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ECONOMY AND REGENERATION OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Monday, 15 June 2009

Present:

Councillor	J Hale (Chair)	
Councillors	AR McLachlan	RL Abbey
	A Jennings	B Kenny
	P Johnson	S Niblock
	A Pritchard	R Wilkins (In place of
	K Wood	A Taylor)

1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST/PARTY WHIP

Members were asked to consider whether they had personal or prejudicial interests in connection with any item(s) on this agenda and, if so, to declare them and state what they were.

Members were reminded that they should also declare, pursuant to paragraph 18 of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules, whether they were subject to a party whip in connection with any item(s) to be considered and, if so, to declare it and state the nature of the whipping arrangement. No such declarations were made.

2 MINUTES

The Director of Law , HR and Asset Management submitted the minutes of the Regeneration and Planning Strategy Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 18 March, 2009

Resolved – That the minutes be received.

3 APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR

In accordance with minute 4 of Cabinet (12/5/09), the Committee was requested to appoint a Vice-Chair.

On a motion by the Chair seconded by Councillor Johnson it was:

Resolved – That Councillor K Wood be appointed Vice-Chair of this Committee for the current municipal year.

4 **TERMS OF REFERENCE**

The terms of reference were submitted for Members' information.

Resolved – That the terms of reference be noted.

5 **SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME 2009/10**

The Chair referred to his discussions with chief officers regarding issues that were likely to be significant over the next twelve months. The following issues were identified for scrutiny by this committee:-

Wirral's response to the recession
Taking forward the Investment Strategy
Power and Infrastructure
Housing Market Renewal
Choice Based Letting
Homelessness

There was an opportunity for members to raise additional items with the Chair, and any urgent items could also be considered.

In addition to the above, members asked for a regular verbal update on major development schemes.

In view of the comprehensive workload and additional responsibilities attached to this committee, members asked the Director of Corporate Services to prepare a printed work programme.

Resolved – That a work programme listing the reports from chief officers on key issues during the year and the progress of major development schemes form the basis of the committee's work programme for the current municipal year.

6 **CONSERVATION AREA MANAGEMENT PLANS**

Further to minute 8 (Planning Committee – 21/5/09) when consideration was given reports, appraisals and management plans, prepared by consultants Donald Insall and Partners, the Director of Technical Services requested that this committee endorse recommendation to Cabinet for the designation of eight conservation areas:-

- (i) Bidston Village
- (ii) Birkenhead Park
- (iii) Bromborough Pool
- (iv) Caldy Village
- (v) Eastham Village
- (vi) Rock Park
- (vii) Thurstaston

(viii) Wellington Road

Resolved - That this Committee recommend to Cabinet that:-

(1) The Appraisals for the following areas be adopted by the Council and used to inform the evidence base for the preparation of future planning policy in the forthcoming Local Development Framework and used as a material consideration in determining future applications for planning permission, listed building and conservation area consent:-

- (i) Bidston Village
- (ii) Birkenhead Park
- (iii) Bromborough Pool
- (iv) Caldy Village
- (v) Eastham Village
- (vi) Rock Park
- (vii) Thurstaston
- (viii) Wellington Road

(2) The Management Plans act as an agenda for further consultation both locally and within the Council to identify priorities for action and the resources necessary for their implementation.

7 **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

(a) Vauxhall Motors Plant, Ellesmere Port

The Deputy Chief Executive/ Director of Corporate Services reported upon the present position regarding the future of the plant and representations that were being made by this Council to Peter Mandelson, Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, and his department's senior civil servants.

(b) The North West Regional Construction Awards held on 21 May 2009 - Cheshire Warrington & Wirral Best Practice Award was made to Kier North West for the New Brighton Floral Pavilion Theatre.

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