

Report of:	Head of Economic Development
Contact Officer:	Michael Tichford
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Key Decision:	No
Report Track:	Economic Development and Town Centres Scrutiny Committee and Council

COUNCIL
30 AUGUST 2017
BETTER JOBS AND SKILLS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
ANNUAL REPORT 2016-17

1 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 This report summarises the work undertaken by the Better Jobs and Skills Scrutiny Committee during the municipal year 2016-17.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 That the report be noted.

3 Key Issues and Reasons for Recommendation

- 3.1 The report summarises the work undertaken by the Better Jobs and Skills Scrutiny Committee during the municipal year 2016-17.
- 3.2 The Committee received information on:
- (i) the end of year outturn for the Priority Delivery Plan for 2015-16;
 - (ii) progress reports on the Priority Delivery Plan for 2016-17;
 - (iii) Preparing young people for employment;
 - (iv) Town Centres traders associations updates;
 - (v) Hednesford In Partnership;
 - (vi) Update on relocation of Gestamp UK's Cannock facility;

- (vii) Chase Line Electrification;
- (viii) Local bus services and Buses Bill;
- (ix) West Midlands Combined Authority;
- (x) Street Trading Policy and related matters.

3.3 The Committee also requested future updates on the Travel Plan linked to the relocation of Gestamp to Four Ashes and Gestamp's proposed Skills Academy.

4 Relationship to Corporate Priorities

4.1 The Better Jobs and Skills Scrutiny Committee was responsible for scrutinising matters relating to the former Better Jobs and Skills corporate priority.

5 Report Detail

5.1 It was agreed in July 2016 by full Council that in future the Scrutiny Committees would produce an annual report for Council on the work undertaken by each of the Committees.

5.2 The key role of the Scrutiny Committee was to:

- Hold the executive to account;
- Ensure corporate priorities are met
- Review and develop policies
- scrutinise partners
- consider performance management information

5.3 The remit of the Better Jobs and Skills Scrutiny Committee during 2016-17 included:

- Better Jobs and Skills PDP (including Education)
- Economic Development and Planning
- Town Centre Regeneration
- Performance Management of the Locality Partnership Plan for 'Increased Economic Prosperity'.

5.4 The Committee considered the following items during 2016-17:

13 July 2016

- End of Year Performance Report 2015-16
- Committee's work programme for 2016-17

7 September 2016

- PDP Q1 2016/17 update
- Town Centres Traders Associations Issues
- Hednesford in Partnership Presentation

8 December 2016

- PDP Q2 2016/17 update
- Update on the relocation of Gestamp UKs Cannock Facility
- Update on Chase Line Electrification
- Work Programme update

14 March 2017 (additional meeting)

- Update on local bus services and Buses Bill

12 April 2017

- PDP Q3 2016/17 update
- West Midlands Combined Authority update
- Street Trading Policy and related matters
- Work Programme review.

5.5 No reviews were undertaken by the Committee, therefore no recommendations were made to Cabinet or Council arising from the Committee's work. There was a focus on transport and skills through the year and disquiet about the reduction in bus subsidies but no further action arose.

6 Implications

6.1 Financial

None

6.2 Legal

None

6.3 Human Resources

None

6.4 Section 17 (Crime Prevention)

None

6.5 Human Rights Act

None

6.6 Data Protection

None

6.7 Risk Management

None

6.8 Equality & Diversity

None

6.9 Best Value

None

7 Appendices to the Report

None

Previous Consideration

None

Background Papers

None