

ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SUB-COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 27 July 1999 at the Royal Pump Rooms, Royal Leamington Spa at 6.00 pm.

PRESENT: Councillors Evans (Chair), Mrs Begg, Mrs Boad, Mrs Clayton, Coker, Darmody, Guest, Hammon, Mrs Hodgetts, Kent and Thomas.

Councillor Mrs Compton - Chairman of the Council (ex officio)

Councillor Short - Vice-Chairman of the Council (ex officio)

(Councillor Kent substituted for Councillor Attwood.)

1. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 2 June 1999, having been printed and circulated, were taken as read and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

PART I

(Matters not the subject of powers delegated to the Sub-Committee by the Council)

2. TERMS OF REFERENCE/BUDGET FOR THE SUB-COMMITTEE

The Sub-Committee considered a report from the Chief Executive and Commissioning Team recommending, for approval by Strategy Committee, the Terms of Reference for this Sub-Committee, consequent amendments to the Terms of Reference for the Performance Review Sub-Committee and the re-allocation of the Key Issues Budgets.

The Council had agreed that the responsibilities of the four Key Issues Working Groups and the Economic Development Sub-Committee should be devolved to this new Sub-Committee. It would therefore be necessary to allocate the former Key Issues, and the associated budgets, to the Sub-Committee. Most of the new Key Issues Strategies had been devolved at this Sub-Committee, but where logic dictated, the opportunity had been taken to allocate a Key Issue responsibility to the most appropriate Committee.

RECOMMENDED that the report be noted and the amended Terms of Reference for the Economic and Community Development Sub-Committee and Performance Review Sub-Committee, as set out in Schedule 1, be submitted to Strategy Committee for approval.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SUB-COMMITTEE (Continued)

3. BETTER GOVERNMENT FOR OLDER PEOPLE

The Sub-Committee considered a report from the Commissioning Team requesting expenditure on a number of projects to enable the further implementation of the Better Government for Older People Action Plan.

The Senior People's Forum had been set up in December 1998 and it produced an action plan which was incorporated within this Council's Better Government for Older People Strategy Document. The Forum had identified a number of policies it wished to pursue further including producing leaflets, posters and a newsletter, hosting a national Long Term Care Conference and hosting a Transport Conference. Funding up to £5,244 was sought from the Sub-Committee to assist the Senior People's Forum in carrying out these projects.

Marion Greenwood from the Senior People's Forum also attended the meeting and spoke in favour of the application.

RECOMMENDED that funding up to £5,244 be made available to the Senior People's Forum to enable them to produce a promotional leaflet, posters and newsletter, and to host the Long Term Care and Transport Conferences.

4. REVIEW OF POST-16 EDUCATION AND TRAINING

The Sub-Committee considered a presentation from Malcolm Gillespie, Chief Executive Officer of the Coventry and Warwickshire Chamber of Commerce Training and Enterprise, on the Government's review of post-16 education and training, and to update the Sub-Committee on the Department of Trade and Industry's consultation on the Small Business Service and Export Review.

The Government had published a White Paper "Learning to Succeed" which was currently out for consultation. The Government hoped to implement the proposals from April 2001. The White Paper proposed a Learning and Skills' Council which would manage Further Education, TECs and Community and Adult Learning from local education authorities. The Learning and Skills' Council would be responsible for £5 billion funding and over 5 million learners. There would be separate consultations on school sixth forms.

RECOMMENDED that

- (1) this Council's response to the Government White Paper "Learning to Succeed" be considered and agreed by this Sub-Committee's Group Spokespersons; and
- (2) Malcolm Gillespie be thanked for his informative presentation.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SUB-COMMITTEE (Continued)

5. COVENTRY AND WARWICKSHIRE PARTNERSHIP RURAL FORUM

The Sub-Committee considered a presentation from Jef Tuyn on the Coventry and Warwickshire Partnership Rural Forum.

The Rural Forum had been set up to raise the profile of rural issues in the area, to provide a forum to respond to policy initiatives and to organise events. To date, the forum had organised the Village Shop Grant Scheme, Rural Economic Development Day and Warwickshire Farm Business Development Day. The forum had identified the key issues for the rural area as planning, profitable trading, quality and bureaucracy. Its future programme of activities would include a Rural Leisure and Tourism event, Farmers' Market and Action for Market Towns.

RECOMMENDED that

- (1) the work of the Coventry and Warwickshire Partnership Rural Forum be noted; and
- (2) Jef Tuyn be thanked for his informative presentation.

6. SRB5 BID FOR LEAMINGTON OLD TOWN

The Sub-Committee considered a report from the Old Town Project Team informing them of the SRB5 decision and to seek support for the use of some funding to carry forward the necessary work to help fulfil the conditions of the bid.

The Council were informed on the 15 July 1999 that £4.46 million of SRB5 money had been awarded to the Partnership Board for Old Town over a seven year period. This represented 90% of what was sought. The award should generate a total investment package in the region of £14 million over the seven years.

Under the Economic Development Key Issues Strategy £10,000 was set aside to help regenerate parts of the District. Some £4,000 had already been committed and it was recommended that the remaining £6,000 be released to help the preparation of the SRB5 Delivery Plan and the preparation of other bids for funding in the District.

RECOMMENDED that

- (1) the SRB5 Award be noted;
- (2) £6,000 be made available from the Economic

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SUB-COMMITTEE (Continued)

Development Key Issues Budget to help fulfil the conditions of the SRB5 Award, and to prepare other bids for funding to be made by this Council directly or as part of the Partnership Board for Old Town; and

- (3) officers of the Council and Community and Business Partners be congratulated on the work undertaken to achieve the SRB5 funding and this Sub-Committee recognise the continued hard work that was required towards the preparation of the SRB5 Delivery Plan.

7. REGIONAL ECONOMIC STRATEGY

The Sub-Committee considered a report from the Commissioning Team informing them of the draft Regional Economic Strategy and agreeing a method of responding to the Consultation Document by 17 September 1999.

The Regional Development Agencies had been tasked in producing a Regional Economic Strategy. Advantage West Midlands, the West Midlands Regional Development Agency, had launched their Draft Economic Strategy on 14 July 1999 and copies of it would be made available to members. It was intended to make representations on the strategy through a joint meeting of the Warwickshire Economic Development Forum and the Board of Coventry and Warwickshire Partnership.

RECOMMENDED that

- (1) the launch of the Regional Economic Strategy, and the request by Advantage West Midlands for comments on it by 17 September 1999, be noted; and
- (2) this Council's response be agreed by Group Spokespersons prior to its involvement in the Joint Warwickshire Economic Development Forum and Board of Coventry and Warwickshire Partnership meeting to be held in early September to agree a Sub-Regional Response to the Draft Strategy.

8. HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME - GP REFERRAL SCHEME

The Sub-Committee considered a report from the Commissioning Team updating them on the GP Referral Scheme and to request a financial contribution.

The GP Referral Schemes were currently run at St Nicholas' Leisure Centre, Newbold Comyn Leisure, and Abbey Fields. A bid for Joint Finance funds

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SUB-COMMITTEE (Continued)

had been developed by the Commissioning Director and the Head of Sports Facilities (Contract). A decision on funding was expected in September 1999, although it was considered unlikely that funding would be sufficient for all three schemes to continue. The GP Referral Scheme was considered highly innovative and it directly helped this Council meet health targets set out within the Health Improvement Programme. A total of £70,700 was required to fund the three schemes and it was recommended that this Sub-Committee contribute £10,000 towards these costs.

RECOMMENDED that funding of £10,000 be made available towards the overall cost of ensuring that the three existing GP Referral Schemes at St Nicholas' Leisure Centre, Newbold Comyn Leisure Centre and Abbey Fields continued to operate.

9. WELFARE RIGHTS - COMMUNITY MANAGER - THE GAP

(Councillors Mrs Clayton and Mrs Hodgetts declared non-pecuniary, substantial interests and Councillor Guest declared a non-pecuniary, non-substantial interest in this item.)

The Sub-Committee considered a report from the Commissioning Team requesting funding for a Sustainability Worker on the Percy Estate, Warwick.

The Community Centre was currently occupied by 1 part-time youth worker funded from the Warwickshire County Council's Community Education Unit. The youth worker had uncovered a multitude of social, health and economic needs which would require a second worker to ensure that the Centre could be opened on a full-time basis for the whole community. The proposed post would provide welfare rights advice and act as a general manager of the Centre and would be managed by the Management Committee, which included 3 members from the District Council. The post would require £22,000 per annum funding for 3 years which was available within the Equality and Equal Access and Joint Working and Public Participation budgets. It was considered that the post would contribute to the community and to the well being aspects of the Corporate Strategy.

RECOMMENDED that funding of £22,000 per annum for 3 years be made available from the Equality and Equal Access and Joint Working and Public Participation budgets to appoint a Welfare Rights/Community Worker for the GAP Community Centre, Percy Estate, Warwick.

10. RIVER LEAM MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Sub-Committee considered a report from the Commissioning Director on

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SUB-COMMITTEE (Continued)

a request from the Farm Wildlife Advisory Group for Warwickshire for funding to prepare a management plan for the River Leam corridor.

A request had been received from the Farm Wildlife Advisory Group for Warwickshire requesting this Council to make a contribution towards the costs of preparing and helping to implement a management plan for the River Leam. The Plan would be prepared by FWAG on behalf of a large partnership and could result in matching contributions of over £100,000, particularly through landfill tax credits. It was suggested that this Council could make a contribution of £3,000 using money from last year's Environment Key Issues budget allocated for work with farming groups. The original purpose for that money was no longer relevant.

The proposal would help the farming community as the implementation of the management plan could help create tourism opportunities related to peoples interests in the wildlife and natural habitats.

RECOMMENDED that £3,000 be made available from the Environment Key Issues budget to the Farm Wildlife Advisory Group for Warwickshire to carry out a management plan for the River Leam corridor.

11. TOWN CENTRE MANAGEMENT INITIATIVE STEERING GROUP ACTION PLAN

The Sub-Committee considered a report from the Commissioning Team on the draft action plan for Royal Leamington Spa produced by the Town Centre Management initiative.

The Town Centre Management Steering Group had been set up to develop a Town Centre Management initiative for Royal Leamington Spa. The group was currently working on an action plan for Royal Leamington Spa similar to those developed for Kenilworth and Warwick and it was intended to produce the final action plan by the end of September 1999. The action plan covered five key areas; commercial, promotions, security, access and environmental facilities. It was proposed to send copies of the draft action plan to a number of local organisations and hold a series of meetings over the next month to discuss the detail and confirm the final document which all the consultative groups could agree.

RECOMMENDED that

- (1) the consultation exercise on the draft Royal Leamington Spa action plan be noted; and
- (2) the detailed proposals contained within the action plan for Royal Leamington Spa be approved.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SUB-COMMITTEE (Continued)

12. PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITY IN TOWN CENTRES

The Sub-Committee considered a report from the Commissioning Team on a request to undertake promotional activity in support of the action plans for Kenilworth and Warwick, and the work currently being undertaken for Royal Leamington Spa.

A number of promotional activities were planned to compliment the proposals contained in the town centre action plans in Warwick, Kenilworth and Royal Leamington Spa. These activities included promotional activities associated with the Warwick Market Place development, French Markets, Town Centre Newsletters, Farmers Market and other market opportunities. Whilst a number of promotional activities associated with the delivery of the action plans were being funded by local businesses, it was considered that additional funding was required from the Council to support those activities which the private sector could not realistically expect to contribute towards. The Economic Development Key Issues Strategy budget contained £10,000 which was unspent and allocated for Town Centre management.

RECOMMENDED that £3,000 of Town Centre Management Key Issue Strategy money be made available to support promotional activities associated with the delivery of the action plans for Warwick, Kenilworth and Royal Leamington Spa to which the private sector could not realistically be expected to contribute.

13. SWOOP - SAFETY IN WARWICKSHIRE, OPPORTUNITIES FOR OLDER PEOPLE

The Sub-Committee considered a report from the Commissioning Team requesting support for a safety initiative for older people. SWOOP - Safety in Warwickshire Opportunities for Older People was a Warwickshire wide pilot initiative being organised by the Warwickshire Action on Accidents Alliance with the aim of raising awareness amongst older people about positive action which could be taken in accident and crime prevention by providing practical advice and information. A one day event was being held in each local authority area and £600 was requested as a contribution towards the cost of hosting the event in the Warwick District area on 5 August 1999.

RECOMMENDED that funding up to £600 be made available towards the cost of hosting the SWOOP - Safety in Warwickshire, Opportunities for Older People event to be held in the Warwick District area on 5 August 1999.

14. LOCAL DEMOCRACY WEEK 1999

The Sub-Committee considered a report from the Commissioning Team

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SUB-COMMITTEE (Continued)

requesting funding to enable the Council to organise events in connection with Local Democracy Week 1999.

The Local Democracy Week was to be held 13-18 September and involved the local authorities promoting democracy and encouraging the public to take more active parts in how the authority made its decisions. Last year 280 authorities took part. The Council was seeking £2,000 funding towards the costs of organising events in connection with this year's event and was currently considering events aimed in bringing the community into the Council, taking the Council out to the community and involving the local people in local democracy. The majority of the costs associated with these events would be connected with publicity.

RECOMMENDED that

- (1) this Council agree to participate in Local Democracy Week 1999 and allocate £2,000 to organise and publicise events during the week 13-18 September 1999; and
- (2) officers investigate further the possibility of organising events throughout the year to maximise the public's involvement and interest in local democracy.

15. SERVICE LEAFLETS - SPORTS FACILITIES (CONTRACT)

The Sub-Committee considered a report from the Sports Facilities Business Unit requesting funding for the business unit to develop its range of service leaflets in line with those published by other business units and the response to public demand.

The Sports Facilities business unit currently produced a wide range of leaflets informing the community of the activities that were available at leisure centres. These leaflets were often high volume low cost photocopied leaflets that had a relatively short shelf life. In the last two years the unit had produced a small number of higher quality leaflets in an attempt to raise the profile of schemes and the image of the unit. It was intended to produce site specifically leaflets and swimming lesson leaflets at a total cost of £2,930. The future printing costs for these budgets would be borne by the unit and included in the unit's annual budget.

RECOMMENDED that funding of £2,930 be allocated to the Sports Facilities (Contract) Business Unit to enable it to develop its range of service leaflets in line with those published by other business units and in response to public demand.

16. PROGRESS REPORT - EQUALITY AND EQUAL ACCESS

The Sub-Committee considered a report from the Commissioning Team on

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the progress made on specific projects on the Equality and Equal Access Key Issue strategies. The report detailed progress made on the Warwickshire Welfare Rights, Disability Awareness training, credit union, equality standards, shop mobility and other rural officers projects since March 1999.

RECOMMENDED that the report be noted.

17. UPDATE FROM LIVE AND JIVE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

The Sub-Committee considered a report from the Commissioning Director informing them of the outcome of the Live and Jive childrens and young peoples event at the Leamington Peace Festival in June 1999. The event was funded by the former Community Key Issues Strategy Working Party.

RECOMMENDED that the report be noted.

(The meeting ended at 9.05 p.m)

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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SUB-COMMITTEE (Continued)

MINUTE NO. 2 SCHEDULE 1

ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SUB-COMMITTEE

To consider and make recommendations on:

- (1) Matters relating to the *environment, and social and economic well-being* of the District.
- (2) The Council's policies on promoting, encouraging and supporting industry and commerce and, in particular, the associated employment organisations who contribute positively to the environment, and social and economic well-being of the District.
- (3) The Council's policies on deriving the potential economic benefit and employment generation resulting from tourism.
- (4) Tourist information and publicity.
- (5) *The Council's policies on community health and safety*
- (6) *The Council's policies on the impact of the Council's activities upon the environment*

PERFORMANCE REVIEW SUB-COMMITTEE

To consider and make recommendations on:

- (1) the effectiveness, efficiency and quality of all the Council's work and the standard and levels of service provided (*having regard for the Council's employment policies*).
- (2) the need for new services (*including those to remote communities*) and to review the necessity for existing ones, *having regard for the opportunities to delegate Council activities to community groups*; and
- (2) the form, content and the review and monitoring process of service committees' Service Plans.

To exercise delegated powers as follows:

- (1) To approve lists of tenderers for the supply of goods and services to the Council.
- (2) To produce the Annual Report.