

BRIEFING NOTE

TO: Regeneration Scrutiny and Performance Panel
DATE: 8 January 2009

RE: Audit of Regeneration – Worklessness and Skills

Purpose

The purpose of this note is to inform members of an audit during 2009 of the Council's regeneration activity, by the Audit Commission.

Regeneration Audit

The Audit Commission carries out periodic reviews of local government performance. A planned audit of regeneration activity was due to take place in 2009 to assess the performance of the Black Country Councils and Birmingham City Council. The audit is to assess and report on individual council's performance but also achievement as a group. The focus of the review is to be on the council's response to tackling worklessness and improving skills.

Initial discussions with the Audit Commission suggested that a review of all seven metropolitan authorities and Telford and Wrekin be undertaken in order to recognise the interconnectedness of their economies. This would also allow a better assessment of the impact of work undertaken under the auspices of the city region (on which members have had a presentation).

The Audit Commission agreed to change the scope of the audit and a larger number of councils were invited to participate and all except Telford and Wrekin accepted.

An assessment will be given on the performance of each local authority area and of the group but there will be no score given. Outcomes of the audit will be discussed at a workshop for stakeholders to maximise the learning points to be gained from the exercise.

During the visit of Audit Commission Officers to Walsall a number of stakeholders will be interviewed both from within and without the Council. The chair of Regeneration Scrutiny will be one of those interviewed.

Recommendation

Subject to any comments Members may wish to make the report be noted.

Author

Michael Tichford
Assistant Director Regeneration
☎ - 01922 652 066
tichfordm@walsall.gov.uk