

DUDLEY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

SELECT COMMITTEE, CULTURAL AND RECREATION - 12TH APRIL 2005

DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE CULTURE & RECREATION (2004/05)

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To consider the draft annual report to the Cabinet and Council, for the review of the 2004/05 year.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Article 6 of the Council's Constitution requires Select Committees to report annually to the full Council and make recommendations for future work programmes and amended working methods if appropriate.

- 2.2 The work programme for the 2004/05 municipal year which the Committee agreed at its first meeting was:

- Directorate of Urban Environment, Equality and Diversity Report and Action Plan (Scrutiny).
- Erection of statues and monuments in public places and on Council owned land (Policy Development).
- Borough Festival evaluation (scrutiny).
- Key to Leisure (Options Plus) scheme implementation (scrutiny).
- Performance reports for services within Culture and Community Services Division including:
 - Council Plan monitoring.
 - National and Local performance indicators.
 - Working group action plans (Public Hall and Playing Pitch Provision).
 - Comprehensive Performance Assessment and Regular Performance Assessment action plans.
 - Implementation of committee recommendations.
- Development of the Cultural Strategy.
- Insurance arrangements for community groups using Council facilities (Scrutiny).

In agreeing this work programme the Committee chose to concentrate on a manageable number of issues, in order to properly scrutinise them effectively.

- 2.3 In addition to its original work programme the Committee also considered:
- The decision to relocate the Borough's archive service. This was done through the 'Call in' process.
 - The feasibility of providing alternative leisure and swimming facilities in the Brierley Hill area following a request from the Cabinet. This involved an additional six meetings of the Committee being planned between October 2004 and May 2005.
 - Scrutinised the approval process for events being held in borough parks.
 - The 04/05 budget proposals.
 - The draft scrutiny protocol for Select Committees.

- o The draft protocol for relationship between Members and Officers of the Council.

2.4 Due to the considerable additional workload created by the feasibility work on alternative swimming and leisure provision in the area, some of the work originally planned by the committee was not completed. These items were:

- Project and site visits
- Performance reports
- Development of the Cultural Strategy
- Insurance arrangements for community groups using Council facilities

The following explains the approach and learning of the Committee during the year:

2.5 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

The Committee has continued its website and public participation. The website details the role of the Committee, its membership and workplan for meetings. It also gives the facility for people to e-mail comments. Each Committee meeting has a public participation session at the start of the meeting and a protocol is in place regarding this.

There has been significant media coverage of the work of the Committee during the course of the year.

2.6 WORKING GROUPS

The Committee agreed to continue the working group looking at Public Halls.

2.7 CONCLUSIONS FOR 2004/05

Areas that we have identified for improvement next year are:

- a) Tracking of recommendations. To improve on this It was agreed the Assistant Director of Culture and Community Services would ensure a section will be included in all performance reports which details the concerns and recommendations expressed by the committee and provides evidence to support progress in these areas.
- b) Examining performance management information to identify areas of concern, which need further investigations.
- c) Starting the work of the Committee off each year with site visits to help Members understand the many and varied services provided by the Culture and Community Services Division and how they contribute to delivery of Council plan priorities.
- d) Improving the publicity of findings and recommendations through putting a clear summary on the committee website.
- e) Maintaining current information on the website.

Approaches that have been successful this year include:

- a) Discussions between the Cabinet portfolio holder and the Committee Chairman (past and present) have been beneficial in identifying key issues, which the committee can consider.
- b) A third of the Committee were newly elected Members and this was an advantage for scrutiny as they were unfamiliar with the old committee

system. The Members who attended the internal training session on the role and workings of Select Committees all found it beneficial.

- c) Extensive consultation with relevant groups, particularly over alternative provision of swimming and leisure in the Brierley Hill area. Representatives of swimming and driving clubs were asked to contribute throughout committee meetings and not just in the public participation session.

Overall, we believe we have contributed effectively to the work of the council through our involvement in policy development and scrutiny and the publicity we have achieved.

2.8 OUTLINE WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2005/06

The Select Committee at its meeting on 12th April 2005 agreed the following outline draft work programme for 2005/06 in addition to any scrutiny of decisions or emerging major issues:

- The role of Culture and Recreation in delivering Council Plan objectives.
- 2004/05 Performance (Scrutiny) – Including: Council Plan monitoring, local and national indicators, Service Continuous Improvement Plans, Culture and Recreation Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) & Regular Performance Assessment (RPA) Action Plan Progress, Urban Environment 04/05 Equality and Diversity Annual Report Action Plan, Implementation of Committee recommendations (Scrutiny).
- Options Plus Scheme Implementation (Scrutiny).
- Playing Pitch Strategy and Provision (Policy Scrutiny & Development).
- Insurance arrangements for community groups using Council Facilities (Scrutiny Development).
- Health and Safety issues in borough Parks and Nature Reserves (Scrutiny).
- Budget proposals (Scrutiny).

3. **PROPOSAL**

- 3.1 It is proposed that consideration be given to the draft Annual Report of the Select Committee on Culture & Recreation.

4. **FINANCE**

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

5. **LAW**

- 5.1 The requirement for the Committee to make an annual report to the Council is contained in Article 6 of the Constitution.
- 5.2 The relevant statutory provisions regarding the Council's Constitution are contained in Part 11 of the Local Government Act 2000, together with Regulations, Orders and Statutory Guidance issued by the Secretary of State.

6. **EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES**


- 6.1 This report complies with the Council's Equality & Diversity policy.

7. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

7.1 That the proposals in Section 3.1 above be considered.

8. **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

8.1 Article 6 of the Council's Constitution.



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