

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC REGENERATION – 3RD NOVEMBER, 2004

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE ECONOMIC REGENERATION (ECONOMIC REGENERATION) WORKING GROUP

REPORT OF THE LEAD OFFICER TO THE COMMITTEE

1.0 PURPOSE

1.1 To consider the recommendations made to the Select Committee by the Economic Regeneration (Economic Regeneration) Working Group.

2.0 BACKGROUND

2.1 A meeting of the Economic Regeneration Working Group of this Committee was held on 5th October, 2004.

2.2 The purpose of the meeting was to give initial consideration to the creation of conditions for successful business growth and job creation and presentations were made in respect of the work of Future Skills Dudley and the Business Support Unit operated by the Directorate of the Urban Environment.

2.3 Arising from the presentations and the discussion on pertinent issues that followed, reference was made to the implications for the retention of business and the attraction of new business to a particular site where extensive vandalism had been, and was continuing to be, suffered. The Working Group considered that this was a matter that the Select Committee on Community Safety should pursue and, in relation to the issue of business crime generally, the Working Group considered that this should be an issue the Local Strategic Partnership should address.

2.4 In relation to publicity for business in the Borough, the Working Group had concerns that a substantial amount of signposting in the Borough was out of date. While accepting that much of the signposting is the responsibility of the Highways Agency, as the Council itself is not precluded from installing its own signs, the Working Group considered that this was an issue that would benefit from consideration by the Select Committee on the Environment.

3.0 PROPOSALS

3.1 On consideration of the above matters, the working group resolved to recommend the Select Committee on Economic Regeneration:

- (a) That, regarding the site referred to paragraph 2.3 above, the Select Committee on Community Safety be asked to ascertain if partnership working to address the issue can be explored and that, should the

Select Committee on Community Safety not wish to pursue this, the matter be referred back to the Select Committee on Economic Regeneration for further consideration.

- (b) That the Select Committee on Community Safety be requested to refer the issue of business crime generally to the jobs theme group for crime and disorder reduction of the local strategic partnership for detailed consideration.
- (c) That the Select Committee on the Environment be asked to note the comments in paragraph 2.5 above with a view to reviewing the need for the signposting in the Borough to be updated.

4.0 FINANCE

4.1 There are no direct costs to this Committee at this juncture.

5.0 LAW

5.1 Section 111 of the Local Government Act, 1972 authorises the Council to do anything which is calculated to facilitate or is conducive or incidental to the discharge of any of its statutory functions.

6.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

6.1 This report accords with the Council's policy on equal opportunities.

7.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 That the proposal set out in Section 3 above be approved.

8.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

8.1 None.

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LEAD OFFICER TO THE SELECT
COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC REGENERATION

Contact Officer: Dr R Sims – Ext 5005