

Stourbridge Area Committee - 8th March 2011

Report of the Area Liaison Officer

Responses to Questions

Purpose of Report

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

Background

2. At meetings of this Committee held on 15th November 2010 and 17th January 2011, it was indicated that written replies would be sent to the questioners on the following questions:
3. A member of the public commented on a previous response from a Council's Personnel department, to his queries relating to the employment of two part time members of staff, as part of a cost trimming exercise within the Directorate of Adult, Community and Housing Services. The questioner considered that the work referred to should have been carried out by the existing Management and/or Cabinet Member, and he sought the views of the Members.

The Assistant Director Policy Performance Reviews, Directorate of Adult, Community and Housing has written to the questioner advising that the need for further savings to be identified in the Supporting People programme has affected decisions about the temporary posts. The Assistant Director commented that Councils, like the private sector have to change their way of working. On some occasions the Government provides resources for a given activity. Both private and public sectors have a duty of care to their employees in balancing demands on staff. The intention had been that the posts referred to would be on a temporary basis to help with the task required. However, the government decision to reduce their grant meant that the appointments would not now be made.

4. A member of the public raised concerns regarding the unkempt state of the subways under the Stourbridge Ring Road.

The Group Engineer, Traffic and Road Safety has written to the questioner advising that the subway is cleaned daily in the early morning and regular cleansing takes place on a rotation basis, staff resources permitting. If anyone has concerns regarding litter or refuse in a subway they can contact the customer help centre by telephone or e-mail.

5. A member of the public requested consideration be given to the possibility of the future pedestrianisation of Stourbridge High Street.

The Group Engineer, Traffic and Road Safety has written advising that a number of proposals to pedestrianise Stourbridge High Street have been considered. As the proposals were not supported by the whole community and they were not pursued. If in future years there was support for such a concept then further consideration would be given to its introduction, should funds be available to introduce the scheme.

6. A member of the public raised concerns regarding car parking in Studley Gate and Duncombe Street, Stourbridge and requested a local safety scheme for the area.

The Group Engineer, Traffic and Road Safety has written to the questioner advising that investigations would be undertaken to determine the justification for possibly including either Studley Gate or Duncombe Street in future years' annual Local Safety Scheme programmes. It was his view that Studley Gate would be assessed for possible inclusion in a future year's annual Traffic Regulation Order Ranking List, but that future proposals for Duncombe Street would be likely to be objected to by householders living in this residential street consisting of terraced houses.

Finance

7. There are no direct financial consequences arising from this report.

Law

8. 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

9. The report takes into account the Council's Policies on equality and diversity.

Recommendation

10. The Committee is recommended to note the contents of this report.



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(Acting Area Liaison Officer)

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List of Background Papers:

Question slips handed in at previous meetings of the Stourbridge Area Committee.
Correspondence sent in response by Council Officers.