

URBAN ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Thursday, 27th June, 2013 at 6.00 p.m.
in Committee Room 2 at the Council House, Dudley

PRESENT:-

Councillor Tyler (Chair)
Councillor Hale (Vice Chair)
Councillors Ali, Burston, Hanif, Harley, J Jones, Jordan, Marrey and K Turner

Officers

Assistant Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services (Housing Strategy and Private Sector) (Lead Officer to the Committee) and the Democratic Services Manager (Directorate of Corporate Resources);
Assistant Director of the Urban Environment (Environmental Management);
Assistant Director of the Urban Environment (Culture and Leisure); Assistant Director of the Urban Environment (Economic Regeneration and Transportation) together with other Officers from the Directorate of the Urban Environment.

1 DEATH OF COUNCILLOR G DAVIES

Members referred to the recent death of Councillor George Davies and his significant contributions to the work of previous Scrutiny Committees, particularly relating to regeneration and housing issues. All persons present stood in silent tribute as a token of respect to his memory.

2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

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

3 APPOINTMENT OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBER

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

4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No member declared an interest in any matter to be considered at this meeting.

5 TERMS OF REFERENCE AND ANNUAL SCRUTINY PROGRAMME, 2013/14

A report of the Lead Officer and Director of Corporate Resources was submitted on the Terms of Reference of the Committee and the items included in the Annual Scrutiny Programme for detailed consideration by this Scrutiny Committee during 2013/14. Appendix 1 to the report submitted set out the Terms of Reference of the Committee and Appendix 2 gave more detailed information on the topics set out in the Annual Scrutiny Programme for 2013/14, as referred to in paragraph 7 of the report.

The Committee noted that the areas chosen for scrutiny were sufficiently flexible to include detailed consideration of specific topics of particular interest to Members. This would be discussed further during the informal scoping exercise. In relation to the scrutiny of support to local business, it was suggested that the scope of the work should include the wider business community and not just those companies or individuals who were affiliated to recognised representative bodies.

Following a presentation of the content of the report and its Appendices by the Lead Officer and comments arising, it was

RESOLVED

- (1) That the Terms of Reference of the Committee, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report submitted, be noted.
 - (2) That the issues contained in the Annual Scrutiny Programme for 2013/14, as referred to in paragraph 7 and Appendix 2 to the report submitted, be noted.
 - (3) That an informal development session be held for Members and Officers at the conclusion of the formal business of this meeting to discuss how they wish to progress the items for detailed consideration by the Committee during 2013/14.
 - (4) That the Committee note the possible inclusion of a "Public Forum" session on the agendas of future meetings of the Committee.
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6 FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS

A report of the Director of Corporate Resources was submitted on the Forward Plan of Key Decisions for the four-month period commencing 1st June, 2013, and on the recommendation from the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board that this Scrutiny Committee consider whether it wished to recommend that any items contained in the Appendix to the report submitted, setting out a Schedule of Key Decisions, should be scrutinised.

Reference was made to the item on the Dudley Local Enterprise Zone and the need for this to be referred to in the detailed scrutiny on support for local businesses.

RESOLVED

That the information contained in the report, and Appendix to the report, submitted on the Forward Plan of Key Decisions for the four-month period commencing 1st June, 2013, be noted and that information on the Dudley Local Enterprise Zone be included in the detailed scrutiny work on support for local businesses.

The meeting ended at 6.15 p.m.

CHAIR