

**SELECT COMMITTEE**  
**ON REGENERATION, CULTURE AND**  
**ADULT EDUCATION**

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> September, 2010 at 6.00 pm  
in Committee Room 2 at the Council House, Dudley

**PRESENT:-**

Councillor K Turner (Chairman)  
Councillor Mottram (Vice Chairman)  
Councillors Ali, Attwood, Caunt, Mrs Cowell, G H Davies, Evans, Knowles, Ms Partridge and J Woodall.

**Officers**

Assistant Director, Housing Strategy and Private Sector (Lead Officer to the Committee); Director of Corporate Resources; Assistant Director Economic Regeneration, Head of Economic Regeneration Delivery, Head of Planning and Head of Sport and Physical Activity (all Directorate of the Urban Environment); Assistant Director for Libraries, Archives and Adult Education (Directorate of Adult, Community and Housing Services); Principal Policy and Performance Management Officer (Chief Executive's Directorate) and Mr J Jablonski (Directorate of Law, Property and Human Resources).

**Also in attendance**

Councillor L Jones (Cabinet Member for Regeneration)  
Councillor Stanley (Cabinet Member for Environment and Culture)  
together with three members of the public

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8 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The following declarations were made by Members in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct:-

- i) Councillor J Woodall in agenda item 9 – The Leasowes Restoration – in that he is a Member of the Friends of Leasowes Park; and
- ii) Councillor Attwood in agenda item 11 – Heritage, Culture and Leisure Partnership update – in that he is a Member of the Heritage, Culture and Leisure Partnership Board.

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9 **MINUTES**

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|    | <p>RESOLVED</p> <p>That the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 9<sup>th</sup> June, 2010, be approved as a correct record and signed.</p>   |
| 10 | <p><u>COMMENTS MADE BY THE CHAIRMAN</u></p> <p>The Chairman, on behalf of the Committee, congratulated Councillor Caunt on the recent announcement of his award of the MBE as a recognition of his 40 years of public service. The Chairman also extended the best wishes of the Committee to Linda Sanders, Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services, in view of her recent appointment to another authority and thanked her for her work in relation to the activities of the Committee.</p>  |
| 11 | <p><u>PUBLIC FORUM</u></p> <p>No issues were raised under this Agenda Item.</p>  |
| 12 | <p><u>ANNUAL REVIEW OF EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY 2010</u></p> <p>A report of the Director of Corporate Resources was submitted on the Annual Review of Equality and Diversity for 2010, a copy of which was attached as an Appendix to the report submitted.</p> <p>The Director of Corporate Resources presented the content of the report, and Appendix to the report, submitted and referred in particular to the actions taken and being taken in relation to disabled people.</p> <p>Following comments made by Members it was:-</p> <p>RESOLVED</p> <p>That the information contained in the report, and Appendix to the report, submitted be noted and referred to Cabinet for approval.</p> |
| 13 | <p><u>PLANNING OBLIGATIONS</u></p> <p>A report of the Director of the Urban Environment was submitted on Planning Obligations in relation to contributions that were approved, received and spent under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) during the financial year 2009/10 together with information on the Section 106 and Unilateral Undertaking Legal Agreements that were signed during 2009/10. Supporting information was also contained in Appendices 1 to 6 to the report submitted.</p>  |

The Head of Planning in her presentation of the content of the report, and Appendices to the report, submitted reported in particular that the information given in relation to that part of Appendix 3 – Open Space, Support and Recreation Contributions received and spent in 2009/10 relating to maintenance, income and spend - would be updated in respect of the information reported regarding consultation with Ward Members and that in future such information on consultation would be referred to separately.

Following comments made by Members it was:-

RESOLVED

That the information contained in the report submitted, on Planning Obligations in relation to contributions that had been approved, received and spent under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) in the financial year 2009/10 together with information on the Section 106 and Unilateral Undertaking Legal Agreements that were signed during 2009/10 contained in the report, and Appendices to the report, submitted, be noted.

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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND REGENERATION PARTNERSHIP – UPDATE

A report of the Director of the Urban Environment was submitted outlining the work of the Economic Development and Regeneration Partnership for the period 2009/10 and outlining key activities for 2010/11.

RESOLVED

That the information contained in the report submitted, on the work undertaken by the Economic Development and Regeneration Partnership during the period 2009/10, be noted together with the proposed activities of the Partnership for 2010/11 and that any suggestions for further activities to be undertaken in 2010/11 be referred via the Cabinet Member for Regeneration for Partnership Members to consider.

15

THE LEASOWES RESTORATION

A report of the Lead Officer to the Committee was submitted on information requested by Members on the Leasowes Restoration.

Following a presentation of the content of the report by the Lead Officer Members asked a number of questions querying in particular the amount of monies spent on the project in the light of previous and current concerns regarding funding and, arising from previous consideration of this matter, the need to ensure that the appropriate lessons had been learnt.

Arising from comments made the Lead Officer indicated that he would send to Members details of the split between the costs of the works and costs of expenses incurred in relation to the restoration project.

RESOLVED

That the information contained in the report submitted, on the Leasowes Restoration, be noted and that the Lead Officer to the Committee be requested to email to all Members of the Committee details of the split between costs incurred on actual works and those arising from associated expenses in relation to the restoration project.

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PROGRESS REPORT ON REGENERATION OF THE SIXTEEN LOCAL AND DISTRICT CENTRES

A report of the Director of the Urban Environment was submitted updating the Committee on progress in the regeneration of the Borough's sixteen local and district centres.

Following an introduction of the content of the report by the Head of Economic Regeneration Delivery the Chairman referred in particular to the Local and District Centres Review with particular reference to Cradley. Arising from his comments he proposed that a report be submitted to a future meeting of this Committee by the Director of the Urban Environment looking at the cost, viability and issues associated with a comprehensive redevelopment of the area between Beecher Road and Toys Lane including highways improvements.

Following the comments of the Chairman the members of the public present were given the opportunity to speak in relation to the regeneration of Cradley and expressed their concerns at the current problems associated with the area in relation to environmental and regeneration factors, including the A458, and social issues. Their view was that there needed to be a recognition of a problem in that area and the need for action to be taken.

A Member of the Committee then referred to Sedgley and commented that there was also still a need to combat air quality issues in that area. Another member then requested information on the resources and staffing available for regeneration projects and on how plans for areas such as Cradley could be reviewed.

Responses were given to the questions raised and with regard to reviewing plans particular emphasis was reported on the on-going process and flexibility involved in continually reviewing local plans especially in the light of prevailing market conditions. It was also reported that such local plans were not part of the statutory plan system however this would not inhibit the need to review them, as required.

Arising from the comments made the Chairman indicated that the report requested should also be the subject of consultation with all relevant local ward members.

In addition to the agreement to provide the report requested the Assistant Director Economic Regeneration also undertook to arrange for a report back to be sent to the ward members for Sedgley on the issues raised in respect of that area.

RESOLVED

1. That the information contained in the report submitted, on progress in the regeneration of the Borough's sixteen local and district centres since additional resources were allocated in 2005/06, be noted and that support be given for the growth of resources to deliver the Council's aspirations in the district and local centres.
2. That the Director of the Urban Environment be requested to report to a future meeting of the Committee on the cost, viability and issues associated with a comprehensive redevelopment of the area between Beecher Road and Toys Lane including highways improvements, and that local ward members be consulted on the proposals prior to submission of the report to the Committee.
3. That the Assistant Director Economic Regeneration be requested to arrange for a report back to be sent to the ward members for Sedgley on issues raised by them at the meeting in particular relating to air quality.

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HERITAGE, CULTURE AND LEISURE PARTNERSHIP UPDATE

A joint report of the Director of the Urban Environment and the Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services was submitted outlining the work undertaken by the Heritage, Culture and Leisure Partnership in the 2009/10 financial year and on planned activities for 2010/11.

Following a presentation of the content of the report by the Assistant Director for Libraries, Archives and Adult Education it was:-

RESOLVED

That the information contained in the report submitted, on the work undertaken by the Heritage, Culture and Leisure Partnership in the 2009/10 financial year and on planned activities for 2010/11, be noted and that should members have any appropriate suggestions for additional areas for consideration by the Partnership in 2010/11 they submit them via the Cabinet Member for Culture and Environment for Partnership Members to consider.

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QUARTERLY CORPORATE PERFORMANCE REPORT

A report of the Lead Officer to the Committee was submitted on the performance of the Council in relation to the activities relating to the terms of reference of this Committee for the fourth quarter of 2009/10, January to March, 2010.

Arising from consideration of the details submitted comments were made in particular, to Regeneration Matters Priority RM2 – with particular reference to references DUE R2.1a and DUE R2.1c relating to opportunities for local people to develop and improve their skills and obtain jobs and progress on delivery of the South Black Country Enterprise and Innovation Centre respectively. In respect of DUE R2.1a the Assistant Director Economic Regeneration undertook to arrange for Members to be e-mailed further details regarding the number of disadvantaged residents placed into work through Future Skills Dudley with particular reference to the overall number of such residents as against the actual number placed into work.

Regarding DUE R2.1c arising from comments made regarding progress in respect of the Centre it was noted that by the end of the current financial year it was hoped that there would be a clearer indication of the way forward in respect of this project.

RESOLVED

That the information contained in the report, and extract from the report, submitted in relation to the activities relating to the terms of reference of this Committee for the fourth quarter of 2009/10, January to March 2010, be noted.

The meeting ended at 7.15 p.m.

CHAIRMAN