

# Item 10a

## SEDGEFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 2

Community Room 1,  
Welcome Building,  
Locomotion, Shildon

Tuesday, 28 November  
2006

Time: 10.00 a.m.

**Present:** Councillor J.E. Higgin (Chairman) and

Councillors W.M. Blenkinsopp, T.F. Forrest, D.M. Hancock, J.P. Moran,  
J. Robinson J.P, K. Thompson, T. Ward and J. Wayman J.P

### **Tenant Representatives**

Mrs. M. Thomson

**Invited to attend:** Mrs. B. Graham and K. Noble

**In Attendance:** Councillor Mrs. B.A. Clare

**Apologies:** Councillors J. Burton, G.M.R. Howe and Ms. M. Predki

### **OSC(2).22/06 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Members had no interests to declare.

### **OSC(2).23/06 MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> October, 2006 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### **OSC(2).24/06 LOCOMOTION - ECONOMIC IMPACT ASSESSMENT USING THE PRIME MODEL**

Mrs. L. Wearne, Tourism Officer, attended the meeting to give a presentation on the results of the Economic Impact Assessment of Locomotion using the PRIME Model. (For copy see file of Minutes).

Members were informed that the prime model was developed in the late 1990's in response to the growing need for Economic Impact Assessments. The model aimed to provide an estimate of employment associated with projects and to make comparisons before and after the analysis.

Details were then provided on cost inputs and numbers of visitors, together with comparisons between local and regional figures, including the impact of employment, both directly and indirectly. It also compared revenue costs from 2003 and 2006 concluding that Locomotion had been a success exceeding a number of original estimated figures.

Members questioned what feedback had been received from Shildon Town Council. It was explained that a survey had been carried out by the

Borough Council on behalf the Town Council and found that sales throughout the town had increased by 7% since the opening of Locomotion. The presentation had also been shown to the Town Council where positive responses had been received.

Discussion was also held regarding the development and the next steps in place for Locomotion. The Tourism Officer informed Members that there was a Phase 2, which included a number of developments and was to be discussed by the Board later in the week. It was specifically pointed out that Engineering Apprenticeships in the workshops would be introduced in January 2007, where funding was available until June, 2008.

Questions were raised with regard to admission to the museum. At present it was free to enter Locomotion and it was anticipated that this would continue, however it was pointed out that the Borough Council would have to reapply to continue free admission in September, 2007.

To keep account of visitor numbers it was explained that they were counted as they entered the main entrance and also as they entered the Timothy Hackworth area via a key on the computer. Questions were raised as to why visitors were counted twice, which would result in numbers being double. Members were informed that as visitors could enter Locomotion via more than one entrance it was necessary to count them twice and take an average between the two totals.

Members raised the need to continue to push forward the strength of Locomotion and find funding as recommended by the Value of Tourism Review Group. The need to improve signage to attractions within the Borough was also discussed. The Portfolio holder for Leisure and Culture explained that contact had been made with Durham County Council and the Highways Department who were responsible for Brown Signs. An invitation had been extended to the officers to meet with Borough Council Officers and the Portfolio holder to discuss the matter.

Discussion was finally held regarding the need to commend all those involved in the development, progress and success of Locomotion.

*AGREED: That the presentation be received.*

**OSC(2).25/06 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY REVIEW GROUP REPORT - REVIEW OF REGENERATION WITH OLDER PRIVATE SECTOR HOUSING - PROGRESS ON ACTION PLAN**

Consideration was given to a report of the Chief Executive detailing progress to date from Cabinet's response and Action Plan following consideration of its recommendation arising from the Regeneration of Older Private Sector Housing Review Group. (For copy see file of Minutes).

G. Wood, Regeneration Manager, also attended the Committee to give a presentation regarding the progress. (For copy see file of Minutes).

Members were reminded of the background and recommendations provided by the Review Group, the number of documents that had been identified and were important in supporting the recommendations and the scheme, the process the Review Group followed highlighting the number of proposals made and to which recommendation they supported. It also highlighted the various proposals and strategies to deliver housing-led regeneration specifically to West Chilton and Dean Bank and how the projects would be phased, identifying the funding needed and how the scheme would be delivered both internally and externally.

Discussion was held on demolition and planning and the need to ensure the right mix of properties for the area, including both new and old builds.

Specific reference was made to private landlords. Members were reminded of the new legislation that would give more powers to local authorities with regard to monitoring private landlords and the way they managed their tenancies.

Members also pointed out that while it was necessary to inform local residents, keeping the up to date with all developments, they requested that they were informed of matters before the public.

*AGREED:*

- 1. That the presentation be received.*
- 2. That the Committee reviews the progress of the Action Plan in 6 months.*

#### **OSC(2).26/06 WORK PROGRAMME**

Consideration was given to a report of the Chairman of the Committee setting out the Committee's Work Programme for consideration and review. (For copy see file of Minutes.)

The Committee was updated on the progress of each of the Review Groups Provision of Affordable Housing and Leisure Centre Concessionary Pricing Scheme. It was pointed out that both were coming to an end producing draft final reports, including recommendations to be considered by Cabinet.

A request was made for the Committee to review schools places throughout the Borough, how they were decided. Discussion was held as to whether the matter would be relevant to the Committee. Scrutiny Officer agreed to look into the matter.

*AGREED:* *That the Committee's Work Programme be approved.*

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#### **ACCESS TO INFORMATION**

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