
Halesowen Area Committee – 14th January 2010

Report of the Area Liaison Officer

Responses to Questions Raised at the Halesowen Area Committee held on 11th November 2009

Purpose of Report

1. To inform the Committee of the written responses made to questions asked at the previous meeting.

Background

2. A question was again raised about a missing official document relating to the raised ground levels for the Grange Crescent area and it was queried as to why the document had still not been located. The statement about the ground levels being potentially lower than those approved via the planning condition was also queried and it was stated that the levels were much higher. In responding the Head of Executive Support indicated the issue of the missing letter had been dealt with in the Head of Planning's letter to the questioner dated 5th November, 2009. The Head of Executive Support informed the meeting that the Chief Executive had received a letter raising a number of issues in this regard and that the matter was being dealt with as a Freedom of Information request. The Chief Executive had also referred the matter to the Director of the Urban Environment requesting that the issues raised be investigated. A report is to be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee detailing the findings of the investigation.
3. A complaint was made about the changes made to Halesowen library and it was stated that there was no longer a reference library and only a reference section. The section had missing reference material, there was no table for the public to use and the library stock had been decimated. The amount spent on the scheme, in the region of £48,000, was questioned, as it was considered that the library was worse than before. It was also stated that there was no spare capacity for small meetings to be held and organisations that used the building had to find alternative facilities. A report is to be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee on the matter.

Finance

4. There are no direct financial implications arising from the report.

Law

5. Section 111 of the Local Government Act, 1972 enables the Council to do anything that is calculated to facilitate or is conducive or incidental to the discharge of its functions.

Equality Impact

6. The report takes into account the Council's Equality and Diversity Policy and there are no direct implications for children and young people in noting the report.

Recommendation

7. That the Committee notes the contents of the report.



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Area Liaison Officer

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List of Background Papers

Minutes of the Committee held on 11th November 2009