

## **ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SUB-COMMITTEE**

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 5 October 1999 at the Town Hall, Royal Leamington Spa at 6.00 pm.

**PRESENT:** Councillor Evans (Chair); Councillors Attwood, Mrs Begg, Mrs Boad, Caborn, Mrs Clayton, Coker, Darmody, Hammon, MacKay, Short, Thomas.

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

(Councillor Caborn substituted for Councillor Guest and Councillor Short substituted for Councillor Mrs Hodgetts)

### (1) MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 27 July 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. ECO MANAGEMENT AND AUDIT SCHEME (EMAS) - GREEN TRANSPORT PLAN

The Sub-Committee considered a report from the Commissioning Team on the progress being made in the development of EMAS and, in particular, the Green Transport Plan. Views were sought on the plan and the resourcing of its implementation was considered. The Sub-Committee also considered a presentation from Colin Black and Liz Young on the Green Transport Plan.

The Council's EMAS programme for 1999/2000 clearly recognised the impact of traffic and therefore contained a proposal to develop and implement a green transport plan. The Government had chosen this Council as a pilot for the development of the plan and had awarded the use of experienced consultants at no cost.

The implementation of a Green Transport Plan, over the intended three years, would require a dedicated staffing resource, although the plan should improve environmental performance and deliver savings, and it was hoped that additional resources should become self-financing.

### **RECOMMENDED** that

- (1) the progress to date with the Green Transport Plan be supported for further

## **ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SUB-COMMITTEE (Continued)**

discussion and agreement with members of staff; and

- (2) Colin Black and Liz Young be thanked for their informative presentation.

### **3. MAKING HOUSES MORE ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE**

The Sub-Committee considered a report from the Commissioning Team on a trial scheme involving the construction of houses which were more environmentally sustainable.

The design and technical construction of houses could have a considerable effect on the consumption of energy, water and other natural resources. It was suggested that local house builders could be asked whether they would be prepared to adapt one of their standard house types to incorporate features which were designed to save energy and water. This would not involve a radical design but rely more on altering technical details. It would then be possible to monitor the performance of the altered houses against those of another similar but unaltered house.

The Council also intended supporting the Warwickshire Energy Efficiency Advice Centre that provided information, undertook assessment of homes and provided recommendations to householders on how to increase energy efficiency. In addition, the SRB5 bid for Old Town also included some provision for promoting energy conservation and improving older private sector housing stock, and the Council also had an ongoing programme for improving its own housing stock.

**RECOMMENDED** that a trial scheme involving the construction of houses which were more environmentally sustainable be investigated further and the work that was proposed to improve the environmental performance of existing houses be supported.

### **4. ECONOMIC IMPACT OF ART/CULTURAL TOURISM**

The Sub-Committee considered a presentation from Emily McGill (Play Box Theatre), John Hoy (Warwick Castle) and Canon David Brindley (St. Mary's Church, Warwick) on the economic impact of arts and cultural tourism in Warwick.

The presentation focussed on statistical evidence gathered to support the economic benefit to Warwick Town Centre, of arts and cultural events. Over 200 people were involved in making arts events happen in Warwick and since April 1998, 235,600 attendees had spent £639,000 on tickets alone. The minimum total economic benefit to Warwick Town was estimated at £7.2m including capital spend, of which at least £6.5m was attracted into the District by non-Warwick district residents.

**RECOMMENDED** that

- (1) the Council recognise the economic importance of the arts to the town of Warwick;

## **ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SUB-COMMITTEE (Continued)**

- (2) South Warwickshire Tourism Limited be tasked to promote Warwick as a centre of excellence for the arts and cultural tourism;
- (3) a joint approach to the Arts Council of England, West Midlands Arts, Heart of England Tourist Board and Advantage West Midlands, to pursue a full study to develop a cultural tourism strategy for Warwick, be approved; and
- (4) Emily McGill, John Hoy and Canon David Brindley be thanked for their informative presentation.

### **5. PROGRESS REPORT ON KEY ISSUES STRATEGIES AND PROPOSALS FOR FUTURE ACTION**

The Sub-Committee considered a report from the Commissioning Team informing them of the present position in respect of both expenditure and action on the Council's Key Issues strategies and on suggested steps and resources required to continue the implementation of the Key Issues strategies.

The report detailed the current financial positions in respect of the economic, environment and social key issue strategies. This incorporated information on the original budget, ear-marked budgets carried forward to the current year, actual expenditure so far, commitments (in most cases), balance outstanding and an indication where allocated sums were a one-off and therefore would not otherwise be part of next year's budget. Also included in the report were proposals for carrying forward the implementation of the three key issues strategies for 2000/01 together with an indication of the financial requirement, if any.

#### **RECOMMENDED that**

- (1) the progress on the key issues strategies and the current budget positions as set out in the appendices to the report be noted; and
- (2) the budget and the proposed actions for the key issues strategies as set out in the report and its appendices be supported.

### **6. PROGRESS REPORT ON SOUTH WARWICKSHIRE TOURISM REVIEW**

(Councillors Attwood and Mrs Boad declared a non-pecuniary, non-substantial interest in this item).

The Sub-Committee considered a report from the Commissioning Team on a summary of activities for South Warwickshire Tourism Limited for 1998/99 and proposals for the method of reviewing the service level agreement with South Warwickshire Tourism.

The report detailed a summary of activities for 1998/99. The annual general meeting of South Warwickshire Tourism was to be held on 14 October 1999 at the Royal Pump Rooms, Royal Leamington Spa

## **ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SUB-COMMITTEE (Continued)**

and members were invited to attend. It was proposed that at the next meeting of the Sub-Committee, South Warwickshire Tourism be invited to attend to allow a full discussion of the proposed service level agreement.

**RECOMMENDED** that representatives of South Warwickshire Tourism be invited to attend the next meeting of the Sub-Committee to lead a discussion on the issues raised in the draft service level agreement to be presented.

### **7. TOWN CENTRE MANAGEMENT INITIATIVE STEERING GROUP ACTION PLAN**

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

The Town Centre Manager had recently consulted with other interested groups on the detailed proposals which formed the draft action plan considered by this Sub-Committee at its meeting on 27 July 1999. The findings of the consultation confirmed that the needs of interested groups were met by the action plan and it received broad support subject to minor changes.

The adoption of the action plan would have resource implications. The Town Centre Management budget of £25,000 would prove insufficient to meet the increasing demands being made on the role. It would therefore be necessary to review the scope and funding of the Town Centre Management Initiative.

**RECOMMENDED** that

- (1) the consultation process undertaken by the Town Centre Manager on the Town Centre Management Initiative Steering Group action plan be noted;
- (2) the minor amendments to the action plan confirmed by the Town Centre Management Initiative Steering Group at their meeting on 9 September 1999 be endorsed;
- (3) the need to review the Town Centre Management Initiative, to assess how best to develop the services provided, be agreed.

### **8. TOWN CENTRE MANAGEMENT INITIATIVE - WARWICK AND KENILWORTH TOWN CENTRES**

The Sub-Committee considered a report from the Commissioning Team informing them of the progress made against the action plans for Kenilworth and Warwick.

The Town Centre Management Working Party of Kenilworth had agreed to concentrate on a number of key areas including retail radio, events planning and organisation, promotional plan, web-site development and information gathering. The work of the Town Centre Manager within Warwick was concentrated on events planning and organisation, the development of a marketing strategy, information gathering and the Market

## **ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SUB-COMMITTEE (Continued)**

Place project.

**RECOMMENDED** that the report, and progress made against the action plans for Kenilworth and Warwick, be noted.

### **9. CULTURAL QUARTER - COMMUNITY ARTS WORKSHOP USE OF SPENCER YARD, ROYAL LEAMINGTON SPA**

The Sub-Committee considered a report from the Commissioning Team on a request from Community Arts Workshop setting out a proposed service level agreement in exchange for financial support of £20,000 towards progress with the cultural and arts proposals for buildings in Spencer Yard in Leamington Old Town.

A report on this issue had been supported by the Resources Sub-Committee and Leisure Committee and gave support to the granting of the 25 year lease in principle on buildings in Spencer Yard, subject to the submission of the comprehensive business plan.

The service level agreement with Community Art Workshop was considered satisfactory and £5,000 was available from the regeneration budget. It was considered appropriate that this money, and the provision of £5,000 in next year's budget, be used to fund of the service level agreement and in turn help to initiate cultural quarter proposals. Initial discussions had suggested that the other £10,000 requested could be funded from SRB5.

**RECOMMENDED** that £5,000 be made available to Community Arts Workshop this year, and a further £5,000 be available next year, to undertake the service level agreement, as set out in the appendix to the report.

### **10. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT LINKS WITH STRATFORD ON AVON DISTRICT COUNCIL**

The Sub-Committee considered a report from the Commissioning Team informing them of a number of common areas of work between Stratford on Avon District Council and this Council and seeking views on a possible seminar with Stratford on Avon District Council aimed at reviewing the common areas of work and exchange of best practice.

Increasingly over the last few years, partnership working had developed with Stratford on Avon District Council to include South Warwickshire Tourism, Village Shops Initiative, production of a South Warwickshire property directory, a study by Coventry University on business advice to non-retail business in South Warwickshire and Farmers Markets. This partnership working impacted on the Council's corporate strategies.

**RECOMMENDED** that a report be noted and a seminar be arranged with Stratford on Avon District Council to review the common areas of work and to exchange best practice.

## **ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SUB-COMMITTEE (Continued)**

### **11. PROPOSED SMALL BUSINESS SERVICE AND LEARNING TO SUCCEED WHITE PAPER**

The Sub-Committee considered a report from the Commissioning Team informing them of the response agreed by the Warwickshire Economic Development Forum and the Coventry and Warwickshire Partnership to the learning to succeed white paper.

The report also sought the Sub-Committee's view on, and agreement to, the proposed sub-regional response to the Government's green paper on the small business service. A presentation on these two Government papers was given to this Sub-Committee at its last meeting on 27 July 1999.

The response to the Learning to Succeed white paper was agreed at the Warwickshire Economic Development Forum meeting of 9 September 1999. A small representative group of officers had drawn up the response to the Government's green paper on the Small Business Service and the two responses were attached as appendices to the report.

#### **RECOMMENDED that**

- (1) the response to the Learning to Succeed white paper be noted;
- (2) the response to the Small Business Service green paper be noted; and
- (3) the Council continue to support the sub-region as the area covered by Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull.

### **12. SUB-REGIONAL RESPONSE TO THE ADVANTAGE WEST MIDLAND DRAFT REGIONAL ECONOMIC STRATEGY**

The Sub-Committee considered a report from the Commissioning Team informing them of the sub-regional response to Advantage West Midlands regional economic strategy, agreed by the Warwickshire Economic Development Forum and the Coventry and Warwickshire Partnership.

Advantage West Midlands launched their draft Regional Economic Development Strategy on 14 July 1999. Copies were available for members in the library. A response had been agreed by the Warwickshire Economic Development Forum at its meeting on 9 September 1999 and this was attached as an appendix to the report. The strategy was considered to be general in nature, given the diverse nature of the Midlands region and its size. It was considered that the challenge of establishing a sub-regional strategy, and in particular action plans, offered more scope for local involvement.

**RECOMMENDED that the response to the Advantage West Midlands draft Regional Economic Development Strategy, agreed by the Warwickshire Economic Development Forum and the Coventry and Warwickshire Partnership, be supported.**

## **ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SUB-COMMITTEE (Continued)**

### **13. REVIEW OF ENTERPRISE LINK SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT**

The Sub-Committee considered a report from the Commissioning Team on the work of the Enterprise Link.

A three year service level agreement with Enterprise Link had been agreed by the Sub-Committee at its meeting on 5 August 1998. A report on their work from April 1998 to March 1999 was attached as an appendix to the report. A report covering April 1999 to September 1999 would be available at the next meeting of the Sub-Committee on 23 November 1999.

**RECOMMENDED** that

- (1) the work of the Enterprise Link for April 1998 to March 1999 be noted;
- (2) a further report on the work of the Enterprise Link for April 1999 to September 1999 be submitted to the next meeting of the Sub-Committee.

### **14. DAYLIGHT ROBBERY CAMPAIGN**

The Sub-Committee considered a report from Housing seeking financial support from the Key Issues Anti Poverty Resources, for the Daylight Robbery, Housing Benefit Subsidy campaign. The Daylight Robbery campaign, a Sub-Committee of the Tenants and Residents Organisation of England, was designed to highlight the inequity of the housing benefit system which lead to, in respect of 1999/2000, housing benefit payment to Council tenants totalling £7m yet the Council only receiving £1.3m subsidy in total, a net loss borne by other Council tenants of £5.7m. The campaign was seeking a contribution of £1,000 from each local authority with a stock of less than 10,000 properties in order to employ a worker to co-ordinate the campaign and to establish a trust fund. If the campaign was successful, it was doubtful it would have a direct benefit for Warwick District Council tenants due to accounting changes.

**RECOMMENDED** that £1,000 be made available from the Key Issues Strategies budget to contribute towards the Daylight Robbery-housing benefits subsidy campaign.

### **15. REQUEST TO SUPPORT ARTS AND CULTURAL RELATED PROPOSALS**

The Sub-Committee considered a report from the Commissioning Team on a request for financial report for a Disability Arts and Cultural Diversity Festival and for financial support to undertake a feasibility study for a community radio festival.

The Disability Arts and Cultural Diversity Festival - Millennium Meltdown would involve two major touring performances, a film festival, visual arts exhibitions and art events run by day centres and other disability groups.

## **ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SUB-COMMITTEE (Continued)**

The community radio festival next year could well lead to a community radio station, and such a facility would be an useful addition to a cultural quarter in Royal Leamington Spa.

Both proposals could help consolidate the growing reputation of the area where art and cultural related activities were valued not only in their own right but also because of the increasing economic and social benefit they could have.

**RECOMMENDED** that

- (1) £4,000 be granted to the Council for Disabled People to contribute towards a Disability Arts and Cultural Diversity Festival; and
- (2) £4,000 be granted as a contribution towards a community radio festival next year.

### **16. YOUTH CONFERENCE**

The Sub-Committee considered a report from the Commissioning Director informing them of the Young People's Initiatives and the planning of a national conference.

This Council was a member of the Warwick Consortium and the Political Change group had targeted work with younger people. The Council were taking four active members of the Gap Community Centre to a meeting in Manchester on 24 September 1999 to organise a national conference. The Head Teacher of the school they attended had endorsed and welcomed their participation in this event.

**RECOMMENDED** that the Young People's Initiatives be welcomed and this Council's continued involvement in the programme be supported.

### **PART II**

(Matters delegated to the Sub-Committee by the Council)

NIL

(The meeting ended at 8.40p.m)

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