A meeting of the Economic and Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Panel was held at the Town Hall, Nuneaton on Thursday, 7th November, 2013.

Present

Councillor V.N. Fowler – Chair


251 Minutes

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meetings held on 25th July 2013 and 19th September, 2013 be confirmed.

252 Declarations of Interest

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.

Cllr K D Wilson declared an Other Interest in any relevant item by reason of him being employed by the County Court and Family Proceedings Court

253 Themed Markets Report

The Head of Estates and Town Centres submitted a report asking the panel to note progress in promoting, and pursuing themed markets in Nuneaton and Bedworth Town Centres.

Members asked questions and the following issues were discussed:

- need to promote the Markets and pursue those that have shown an interest in coming to the Towns;
- specialists in themed markets have been invited to a meeting in January.
- Members were advised that the Council had a policy of not allowing sales/assignments of market stalls;
- the local businesses were willing to work in partnership to help maintain and promote the town centre markets.
RESOLVED that the report be noted and the Panel be provided with the planned programme of markets for the year ahead.

254 Welfare Reform and Universal Credit

The Revenues and Benefits Manager submitted a report to update the Panel on latest information regarding Universal Credit and the Localisation of Council Tax Support.

Members asked questions and raised the following issues:

- concern that there are people unaware of their rights;
- Warwickshire County Council had not provided the take-up date at a local, borough level;
- hardship would continue to increase as the Universal Credit scheme is rolled out;

RESOLVED that

(a) the report be noted and the impact of Welfare Reform and Localisation of Council Tax Support on the residents of Nuneaton and Bedworth;

(b) the latest information regarding Universal Credit be noted; and

(c) a further report be brought to the next meeting to update the Panel.

255 Integrated Performance Report – Second Quarter 2013-14

The joint report of the Director – Finance and Procurement and Performance and Quality Manager providing appropriate performance measures and financial budget information for service areas within the scope of the Panel and providing the Panel with appropriate information to monitor performance, finance information to address issues arising was considered.

Members asked questions and raised the following issues:

- questioned the impact of treating Nuneaton and Bedworth differently regarding parking charges;
- concern that Finance had received 4 complaints and none had been completed;
- 4 complaints received had not been accepted by officers;
- slow progress being made with Town Centre developments;
- concern regarding tenants of private landlords who risk eviction as a result of complaining about poor housing conditions.

RESOLVED that the Integrated Performance Report – Second Quarter 2013-14 and Performance Indicators, attached to the report, be noted.
256  **Responses from Cabinet**

The Principal Democratic Services Officer (Committees) verbally updated the Panel on the response from Cabinet on the Christmas Markets.

RESOLVED that it be noted that the Panel was pleased with the increased emphasis being placed on the Town Centre Markets and that the response from Cabinet on Christmas Markets be also noted.

257  **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.

(a) a further report on Welfare Reform and Universal Credit be placed on the work programme for February;

(b) the work programme item on Riding for the Disabled to be broadened to include other leases currently held by the Council;

(c) an item on the Budget 2014/15 to be placed on the next meetings agenda as agreed by the Proper Officer;

(d) the County Council and the Police Authority be invited to attend the March meeting of the Panel following the setting of their budgets for 2014/15; and

RESOLVED that the amended work programme 2013/14 be agreed.

__________________________
Chair