

**SELECT COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC REGENERATION**

**1 JULY 2004**

**REPORT OF THE LEAD OFFICER**

**WORK PROGRAMME CONFIRMATION**

**1.0 PURPOSE**

- 1.1 To confirm the provisional work programme for the year.

**2.0 BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 This Committee on 23 March 2004 agreed a provisional work programme as follows:

1. Brierley Hill Regeneration Partnership
2. Decline of Dudley's Manufacturing Base
3. Community Development/Community Business Development
4. Neighbourhood Management
5. Unitary Development Plan
6. Town Centres Plans
7. ICT Strategy issues
8. New Technology Centres
9. Visitor Economy Strategy

- 2.2 Following that meeting, it was proposed that a general heading of 'The New Deal Programme' be added to this list which was agreed at the Select Committee.

- 2.3 Since that date, it is clear that the Council's overriding priorities are dealing with the outcomes from the CPA recommendations; the C.A.T.S. programme; the Castle Hill Redevelopment and a major review of Council Property and office accommodation. All but the last issue have traditionally formed part of the remit of the Select Committee. Similarly, it is evident that the Council's property portfolio and staff accommodation can be major forces in the field of economic regeneration and may be worthy of scrutiny.

- 2.4 Set against the view of adding extra items to the provisional work programme is the clear view that came out of the overall Select Committee process last year, which was a concern that for Select Committees to be more effective they would be better concentrating on a limited range of issues and considering them in greater depth.

- 2.5 Whether the provisional list is ten items or is increased to fifteen, consideration must be given to the management of the business throughout the year and in the context of the standard report in on the 'Appointment of Working Groups' it will be proposed that the working groups are restructured to ensure a better re-alignment to meet the focus of the Select Committee.

3.0 **PROPOSALS**

- 3.1 That the Committee confirm the shape of the Work Programme for 2004/2005.

4.0 **FINANCE**

- 4.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

5.0 **LAW**

- 5.1 Section 2 of the Local Government Act 2000, enables the Council to do anything that is likely to achieve the promotion or improvement of the economic, social or environmental well being of the borough.

6.0 **EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES**

- 6.1 This report complies with the Council's policies on equal opportunities and diversity.

7.0 **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 7.1 It is recommended that members note this report and accept proposals in paragraph 3.

8.0 **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 8.1 Council Plan Monitoring Report to the Economic Vitality and Jobs Select Committee of 23 March 2004.

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Ron Sims  
Lead Officer

Contact Officer: Ron Sims – Ext. 5005