

REGENERATION SCRUTINY AND PERFORMANCE PANEL

Monday, 13 June 2011 at 6.00 p.m. at the Council House

Panel Members Present: Councillor I. Shires (Chair)
Councillor I. Azam (Vice-Chair)
Councillor D. Anson
Councillor R. Carpenter
Councillor B. Douglas-Maul
Councillor S. Fitzpatrick
Councillor D. James
Councillor M. Munir

Officers Present: Tim Johnson - Executive Director (Regeneration)
Mike Lavender - Head of Strategic Regeneration
Nikki Gough - Scrutiny Officer

Portfolio Holder Present: Councillor A. Andrew

85/11 APOLOGIES

There were no apologies for absence.

86/11 SUBSTITUTIONS

There were no substitutions for the duration of the meeting.

87/11 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND PARTY WHIP

There were no declarations of interest or party whip for the duration of the meeting.

88/11 MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 27 April 2011, a copy having previously been circulated, be approved as a true and accurate record.

89/11 WORK PROGRAMME 2011/12

The Chair referred to the work programme report 2011/12, and stated that for the Panel to work effectively and to add value, it needed to focus on key issues as, historically, the Panel had not had the opportunity to cover issues in detail.

Members discussed employment in the Borough and it was suggested that vacancies could not be filled because applicants do not have the skills required by employers.

The creation of two Working Groups was agreed:-

1. Business Working Group, and a
2. Workforce Working Group.

Members agreed that by gathering evidence from people and organisations about what needed to be done to assist businesses in Walsall, the Panel may be able to add value to existing work. Following discussion about apprenticeship schemes and opportunities for young people, the portfolio holder, informed the Panel that schemes run by WHG and Jessops had created apprenticeship opportunities. This helped give young people the right skills to join the workforce.

The Executive Director for Regeneration stated that information could be taken to Working Groups on activity that had taken place, along with problems and gaps that existed. The Head of Strategic Regeneration informed Members that brand new regeneration programmes existed and a comprehensive guide could be taken to Panel on what is available for local people.

A Member stated that it would be useful to have information on external funding and emerging areas in terms of employment in the Borough.

It was agreed that the initial Working Group meetings would be focused on scoping the terms of reference and information sharing, to ensure that each Member had the same knowledge base.

Officers stated that the Executive Director and the Head of Strategic Regeneration would be the consistent officers present at Panel meetings, with specific project officers assigned to each Working Group.

Consideration of other proposed items for the work programme was given. It was agreed that to a large extent, these would feed into the work of the Working Groups. Members agreed that there would be a standing item on each Panel meeting agenda on key changes nationally and locally. The Scrutiny Officer asked for confirmation that no other items would be added to the Panel's Work Programme. Members confirmed this as accurate.

The Executive Director for Regeneration stated that the approach agreed by the Panel will help to add value to work already being progressed by officers.

RESOLVED:

THAT:

1. **A Business Working Group would be established with the following membership:-**

**Councillor Fitzpatrick
Councillor Azam**

**Councillor James
Councillor Munir**

- 2. A Workforce Working Group would be established with the following membership:-**

**Councillor Jeavons
Councillor Douglas-Maul
Councillor Anson
Councillor Carpenter**

- 3. The first meetings of these Working Groups should be held prior to the next Panel meeting on 28 July, 2011;**
- 4. A brief overview of information on existing activity and intelligence on the economy is taken to the first meeting of the Working Group.**
- 5. A standing item is placed on each panel meeting agenda to report key changes nationally and locally**

90/11 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was noted that the date of the next meeting would be 6.00 p.m. on 28 July, 2011.

The meeting closed at 6.50 p.m.

Signed:

Date: