
Regeneration, Culture and Adult Education Scrutiny Committee - 11th June, 2012

Report of the Lead Officer to the Committee

Annual Report of the Regeneration, Culture and Adult Education Scrutiny Committee for 2011/12

Purpose of Report

1. To submit to Committee and Council the Annual Report of the Regeneration, Culture and Adult Education Scrutiny Committee for 2011/12.

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 keys issues but also identifying the timetable for reports back.
4. Given the wide range and coverage of the Committee, including as it does, regeneration initiatives in the Borough, cultural initiatives and adult education, it is difficult to single out a number of key issues.
5. However, the following areas have been identified:-
 - (a) The remit for the scrutiny for planning policy and development involved in the on-going 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.
 - (b) Update on the recreational dimension of the Healthy Towns Programme.
 - (c) Annual review of the Dudley Borough Economic Strategy 2011/12 - 2013/14.
 - (d) Progress reports on regeneration of the sixteen Local and Development Centres and on the regeneration of Cradley/Windmill Hill, including wider issues in relation to trading and street trading in particular.
 - (e) The development of a policy to deal with stray and illegally grazing horses.

6. Notwithstanding these important issues, consideration was also given to the following matters in the 2011/12 municipal year:-

- Review of budget strategy 2012/13
- Brierley Hill Action Plan
- New Heritage Regeneration Ltd.
- Parking in Dudley Town Centre
- Dudley Archives and Local History Relocation
- Black Country Library Project
- Glass Feasibility Stage 2
- Leisure Centre Developments

Planning Obligations - Section 106 Agreements

7. The importance of Section 106 Agreements to the regeneration of the Borough continues to be recognised by the Committee. Further scrutiny was given to this matter in 2011/12 with developments noted in relation to the development of a Planning Obligations Interactive Search Facility available from 1st April, 2012.

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

Update on recreational dimension of the Healthy Towns Programme

8. Further detailed consideration was given to the recreational element of this programme. A review of the effectiveness/impact of the project will be submitted in approximately two years time.

Further update reports will be submitted to the Committee.

Annual Review of the Dudley Borough Economic Strategy 2011/12 - 2013/14

9. A report was submitted on the progress made in developing the strategy for 2011/12 - 2013/14.

Progress Reports on the Regeneration of the sixteen local and district centres and in respect of Cradley/Windmill Hill regeneration

10. Progress reports on the regeneration of the sixteen local and district centres and in respect of the Cradley/Windmill Hill regeneration were considered by the Committee. As part of this consideration, wider issues relating to trading, in particular street trading, in the Borough was also discussed with particular emphasis on regeneration and encouragement of trading.

A further report on encouragement of trading in local centres will be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee.

Development of a Policy to Deal with Stray and Illegally Grazing Horses

11. Arising from the consideration given by the Member/Officer Working Group and representatives from relevant agencies appointed to consider this issue, a policy has been developed and reported on to the Committee.

The overall draft policy setting out four related policies on the Council's approach for dealing with this issue was endorsed for forwarding to the Cabinet Member for approval.

Work Programme for 2012/13

12. Items for the Work Programme for 2012/13 to be considered by the Committee at its first meeting in this municipal year will include:-
 - Update on Planning Obligations
 - Black Country Library Services Project
 - Local Centres - Measures to encourage more Trading
 - Glass Feasibility Stage 2
 - Olympics - Post Event Legacy

Conclusion

13. The 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 fill-ip 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 Strategy guidance issued by the Secretary of State.

Equality Impact

16. This report complies with the Council's policy on equality and has taken account of this issue whilst scrutinising the areas of work described.

Recommendation

17. That the annual report of the Regeneration, Culture and Adult Education Scrutiny Committee for 2011/12, as set out above, be received and noted and referred to Council.



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Lead Officer to the Committee

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