/07

A report of the Chief Executive was submitted on the Chief Executive's Directorate's Equality and Diversity Annual Report for 2006/07.

The Lead Officer in commenting on the content of the report referred in particular to the content of Tables 1(a) and 1(b) in respect of Chief Executive's Directorate workforce profile 31st March 2007, compared with 31st March 2006, and Dudley MBC workforce profile 31st March 2007 compared with 31st March 2006, with particular reference to the increase in the percentage recorded of disabled persons. It was considered that the increases shown were as a result of initiatives prompted by this Select Committee and that this and the details shown in respect of black minority ethnic and gender changes indicated were positive.

Arising from the comments made and questions raised it was agreed that

- The Lead Officer would supply to Councillor Rahman the definition used for Partnership as referred to in the context of the implementation of the Partnership Evaluation Tool.
- The Lead Officer would request that contextual figures be included in future reports relating to the numbers of black and minority ethnic and disabled persons as a percentage of the general population as a whole.
- The Principal Performance and Management Officer, Chief Executive's Directorate, be requested to submit a report to the next meeting of the Committee on the issue of disability with particular reference as to what constituted a disability and on the outcome of those audit returns currently being processed on disabled employees of the Council in respect of other directorates of the Council.

RESOLVED

That, subject to the comments made above, the Chief Executive's Directorate's Equality and Diversity Annual Report for 2006/2007 be noted.

DIRECTORATE OF THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT'S EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ANNUAL REPORT 2006/07

A report of the Director of the Urban Environment was submitted on the Directorate of the Urban Environment's Equality and Diversity Annual Report for 2006/07.

Arising from the presentation made on the content of the report, and Appendix to the report, submitted a number of questions were raised and comments made. Arising from these it was agreed

- That in relation to the 47 new business starts supported by the Prince's Trust, Councillor Tomkinson be informed of the current position regarding those 47 new business starts.

RESOLVED

That the Directorate of the Urban Environment's Equality and Diversity Annual Report for 2006/07 be noted and that any outstanding actions arising from the Equality and Diversity Annual Report for 2006/07, be incorporated into the Equality and Diversity Action Plan for 2007/08.

9

QUARTERLY COPORATE PERFORMANCE REPORT

A report of the Lead Officer to the Committee was submitted on performance in the third quarter of 2006/07, October to December 2006, in relation to the activities relating to the terms of reference of this Committee.

Members raised a number of points on the content of the report, and Appendices to the report, submitted and in this connection it was:-

- Reported that the Lead Officer would enquire as to the reason why Quarter Three information was not available from all Directorates in relation to performance indicator references CEXDCP001 and CEXDCP002 in relation to complaints.
- Agreed, arising from comments made by Councillor Jackson in respect of Performance Indicator C3a/PLSS3 – percentage of static libraries providing access to electronic information resources connected to the internet - that the Lead Officer investigate the current position regarding the queries made as to a replacement service and the current position on this matter, and inform all Members of the Committee accordingly and request that this information also be included in the report to be submitted to the Committee in October 2007, when it considers a report on an update on the review of the library service.

RESOLVED

That the information contained in the report, and Appendices to the report, submitted on performance in the third quarter of 2006-2007, October to December 2006, in relation to activities relating to the terms of reference of this Committee, be noted.

10

WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2007/2008

A report of the Lead Officer to the Committee was submitted on the Work Programme for the 2007/2008 Municipal Year.

Arising from the consideration given to this matter, it was considered that the report on the Big Lottery Application Wrens Nest Visitor Centre, be considered at the meeting to be held in October, 2007, rather than January 2008, and that an additional item - Local Centres in the Borough - be included on the agenda for the September, 2007 meeting.

In addition, it was also considered that a special meeting of the Committee be held on a date and at a time to be arranged, arising from the need to consider the Joint Core Strategy in relation to the Black Country Study.

RESOLVED

- 1 That the Work Programme of the Committee for 2007/2008 be approved as follows:

<u>Date of Meeting</u>	<u>Item</u>
06.06.2007	Chief Executive's Directorate's Equality and Diversity Annual Report for 2006/2007
	Directorate of the Urban Environment's Equality and Diversity Annual Report for 2006/2007
	Quarterly Corporate Performance Management Report
	Work Programme for 2007/2008
	Annual Report of the Select Committee
10.09.2007	Quarterly Corporate Performance Management Report
	Annual Review of Equality and Diversity
	Visitor Economy Update
	Regeneration of Principal Town Centres in the Borough - Dudley
	Update on Innovation, Incubation and Enterprise Centre
	Review of Netherton Regeneration Centre
	Local Centres in the Borough

29.10.2007	<p>Update of the Council's Capital Strategy</p> <p>Quarterly Corporate Performance Management Report</p> <p>Future of the Archives Service</p> <p>Update on Review of Library Service</p> <p>Regeneration of Principal Town Centres in the Borough – Brierley Hill</p> <p>Planning Obligations</p> <p>Dudley Sports Village</p> <p>Big Lottery Application Wrens Nest Visitor Centre</p>
16.01.2008	<p>Council Budget</p> <p>Quarterly Corporate Performance Management Report</p> <p>Update on ICT Strategy</p> <p>Facility Development at Crystal, Dudley and Halesowen Leisure Centres</p> <p>Funding Changes – Adult Education</p> <p>Regeneration of Principal Town Centres of the Borough – Halesowen</p>
05.03.2008	<p>Dudley Borough Economic Strategy 2008/2009</p> <p>Obesity Strategy Annual Monitoring Report</p> <p>Chief Executive's Directorate's Equality and Diversity Action Plan 2008/2009</p> <p>Directorate of the Urban Environment's Equality and Diversity Action Plan 2008/2009</p> <p>Regeneration of Principal Town Centres in the Borough – Stourbridge</p>

05.03.2008 (cont) Planning Applications and statistics in relation to apartments; percentage of affordable housing targeted across the Borough

Update on Insurance for Community Groups in Council owned facilities

- 2 That a Special Meeting of the Committee be held on a date and at a time to be arranged, to consider the Joint Core Strategy relating to the Black Country Study.
- 3 That no formal Working Groups be appointed in 2007-2008, but that should it be considered that a specific issue required the appointment of a Working Group, then an ad hoc Working Group be appointed, on a time limited basis, to consider the specific issue and report back to the Committee.

11

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE FOR 2006/2007

A report of the Lead Officer to the Committee was submitted on the Annual Report of the Select Committee for 2006/2007

RESOLVED

That the Annual Report of the Select Committee for 2006/2007 be received and noted and referred to the Council.

The Meeting ended at 8.00pm

CHAIRMAN