

North Dudley Area Committee – 12th October 2011

Responses to Questions Raised at the Previous Meeting

Report of the Area Liaison Officer

Purpose of Report

1. To inform the Committee on the current status of responses to questions posed at the previous meeting of the Committee.

Background

2. At the meetings of this Committee held on 15th June 2011, it was indicated that written responses would be sent to the questioners concerned. The responses are attached as appendix 1.

Finance

3. There are no direct financial implications at this stage.

Law


4. Section 111 Local Government Act 1972 enables the Council to do anything which is calculated to facilitate or is conducive or incidental to the discharge of its statutory functions.

Equality Impact

5. The proposals take into account the Council's policies on equality and diversity.

Recommendation

6. That the Committee note the report and the appendix to the report.



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Phil Tart
Area Liaison Officer

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List of Background Papers:

Question slips submitted at the meeting
Correspondence sent in response by Council Officers

APPENDIX 1

Responses To Issues Raised at the Previous Meeting held on 15th June 2011

Petitions

- a) A petition was submitted by Councillor Mottram on behalf of residents opposing the siting of a new bus stop in Fountain Lane Coseley, opposite numbers 6 and 8 Fountain Lane, Coseley by Centro for bus services 544 and 582.

The Petition was forwarded to the Area Manager (Black Country) Centro who has investigated the matter.

Public Forum

1. A member of the public questioned:
 - a) Whether Sandwell Borough Council would continue to contribute to the costs of building the archives
 - b) What would be the total cost now, including provision for land, buildings and any interest payable on loans used, to fund the project in respect of the archives so that the total cost to the Council tax payer could be identified; and
 - c) What would be the value of the Mount Pleasant site, the current location for the archives, when the archives were moved.

The Finance Manager has sent a written response to the questioner advising that:

- a) Sandwell council will be making a revenue contribution to pay for storage of their archive material in the facility. This amount will be based on how much of the store they use.
- b) The cost of the new archives building will be £6m with the amount being borrowed £5.38m. The current rate of interest is 5.15% which is the PLB EIP rate.
- c) The total cost of the scheme including the cost of borrowing over 60 years is estimated to be £13.831m.

WARD ISSUES

2. A Member of the Committee requested that reconsideration be given to the closure of the public conveniences in Roseville

The Assistant Director, Culture and Leisure has investigated and responded to all Members of the Committee.

3. A Member of the Committee requested that consideration be given to the provision of public toilets in Gornal.

The Assistant Director, Culture and Leisure has investigated and responded to the Member,

“As detailed in the letter sent to you on 8 June 2011 by the Assistant Director of Environmental Management, the decision to close the blocks was not taken lightly and was only one element of an initial multi-million pound savings package arising from the 2011/12 budget. Unfortunately there is no provision within the current budget for replacement or new public conveniences in locations across the borough where closures have taken place. Work will, however, continue to promote new provision as part of regeneration initiatives and new developments across the borough.”

4. A Member of the Committee requested that further consideration be given to the introduction of a pedestrian crossing facility in Gospel End Street, uphill from the junction with Cotwall End Road. The Group Engineer Traffic and Road Safety has investigated and responded to the Member,

“Further consideration will be given to the possible future introduction of a pedestrian crossing facility in Gospel End Street/Gospel End Road in the vicinity of Cotwall End Road, as a part of a future year’s annual Pedestrian Crossing Programme. Previous designs have failed safety audits. No scheme can be introduced on the public highway if it fails a safety audit.”

5. Members of the Committee expressed concerns regarding bus services in the area covered by the North Dudley Area Committee, the comments were referred to Centro, whose representative has responded to all Members of the Committee, advising of changes to bus services in the area to provide an easier understand network for Vicarage Road West, Hazel Road and Forest Road.
6. A Member of the Committee requested that the Group Engineer Traffic and Road Safety investigate the possibility of introducing two hour or three hour limited waiting on the Council car park, Castle street, Roseville. The matter has been investigated and the Member advised,

“That the Group Engineer, Traffic and Road Safety, met shopkeepers to discuss parking in Roseville, Coseley. Limited waiting could reduce the attraction of Roseville to shoppers. Customers of hairdressers and some other businesses may need at least three hours continuous parking at any one time.”

7. Members of the Committee requested that their objection to the development of the former landfill site at Bourne Street, Coseley, given the previous usage of the site, be conveyed to the Development Control Committee when consideration was given to the planning application.

The decision of the Development Control Committee on this matter was that,

“Consideration was given to the planning application on 23 June 2011 and the application was refused. All objectors have been informed.”