

Minutes of a Meeting of the Economic Development Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 26 January 2006

Present: Councillor Mick Jones (Chair)
" Peter Barnes
" Eithne Goode
" Pat Henry
" Katherine King
" Frank McCarney
" Philip Morris-Jones
" John Ross
" Ian Smith

Also Present: Councillor Chris Saint (Portfolio holder for Economic Development)
Councillor Marion Haywood

Officers: Bill Basra, Corporate Review Team
Angela Baines, Environment and Economy Directorate.
Peter Endall, Senior Solicitor, Performance and Development Directorate
Janet Fortune, Environment and Economic Directorate.
Jean Hardwick, Principal Committee Administrator, Chief Executive's Dept.
John Scouler, Head of Social and Economic Regeneration, Environment and Economy Directorate.

1. General

(1) Apologies.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Ann Forwood, Richard Hyde, Michael Doody and Bernard Kirton.

(2) Members' Disclosure of Personal and Prejudicial Interests.

(a) Declarations of personal, non prejudicial interest were received from Members by virtue of them serving as district/borough councillor as follows –

Stratford-on-Avon District Council – Councillor Peter Barnes

Warwick District Council – Councillor Eithne Goode

Nuneaton and Bedworth District Council –Councillors Pat Henry and John Ross

- (b) Councillor Philip Morris-Jones declared a personal interest in agenda item 3, External Funding for Strategic Regeneration Initiatives because he owned property in Queens Road, Nuneaton.

(3) (a) Minutes of the meeting of the Economic Development Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 29 November 2005

Resolved that the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting held on 29 November 2005 be agreed as a correct record and be signed by the Chair.

(b) Matters Arising

Visit to the Frank Whittle Centre

John Scouller said that Members would be contacted shortly about attending the opening of the Frank Whittle Centre. In reply to suggestion from Councillor Katherine King, that the Rugby Area Committee join the visit, the Chair suggested that the Chair of the Area Committee be consulted on that proposal and a separate visit arranged. The Chair asked that the Committee and Councillor King be invited to attend the opening of the Centre.

2. Public Question Time

None.

3. External Funding for Strategic Regeneration Initiatives

Janet Fortune presented the report of the Strategic Director of Economy and Environment, which updated the Committee about the current range of strategic regeneration initiatives, promoted through Advantage West Midlands and the European Structural Fund Programme, and the Council's response to these opportunities. She proposed engaging the Committee in future work by means of workshop sessions.

In reply to questions Janet Fortune said that she could report regularly to future meetings on outputs/outcomes of the County Council's investment.

Resolved to -

- (1) note and endorse progress to date in helping maximise the impact of external funding opportunities in line with the Council's policy, in particular as outlined in the new Regeneration and Competitiveness Strategy (2006-2010);
- (2) ask that a regular programme of reports be scheduled for future meetings to enable the Committee to help shape the response to external funding opportunities over the coming years;

- (3) ask for a report to the next meeting detailing the outputs and outcomes of the County Council's regeneration initiatives.

4. Making the 2012 Games work for Warwickshire

Angela Baines presented the report of the Strategic Director of Economy and Environment which provided an update on actions taken to date and highlighted issues for discussion by Members regarding future priorities and the Members' Seminar to be held later in 2006.

Councillor Chris Saint reported that he had been appointed Chair of the Nations and Regions Group, and this Committee had met the previous day. Much work had already been done regionally and sub-regionally in opening the channels of communication. Under consideration was branding and guidance would be given in connection with businesses, tourism and bursaries for talented athletes. The Group was scheduled to meet next in May.

Resolved –

- (1) that the Committee note the report and endorses the approach being taken;
- (2) to note that the Chair will discuss with Councillor Saint, Portfolio holder for Economic Development, and Councillor Izzi Seccombe, portfolio holder for young people the issue of bursaries for talented athletes.

5. Provisional Items for Future Meetings and Forward Plan Items Relevant to the Work of this Committee

(a) Provisional Items for Future Meetings

Members noted the table setting out provisional items for future meetings and that the skills theme event would be scheduled for the Committee's 16 May 2006 meeting and the Business Support Event be scheduled for the 16 March 2006 meeting.

Councillor Philip Morris-Jones suggested that the region's failing engineering businesses should be included on the Committee's agenda for discussion.

In response the Chair suggested that he was unsure how to progress this proposal, which presented a negative view of the area, and particularly when employment was growing. He advised that the Conservative's group's views should be sought on this issue and discussed at the pre-meeting briefing with spokespersons.

(b) Forward Plan

Members noted the Forward Plan items relevant to the work of this Committee as follows:

Cabinet – 2 February 2006

Minerals and Waste Development Framework Waste Core Strategy – Issues and Options Consultation

Minerals and Waste Development Framework: Minerals Consultation – Preliminary Consultation

Regeneration and Competitiveness Strategy 2006 to 2010

Review of Regional Spatial Strategy – Phase 2 – Advice of CWS Forum

Government Consultation on new draft Planning Policy Statement 3 (PPS 3)

Cabinet – 23 February 2006

Consultation on Planning Gain Supplement

Council – 21 February 2006

Regeneration and Competitiveness Strategy 2006 - 2010

6. Any Other Items

None.

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Chair of the Committee

The Committee rose at 3:35 p.m.