# **CENTRAL DUDLEY AREA COMMITTEE**

# <u>Tuesday, 12<sup>th</sup> June, 2012 at 6.30 p.m.</u> In the Council Chamber at the Council House, Priory Road, Dudley

# PRESENT: -

Councillors A Ahmed, Ali, Arshad, Aston, Cotterill, Cowell, W Duckworth, A Finch, K Finch, Mrs Roberts, Sparks, Waltho, Wood and Zada

#### OFFICERS:

Assistant Director (Environmental Management) (as Lead Officer to the Committee), the Group Engineer, the Green Spaces Team Leader – Directorate of the Urban Environment; the Assistant Director of Policy Performance and Resources, Policy Analyst for Communities and Resources, both Directorate of Adult, Community and Housing Services; Area Team Leader for Central and Safe Provision – Directorate of Children's Services, the Senior Solicitor and Ms K Farrington – both Directorate of Corporate Resources

### ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

Inspector Gary Malpass and Sergeant Steve Gordon, West Midlands Police – for Agenda Item No. 8

Station Commander Chris Wood, West Midlands Fire Service – for Agenda Item No. 9

7 Members of the public

# 1. <u>ELECTION OF CHAIR</u>

### RESOLVED

That Councillor K Finch be elected Chair of the Committee for the 2012/13 Municipal Year.

(Councillor K Finch thereupon took the Chair).

# 2. OPENING REMARKS OF THE CHAIR

The Chair welcomed Members and members of the public to the first Committee of the 2012/13 municipal year. He indicated that he was committed to engaging the public in issues affecting the Central Dudley area and invited the public to raise any issues of concern throughout the year either with him or the Vice-Chair.

# 3. <u>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</u>

An apology for absence from the meeting was received on behalf of Councillor K Ahmed.

A further apology for absence was also received on behalf of Ms Little, who was appointed as Co-opted Member for 2012/13 later in the meeting.

# 4. <u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</u>

No Member made a declaration of interest in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct in respect of any matter to be considered at this meeting.

# 5. <u>APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR</u>

### RESOLVED

That Councillor Zada be appointed Vice-Chair of the Committee for the 2012/13 Municipal Year.

# 6. <u>MINUTES</u>

### RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 31<sup>st</sup> January, 2012 be approved as a correct record and signed.

### 7. <u>CO-OPTED MEMBERS</u>

A report of the Area Liaison Officer was submitted on the co-option of persons to serve as co-opted members of the Committee for the 2012/13 Municipal Year.

RESOLVED

That the following persons be re-appointed as co-opted members of the Committee for the 2012/13 Municipal Year, representing the organisations indicated:

Mr G Lawley, Dudley Association of Governing Bodies Ms V Little, Dudley Primary Care Trust. Mrs J Oakes, Dudley Town Centre Forum Mr K Rodney, Dudley Centre for Equality and Diversity

#### 8. <u>YOUTH SERVICE</u>

The Area Team Leader for Central and Safe Provision gave an oral update on new projects being undertaken by the Youth Service for young people to participate in, details of which were included in handouts circulated at the meeting.

She referred, in particular, to the projects Dudley Central Youth Services had been involved in over the past few months. She indicated that during the February and Easter half terms, young people had taken part in various activities, such as trips to Water World and the Snow Dome and had participated in a WOW event and an art event. A successful outdoor residential activity had also taken place in March with young people from St Thomas's Youth Club and these young people were now working towards an ASDAN accreditation.

During the presentation, the Area Team Leader for Central and Safe Provision indicated that Russells Hall Youth Centre had been successful in gaining some external funding to redecorate and also confirmed that new equipment had been positioned in the main hall. She stated that new projects for the summer for young people to participate in included choosing art designs and colours, new equipment and to decide on a new layout for the Centre, a cooking project, Disc Jockey taster sessions and nail art. She referred to issues relating to the behavioural problems, which had been experienced at Russells Hall Youth Centre, however, she confirmed that the situation had now improved.

The Area Team Leader for Central and Safe Provision then referred to the successful official opening of the Meadow Road Gym and Beauty room. She indicated that the event had been well supported by local Councillors, local secondary school representatives, young people and parents. In relation to the successful opening of the Gym and Beauty room, young people were now looking at other areas within the Centre, which they would like to develop. She stated that other activities were currently being explored such as starting a Members' Committee at the Centre for young people to have the opportunity to be involved in different aspects of the Youth Centre.

In referring to the Detached Team, the Area Team Leader for Central and Safe Provision indicated that, over the Easter period, young people had participated in a peer education course. The course had been well attended with the course attendees receiving an Open College Network (OCN) level 2 certificate making them eligible be deliver peer education to other young people. She referred to the success of the condom distribution scheme and stated that the detached staff were working towards introducing such a scheme at the Russells Hall Youth Club. She also referred to the success of a cricket project and indicated that young people had mentioned that they would like to attend an international cricket match at Edgbaston. The detached team were also working with older young people at Woodside Youth Club to enable them to become senior members to support the volunteers who ran the youth club and were also working in partnership with the Play Rangers at Netherton Park with a view to offering new activities for young people to access.

Reference was then made to the Youth Team working in partnership with Holly Hall Academy and Castle High School and the Visual Arts Centre, to expand links with the local young people and key partners.

In concluding, the Area Team Leader for Central and Safe Provision indicated that the list of programmed activities for Whitsun and the summer holiday had now been completed and that copies would be available to Members on request.

A Member of the Committee indicated that on speaking to young people walking around the streets of Wrens Nest he had been advised that there was no provision for young people to access in that area. In responding, the Area Team Leader for Central and Safe Provision indicated that she would liaise with the Detached Team with a view to improving youth provision in the area for young people to access and participate in.

In responding to a question from a Member in relation to the derelict White Lion public house and the anti-social behaviour it was attracting, the Area Team Leader for Central and Safe Provision suggested that the Member speak to her following the meeting to discuss the issue further.

In responding to a question from a Member in relation to Russells Hall Youth Centre, the Area Team Leader for Central and Safe Provision indicated that the Centre was working with local Police Community Support Officers and would be contacting the local Sergeant following his return to work to discuss the issues relating to anti-social behaviour with a view to securing an improvement. With regard to the youth participation rate, she confirmed that between seven and twenty young people accessed the Centre on a regular basis, this owing greatly to the new equipment and activities now being offered.

#### RESOLVED

That the information, as circulated at the meeting and reported orally, be noted.

#### 9. <u>POLICE ISSUES</u>

Inspector Gary Malpass of West Midlands Police reported on current Police issues in the area of the Committee, with particular reference to crime figures. He indicated that on the whole the number of offences committed compared to this time last year had reduced, however he confirmed that metal thefts had increased. He also referred to an increase in reported thefts to unlocked sheds and garages and urged people to ensure they guarded against this.

The Inspector referred to an increase in the number of reports of anti-social behaviour on the Russells Hall Estate, however he stated that the Sergeant for that area would be liaising with the Youth Service to look at ways to improve the area.

Sergeant Steve Gordon then reported on police issues affecting the Quarry Bank and Dudley Wood Ward. He updated Members on the crime figures for that Ward and stated that on the whole, crime had reduced compared to this time last year. He indicated that a series of robberies involving knife crime had been committed in the Quarry Bank area, however he confirmed that the two people that had been involved had been caught and apprehended.

A Member of the Committee referred to problems affecting the Castle and Priory Ward, particularly Lilic Road and queried what measures had been taken to tackle anti-social behaviour in that area. In responding, Inspector Malpass indicated that reports had shown a reduction in crime in that particular area and although the area would continue to be monitored, resources had been deployed in other 'hot spot' areas. He confirmed that a new team had been set up in the Dudley North area comprising six officers, who had been positioned in areas where crime had increased, particularly the Russells Hall area. Inspector Malpass also indicated that monthly tactical meetings were held to discuss and decide on the location of police officers.

In responding to a further question by the same Member of the Committee, Inspector Malpass undertook to investigate crime figures in the Castle and Priory area and forward them to the Member direct.

The Chair suggested that in view of the issues raised regarding the Castle and Priory Ward, Inspector Malpass consider either submitting a report to the next meeting of the Committee or arrange a meeting on site to discuss the current concerns. In responding, Inspector Malpass welcomed a meeting onsite to discuss the issues raised by Members in relation to the Castle and Priory Ward. Sergeant Gordon then referred to anti-social behaviour of youths congregating on the steps in Marian Close leading into Robin Hood Road. He indicated that residents had suffered anti-social behaviour and criminal damage to their property for some time and had arranged for a petition to be formed to request the closure of the steps. He confirmed that a petition had been handed in containing thirty signatures from residents of Marian Close and surrounding areas. He also confirmed that there were other walkways that were currently used to get to the Merry Hill Centre.

Sergeant Gordon indicated that on 16<sup>th</sup> February, 2012 a site visit had taken place with David Jacobs of the Directorate of the Urban Environment and Inspector Hodgetts to discuss a solution to the problems. In concluding, Sergeant Gordon confirmed that he fully supported the residents in the request to close off the steps in Marian Close.

A Member of the Committee expressed his gratitude to the Police and residents for all the work that had been done and confirmed that he also fully supported the closure of the steps in Marian Close and hoped that officers would now pursue the issue. In responding, the Assistant Director (Environmental Management) confirmed that officers were aware of the request of the residents and assured the Committee that the closure of the steps would be investigated.

#### RESOLVED

- (1) That Inspector Malpass be thanked for his presentation and that the information reported be received and noted.
- (2) That Inspector Malpass be requested to investigate current crime figures for the Castle and Priory Ward and forward them to the Member who raised the issue direct.
- (3) That Inspector Malpass arrange for a meeting to take place on the Castle and Priory Ward with Ward Members to discuss issues affecting that area.

### 10. FIRE SERVICE ISSUES

Station Commander Chris Wood of West Midlands Fire Service reported on fire issues in the Central Dudley area. He indicated that the number of reported arson fires in dwellings, non-domestic accidental fires and arson rubbish fires had reduced compared to this time last year, although numbers of reported accidental fires in dwellings had increased slightly. He indicated that false automatic fire alarm calls had been a problem, however, he confirmed that this issue had now been rectified. In referring to derelict buildings, the Station Commander indicated that the Fire Service had been proactive in securing buildings or arranging the demolition of derelict buildings once these had been identified, to reduce the risk of arson.

The Station Commander then referred to various activities and projects undertaken by the Fire Service in the last three months, namely, working with Schools to educate young people to identify health and safety fire risks, road safety and on child obesity. The Fire Service was also working with young people to encourage them to participate in courses with a view to increasing self confidence.

A Member of the Committee queried the detection rate of perpetrators of arson fires. In responding Inspector Malpass indicated that he would investigate the issue and respond in writing to the Member direct.

### RESOLVED

- (1) That Station Commander Wood be thanked for his presentation and that the information reported be received and noted.
- (2) That Inspector Malpass investigate the issue in relation to detection rates and respond in writing to the Member direct.

# 11. <u>APPOINTMENT OF WORKING GROUPS</u>

A report of the Area Liaison Officer was submitted on the appointment of Working Groups of the Committee for the 2012/13 Municipal Year.

#### RESOLVED

 That the Working Groups below be appointed for the 2012/13 Municipal Year with their existing terms of reference and the composition and membership indicated:

Area Committee Grants Working Group – the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Committee and one member of each of the five wards, the full membership being Councillors K Finch (Chair), Councillor Zada (Vice-Chair and Ward Member for Netherton, Woodside and St Andrew's), A Ahmed (St James's Ward), Aston (Castle and Priory Ward), Cotterill (Quarry Bank and Dudley Wood Ward) and Waltho (St Thomas's Ward).

Russells Hall Traffic Working Group – the Chairman of the Committee, Councillor K Finch, together with Councillors A Ahmed, K Ahmed and Roberts (St James's Ward) and Councillors Duckworth, Wood and Zada (Netherton, Woodside and St Andrew's Ward) and that the members of the Council for the Brockmoor and Pensnett Ward continue to be invited to attend and speak at meetings of the Working Group. (2) That any member appointed above who does not wish to serve in 2012/13 contact Democratic Services in the Directorate of Corporate Resources and that the Area Liaison Officer, in consultation with the Chairman of the Committee, be authorised to approve the appointment of an alternative member.

### 12. APPOINTMENT OF COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS

A report of the Area Liaison Officer was submitted on the appointment of representatives to serve on outside organisations for the 2012/13 municipal year.

### RESOLVED

(1) That the following persons be appointed to serve on the organisations for the period indicated:

#### Social Inclusion

(a)	Castle and Priory Regeneration Group – Councillor Mrs Aston	Annual
(b)	Wrens Nest Community Centre – Councillor Mrs Aston	Annual
(c)	Withymoor Island Trust – Councillor Zada	Annual
(d)	St Francis Parish Centre – Councillor A Finch	Annual
Community Associations		
(a)	Sledmere – Councillor Waltho	Annual
(b)	Woodside – Councillor Zada	Annual
(c)	Priory – Councillor Mrs Aston	Annual
(d)	Quarry Bank – Councillor Cotterill	Annual

# 13. <u>PETITIONS</u>

A Petition was received from residents of Netherton and surroundings areas requesting that the public toilets in Netherton be re-opened and asking to be advised of the consultation procedures that had been followed in the decision to close them. It was noted that the petition would be referred to the Petitions Officer for consideration in the first instance and then to the Directorate of the Urban Environment for a report to a future Area Committee.

# 14. <u>PUBLIC FORUM</u>

- (a) A member of the public submitted a question in relation to traffic problems and air pollution affecting Cinder Bank and surrounding areas. In responding the Assistant Director (Environmental Management) undertook to investigate the issues raised and provide a written response to the questioner.
- (b) The same member of the public drew attention to the large number of potholes on Halesowen Road and Baptist End Road. In responding, the Assistant Director (Environmental Management) undertook to investigate the matter and provide a written response to the questioner.
- (c) A member of the public submitted correspondence in relation to the United Footwear building (the former Co-operative Society Store) located at the top of Dudley Town Centre to which he alleged that no responses had been received and queried the Council policy on response times. In responding, the Assistant Director (Environmental Management) submitted his apologies on behalf of the officers for their lack of response to written correspondence and gave assurances that he would investigate the issue and provide a comprehensive response to the questioner.
- (d) In referring to the concerns raised at the Central Dudley Area Committee on 31<sup>st</sup> January, 2012 in relation to people spitting when crossing King Street from the Cousins store to the Churchill Precinct, a Member of the Committee requested that the Council look into introducing a by-law prohibiting spitting and introducing fixed penalties. In responding, the Assistant Director (Environmental Management) indicated that he would arrange for the matter to be investigated and provide a written response to the questioner.

# 15. <u>WARD ISSUES</u>

- (a) Councillor Arshad expressed gratitude at the progress made in relation to unauthorised parking outside St Joseph's Catholic Primary School and requested that this matter be monitored regularly.
- (b) Councillor Arshad drew attention to the traffic concerns on Blackacre Road and surrounding roads and requested that Council Officers keep Ward Members up-to-date on any progress.
- (c) Councillor Arshad referred to the number of potholes on Fir Street and requested that this matter be investigated.
- (d) Councillor Ali referred to the poor state of repair of the three abandoned public houses in St Thomas's Ward and requested that arrangements be made to contact the owners and request that these be cleaned up.
- (e) Councillor Ali expressed concern with the signal timings of the lighting system on Burnt Tree Island. Although he acknowledged that the equipment to change the timings of the lighting system had not yet been purchased, he requested that investigations be carried out with a view to alleviating the issue.
- (f) Councillor Ali drew attention to the fact that there was no safe crossing facility along the New Rowley Road.
- (g) Councillor Ali stated that traffic issues affecting Oakham Road reported previously had remained unchanged.
- (h) Councillor Cotterill referred to the nail cutting service provided for elderly and disabled people in Quarry Bank in consequence of the closure of the Health Centre in Sheffield Street. He indicated that the alternative provision in Brierley Hill was too far and too difficult for disabled, frail and elderly people to travel to get their nails cut. He requested that consideration be given to providing a nail cutting service for elderly and disabled residents of Quarry Bank through the peripatetic service provided to wheelchair users at Woodhouse Court.
- (i) In referring to a petition raised previously, Councillor Cotterill requested that the bollards in Victoria Road be removed.
- (j) Councillor Aston drew attention to the blocked drains on Priory Road and at the bottom end of the Broadway and queried the number of vehicles that were used to clean drains.

CDAC/10

In responding, the Assistant Director (Environmental Management) confirmed that two vehicles were used on a full time basis and one was used as a standby.

- (k) Councillor A Finch drew attention to the health and safety risks on the Broadway, particularly in the area by Bishop Milner Catholic School.
- (I) Councillor Duckworth drew attention to the poor state of the path to the rear of Woodside Park and requested that consideration be given to replacing the cracked slabs as he stated that wheelchair users and people with pushchairs regularly use the path.
- (m) In referring to Cinder Bank Island and the Southern By-pass, Councillor Duckworth requested that consideration be given to installing traffic light systems.
- (n) Councillor Duckworth requested that consideration to be given to introduce a pedestrian phase to the traffic system at the junction of Northfield Road, St Peters Road, Withymoor Road and Cole Street.
- (o) Councillor Wood drew attention to the potholes on the Halesowen Road and surrounding roads and requested that this matter be investigated.
- (p) Councillor Wood drew attention to the slabs outside a residential property in Knighton Road and requested that this matter be investigated.
- (q) Councillor Roberts referred to concerns mature established trees were causing in St James's Ward and requested that an assessment be carried out.
- (r) Councillor Roberts referred to anti-social behaviour on the park at the back of the school in Milking Bank and requested that this matter be investigate.
- (s) Councillor Roberts expressed gratitude to officers involved in arranging for the erection of signage in consequence of the new Traffic Regulation Orders affecting the Russells Hall Estate, however, she indicated that vehicle owners were disregarding the signs and requested that enforcement be pursued.
- (t) Councillor A Ahmed referred to the chemicals currently being to eradicate overgrown weeds on the Milking Bank Estate and indicated that residents had raised health concerns. In responding, the Assistant Director (Environmental Management) indicated that a weed spraying programme was currently being undertaken in the area, however he assured the Member that only approved chemicals were being used.

### CDAC/11

- (u) Mr Rodney drew attention to the health and safety risks on Stone Street, particularly when juggernauts attempted to turn into the Street and requested consideration to be given to restricting the times during the day these types of vehicles could access the Street.
- (v) Mr Rodney drew attention to the dropping manhole cover on Castlegate Island and requested that this matter be investigated.
- (w) Mr Lawley referred to the health and safety risks on Oakham Road/Turners Hill raised previously at the Area Committee and reported that no action had yet been taken to stop vehicles parking on the corner.
- (x) Mr Lawley queried whether consideration could be given to instigating a Building Schools for the Future initiative from the Government and receive funding to refurbish schools in the area.

In responding, Councillor Sparks confirmed that funding for Building Schools for the Future was no longer available, however, he stated that Dudley Council were looking at options to obtain extra funding for schools.

- (y) Councillor Zada drew attention to the poor state of repair Hockley Lane was currently in and requested that consideration be given to resurfacing the whole Lane.
- (z) Councillor Zada drew attention to the heating system currently used in homes on the Woodside Estate and requested that consideration be given to installing up-to-date heating systems in the area.
- (aa) Councillor Zada drew attention to the speeding problems on Cinder Bank and requested that this matter be investigated.
- (ab) Councillor Zada drew attention to the overgrown piece of land adjacent to Nethercrest Nursing Home and requested that officers liaise with Nethercrest Nursing Home to clean up the area.

### 16 <u>DESIGNATION OF PLAYING FIELDS IN COMMEMORATION OF</u> <u>QUEEN ELIZABETH SECOND FOR THE DIAMOND JUBILEE</u>

A report of the Director of the Urban Environment was submitted on options to designate Playing Fields/Open Spaces as Queen Elizabeth II playing fields in commemoration of the Queens Diamond Jubilee and to consider proposals for the Central Dudley Area to be submitted for approval by the Cabinet Member for Environment and Culture. The report also sough consideration of options to acquire Football Association/Landfill tax funding of sites in the Central Dudley area and to determine which options to submit for approval by the Cabinet Member for Environment and Culture for referral to the relevant funding bodies.

Following discussion, it was

#### RESOLVED

That a further report be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee.

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#### PROPOSED REVOCATION OF PARKWAY ROAD, DUDLEY, ONE-WAY ORDER – PROPOSED PROHIBITION OF RIGHT TURN INTO HIMLEY ROAD FROM PARKWAY ROAD, DUDLEY

A report of the Director of the Urban Environment was submitted on the revocation of a one-way Traffic Regulation Order in Parkway Road and the introduction of a prohibited right turn onto Himley Road from Parkway Road, as shown in Appendix A to the report submitted to the meeting.

The Group Engineer indicated that Parkway Road, Dudley had been made into a one-way street in 2012, following the receipt of a petition from residents. However, since the introduction of the one-way street, a second petition requesting its removal had been received from members of the public.

Following receipt of the petition, the Group Engineer confirmed that new proposals for the removal of the one-way street had been advertised on 16<sup>th</sup> November, 2012. He also confirmed that a safety audit was conducted at Parkway Road's junction with Himley Road, which indicated that if Parkway Road returned to being a two-way street, the visibility for traffic turning right out of Parkway Road into Himley Road would be poor.

Members of the Committee expressed gratitude to the officers involved in investigating the issue and it was

#### RESOLVED

That the Cabinet Member for Transportation and Community Safety be recommended to approve the revocation of a one-way Traffic Regulation Order in Parkway Road and the introduction of a prohibited right turn onto Himley Road from Parkway Road.

#### HIGHWAYS MINOR WORKS CAPITAL PROGRAMME FOR 2012/13

A report of the Director of the Urban Environment was submitted on the proposed programmes of work for Local Safety Schemes, Safer Routes to School and Pedestrian Crossings within the Central Dudley area for the 2012/13 financial year.

The Group Engineer reported that a number of requests had been received and that the schemes, which had ranked most highly in the Central Dudley area were outlined in the Appendix to the report submitted to the meeting.

A Member of the Committee referred to the problems with the high volume of traffic using Oakham Road and indicated that measures needed to put in place to maximise the use of surrounding roads. It was suggested that improved signage be erected and safe crossing schemes be introduced.

In referring to the proposal to consider a mini roundabout at Tansley Hill Avenue, it was suggested that further investigations be carried out to check feasibility.

In relation to the proposal outlined in Appendix A for the Dudley Southern Bypass, Members acknowledged safety issues as being of paramount importance and requested that consideration be given to investigate remedy further as it was feared that moving poles would not alleviate the problem.

A Member then referred to the new estate on the Priory Road and indicated that traffic issues were a concern for old and new residents and requested that consideration be given to introducing a slip road for residents to use to access the new estate.

A Member referred to the issues on Cole Street previously raised with the Group Engineer and queried why proposals had not been included in the Local Safety Scheme for this year. In responding, the Group Engineer indicated that he would speak to the Member following the meeting.

#### RESOLVED

That, the proposed 2012/13 programme of work for Local Safety Schemes, Safer Routes to School and Pedestrian Crossings initiatives outlined in the Appendix of the report submitted to the meeting, be supported and referred to the Cabinet Member for Transportation and Community Safety for approval.

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#### CAPITAL ALLOCATIONS

A report of the Area Liaison Officer was submitted on proposals for the allocation of expenditure from the delegated Area Committee Grants budget for the 2012/13 municipal year.

The Policy Analyst for Communities and Resources referred briefly to the decision approved by Full Council on 5<sup>th</sup> March, 2012 that Area Committee allocations were to be met from revenue resources and no longer restricted to funding capital projects alone. He stated that new criteria had been drawn up to reflect the decision and that any Member who requested advice on the new guidelines, could either speak to him following the meeting or contact him at a later date. The new criteria was circulated to Members of the Committee for perusal.

The Policy Analyst for Communities and Resources informed the Committee that since the last Area Committee two applications had been approved under the urgency provisions.

Mr Rodney welcomed the change regarding revenue expenditure and indicated that this would enable groups to bid for funding that had been previously excluded because their activities were primarily of a revenue nature. However, he stated that Community Groups were not aware of the funding available to them and suggested arranging a meeting with the Policy Analyst for Communities and Resources to discuss options on promoting the funding available to Community Groups.

#### RESOLVED

- That the process for dealing with Area Committee grants for 2012/13, as set out in the report submitted to the meeting, be noted.
- (2) That the action taken by the Area Liaison Officer, in consultation with the Chair of the Committee, in approving the application in relation to the Enlight Projects in the sum of £2,500, to contribute towards equipment to support the work of the Group at Saltwells Youth Club, on the grounds of urgency, be noted.
- (3) That the action taken by the Area Liaison Officer, in consultation with the Chair of the Committee, in approving the application in relation to St James's Road and Priory Close Neighbourhood Watch in the sum of £159.95, for the purchase of a printer, on the grounds of urgency, be noted.
- (4) That the Area Liaison Officer be authorised to administer the Area Committee grants process in accordance with any decisions made by the Committee.

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20.	MATTERS RAISED AT THE MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE HELD ON 31 <sup>ST</sup> JANUARY, 2012 RELATING TO THE DIRECTORATE OF THE <u>URBAN ENVIRONMENT</u>
	A report of the Director of the Urban Environment was submitted updating the Committee on issues raised at the meeting of the Central Dudley Area Committee held on 31 <sup>st</sup> January, 2012, with regard to services provided by the Directorate of the Urban Environment.
	RESOLVED
	That the report be noted.
21.	MATTERS RAISED AT THE MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE HELD ON 31 <sup>ST</sup> JANUARY, 2012 OTHER THAN THOSE RELATING TO THE <u>DIRECTORATE OF THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT</u>
	A report of the Area Liaison Officer was submitted on progress on issues raised at the meeting of the Committee held on 31 <sup>st</sup> January, 2012, other than those relating to the Directorate of the Urban Environment.
	RESOLVED
	That the report be noted.
22.	SCRUTINY COMMITTEE PUBLICITY
	The dates of meetings of Scrutiny Committees for the remainder of the current municipal year were noted.
23.	DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS OF THIS COMMITTEE
	The dates of meetings of the Committee arranged for 2012/13 were noted, together with the venues arranged to date.

The meeting ended at 8.10pm

CHAIR