

Minutes of the meeting of Business, Economy and Enterprise Scrutiny Board (3)
held at
2.00 pm on 10th July 2013

Present:

Scrutiny Board Members: Councillor Skipper (Chair)
 Councillor Abbott
 Councillor Galliers (Deputy Chair)
 Councillor Hammon
 Councillor Maton
 Councillor Sehmi (substitute for Councillor Auluck)
 Councillor Walsh
 Councillor Welsh

By Invitation: Councillor Kelly
 (Cabinet Member (Business, Enterprise & Employment))

Other Members: Councillor Clifford
 (Deputy Chair of Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee)

Employees (by Directorate):

Chief Executive's: G Holmes

City Services & Development: D. Cockroft, R. Evans, K. Hammond

Customer & Workforce Services: C. Sinclair

In attendance: P. Dunkley (Chair of BID), L. Elliot (Artspace), L. Luke
 (FSB), Z. Stokes (Coventry Mysteries)

Apologies: Councillor Auluck
 Councillor Taylor

Public business

5. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

6. Minutes

(a) The minutes of the meeting held on 5th June 2013 were signed as a true record.

(b) Matters Arising:

Minute 3/13 (Delivering the Jobs Strategy)

Members noted that the research undertaken by LEP on joint working in identifying training opportunities for employees, would be an item for the

Board's agenda in March 2014. The following information requested at the meeting on 5th June would be circulated shortly:

- A breakdown, by postcode, of the 1300 jobs filled.
- The cost to the City Council of each job placement.

7. City Centre

The Board received presentations from invited guests from the Business Improvement District (BID), Coventry Artspace, Theatre Absolute and the Federation of Small Businesses on their work including a summary of the independent partnership of organisation's Portas Pilot bid which was submitted in collaboration with the City Council. The bid had been unsuccessful but the emphasis was on 'The Creative City - a place with creativity at the heart of the high street.' Members watched a short video relating to the bid.

Members questioned attendees on their work including the work undertaken on the Portas Pilot bid and the reasons for it not being successful then explored the potential of building on positive outcomes from the project

Peter Dunkley (Chair of BID) tabled and presented a document for discussion which set out his ideas for a strategy for Coventry City Centre. The document was welcomed by the Board as a good starting point in developing a City Council strategy for the City Centre. In addition, the Cabinet Member (Business, Enterprise and Employment), Councillor Kelly, reported on the work of the City Centre Task Force and the Board noted that there would be a report from that Task Force which would be presented to the Board later in the year.

The Board asked that work now be undertaken in developing a City Centre Strategy in order to be ready to present to the Board in 3 months' time. They also commended the initiatives for supporting and encouraging cultural and arts work and recommended that this continue.

Attendees were thanked for their attendance and participation.

RESOLVED that the Board:

- (a) Request that officers produce a 'City Centre Strategy' to come back to the Board in November 2013.**
- (b) Recommended that the Cabinet Member (Business, Enterprise and Employment) continue to support and encourage cultural and arts enterprise.**

8. Report back on Conference: Marche International Des Professionnels De L'Immobilier (MIPIM 2013) 12th – 15th March 2013

The Scrutiny Board considered and noted a report of the Director of City Services and Development, which provided feedback on the 2013 MIPIM conference.

The report set out in detail the programme of activity and the costs and benefits of the City Council's involvement.

Members questioned officers on the tangible outcomes arising from their attendance. The Board noted that discussions with partners were currently ongoing and were of a confidential nature. Officers would be in a better position to report back later in the year.

RESOLVED that the Board note the report and request officers to produce a briefing note summarising outcomes of the conference as soon as practicable.

9. **Outstanding Minutes**

There were no outstanding minutes.

10. **Work Programme**

The work programme was discussed and the following agreed:

- 'Homefinder' and 'Business Conference Strategy' to be added to the work programme.
- The addition of 'Friargate' as an item for the Work Programme to be further considered.
- Briefing note to be circulated to the Board in respect of Whitefriars Governance.

11. **Meeting Evaluation**

The Scrutiny Board discussed and evaluated the meeting.

Members expressed dissatisfaction in respect of the poor sound quality of the video and asked that the appropriate checks be carried out on equipment provided in meeting rooms to ensure their good working order. The Board asked that their comments on this matter be recorded in the minutes.

12. **Any Other Public Business**

There were no other items of public business.

(Meeting closed at: 4.30 pm)