



**REGENERATION, HOUSING &
COMMUNITY SAFETY
SCRUTINY AND PERFORMANCE PANEL**

28th JULY 2004

**AGENDA
ITEM:**

**WALSALL WINDOWS – SUPPORTED WORKSHOP
PROGRESS REPORT**

Ward(s): ALL

Forward Plan: No

Portfolio: Cllr E. Hughes and Cllr A. Andrew

Service Area: Health & Social Care and Regeneration Housing & Built Environment

Summary of report:

Members will recall that at its meeting of 24th March 2004 Cabinet approved the transfer of staff from the Supported Workshop known as Walsall Windows, to the management of Links to Work. Following a “Call In” of this decision by the Scrutiny Panel on 20th April 2004, this decision was upheld.

As requested this report provides members of the Scrutiny & Performance Panel with a progress update on the implementation of the decision to transfer the employees to Links to Work.

Information on the successful work to date is attached to this report at **Appendix 1**.

Background Papers:

Report to Cabinet 24th March 2004
Report to Scrutiny Panel 20th April 2004

Recommendations

That Members note and approve the progress on implementation of the Cabinet decision.

Signed:

**Executive Director:
Sonia Davidson-Grant**

Date:

Signed:

**Cllr Ed Hughes
Date :**

**Cllr Adrian Andrew
Date:**

<p>Resource and Legal Considerations</p> <p>None arising directly from this report.</p>
<p>Citizen Impact</p> <p>None directly arising from this report</p>
<p>Environment Impact</p> <p>None directly arising from this report</p>
<p>Performance Management and Risk Management Issues</p> <p>The redeployment of the employees has been successfully project managed by Links to Work and the Council's Personnel team to minimise risks to the staff and the Council.</p>
<p>Equality Implications</p> <p>The group of staff with physical disabilities have been successfully transferred to the management of Links to Work and productive meaningful employment has been secured for the majority of staff. Work is continuing to identify placements for two supported employees.</p>
<p>Consultation</p> <p>The report has been prepared in consultation with officers in Health, Social Care & Supported Housing and Regeneration Housing & the Built Environment</p>
<p>Vision 2008</p> <p>The decision to transfer the employees to Links to Work supports the Council's Vision of making Walsall a healthy caring place and transforming the Council into an Excellent authority – by ensuring more appropriate management of a service, reducing financial risks to the Council and providing appropriate employment training and support for vulnerable employees</p>
<p>Contact Officer:</p> <p>Jason MacGilp, Assistant Director (Community Regeneration & Housing) Tel: 652066 macgilpj@walsall.gov.uk</p>

APPENDIX 1

REGENERATION, HOUSING & COMMUNITY SAFETY SCRUTINY AND PERFORMANCE PANEL

28th JULY 2004

WALSALL WINDOWS – SUPPORTED WORKSHOP PROGRESS REPORT

1. Staffing/Supported employees

Supported employees:

Of the supported employees (those with physical disabilities) the following redeployment placements have been secured after taster sessions and induction training had been arranged :-

- Two employees are now working within Growing Links and ground maintenance.
- One employees is now carrying out driving duties for Links to Work
- Two employees are working within our employment response teams (Factories)
- One employee is working in light engineering at the main Links to Work site
- One employee is working in the woodwork area at Links to Work
- One employee is to join the Links to Work driving and community response team
- One employee is working in Links to Work packing area
- One employee is awaiting a placement with an I.T. company, this is being arranged
- One employee is undertaking visits/taster sessions
- One employee is currently on long term sickness absence. Home visit to be arranged.

Staff

Of the supervisors, the following has been put in place :

- Two employees to take on the roles of quality control officers within Links to Work. An area they have the necessary skills & experience and an area in need at LTW.
- One employee to take over responsibility for processing orders, delivery notes, requisitions and transport co-ordination, within Links to Work.

Meetings to be arranged with the one other member of staff.

2. Window Mill Workshop

Manufacture of windows has now ceased and the building is secure. All supply companies concerned have been informed.

Arrangements are in hand to transfer other projects and equipment to new sites; this however will depend on Links to Work obtaining a new site.

Property Services are currently investigating options for the future use of the building and site as a Council asset.

3. Other issues

There remains an outstanding matter relating to the 10 year guarantee of windows previously manufactured by Walsall Windows. Legal advice is currently being sought on this matter.