

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

REGENERATION & ENTERPRISE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

THE EARL BALDWIN SUITE, DUKE HOUSE, CLENSMORE STREET,
KIDDERMINSTER

15TH SEPTEMBER 2008 (6.00PM)

Present:

Councillors: Mrs F M Oborski (Chairman), P Dyke (Vice-Chairman), J Aston, Mrs J Greener, M A W Hazlewood, M B Kelly, D J Millis, K H Prosser and M J Shellie.

Observers:

Councillor: Mrs H E Dyke.

RAE.18 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor: M Ahmed.

RAE.19 Appointment of Substitutes

No substitutes were appointed.

RAE.20 Declaration of Interests:

Councillor K Prosser declared a personal interest in agenda item number 6 as his offices were located in Church Street, Kidderminster.

RAE.21 Minutes:

Agreed: The minutes of the meeting held on 23rd July 2008 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

RAE.22 Bridge Street Partnership Scheme in Conservation Areas Grant Applications:

The Committee considered a briefing paper (circulated with agenda) from the Conservation Officer regarding two applications for grant funding under the Bridge Street Partnership Scheme in Conservation Areas.

Members noted that the first application for grant aid was for 22 York Street, Stourport, for a total of £12,582.60, and that the second application was for 13 Bridge Street, Stourport for a total of £4,471.82.

Members' attention was drawn to the approval process for grant applications in the Partnership in Conservation Areas Scheme which was detailed in appendix 2 to the Briefing Paper (circulated with agenda).

Members noted that the grant applications would be considered by the Cabinet

Member for Regeneration & Enterprise under delegated authority, but that should the decision of the Cabinet Member be against the recommendations of this Committee the matter would be referred to Cabinet.

Recommended to the Cabinet Member for Regeneration & Enterprise:

The applications for funding under the Bridge Street Partnership Scheme in Conservation Areas for 22 York Street, Stourport and 13 Bridge Street be approved.

RAE.23 Proposed Draft Kidderminster Regeneration Prospectus:

The Committee considered a Briefing Paper from the Regeneration and Economic Prosperity Manager which advised on the progress of the development of the Consultation Draft Kidderminster Prospectus.

Members noted that feedback on the proposed prospectus had been received from British Waterways who welcomed the proposals to utilise the canal and riverside areas of Kidderminster more effectively.

Members noted the positive involvement of pupils at the King Charles I High School in contributing their thoughts regarding positive and negative aspects of Kidderminster together with ideas for 'must have' developments.

The Regeneration and Economic Prosperity Manager advised Members that the content of the final version of the Prospectus would revolve around the four main themes in the West Midlands Regional Economic Strategy:

- i) Place
- ii) Business
- iii) People
- iv) Powerful Voice

Appendix 2 (circulated to Members at the meeting) gave artists impressions of how the Town Hall area, Church Street and the area surrounding the Church could look in the future.

Discussion ensued regarding the lack of 'green space' in Kidderminster and the amount of space dedicated to car parking. It was suggested that the surface of car parks be investigated to ascertain if grass create could be used in some areas to give a greener impression.

Members felt that if the Town Centre area of Kidderminster was made greener it would attract a higher number of visitors, it was also felt that play facilities and a water feature could add to the appeal of the Town Centre area.

A revised provisional timetable for the adoption of the prospectus was circulated at the meeting. Members noted that the Proposed Draft Kidderminster Regeneration Prospectus had been deferred from the September 2008 meeting of Cabinet to its October 2008 meeting.

Discussion took place on the proposed consultation methods detailed in paragraphs 6.2 and 6.3 of the briefing paper. Members felt that in addition to the mini display

being situated at the library and Worcestershire Hub, all Members should be contacted to ascertain if they were aware of any community groups within their wards who would like to be consulted on the proposals.

Recommended to Cabinet:

- 1. Options for 'greening' car parks in Kidderminster Town Centre be investigated.**
- 2. The provision of a water feature and play facilities be explored in order to add to the appeal of the Town.**
- 3. The proposals detailed in the briefing paper to prepare a Regeneration Prospectus for Kidderminster be approved.**

Agreed:

- 1. The final version of the Prospectus be presented to the February 2009 meeting of this Committee.**
- 2. All Members be contracted to ascertain if they were aware of any community groups within their wards who would like to be consulted on the proposals for the Kidderminster Regeneration Prospectus.**

RAE.24 Feedback from Cabinet:

The Chairman advised Members, that following the last meeting of the Committee on 23rd July 2008, comments raised regarding the Local Development Framework Revised Local Development Scheme, the Broome Conservation Area – Results of Consultation on Conservation Area Appraisal and the Kidderminster Regeneration Prospectus, had been put forward to Cabinet on 24th July 2008 together with the Committees recommendations.

Members noted that Cabinet had agreed the recommendations of the Committee as printed.

Agreed:

The content of the action list be noted.

RAE.25 Work Programme:

The Panel considered its work programme for the current municipal year with regard to the Community Strategy, Corporate Plan, Annual Priorities and the Forward Plan.

The Chairman advised the Committee that both the Audit Commission Inspection and the Highways Partnership Update had been deferred to October 2008.

Members were also advised that the first meeting of the Employment and Economic Prospects Review Panel would be taking place on Wednesday 8th October 2008.

It was noted that the recommendations from Worcestershire County Council's Joint Review of Flooding would be presented to the Corporate Services Scrutiny

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Committee. At present it was proposed that these recommendations would be put forward to the 2nd October meeting of Corporate Services, although this could be subject to change as the recommendations were currently being consulted on with partners. Once a date was agreed Members of the Regeneration & Enterprise Scrutiny Committee would be invited to attend.

AGREED:

The work programme for the current municipal year be approved subject to the following amendments:

- 1. The Highways Partnership Update date be moved to the October meeting of the Committee.**
- 2. The Audit Commission Inspection be moved to the October meeting of the Committee.**
- 3. The Final Regeneration Prospectus be added to the Committee's Work programme for February 2009.**

The meeting ended at 6:30 pm.