

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

Monday, 10<sup>th</sup> September, 2012,  
at 6.00 pm in Committee Room 2 at the Council House, Dudley

**PRESENT:-**

Councillor Tyler (Chair)  
Councillor K Turner (Vice-Chair)

Councillors A Ahmed, Attwood, Blood, Caunt, G.H. Davies, Hale, Herbert, and  
Wright

**Officers**

Assistant Director, Housing Strategy and Private Sector (Lead Officer to the  
Committee); Assistant Director, Economic Regeneration, Head of Economic  
Development and Head of Planning (all Directorate of the Urban Environment)  
and Mr. J. Jablonski (Directorate of Corporate Resources)

9 **APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE**

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

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10 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No member made a declaration of interest in accordance with the Member's  
Code of Conduct in respect of any matter to be considered at this meeting.

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11 **MINUTES**

Arising from comments made in relation to items in respect of the Black Country  
Library Services Project and Parking in Dudley Town Centre in the light of  
Current Redevelopment, items scheduled for this meeting that had not been  
submitted, the reasons for non-submission were outlined at the meeting and it  
was noted that these matters would receive consideration at future meetings of  
the Committee.

**RESOLVED**

That the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 11<sup>th</sup> June,  
2012, be approved as a correct record and signed.

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12 PUBLIC FORUM

No matters were raised under this item.

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13 PLANNING OBLIGATIONS REPORT FOR THE 2011/12 FINANCIAL YEAR

A report of the Director of the Urban Environment was submitted on information on contributions that were approved, received and spent under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) during the financial year 2011/12 together with information on the Section 106 and Unilateral Undertaking Legal Agreements that had been signed during 2011/12.

Following a presentation by the Head of Planning of the content of the report submitted, together with its seven Appendices, members made a number of comments/queries relating in particular to the member consultation that had been and was yet to be undertaken. Related comments regarding the need for the local community to be consulted and involved were raised and a particular comment was made about the Community Infrastructure Levy, which, if adopted by the Council would come into effect in early 2014. This would not be subject to the same constraints as the Section 106 regime regarding the spending of monies. A factor of the Levy would be community involvement.

Regarding the service improvements that had been undertaken as indicated in paragraphs 18 and 19 of the report submitted the Chair referred to suggested improvements to the presentation of the information on the search facility and it was indicated that the feasibility of carrying out these suggestions were currently being worked on. The Chair also commented that he considered that there was a need for the consultation with members to be further developed and for the needs of the community to be further taken into account. Similarly it was important that there was further member involvement in the spending of funds to ensure that these met priorities identified by communities.

Regarding specific information contained in the Appendices attached to the report submitted it was noted that the Head of Planning would contact Councillor Blood direct in respect of his query in respect of application number P10/1670.

RESOLVED

That the information contained in the report submitted, on information on contributions that had been approved, received and spent under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) during the financial year 2011/12 together with information on the Section 106 and Unilateral Undertaking Legal Agreements that have been signed during 2011/12, be noted.

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14 SOUTH BLACK COUNTRY ENTERPRISE AND INNOVATION CENTRE

A copy of an updated report on an update in relation to the South Black Country Enterprise and Innovation Centre was circulated at the meeting.

Following a presentation of the content of the report by the Assistant Director, Economic Regeneration setting out the background to this matter and the current position members made a number of comments/queries in particular on the early development of this project leading to the current position and as to how the proposed network could develop from a virtual presence to a more physical one.

In addition to the proposals for development contained within the updated report submitted it was also suggested that consideration needed to be included for the involvement of young people coming from college/university so that they had somewhere to develop their skills and that in addition there was a need for people for example who had been made redundant to have a facility to enable them to retrain.

In response to a further comment made as to whether the Community Infrastructure Levy could act as a catalyst in the promotion of this project it was indicated that this could be the case in that the Community Infrastructure Levy was more flexible as to how monies were spent in line with a published list of proposed spending on infrastructure projects which could be updated as appropriate.

RESOLVED

That the information contained in the updated report circulated at the meeting, providing an update in relation to the South Black Country Enterprise and Innovation Centre, be noted and that a further update report be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee.

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15 COSELEY ECO PARK

A report of the Director of the Urban Environment was submitted on the potential impact of the Coseley Eco Park upon Dudley Town Centre.

Following a presentation of the content of the report by the Head of Economic Development members welcomed the development and opportunities that would arise from the Coseley Eco Park and considered that the proposed development was a good example of the need to be patient about regeneration in that the project had begun some four years ago. The comment made in the report that the Coseley Eco Park food store would not undermine the planned investment to develop a food store in Dudley Town Centre was also endorsed.

It was also suggested that if possible a proportion of the receipts received from any planning obligations associated with the development should be redirected to the Roseville Shopping Centre.

RESOLVED

That the information contained in the report submitted, on the potential impact of the Coseley Eco Park upon Dudley Town Centre, be noted.

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16 PROCESS FOR DEALING WITH PLANNING APPLICATIONS SUBJECT TO AN ARTICLE 4(1) DIRECTION

Arising from a request made by a member it was

RESOLVED

That a report be submitted to a future meeting of this Committee in respect of planning application P12/0905 and similar future applications, regarding the making of a Direction under Article 4(1) of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order, 1995, so as to ensure that the Local Planning Authority had a system in place to deal with these applications within the required 28 day period.

The meeting ended at 6.55 p.m.

CHAIR