

Decision Maker: **Renewal and Recreation
Policy Development and Scrutiny Committee**

Date: **5th JULY 2011**

Decision Type: Non-Urgent Non-Executive Non-Key

Title: **APPOINTMENT OF COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES TO SERVE
ON OUTSIDE BODIES AND PARTNERSHIP BODIES - TOWN
CENTRE STEERING GROUPS**

Contact Officer: Lauren Wallis, Democratic Services Officer
Tel: 020 8461 7594 E-mail: lauren.wallis@bromley.gov.uk

Chief Officer: Mark Bowen - Director of Resources

Ward: Bromley Town, Clock House, Copers Cope, Kelsey & Eden Park, and Penge
& Cator

1. Reason for report

- 1.1 This report highlights a reference from the General Purposes and Licensing Committee made at their meeting on 24th May 2011 (see paragraph 3.3 below) – the Committee were concerned at changes to the former town centre steering groups which meant that no formal appointments were needed for Beckenham and Bromley.
-

2. **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

The Committee is asked to consider the reference on town centre co-ordination in Beckenham and Bromley and report any views back to General Purposes and Licensing Committee.

Corporate Policy

1. Policy Status: Existing policy.
 2. BBB Priority: Excellent Council.
-

Financial

1. Cost of proposal: No cost
 2. Ongoing costs: N/A.
 3. Budget head/performance centre: Democratic Services
 4. Total current budget for this head: £302,390
 5. Source of funding: 2011/12 Revenue budget
-

Staff

1. Number of staff (current and additional): There are currently 9.22 fte posts in the Democratic Services Team.
 2. If from existing staff resources, number of staff hours: N/A
-

Legal

1. Legal Requirement: No statutory requirement or Government guidance.
 2. Call-in: Call-in is not applicable. This report does not involve an executive decision.
-

Customer Impact

1. Estimated number of users/beneficiaries (current and projected): N/A
-

Ward Councillor Views

1. Have Ward Councillors been asked for comments? No.
2. Summary of Ward Councillors comments: N/A

3. COMMENTARY

- 3.1 At the General Purposes and Licensing Committee meeting on 24th May 2011 Members considered Appointments to Outside Bodies and Partnership Bodies for 2011/12.
- 3.2 In previous years, the Committee had made appointments to the Beckenham and Bromley Town Centre Steering Groups, but these groups were no longer in operation and town centre co-ordination was now focussed through other consultative forums with a similar remit – namely the Beckenham Business Association and the Bromley Business Forum ‘Love Bromley’. There is also Penge Traders Association. Ward Councillors are routinely invited to attend and have attended meetings of these forums – but there was no longer a need to make formal appointments. It is felt that unless there was an express wish from the business community to set up a steering group for these towns, to resurrect these groups would potentially be a duplication of effort. The Orpington Town Centre Steering Group is still in operation for this reason – that significant businesses and other key stakeholders (e.g. Walnuts Shopping Centre, Police) do see a value in the Group and regularly send representatives.
- 3.3 It should be noted that in addition to the groups focussing on individual towns, there is in existence a Town Centres Member Working Party which deals with development issues for a number of town centres. This is a group which meets several times per year and is coordinated by the Town Centre Development team. Membership includes members of the Executive and relevant Ward Councillors, and is chaired by the Leader. Any Member interested in the work of this group or wishing to take part should make contact with Lynn Hill in Legal and Democratic Services. The existence of this group and the various business forums should allay Members’ concerns that that important decisions about area action plans would be taken out of the relevant Members’ remit under the new arrangements.
- 3.4 The resolution to the minute of discussion stated that:
- (d) the Renewal and Recreation Policy Development and Scrutiny Committee be asked for their view in relation to the ending of the need to appoint Councillors to the Beckenham and Bromley Town Centre Steering Groups.
- 3.5 Members are asked to consider the arrangements for co-ordination and consultation in Beckenham and Bromley town centres – any views will be reported back to the General Purposes and Licensing Committee.

Non-Applicable Sections:	Policy, Financial, Legal and Personnel
Background Documents: (Access via Contact Officer)	Report on Appointments to Outside Bodies 2011/12 that went to the General Purposes and Licensing Committee on 24 th May 2011.