

To The Chair and Members of the Regeneration and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel

REGENERATION & ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL WORK UPDATE AND PROGRESS WITH THE 2011/12 WORK PLAN.

Relevant Cabinet Member(s)	Wards Affected	Key Decision
The Mayor Councillor M Thompson Councillor R Mullis Councillor C Ransome	All	None

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. This report gives an update to the Regeneration and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel on progress with the work plan for 2011/12. It allows the Panel to monitor what developments have been made, work that has been undertaken in relation to the work plan, information, updates and correspondence since the meeting held on 4th October 2011. As a live document the work plan allows the Panel to review it in order to develop and reprioritise items where necessary.

EXEMPT REPORT

2. Not exempt

RECOMMENDATIONS

3. It is recommended that the Panel: -
 - a. Receive and comment on the progress made against the work programme (Appendix A);
 - b. Note and the approve the action plan updating the panel on recommendations made to the Executive (Appendix B);
 - c. Note the correspondence made between the Panel and the Executive (Appendix C, D and E);
 - d. Note the update provided on the DMBC internal review into Opportunity Centres;
 - e. Note the briefing note on Tourism within Doncaster and the work of Doncaster Tourism (Appendix F).

- f. To formally agree the membership of the working group and Terms of Reference established for policy development work towards the Environmental Strategy (Appendix G).
- g. To agreed and ratify the recommendations following the evidence and information received at the informal meeting on the 15th November 2011.

BACKGROUND

4. At its meeting on the 22nd June 2011, the Regeneration and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel agreed its work plan for the 2011/12 municipal year. It was accepted that the work plan would need to be regularly reviewed and updated to ensure it remained relevant and reflected the work to be undertaken by the Panel and should take account of planning particularly looking at capacity and prioritisation.
5. Members agreed that the workplan should be focused and only include three or four items that they would look at in more detail. It was also noted that there maybe Forward Plan items that would need to be included onto the work plan during the year.

PROGRESS MADE AGAINST THE WORKPLAN

Opportunity Centre Update

6. The internal review has been reported to be progressing well and has taken on board information from the report, provided by Regeneration and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel. Officers are analysing statistics and performance data, collecting evidence and case studies and reviewing the draft document for recommendations going forward. The report will go to other relevant Officers for consideration and discussion before it is released. A report is due to come to the Panel on the 19th December 2011 to be informed on the findings and consider the robustness of the internal review.
7. A response has been received to the recommendations and findings of the Regeneration and Environmental Overview and Scrutiny Panel which has been attached In Appendix E. The response from the Executive indicates that the action plan will be completed when the outcome of the internal review for consideration.

Stadium Management Company – Informal/Formal Meeting – 21st September 2011

8. Members of the Panel met with tenants of the Keepmoat Stadium during informal meetings which took place during October 2011. The informal notes from that meeting have will have been circulated to Members of the Panel prior to the meeting and the correspondence and recommendations that were sent to the Executive have been attached in Appendix C.

Doncaster Council's Environmental Strategy 2012-15

Earlier in the municipal year, the Panel agreed that as part of its workplan it wished to set up a working group in order to undertake some policy development work to develop the Council's Environmental Strategy. On the workplan, the Panel is due to receive a report at it's meeting in January 2012.

9. The working group consists of the following Members who include: -
Councillor Jane Kidd
Councillor Richard Cooper-Holmes
Councillor David Nevett
Councillor Barry Johnson
10. A Terms of Reference has been created and has been attached in Appendix G and a scoping meeting has been arranged and will take place on 22nd November 2011.

Private Sector Housing – Informal Panel Meeting – 15th November 2011

11. On the 15th November 2011, an informal meeting was arranged with members of the Panel and representatives from private sector housing, the housing association and the third sector. At that meeting, members of the group received a presentation from officers and then met with representatives. The purpose of this informal meeting was to identify what the potential barriers are, how they can be overcome and how we can encourage more private development across the borough particularly in more deprived areas. Any recommendations made by the Panel should be agreed and ratified as part of the formal meeting.

OPTIONS CONSIDERED

12. There are no specific options to consider within this report as it provides an opportunity for the Panel to develop a work plan for 2011/12.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDED OPTION

13. This report provides the Panel with an opportunity to develop its work plan for 2011/12 and reflect on progress made.

IMPACT ON THE COUNCIL'S KEY OBJECTIVES

Priority Theme	Mayor's Priorities for 2011/12	Implications of this initiative
1. Creating a strong, connected and inclusive economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Drive forward the Doncaster economy• Get the balance of public and private transport right• Promote Doncaster as a tourist destination• Regenerate Doncaster's town centres	

2. Developing stronger communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage community harmony and cohesion. Treat people as individuals, not by reference to labels and artificial groupings 	
3. Increasing and improving housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raise housing standards 	
4. Protecting and improving all our children's lives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to improve education and skills • Build on a strengthening Children's Service 	
5. Improving health and support for independent lives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage attitudes of self-reliance, self-improvement and mutual respect within Doncaster communities 	
6. Tackling crime and anti-social behaviour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce crime and all forms of anti-social behaviour 	
7. Creating a cleaner and better environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to protect the environment from developers, decay and architectural vandalism 	
8. Internal Transformation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure local people get value for money from council services 	

RISKS & ASSUMPTIONS

14. To maximise the effectiveness of the Overview and Scrutiny function it is important that the work plan devised is manageable and that it accurately reflects the broad range of issues within its remit. Failure to achieve this can reduce the overall impact of the function. Ensuring the work plan is developed with a key set of principles in mind e.g. holding to account, undertaking policy review and development and is focused strategically will help support the development of a robust work programme. The work plan will be reviewed at each ordinary meeting and officers will advise on the capacity available to undertake any additional work. This will provide an opportunity to ensure work plans can be regularly monitored and reviewed.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

15. The Council's Constitution states that subject to matters being referred to it by the Full Council, or the Executive and any timetables laid down by those references the Regeneration and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel will determine its own Work Programme (Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rule 6a).
16. Specific legal implications and advice will be given with any reports when Overview and Scrutiny have received them as items for consideration.
17. Overview and Scrutiny Panels Terms of reference states that the Panel is empowered to establish ad hoc working groups from within its membership, to undertake project and policy development work, to meet the objectives and targets of its annual work plan.

18. Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rule 15 (a) states that where, in the opinion of the Chair of an Overview and Scrutiny Panel, the matters under discussion are relevant to matters referred to other Scrutiny Panel(s) he/she shall consider to what extent to invite the participation of the Chair and/or other Members of the other Panel in the deliberations.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

19. The budget for the support of the Overview and Scrutiny function 2011/12 is not affected by this report, however, the delivery of the work plan will need to take place within agreed budgets.

CONSULTATION

20. No consultation was required for this report.

REPORT AUTHOR & CONTRIBUTORS

Caroline Martin
Scrutiny Consultant
Tel: 01302 734941
E-mail: caroline.martin@doncaster.gov.uk

Peter Dale
Director of Regeneration and Environment

Appendix A

	21 st June 2011	26 th July 2011 (Informal Meeting)	8 th August 2011 (Informal Meeting)	22 nd Aug 2011	22 nd Sept 2011 (Informal Meeting)	4 th Oct 2011
Policy Review/ Development		Delivery of Regeneration & Environment through Localism Bill	Opportunity Centres Site Visits and Meeting (meeting to take place out in the community)		Serco, A4E and Job Centre Plus	
Performance	Performance 2010/11 (Qtr 4)					St Leger Holmes/DMBC Performance 2011/12 (Qtr 1)
Information Updates	Presentation on the R&E Directorate			LEP/ Enterprise Zones (Briefing Note)		Tourism (Briefing Note)
Scrutiny (Holding to Account)	Cabinet Members Portfolio Updates - Cllr RMullis Cllr C Ransome			Cabinet Members Portfolio Updates – Mayor _P Davies		Cabinet Members Portfolio Updates – Cllr M Thompson
Other	R&E Terms of Reference 2011/12					
	R&E Workplan 2011/12			R&E Workplan 2011/12		R&E Workplan 2011/12

Appendix A

	21st Oct 2011 (Formal & Informal Meeting)	15th Nov 2011 (Formal & Informal Meeting)	19th Dec 2011	31st Jan 2012	5th Mar 2012
Policy Review/ Development	Informal meeting with users of the Keepmoat Stadium Followed by: Financial Update on SMC (Formal)	Private Sector Housing Delivery (Informal)	Delivery of Regeneration & Environment through Localism Bill	Environmental Strategy	Opportunity Centres – Look at progress/ impact made against all recommendations New Work Programme – Progress Update Site Visit to Prime Contractors (TBC)
			Opportunity Centres – DMBC Review		
Performance			St Leger Holmes/DMBC Performance 2011/12 (Qtr 2)		St Leger Holmes/DMBC Performance 2011/12 (Qtr 3)
Information Updates					
Scrutiny (Holding to Account)		Cabinet Members Portfolio Updates - Cllr Mullis	Cabinet Members Portfolio Updates - Cllr Ransome		
Other					
		R&E Workplan 2011/12	R&E Workplan 2011/12	R&E Workplan 2011/12	R&E Workplan 2011/12

Recommendations Made To The Executive - Update

In order to ensure clarity and to support the continual monitoring of the recommendations made throughout the year needs to be considered by the Panel.

Ref	Recommendation	Accepted? Y/N/Partly	Initial Response	Action	Timescale	Who	Progress on implementation	Impact
21st October 2011 – Stadium Management Company (S.M.C.) Financial Update October 2011								
1.	That the mayor seeks to find the best deal to enable the Keepmoat stadium to remain open.							
2.	That as part of a future strategy, the S.M.C. develop a business plan and performance improvement plan							
3.	That consideration is given to the S.M.C. forming a leisure trust which will allow tenants of the stadium to have a partnership status							
4.	That communication is improved and a more open style of dialogue is undertaken between the S.M.C. Executive and tenants, in particular, by: -							

Ref	Recommendation	Accepted? Y/N/Partly	Initial Response	Action	Timescale	Who	Progress on implementation	Impact
	<p>A. Reviewing the structure and effectiveness of S.M.C. Board Meetings and other meetings, for example, Tenants Group meetings and to consider the formation of a Stakeholder Committee.</p> <p>B. Providing full feedback where possible.</p> <p>C. Undertaking further dialogue with all tenants, in particular Doncaster rovers, concerning the options that are available to generate further income.</p>							
5.	<p>That the Keepmoat stadium organises and holds an ‘open day’ for children and young people across the borough. For children and young people to be shown around the facilities and meet with other sports team including the Doncaster Rovers, Doncaster Athletics,</p>							

Appendix B.1

Ref	Recommendation	Accepted? Y/N/Partly	Initial Response	Action	Timescale	Who	Progress on implementation	Impact
	Doncaster Belles and Doncaster Rugby Football Club.							

Opportunity Centre Action Plan

The following recommendations (accompanied by supporting evidence) can be found in section 3 of the review report.

Ref	Recommendation	Accepted? Y/N/Partly	Initial Response	Action	Timescale	Who	Progress on implementation	Impact
3.7	To develop more outreach work as a key mechanism of developing Opportunity Centres to engage more with partners as well as businesses. To consider reinstating the Opportunity Centre bus to cover the Borough wide area or most disadvantaged areas though investigating alternative funding mechanisms e.g. From the sponsorship of local businesses or as part of an approved learning agreement.							
3.11	To create a stronger and more co-ordinated marketing and communication strategy through working with the DMBC Communications team. To include within the strategy a strand to achieve better publicity and to increase awareness raising especially within the communities through incorporating the following methods: -							

Ref	Recommendation	Accepted? Y/N/Partly	Initial Response	Action	Timescale	Who	Progress on implementation	Impact
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better advertising for example through utilising local websites such as Jobs Doncaster. • Having a stand at Job Fairs. • Word of mouth through Invest Team, Councillors (though working with Success Doncaster team) • Maximising networking opportunities. • Identifying and utilising what resources are available through the community such as community groups, alternative venues i.e. social clubs, bookies, local post offices, local establishments including off licences, newsagents and chip shops etc. • To publicise centres with organisations (including DMBC) when there are large scale redundancies. • To target those within jobs but maybe looking to change careers. 							
3.18	To undertake a more joined up							

Ref	Recommendation	Accepted? Y/N/Partly	Initial Response	Action	Timescale	Who	Progress on implementation	Impact
	<p>approach to working with Prime Contractors and Partners (including to encourage more referrals being made through organisations such as Job Centre Plus). That the Manager of Opportunity Centres meets with these organisations to look at how this can be achieved.</p>							
3.22	<p>To assess the feasibility of moving Opportunity Centres under the Neighbourhood Management Model or at the very least to establish closer links with the Neighbourhood Management team. This should be done by involving the Neighbourhood Managers in steering groups, writing the specifications for the Opportunity Centres and future training of the Library staff.</p>							
3.26	<p>To investigate how to engage with and provide help, support and encouragement to those from more disadvantaged communities.</p> <p>One option is to look at the</p>							

Ref	Recommendation	Accepted? Y/N/Partly	Initial Response	Action	Timescale	Who	Progress on implementation	Impact
	<p>feasibility of the Opportunity Centre becoming more of a 'Front Line Customer Care Centre'. This should be achieved through delivering a wider range of services through Partners, focusing on the barriers that individuals are experiencing preventing them from gaining employment. This could be achieved through surgeries, weekly sessions, counselling sessions etc to strengthen the support available for individuals to address and overcome personal barriers including but not limited to: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial inclusion issues such as debt management, providing a facility or access to a Credit Union facility, benefits advice etc • Childcare/Other Carer role • Travel • Literacy Skills • Other long term conditions such as learning difficulties, lack of confidence etc. 							

Ref	Recommendation	Accepted? Y/N/Partly	Initial Response	Action	Timescale	Who	Progress on implementation	Impact
	In order to provide a wider service provision, the Council should investigate utilising Health and Well Being officers by broadening their work remit to include knowledge on work support schemes.							
3.31	The development of a 'buddy system' which could utilise those clients already working with the Opportunity Centres. This system could be used to promote the centres and encourage those who are more disengaged to use them, help mentor new clients and aid development of the client themselves. It is recognised however, that there will be confidentiality issues which would have to be taken into consideration.							
3.34	Carry out a stocktake of what facilities are available within existing and future locations which should be revisited every two years to ensure that they are meeting the needs of the							

Ref	Recommendation	Accepted? Y/N/Partly	Initial Response	Action	Timescale	Who	Progress on implementation	Impact
	clients. To ensure that there is a private room or space available where possible.							
3.38	To identify what volunteering opportunities exist within the Borough and how they could be offered to clients accessing the centres through establishing closer links with the third and private sector.							
3.40	<p>To encourage a more proactive role of local businesses and link in with major developments in the Borough i.e. Inland Port. To organise such activities as: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speakers from local businesses to come to the centres to speak to users on what they look for when recruiting. • Mentoring Opportunities with local businesses. • Open days at local businesses which are looking to recruit on a large scale or due to seasonal fluctuations. • Identifying and 							

Ref	Recommendation	Accepted? Y/N/Partly	Initial Response	Action	Timescale	Who	Progress on implementation	Impact
	advertising training/apprenticeship opportunities with local businesses i.e. interview techniques.							
3.42	Encourage further links with schools and colleges and raise awareness of Opportunity Centres through links and supply of information. To identify how such establishments could become involved with the centre.							
3.45	To establish long term plans for Opportunity Centres to establish them in the communities. This should focus on improving consistency and ensuring that there is a dedicated staff and support through appropriate training. Where possible any further disruption to staff and the centres should be minimised i.e. closing and reopening where possible and pursuing alternative funding.							

Councillor for Town Moor

Home Tel: 01302 342472

Email: jane.kidd@doncaster.gov.uk

25th October 2011

Peter Davies
Mayor of Doncaster
Floor 1
The Council House
College Road
Doncaster
DN1 3AJ

Dear Peter

Stadium Management Company (S.M.C.) Financial Update October 2011

At the Regeneration and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel Meeting held on the 21st October 2011, the Panel received a presentation and report which provided a financial update on the Stadium Management Company (S.M.C.)

The Panel noted the contents of the report and the supporting presentations and the following recommendations and comments were made:-

1. That the Mayor seeks to find the best deal to enable the Keepmoat Stadium to remain open.

From the information provided to the Panel, there is a great deal of concern about the future of the stadium as well as the financial risk to the council.

Members felt that the business model was flawed from the very beginning and is the cause of the financial problems and the current situation that is being faced today. A number of questions were asked about the original contracts and the Panel were informed that steps have been taken to access them. Concern was raised that if the S.M.C. was made bankrupt, the council are contractually bound to ensure that arrangements are still in place and could lose a significant amount of money.

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-2-

Regarding the pricing structure of catering, it was viewed that the prices as part of a fixed pricing structure are very expensive and not competitive. It is believed that there should be a better understanding of the competition to the stadium, for example, local establishments that are in close proximity to the stadium and what the public are prepared to pay.

It was also recognised by the Panel that staff morale is very low at present due to the ongoing uncertainty about the stadium's future.

One of the concerns was the level of maintenance and associated costs that would need to be paid for by the stadium as well as the consequences of not undertaking them. For example, if maintenance is not kept up to the standard required then it could impact on a club's status, memberships and coaching levels.

Some of the members of the Panel met with tenants from the stadium prior to the formal meeting. The tenants that they met with included Doncaster Rovers, Doncaster Belles, Doncaster Athletics and Doncaster Rugby Football Club who provided their individual views as tenants of the stadium and some expressed their own concerns of the consequences to them if the stadium went bankrupt.

2. That as part of a future strategy, the S.M.C. develop a Business Plan and Performance Improvement Plan

This would enable S.M.C. to have more direction and work towards improving its finances, operations and performance rather than reacting to issues on a daily basis and undertaking higher risks that has been carried out in the past.

3. That consideration is given to the S.M.C. forming a Leisure Trust which will allow tenants of the stadium to have a partnership status

It is believed that by becoming a Leisure Trust would offer the advantage of charitable status, be more conducive to partnership working and also enable the trust to access external funding.

It was viewed that the S.M.C. did not undertake partnership working very well. Members of the Panel felt that it was vital that to improve the future of the stadium, the S.M.C. should ensure that partnership working is improved as it would be detrimental for the stadium to lose its tenants.

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4. **That communication is improved and a more open style of dialogue is undertaken between the S.M.C. Executive and tenants, in particular, by: -**
 - a. **Reviewing the structure and effectiveness of S.M.C. Board Meetings and other meetings, for example, Tenants Group meetings and to consider the formation of a Stakeholder Committee.**
 - b. **Providing full feedback where possible.**
 - c. **Undertaking further dialogue with all tenants, in particular Doncaster Rovers, concerning the options that are available to generate further income.**

Members of the Panel felt that the relationship between the tenants and the S.M.C. could be greatly improved by improving communication and opening up more dialogue. It was also felt that S.M.C. need to become more understanding of tenants and their own requirements and how S.M.C. decisions affect them, particularly where it impacts on the tenants, for example, maintenance issues and changing match fixtures.

It was felt that opportunities had not been taken full advantage of when they should have done and therefore it is important that opportunities should be taken advantage of from now on where possible. For example, when undertaking future maintenance there could be an opportunity to improve facilities and potentially generate more income.

5. **That the Keepmoat Stadium organise and hold an ‘Open Day’ for children and young people across the Borough. For children and young people to be shown around the facilities and meet with other sports team including the Doncaster Rovers, Doncaster Athletics, Doncaster Belles and Doncaster Rugby Football Club.**

This recommendation is in order to publicise the stadium further especially to a key targeted audience and inspire local children and young people through sport. This is a one-off event to engage with the communities, in particular, children and young people to encourage more take-up of sports and more interest in the local sports teams as well as promoting the facilities of the stadium.

On behalf of the Panel, I would like to thank representatives from the S.M.C. Board including Colin Harker, Finance Manager of Keepmoat Stadium, Dave Wilkinson Assistant Director of Trading and Support Services and Councillor Bob Ford for attending the meeting and presenting an update. I would also like to thank Simon Wiles, Director of Finance and Corporate Services and Michelle MacFarlane, Head of Corporate Finance for presenting the report and responding to questions raised by Members.

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I look forward to receiving a response from you no later than **22 November 2011** on the recommendations and comments outlined above. If possible, I would be grateful if a response would be provided sooner due to the pressing nature of this issue.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jane Kidd". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J'.

Councillor Jane Kidd
Chair – Regeneration and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel

cc. Rob Vincent, Chief Executive
Chair/Vice Chair of OS.M.C.
Cabinet
Simon Wiles, Director of Finance and Corporate Services
Dave Wilkinson, Assistant Director of Trading & Support Services
Steve Mawson, Assistant Director of Finance & Performance
Michelle MacFarlane, Head of Corporate Finance

Councillor for Town Moor
Home Tel: 01302 342472
Email: jane.kidd@doncaster.gov.uk

25th October 2011

Peter Davies
Mayor of Doncaster
Floor 1
The Council House
College Road
Doncaster
DN1 3AJ

Dear Peter

Update on the Provision of Financial Support to Doncaster Chamber of Commerce

At the Regeneration and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel Meeting held on the 21st October 2011, the Panel received a report which provided an update on the Doncaster Chamber of Commerce.

The Panel noted the contents of the report and supported the approval to the extension of the bank guarantee for the further 12 months at the lower amount of £100k. Members were pleased to hear that Doncaster Chamber's financial position had improved over the last year and recognised the importance of having such an organisation within Doncaster that supports both local businesses and more recently the new work programme.

On behalf of the Panel, I would like to thank Simon Wiles, Director of Finance and Corporate Services and Michelle MacFarlane, Head of Corporate Finance for attending the meeting to present the report. I would also like to thank Howard Gannaway, Chief Executive of Doncaster Chamber for also presenting and responding to any questions raised by Members.

Kind regards,



Councillor Jane Kidd
Chair – Regeneration and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel

cc. Rob Vincent, Chief Executive
Chair/Vice Chair of OSMC
Cabinet
Peter Dale, Director Regeneration and Environment
Simon Wiles, Director of Finance and Corporate Services
Steve Mawson, Assistant Director of Finance and Performance
Michelle MacFarlane, Head of Corporate Finance

Directorate of Resources

Scrutiny Offices, 2 Priory Place, Doncaster, DN1 1BN

PD/JCE

27th October 2011

Councillor Jane Kidd
Chair – Regeneration and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel
Directorate of Resources
Scrutiny Offices
2 Priory Place
Doncaster
DN1 1BN

Dear Councillor Kidd

Thank you for your letter of the 28th September 2011, following the decision by the Regeneration and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel to complete an Opportunity Centre Review, and the request for the Executive to complete an Action Plan in response. I have studied the scope and recommendations of the review and have the following comments.

I do not understand the rationale for the review exploring the lack of use, and how this could be increased, when there is no budget assigned in 2012/13 to continue the majority of the service.

Although it has been recognised that an officer review due to complete shortly includes effectiveness and added value, this review is not based on any evidence that the service should continue. The performance achieved since the Opportunity Centres were set up is low, and my view is that we should wait for the outcome of the internal review before any further work is completed.

I note with interest that Job Centre Plus state they are very supportive of Opportunity Centres, and in favour of the facilities available by sharing resource and pursuing potential funding streams. However, it should be noted that Job Centre Plus previously worked in partnership with the council to provide job shops within the borough, but ended this agreement some years ago due to the low take-up of the service.

Directorate of Resources

Scrutiny Offices, 2 Priory Place, Doncaster, DN1 1BN

Your review does not seem to consider the more targeted employment support that will be delivered by Job Centre Plus in the future, where all those receiving incapacity benefit will be reviewed and receive more proactive services to get them into work, therefore potentially impacting upon the need for the Opportunity Centres.

In summary, before I am prepared to comment on this further, and have officers completing unnecessary actions, I wish to have the outcome of the internal review for consideration.

Yours sincerely

Peter Davies
Mayor of Doncaster

Briefing Note for Chair and Members of the Regeneration & Enterprise Overview & Scrutiny Panel

SUBJECT: Tourism

BRIEFING NOTE PREPARED BY: Colin Joy, Tourism & Visitor Economy Manager

DATE: 3 October 2011

BRIEFING: Update on Tourism in Doncaster and the work of Doncaster Tourism

Background

Doncaster Tourism came together in February 2010 following the merging of the Tourist Information Centre (TIC) team with Invest in Doncaster's tourism team. Doncaster Tourism is now responsible for the promotion of Doncaster as a tourist destination as well as product development and new investment.

Key Developments in the last 12 months.

- September 2010, the first ever St Leger Festival Week was held over a period of 10 days, with approximately 80 events.
- October 2010 – Doncaster appears in the top 10 list of “Up and coming European travel hot spots” by Trip Adviser
- March 2011 – Doncaster Tourism attend the “Best of Britain and Ireland” travel trade show in Birmingham for the very first time with a Doncaster stand. Toppings Pies and Summerhouse Vineyard provide pies and Doncaster wine to give as samples to trade visitors.
- March 2011 – XH558, the world's last flying Vulcan bomber lands at its new home of Robin Hood Airport in Doncaster, which will in due course become Doncaster's newest visitor attraction.
- April 2011 – Final visitor figures come in from Doncaster visitor attractions indicating that visits for the 2010/11 year were up by 18% over the previous 12 months.
- April 2011 – Final figures for hotel occupancy indicate that Doncaster room occupancy in hotels is up by 11% over the previous 12 months.
- April 2011 – All four South Yorkshire local authorities withdraw from “Yorkshire South Tourism” which ceases to exist as a sub-regional body. This now allows Doncaster to have a better dialogue with regional tourism body “Welcome to Yorkshire”. Sheffield tourism staff now promote only Sheffield under the “Marketing

Sheffield” brand.

- June 2011 – After some deliberation, Doncaster Tourism purchase the Chaser software management programme for conferences and events. The alternative was to ask Sheffield to represent Doncaster for conferences and events for a fee of £10,000 per annum.
- July 2011 – Doncaster Tourism, in conjunction with St George’s Rotary, organise the second annual Dragon Boat Race at Lakeside. Some 3,500 spectators watch 20 teams battle it out.
- August 2011 – Doncaster Tourism populate the “Chaser” system with over 40 venues in Doncaster and write to each to verify accuracy of information.
- September 2011 – Second ever St Leger Festival Week organised with double the number of events in 2010, and first ever sponsorship by Travel South Yorkshire who contribute £8,000.
- September 2011 – latest year-to-date figures indicate that visits to attractions are up by 22% over last year (national figure is just +4%) and that hotel occupancy is up by 12% over last year’s figures
- October 2011 – White Rose Awards, the tourism “Oscars” for Yorkshire take place at Doncaster Racecourse. BBC TV coverage for this lavish event of 1,200 invited guests.

Future Issues

Sheffield City Region LEP is keen to be involved in tourism. Key is establishing a way of harnessing this enthusiasm without reverting back to a LEP/sub-regional tourism body as so much has been achieved since establishing a strong tourism team for Doncaster.

St Leger Festival Week is established as a 10 day festival after just two years but the development of this festival is an ongoing process.

Other events need to be either invented or built up to give some key dates in Doncaster’s calendar.

Outside-organised events need to be nurtured so as not to lose them from Doncaster e.g. Tattoo Jam which brings in over 11,000 visitors over a weekend).

Regeneration and Environmental Overview and Scrutiny Panel Working Group

Terms of Reference

Environmental Strategy

1. This is a Working Group established by the Regeneration and Environmental Overview and Scrutiny Panel to develop part/s of the Environmental Strategy.
2. The Working Group will receive evidence and information from a range of sources, for example, Council officers, partners, businesses, stakeholders and the public etc.
3. The Working Group will hold an initial meeting to set a timeline and scope the detail of the Review.
4. The frequency and arrangements of its meetings will be determined by the Working Group.
5. The Working group will consider the extent to which any meetings or activities will be open to members of the public bearing in mind consideration of any issues that may be of a confidential/exempt nature
6. Any recommendations made by the group will be reported to the Regeneration and Environmental Overview and Scrutiny Panel for consideration and ratification.
7. Recommendations will be reported to the Regeneration and Environmental Overview and Scrutiny Panel either by way of individual reports or updates through the work plan report.
8. Minutes of the Working Group meetings will be circulated with the Regeneration and Environmental Overview and Scrutiny Panel work plan report.
9. The membership will comprise 5 members of the Regeneration and Environmental Overview and Scrutiny Panel and if possible have cross party representation.
10. The quorum will be three members of the Working Group
11. The Working Group will be supported by a Scrutiny Consultant.