

ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 4 March 2003 at the Town Hall, Royal Leamington Spa, at 6.00 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillor Mrs Compton (Chair); Councillors Evans, Gifford, Gill, Golby, Mrs Goode, Guest, Mrs Hodgetts, Holland and Mrs Leddy.

ALSO PRESENT: Councillor Tamlin (Portfolio Holder for Development Services).
Councillor Mrs Begg (Portfolio Holder for Environmental Services).

(Councillor Gill substituted for Councillor Roberts).

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Aujla and Cockburn.

872. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Minute Number 875 - South Warwickshire Tourism Limited - Service Level Agreement

Councillors Evans and Guest declared personal interests in this item because they were Warwick District Council representatives on the South Warwickshire Tourism Board.

Minute Number 879 - Executive Agenda (Non Confidential Items and Reports)

Councillor Evans declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Executive Agenda item number 8, (SRB6 Scheme - Promoting Inclusion Enterprise), because he was a Member of the Leamington Spa Credit Union Board.

Councillor Evans declared a personal interest in Executive Agenda Item Number 9 because he represented Warwick District Council on the Regenesi Board.

873. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meetings held on 7 January and 4 February 2003, having been printed and circulated, were taken as read and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

874. **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BEST VALUE REVIEW**

The Committee considered a report from Policy Services on the Economic Development Best Value Review.

ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (Continued)

The Economic Development Best Value Review final draft report had now been completed and a copy was attached as an appendix to the report.

The Best Value Review had been complicated, though aided by opportunities to develop and obtain SRB6 funding, and by the need to develop an economic strategy.

David Smith, of the PIE Board, found the review extremely useful and helped them to focus services, although he admitted that the review had taken up a lot of time which had been a hindrance to the PIE Board at times.

Nigel Gainer, of the Learning Skills Council, applauded the work undertaken as part of the review and said that it would help Mid Warwickshire College deliver more appropriate services for businesses within the local community.

RECOMMENDED that

- (1) the Executive signoff the Economic Development Best Value Review in its present format; and
- (2) greater work needs to be put in with the PIE Board to help successfully achieve more funding for the area from Advantage West Midlands because, without joint working the areas for improvement would be too small and hard to achieve funding.

875. SOUTH WARWICKSHIRE TOURISM LIMITED - SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT

The Committee considered a report from Policy Services providing a review of the performance of South Warwickshire Tourism under the Service Level Agreement for 2001/02, and sought comments on the draft Service Level Agreement for 2003/04.

South Warwickshire Tourism was formed in 1997, as a not-for-profit tourism company set up by the private and public sectors in South Warwickshire. The core purpose was to provide tourism, marketing of business services and visitor/management activities to maximise the contribution of tourism to the economic, social and environmental well-being of the area.

In the last financial year, 2001/02, the turnover of the company had been £1,267,956 Warwick District Council's contribution was £196,830, representing 15.5% of the turnover.

The company had a Board of Management which was made up of key business interests, plus representatives from both Stratford and Warwick District Councils.

ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (Continued)

In the summer of 2002, the Board of Directors appointed Roger Carter, a Specialist Tourism Consultant, to produce a five year strategic Business Plan for the company. The plan sought to identify the key challenges and development opportunities for 2003 through to 2007.

RECOMMENDED that

- (1) a report on the 2002/03 Service Level Agreement and a progress report on the 2003/04 Service Level Agreement be presented at the October meeting of this Committee; and
- (2) the Service Level Agreement with South Warwickshire Tourism for 2003/04 be approved.

876. TOWN CENTRE PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

The Committee considered a report from Leisure and Amenities updating Members on the Performance Indicators used to monitor the three town centres within the District, and on the basis of those Indicators, to judge how the towns had performed.

The overall performance of the town centres had been encouraging when set against the general difficult trading conditions which had existed on a regional and national basis.

The data had been collected on a monthly, quarterly and yearly basis, since the introduction of the Town Centre Management in 1998. Car park usage, pedestrian flow data, vacancy rates and sales data had been recorded since 1999. Data relating to CCTV incidents in the town had been recorded from 2002.

Overall towns performance can only be assessed by putting a number of different Indicators together. Each piece of information helped to judge the overall position in each town and was detailed within the report.

RECOMMENDED that

- (1) the report be noted and officers involved be commended for their work;
- (2) the Committee looked forward to the report in March 2004; and
- (3) if possible, a breakdown showing the time of day that the incidents monitored by the CCTV team took place, be included in the March 2004 report.

ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (Continued)

877. ENERGY - RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE EXECUTIVE

The Committee considered a report from Policy Services seeking approval for the draft report on Energy Matters for submission to the Executive.

During 2002 the Committee had received 4 reports or presentations covering different aspects of the Council's responsibilities with regard to energy. At its meeting in February, the Committee discussed a range of issues arising from those presentations and agreed that a further report should be considered in March to agree the outcomes of those discussions and that this should form the basis of the Committee's recommendations to the Executive.

A draft report for submission to the Executive in April was attached as an appendix to the report.

RECOMMENDED that

- (1) the draft report attached as an appendix to the report, be submitted to the Executive in April for consideration; and
- (2) the officers involved in compiling the report and making the presentations to the Committee be thanked for all their hard work.

878. EXECUTIVE MEETING - MONDAY, 10 FEBRUARY 2003

The Committee received a verbal report from the Chair of the Committee on the Executive meeting held on Monday, 10 February 2003 and the minutes of that meeting which came within its remit.

RECOMMENDED that the report and minutes be noted.

879. EXECUTIVE AGENDA (NON-CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS AND REPORTS)

Item 3 - Performance Management System

The Scrutiny Committee supported the recommendation in the report and commented that it was important for the Council to focus equally on the success and the failures.

The Committee also highlighted that TC 23 "Satisfaction with Public Conveniences" was listed under Environment Services, on page 40, and not under the correct Portfolio of Development Services.

ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (Continued)

Item 8 - SRB 6 Scheme - Promoting Inclusion and Enterprise

The Committee supported the recommendation in the report.

David Smith of the P.I.E. Board congratulated the Council on starting the poverty mapping and thanked the Council for all its help, especially Chris Elliott and Dennis Stanley.

Item 9 - SRB 5 Scheme for Leamington Old Town

The Committee supported the recommendation in the report.

Item 10 - Service Level Agreement for Joint Working with Stratford District Council to Address Health Issues

The Committee supported the recommendation in the report and added this item to its work plan for monitoring reports every six months.

Item 11 - Leamington Urban Mix Priority Scheme

The Committee supported the points for consideration at appendix 1 of the report. However, it could not reach a consensus on points (b) and (i).

Item 12 - Devolution of Building Control Charges (Revised Scheme)

The Committee supported the recommendation in the report.

Item 14(E) - Housing and Public Health Enforcement Policy

The Committee supported the recommendation of the report.

Item 14(F) - Food Safety Enforcement Service Plan for 2003/2004

The Committee supported the recommendation in the report.

Item 14(G) - Noise from Fireworks

The Committee supported the recommendation in the report.

880. WORK PLAN 2002\2003 AND PORTFOLIO HOLDER PRIORITY AREAS

The Committee considered a report from Policy Services updating the Scrutiny Committee's work plan for the year and to monitor progress against the Portfolio Holder Priority Areas.

It would agree to consider the Committee's work plan as a standing item on each agenda.

ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (Continued)

The agreed work plan for the year ahead reflected items agreed by the Committee from the last meeting and was shown at Appendix 1 to the report. It also incorporated the desire to take different approaches on current issues.

Members were asked to identify any additions or changes which would arise from discussions at this meeting.

The Executive agreed priorities and work programmes for each Portfolio Holder at its meeting on 25 June 2001, in relation to the 2001/2002 financial year. This had now been superseded by the Service Plans that were agreed by the Executive at its meeting on 5 March 2002. The relevant Service Plan Action Plans for this Committee were shown at Appendix 2 to the report.

RECOMMENDED that

- (1) the report be noted; and
- (2) a six monthly monitoring report be included in the Committees work plan regarding the Service Level Agreement for joint working with Stratford District Council, to address health issues; and
- (3) an update report on Town Centre Management be submitted in March 2004.

881. PUBLIC AND PRESS

RESOLVED that under Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following item, by reason of the likely disclosure of exempt information within paragraphs 8 and 9 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

882. EXECUTIVE AGENDA (CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS AND REPORTS)

The Committee considered item number 17, The Band Factory, of the Executive agenda for the meeting to be held on Monday, 10 March 2003. As a result, the following comment was made for forwarding to the Executive for consideration:-

“The Committee supported the recommendation 1.2 in the report, for the site to be a multi use site, but for the Council to proceed with caution and perhaps seek other tenders for use of the site.”

(the meeting ended at 9.10 pm)

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