

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

Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> January, 2013  
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, Body, Caunt, G. H. Davies, Hale, Russell  
and Wright

**Officers**

Assistant Director, Housing Strategy and Private Sector (Lead Officer to the Committee); Treasurer; Change Architect (Directorate of Adult, Community and Housing Services); Assistant Director, Culture and Leisure, Assistant Director, Economic Regeneration, Head of Sports and Physical Activities, Head of Economic Development and Planning Policy Manager (all Directorate of the Urban Environment) and Mr. J. Jablonski (Directorate of Corporate Resources)

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26     **APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE**

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

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27     **SUBSTITUTE MEMBER**

It was reported that Councillor Russell had been appointed as a substitute member for Councillor Herbert for this meeting of the Committee only.

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28     **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

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29     **MINUTES**

**RESOLVED**

That the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 6<sup>th</sup> November, 2012, be approved as a correct record and signed.

30 PUBLIC FORUM

No matters were raised under this item.

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31 LIBRARIES, ARCHIVES AND ADULT LEARNING DIVISION BUDGET\_ UPDATE

A report of the Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services was submitted arising from the request made at the last meeting of the Committee for an update on the proposals in place to achieve the £347,000 saving in the divisional budget.

The Change Architect presented the content of the report to the Committee and arising from the presentation given members commented to the effect that further details were required so that the Committee could fully scrutinise the budget prior to it receiving consideration by the Cabinet and Council. In view of this calls were made for a special meeting of the Committee to be held so that further information could be provided.

In response to comments made it was reported that further discussions were being held on the balance of £272,000 for consultation later in 2013.

In the light of further comments on this aspect the Treasurer reported that the balance of £272,000 of savings would not appear in the budget for 2013/14 but would be deferred to 2014/15. There would be an opportunity to scrutinise the £272,000 proposals in November when they would feature in the 2014/15 budget, or earlier. The impact on the Medium Term Financial Strategy of deferring these savings for one year would be met from savings in the current year in the Quality and Commissioning Division of the Directorate of Adult, Community and Housing Services.

Arising from further questions asked the Change Architect undertook to respond to Councillor Body regarding the amount spent on books in the last year and in respect of upgrades to libraries.

At the end of questions and comments Councillor Turner moved the following motion which was seconded –

‘In view of the incomplete information given in the budget reports contained in the agendas of 6<sup>th</sup> November 2012 and 15<sup>th</sup> January 2013 that have not allowed the full scrutiny of the budget as it affects this Committee, and in spite of the statements made at the meeting of 6<sup>th</sup> November 2012 and the email from the Director of Corporate Resources, we are not satisfied that scrutiny has yet been possible. I move that a special meeting of this Committee is held before the budget is further considered by the Cabinet and the Council with the budget scrutiny as the only substantive agenda item.’

On being put to the vote the motion was lost.

RESOLVED

That the information contained in the report submitted, and as reported at the meeting, on the proposals in place to achieve the £347,000 saving in the divisional budget, as requested at the last meeting of the Committee, be noted and that at the appropriate time members contribute to the consultation process when proposals are more fully developed.

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32 GLASS MUSEUM – PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

A report of the Director of the Urban Environment was submitted updating the Committee on progress in relation to the glass museum project which had previously been reported to this Committee on 3<sup>rd</sup> March, 2011.

Arising from a presentation of the content of the report by the Assistant Director, Culture and Leisure members asked a number of questions in particular regarding aspects of the proposals and how they might be developed and the role of the Council in relation to that development.

Overall it was commented on that the project development was at a very early stage and that the concerns and issues raised by members had yet to be fully considered and developed.

The officers concerned were also asked to bear in mind certain points, for example how the site would be controlled; that a lot of the glass collection was owned by the Council and that it was hoped that it would not be handed over to a third party without the necessary controls being instituted; related security issues with the need to ensure that the collection remained as secure as possible and that consideration should be given to incorporating a section of the canal tow path within the site which would be secure and safe and encourage people to tie up and so use and view the facilities on offer.

Overall, it was considered that the report detailed very much the first stages in the project development, that there was a long way to go but that it appeared to be the right direction which was innovative and the way forward.

RESOLVED

That the information contained in the report submitted, updating the Committee on progress in relation to the glass museum project, be noted.

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33 PROGRESS REPORT ON REGENERATION OF THE BOROUGH'S LOCAL AND PRINCIPAL TOWN CENTRES

A report of the Director of the Urban Environment was submitted updating the Committee on progress in the regeneration of the Borough's Local and Principal Centres.

Arising from a presentation of the content of the report by the Head of Economic Development, members asked a number of questions and made comments, most of which were responded to.

In respect of other issues raised, the Head of Economic Development undertook to respond direct to Councillor Blood regarding his queries in respect of the fourth and fifth bullet points contained in paragraph 33 of the report submitted in relation to the Crown Centre in respect of the 1500 sq meters of the new mall (including Food Court) and whether car parking charges would be introduced in the High Street and Market Street, Stourbridge.

In response to a question from Councillor Caunt, the Lead Officer to the Committee undertook to arrange for the point raised as to whether the old Sedgley Housing Office for which a sale had been agreed was premature as it was considered that this land had been bought as part of a planned sustainable access route proposed for Sedgley.

RESOLVED

That the information contained in the report submitted, and as reported at the meeting, on the progress made in regenerating the Borough's principal and local centres, be noted.

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34 LONDON 2012 - LEGACY

A report of the Director of the Urban Environment was submitted on an overview of the legacy arrangements arising from the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Arising from the presentation given by the Head of Sports and Physical Activities on the content of the report submitted members commented in particular on the representation of both athletes and officials from Dudley and the rest of the Black Country in the games and the take up with particular emphasis on take up from disabled athletes arising from the holding of the games. In response to the latter point it was stated that in Dudley the numbers participating were growing.

In relation to a suggestion made as to whether details of the Games Makers Team could be obtained for possible future use it was reported that a breakdown in respect of the Black Country was available and that the point made would be pursued.

In respect of a further question regarding the Doorstep Clubs and the twenty most deprived communities of England residents of which were expected to provide 80% of such club members the Head of Sports and Physical Activities undertook to provide Councillor Russell with a list of those deprived communities.

Members also commented on points made in relation to officials from the Black Country who had participated in the games and in this connection reference was made to Bob Dillon of the Lions Boxing Club in Silverend, Brierley Hill and as a mark of appreciation it was suggested that a letter of thanks be sent to him on behalf of the Committee.

Regarding officials a query was raised regarding the need for people to act as officials and whether any courses to facilitate this were being held. In response it was noted that this was being developed for cycling in that cycle leaders had been identified in relation to the project referred to in paragraph 8 of the report submitted.

#### RESOLVED

That the information contained in the report submitted, on the range of legacy opportunities that were available arising from the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games, be noted and that the Lead Officer to the Committee be requested to arrange for a letter of thanks to be sent by the Chair, on behalf of the Committee, to Mr Bob Dillon thanking him for the work he had undertaken in relation to the games.

The meeting ended at 7.45 p.m.

CHAIR