

minutes



Meeting **COMMUNITY SERVICES SELECT COMMITTEE**

Date Monday, 19th December 2005 (commencing at 10.30 am)

membership

Persons absent are marked with `A`

COUNCILLORS

Y Davidson (Chair)
Richard Butler (Vice-Chair)

| | | |
|---|---------------|------------------------|
| A | Reg Adair | Edward Llewellyn-Jones |
| A | Peter Barnes | Jim O'Riordan |
| | Jen Cole | Mrs S Saddington |
| A | Alan Davison | A Mark Spencer |
| | Albert Haynes | Brian Wombwell |

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

Councillor M Brandon-Bravo

MINUTES

The Minutes of the last meeting of the Select Committee held on 14th November 2005 were confirmed and signed by the Chair.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from:-

Councillor Reg Adair
“ Peter Barnes
“ Mark Spencer

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

Councillor Richard Butler declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 6 - Adult and Community Learning Service Inspection Outcomes - progress report.

PRESENTATION BY THE CABINET MEMBER FOR REGENERATION

Councillor Winterton gave a presentation to the Select Committee on the Regeneration portfolio. In doing so, he commented in particular on the progress on the development of major projects that included the Mansfield Ashfield Regeneration Route (MARR) that was reported to be progressing well and the new Rolls Royce production facility at Hucknall that is to provide a centre of excellence for the company and secure future jobs.

The Select Committee heard how the County Council supported business through giving direct financial assistance, facilitating inward investment and running the Enterprising Nottinghamshire programme that assists local firms in raising the skills of their workforce.

Councillor Winterton also explained in detail the partnerships it was heavily involved in and the future priorities that included responding to structural weaknesses in the economy and providing support to the most vulnerable communities and individuals. In doing so, he pointed out that although it was recognised that a challenging agenda lay ahead the County Council had a good track record to build on.

In response to a question from Councillor Butler it was explained that community resource centres were accessed by the whole community and that they were aimed at delivering what the local people needed in their area. There were some problems around their funding that still needed to be addressed.

Councillor Cole wondered what input if any was made with local businesses and schools. It was explained that this was an important element and that schools visited high tech firms and engaged in work experience as well.

Councillor O'Riordan asked what support there was for small businesses. Councillor Winterton said that their importance was recognised and that it was important for them to make sure that they were as well placed, high tech and secure as possible. It was hoped that the current 25% market penetration for small businesses could improve up to about 33%.

Councillor Butler asked what the likely impact would be once Business Link became regional. Councillor Winterton said that it was acknowledged that there would be a difficult role to play and said that specialist advisors would be supporting businesses.

SCRUTINY OF COMMUNITY SAFETY INITIATIVES – PROGRESS REPORT

Mr Dudley, Development Officer for Safer Communities introduced the report that provided the Select Committee with an update of the progress to date on the Member Study Group on the Activ8 Project. It was explained that study group members had been sent details of planned interventions and invited to attend these with officers, to gain a better understanding of the issues faced

by the Youth Service Crime and Disorder Team and take a view as to how effective the interventions were. Mr Dudley referred to the slow start due to Member's diary commitments and asked if the study group's final report could be deferred to the March 2006 meeting of the Select Committee.

Councillor Brandon-Bravo wondered why there was a sudden change in the stat returns for September 05-06. It was explained that this was due to the youth crime awareness week that had taken place and to the way in which the outcomes had been reported. The service was struggling to find the appropriate accreditation for the young people it worked with.

Councillor Wombwell referred to the fact that a lot of the work was being done was in the north of the county as opposed to south and wondered why this was. Mr Dudley said that this was slowly being addressed and that it had been an historical process. It was suggested that this be picked up by the study group.

The Select Committee noted the progress report and agreed to defer the study group's final report to the Select Committee meeting on 27th March 2006.

ADULT AND COMMUNITY LEARNING SERVICE OUTCOMES 2005

Councillor Richard Butler had previously declared an interest in this item.

Prior to introducing the report that informed the Select Committee of the progress made to date in addressing the key challenges set following the Adult Learning and Inspection (ALI) of the Adult and Community Learning Service (ACLS), Sue Green, Adult and Community Services Learning Manager drew attention to the Chief Inspector's results that had just been produced. It was pointed out that the national picture had a strong coherence to the results of the ACLS and that there had been significant weaknesses found across the country. 70% of providers needed re-inspection.

Ms Green said that the lead inspector's overall judgement to date was that although actions were being taken it was too early to judge the impact on the quality of learning. The progress that was being looked for was about the impact on the learner. New systems had not been in place long enough to be able to gather impact evidence to show that change has brought about an improvement for the learner.

Ms Green explained that the Learning and Skills Council's priorities for 2005/2006 had changed considerably from the previous years and this meant that in order to comply the Service and its providers have had to make adaptations to both the programme of courses that could be offered and the systems that were required to monitor and manage the new regime. The changes inevitably took a considerable amount of time to implement and additional pressures for the service whilst it is working to address the inspection challenges and prepare for re-inspection. The next visit from the inspectors was due to take place on 14th March 2006.

In response to a question from Councillor O’Riordan regarding part time tutors Ms Green said that they would be undertaking work with college principals regarding the provider’s contracts.

Councillor Llwellyn-Jones expressed his concern at the direction in which the ACLS was being forced down.

The Select Committee noted the progress report.

WORK PROGRAMME

Steve Morley, Assistant Director (Policy, Performance and Development) asked the Select Committee to agree that the final report from the Activ8 study group be presented to the Select Committee at its meeting on 27th March 2006.

The Select Committee noted the work programme.

The meeting closed at 11.50am.

CHAIR

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