

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

Wednesday, 8th June, 2011

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, Mrs Simms,
and J Woodall.

Officers

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

Also in attendance

Mr B Kirk – Chief Executive, New Heritage Regeneration Limited
Councillor Stanley (Cabinet Member for Environment and Culture)
Councillor Mrs Rogers and Mr Rogers

1 **OPENING COMMENTS BY THE CHAIRMAN**

The Chairman in opening the meeting paid tribute to the work of the former Vice Chairman, Councillor Mottram, over the last four years. The Chairman also referred to the recent application made for City status and indicated that the Lead Officer to the Committee would be arranging for the production of a easy to read guide in relation to the process in respect of Section 106 monies previously raised at Committee meetings. Once the easy to read guide had been produced it would be circulated to all members of the Committee.

2 **APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE**

An apology for absence was submitted on behalf of Councillor Ali.

3 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The following members declared a personal interest in aspects of Agenda Item 9 – New Heritage Regeneration Limited as follows: -

- (1) Councillor Evans – insofar as the report submitted refers to Dudley Zoo as he is a Trustee of Dudley Zoo.
 - (2) Councillor Mottram – insofar as the report submitted refers to the Black Country Museum as he is a Board member of Black Country Museum.
 - (3) Councillor K Turner – insofar as the report submitted refers to Dudley Zoo and Castle as he is a Trustee of Dudley Zoo.
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4 MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the former Select Committee on Regeneration, Culture and Adult Education held on 10th March, 2011, be approved as a correct record and signed.

5 PETITIONS

It was noted that there were no petitions for consideration at this meeting of the Committee. The petition referred to on the Agenda for this meeting had been deferred, at the request of the main petitioner, and was now due for consideration at the September meeting of the Committee.

6 PUBLIC FORUM

No matters were raised under this Agenda Item.

7 BRIERLEY HILL ACTION PLAN

A copy of a presentation had previously been circulated to all members of the Committee in respect of the Brierley Hill Area Action Plan.

A copy of the presentation was displayed at the meeting of the Committee and commented upon by the Planning Policy Manager. It was noted that the Cabinet at its meeting on 29th June would consider the Action Plan followed by referral to full Council for a decision to adopt. Following the legal process to be followed the Area Action Plan should be adopted by early Autumn.

Following the presentation given members asked a number of questions and arising from those questions members paid tribute to the work of all those involved in bringing the Area Action Plan to its present position.

RESOLVED

That the information contained in the presentation given on the Brierley Hill Area Action Plan be noted and that the thanks of the Committee to all those involved in bringing the Area Action Plan to its current position be recorded.

8 STRAY HORSES

A report of the Director of the Urban Environment was submitted on issues relating to stray horses and illegal grazing in the Borough and on the proposed possible solutions to mitigate their impact with an agreed management approach in relation to Council owned land.

The Assistant Director Culture and Leisure commented on the content of the report submitted and arising from the comments made members asked a number of questions relating in particular to the actions taken by Officers and other persons involved in this matter. The actions of the Police in this regard were also referred to together with the current six-month trial “reactive service” which was only considered to be a short term measure. It was noted that this trial started in April and was to end in September of this year.

So that a longer term strategy could be developed to deal with this issue it was proposed that a working group of this Committee be appointed.

RESOLVED

1. That the information contained in the report submitted, on the current position relating to stray horses and illegal grazing in the Borough, be noted.
2. That an ad hoc working group, on a time limited basis, to develop a draft policy for stray horses on Council land with due regard to practicalities and cost and to monitor the performance of the trial “reactive service”, be appointed, time limited to September, 2011; that such working group comprise the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Councillor Mrs Simms together with a Police representative, a representative from the RSPCA and Council Officers, as indicated in the report and that the report of the working group be submitted to a future meeting of this Committee for consideration and that following such consideration the draft policy be presented to the Cabinet member for Environment and Culture by December, 2011 for adoption.

9 NEW HERITAGE REGENERATION LIMITED

A report of the Director of the Urban Environment was submitted updating the Committee on the activity of the arms length regeneration company New Heritage Regeneration Limited.

The Head of Economic Regeneration Delivery introduced the report and following that introduced Mr Bill Kirk the Chief Executive of the Company. Mr Kirk updated aspects of the report in particular those relating to the activity of the Company as set out in the report submitted.

Overall given the level of activity indicated and as reported on at the meeting there was a promising level of regeneration activity in Dudley and Brierley Hill town centres.

Following the comments made members asked a number of questions and as previously considered that given the scale of the activity reported on not enough of this information was known about by the people of the Borough. It was suggested that all opportunities should be sought to publicise and make known the work that was going on.

In response to this it was stated that Officers were keenly aware of this position but that once the whole package of measures were in place and secured measures would be put in place to publicise them.

RESOLVED

That the information contained in the report submitted, and as reported at the meeting, updating the Committee on the activity of the arms length regeneration company New Heritage Regeneration Limited, be noted.

10 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON REGENERATION, CULTURE AND ADULT EDUCATION FOR 2010/11

A report of the Lead Officer to the Committee was submitted on the annual report of the Select Committee for 2010/11.

During consideration of this matter Councillor Caunt raised a matter considered at the January, 2011 meeting of the Select Committee in relation to the need for appropriate notices to be displayed indicating that Canal users were in the Borough and indicated that he was not aware of any action having been taken on this.

RESOLVED

1. That the Annual Report of the Select Committee on Regeneration, Culture and Adult Education for 2010/11 be received and noted and referred to the Council.
2. That the Assistant Director Culture and Leisure be requested to arrange for a response to be forwarded to Councillor Caunt in relation to the issue of signposting on the Borough's Canals.

11 WORK PROGRAMMED FOR 2011/12

A report of the Lead Officer to the Committee was submitted on the proposed work programme of the Committee for the 2011/12 municipal year.

During consideration of this matter it was noted that a report on Glass Feasibility Stage 2 would be submitted to the September meeting of the Committee.

RESOLVED

1. That the work programme of the Committee for 2011/12, be approved as follows: -

<u>Date of Meeting</u>	<u>Item</u>
08/06/2011	Matters for information, e-mailed to members, that they may wish to ask questions about (e.g. equality and diversity annual report; impact of the small business accord; outcome of discussions Re: Healthy Towns and Mary Stevens Park; new corporate ICT Strategy at 2011/12) Annual Report of the Select Committee Brierley Hill Action Plan Update on the work of the New Heritage Regeneration Limited
12/09/11	Matters for information etc. (e.g. annual review of equality and diversity; reports fro economic development and regeneration partnership and heritage, culture and leisure partnership) Update on Planning Obligations Black Country Library proposals Dudley Archives and local history relocation Glass feasibility stage 2

- 02/11/11 Any questions on matters e-mailed for information (e.g. quarterly Corporate performance management report; update on the Councillor's Capital Strategy)
- Leisure Centre development
- Update on recreational dimension of the Healthy Towns initiative
- 18/01/12 Any questions on matters e-mailed for information (e.g. quarterly Corporate performance management report; visitor economy update; review of Corporate ICT strategy)
- Council budget
- Update on regeneration of local and district centres including Dudley and Stourbridge town centre modernisation.
- 07/03/12 Any questions and matters e-mailed for information (e.g. quarterly Corporate performance management report; equality and diversity action plans)
- Progress report on Dudley Borough economic development strategy 2011/12 - 2013/14
- Update on Cradley/Windmill Hill regeneration
- Update on Planning Obligations
- Provisional work programme for 2012/13

2. That no formal Working Groups be appointed in 2011/12 but that should it be considered that a specific issue requires the appointment of a Working Group then an adhoc Working Group be appointed on a time limited basis to consider the specific issue and report back to the Committee.

12 QUESTION ON INFORMATION ITEM

With the agreement of the Chairman and Committee Councillor Mrs Rogers addressed a question to the Committee in relation to the Healthy Towns initiative in the following terms namely

"I am speaking as a Councillor for Norton Ward and please could this Committee arrange for further consideration to be given to the cycling route straight through Mary Stevens Park as I feel it is too dangerous for the young and elderly."

Councillor Mrs Rogers then read out a supporting statement on this matter copies of which would be e-mailed to all members of the Committee and placed on the Committee Management Information System.

Following comments on the points made it was

RESOLVED

That the Assistant Director Culture and Leisure be requested to submit a report to a future meeting of the Committee responding to the points made by Councillor Mrs Rogers.

The meeting ended at 7.53 pm

CHAIRMAN