

**Brierley Hill Area Committee**

**Joint Report of the Director of the Urban Environment and Director of Adult Community and Housing.**

**Badgers at the Haven Area of Wordsley**

**Purpose of Report**

1. To inform Area Committee of the latest progress in relation to the issue of Badgers at the Haven, Wordsley.

**Background**

2 At the last Area Committee concerns were raised surrounding Badger activity in the Borough in an area of Wordsley known as the Haven.

3 Badgers are protected species by law under the Protection of Badgers Act 1992. It must be made clear that the Council has no jurisdiction in relation to badgers, its role in this particular case is purely as a landowner who has had land affected by badger presence and activity.

4 The Council, like any other landowner or affected party, must apply to Natural England, the Government Agency appointed to administer such issues, for licences if there is to be any disturbance to the habitat of the badgers.

5 Since the last Area Committee the Council has commissioned an expert report on the issue in this locality to determine the extent of the issue and the options available to Council in relation to the Council's land.

6 Following the receipt of that report the Council has also met with Natural England to seek advice on courses of action most appropriate, work is still underway in assessing these options ensuring that appropriate evidence and legal safeguards are in place.

7 In the mean time, periodic surveys of the affected area (the sandstone bank) are being carried out and any remedial action required is taken to address any structural concerns in relation to Council property. In addition, local residents will be kept informed of progress.

8 The Council is aware of the concerns of residents surrounding this issue and for this reason a report on the duties and responsibilities of the Council in dealing with Badgers is to be presented to the September meeting of the Environment Scrutiny Committee.

## **Finance**

9 The cost of addressing this issue will need to be met from existing council budgets.

## **Law**

10 Badgers are protected species by law under the Protection of Badgers Act 1992. The Council has no jurisdiction in relation to badgers, its role in this particular case is purely as a landowner who has had land affected by badger presence and activity.

## **Equality Impact**

11 The Council is undertaking its duties in relation to being a landowner within its own jurisdiction and within the provisions of the Protection of Badgers Act 1992. In exercising those duties considerations of the issues raised on all sectors of the community are taken into account.

## **Recommendation**

12. It is recommended that the Area Committee note the content of the report.

13. It is recommended that the Area Committee note that that a report on the duties and responsibilities of the Council in dealing with Badgers is to be presented to the September meeting of the Environment Scrutiny Committee.



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**Director of the Urban Environment**

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## **List of Background Papers**