An additional meeting of the Economic and Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Panel was held at the Town Hall, Nuneaton on Thursday, 8th August 2013.

Present

Councillor V.N. Fowler – Chair
Councillor K.D. Wilson – Vice Chair


Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J. Haynes and B.J. Longden.

137 Courtesies

The Chair reported that Mrs. D.A. McQuade, Democratic Support Services Officer was taking early retirement and expressed the thanks and best wishes of the Panel for the future.

138 Declarations of Interest

Councillor K.D. Wilson declared an Other Interest in Agenda Item 5 by reason of him being a Trustee of Warwickshire Advice Rights and in any other relevant item by reason of being an employee of Nuneaton County Court and Warwickshire Family Proceedings Court.

Councillor V.N. Fowler declared an Other Interest in any relevant item by reason of her being a Trustee of Warwickshire Advice Rights.

Councillor J.A. Tandy declared an Other Interest in any relevant item by reason of her being a member of Warwickshire County Council.

Councillor K.A. Kondakor declared an Other Interest in any relevant item by reason of him being a member of Warwickshire County Council.

Councillor C. Watkins declared an Other Interest in any relevant item by reason of him being a Board Member of Nuneaton and Bedworth Leisure Trust.

Councillor B.L. Hawkes declared that Labour Group members of the Panel had been whipped in respect of Agenda Items 6 and 8.
Consultation on Third Sector Draft Specifications

The Director – Housing and Communities submitted a report updating the Panel on the progress of the commissioning of grants to the Third Sector and to consult with Panel Members on the draft specifications relating to Community Development and Support, Volunteer Development and Support, Employment Advice Rights and Advice Services for Debt, Welfare, Housing and General Advice which form part of the third sector tendering process.

Members asked various questions and discussion took place.

RESOLVED that the Consultation on Third Sector Draft Specifications report be noted.

Advertising Banners – Nuneaton Town Centre

The Head of Estates and Town Centres submitted a report to consider the income generation potential for advertising banners in Nuneaton Town Centre.

RESOLVED that

(a) further investigation be undertaken to identify an additional one or two commercial advertising banner sites if financially viable;

(b) consideration be given to trialling three to four banner locations for non commercial organisations;

(c) a further report detailing the financial viability of using additional advertising banners be submitted to a future meeting of this Panel;

(d) a further report providing information regarding the Council’s advertising contract and town centres exclusion zones be submitted to a future meeting of this Panel before February 2014 when the current advertising contract expires; and

(e) consideration be given to the removal of advertising exclusion zones in any future advertising contracts at the appropriate time.

Nuneaton and Bedworth Markets

The Head of Estates and Town Centres submitted a report to review the level of market stall up take in both towns and to consider the pricing and incentives to stall holders.

RESOLVED that the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Civic Affairs be requested to consider the recommendation of the Panel that town centre markets and market traders continue to be supported where possible.
142 German Christmas Market

The Head of Estates and Town Centres submitted a report to consider the provision of a German Market in Nuneaton Town Centre during the festive period.

RESOLVED that

(a) it be recommended to Cabinet that the Council consider supporting the Operation Footfall funding initiative for other events;

(b) the Head of Estates and Town centres be requested to explore further opportunities for promoting markets to enhance the economic vitality of town centres; and

(c) a further report providing evidence for themed markets and any financial implications be submitted to the meeting of this Panel scheduled for 7th November, 2013.

143 Work Programme 2013/14

The Principal Democratic Services Officer (Committees) verbally updated the Panel on the current issues relating to the Work Programme 2013/14.

RESOLVED that

(a) the Work Programme item relating to the Council’s Bailiff Service and Lean System Principals and Outcomes be considered at the meeting of this Panel scheduled for 19th September 2013; and

(b) the amended Work Programme 2013/14 be noted.

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Chair