

Economic Development Overview and Scrutiny Committee

16 March 2006

Agenda

The Economic Development Overview and Scrutiny Committee will meet at the **SHIRE HALL, WARWICK** on **THURSDAY 16 MARCH 2006 at 2:15 p.m.**

The agenda will be:-

1. General

- (1) **Apologies for absence.**
- (2) **Members' Disclosure of Personal and Prejudicial Interests.**

Members should disclose the existence and nature of their personal interests at the commencement of the relevant item (or as soon as the interest becomes apparent). If that interest is a prejudicial interest the Member must withdraw from the room unless one of the exceptions applies.

Members of the Committee serving as District/Borough Councillors are listed below:

Councillor Peter Barnes – Stratford-on Avon District Council
Councillor Michael Doody – Warwick District Council
Councillor Eithnie Goode – Warwick District Council
Councillor Pat Henry – Nuneaton & Bedworth Borough Council
Councillor Bernard Kirton – Warwick District Council
Councillor John Ross – Nuneaton & Bedworth Borough Council

- (3) **Minutes of the meeting of the Economic Development Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 26 January 2006 (copy attached).**

2. Public Question Time

Up to 30 minutes of the meeting is available for members of the public to ask questions on any matters relevant to the business of the Economic Development Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Questioners may ask 2 questions and can speak for up to three minutes each.

To be sure of receiving an answer to an appropriate question, please contact Jean Hardwick on 01926 412476 or e-mail jeanhardwick@warwickshire.gov.uk at least 15 minutes before the start of the meeting and ensure that Council staff are aware of the matter on which you wish to speak.

3. Regeneration Initiatives - Outputs Assessment

At the Committee's last meeting a report from the Strategic Director of Environment and Economy on 'External Funding for Strategic Regeneration Initiatives' was considered. The report reviewed some of the key policies of strategic regeneration agencies in the West Midlands, in particular AWM and the EU Structural Funds programme, and identified external funding that had been secured for a range of WCC led initiatives from these sources over the past few years. At that meeting Members requested a review of the 'impact' these schemes had on the ground – outputs and outcomes.

A presentation to Members will be made at the meeting and a briefing paper will be circulated.

For further information please contact Janet Fortune, Social and Economic Regeneration, Tel: 01926 412830 or e mail janetfortune@warwickshire.gov.uk

4. The Changing Structures for the Delivery of Business Support Services in Warwickshire.

Report of the Strategic Director of Environment and Economy.

The Council provides and facilitates the delivery of support services to businesses that complement those of partners. The services are designed to improve the performance, survival and competitiveness of local Small and Medium sized enterprises. The report outlines the services and changes taking place in the delivery of services by Advantage West Midlands.

Recommendation

That the Committee:-

- (1) Notes the range of services delivered in support of businesses in Warwickshire and endorses the approach adopted to the development and delivery of support services set out in this paper.
- (2) Endorses the Council's approach to providing and/or facilitating local services to local businesses to complement and enhance those available from partners to improve the performance, survival and competitiveness of local Small and Medium sized enterprises

For further information please contact David S Williams, County Economic Development Officer. Tel: 01926 412401 e mail davidswilliams@warwickshire.gov.uk

5. Procurement Policy – Concordat for Local Businesses

Report of the Strategic Director of Environment and Economy.

In March 2005 the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) issued the Small Business Friendly Concordat Good Practice Guidance, which gives best practice procurement guidance for both Local Authorities and suppliers. Warwickshire County Council has been working beyond these guidelines for sometime, and Members are, therefore, asked to endorse the Concordat.

Recommendation

That the Committee endorses this report and recommends the adoption of the Small Business Friendly Concordat Good Practice Guide by Cabinet.

For further information please contact Leigh Hunt, Business Support Officer Tel 01926 412247 e-mail leighhunt@warwickshire.gomvuk.

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

(a) Provisional Items for Future Meetings

A table setting out provisional items for future meetings is attached.

(b) Forward Plan

Cabinet – 4 May 2006

Minerals and Waste Development Framework

7. Any Other Items

Which the Chair decides is urgent.

JIM GRAHAM
Chief Executive

Shire Hall,
Warwick.

Overview and Scrutiny Committee Membership

Economic Development - Councillors Peter Barnes, Michael Doody, Anne Forwood (ViceChair), Eithne Goode, Pat Henry, Mick Jones (Chair), Richard Hyde, Bernard Kirton, Frank McCarney, Phillip Morris-Jones, John Ross and Ian Smith.

Cabinet Portfolio Holder: - Councillor Chris Saint, Portfolio Holder for Economic Development.

The reports referred to are available in large print if requested

General Enquiries: Please contact Jean Hardwick on 01926 412476

E-mail: Jeanhardwick@warwickshire.gov.uk

Enquiries about specific reports: Please contact the officers named in the reports.