

# **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD**

**THURSDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> JULY, 2013**

**AT 6.00 PM  
IN COMMITTEE ROOM 2  
THE COUNCIL HOUSE  
DUDLEY**

**If you (or anyone you know) is attending the meeting and requires assistance to access the venue and/or its facilities, could you please contact Democratic Services in advance and we will do our best to help you**

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## **IMPORTANT NOTICE**

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Your ref:

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Please ask for:  
Steve Griffiths

Telephone No.  
(01384) 815235/5243

17<sup>th</sup> July, 2013


Dear Councillor

**Overview and Scrutiny Management Board**  
**Thursday, 25<sup>th</sup> July, 2013 – 6.00PM**

You are requested to attend a meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board to be held on Thursday, 25<sup>th</sup> July, 2013 at 6.00pm in Committee Room 2 at the Council House, Dudley to consider the business set out in the agenda below.

The agenda and public reports are available on the Council's Website [www.dudley.gov.uk](http://www.dudley.gov.uk) and follow the links to 'Councillors in Dudley' and the Committee Management Information System.

Yours sincerely



Director of Corporate Resources

**A G E N D A**

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

To receive apologies for absence from the meeting.

2. APPOINTMENT OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

To report the appointment of any substitute members serving for this meeting of the Board.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

To receive Declarations of Interest in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct.

4. MINUTES

To approve as a correct record and sign the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 29<sup>th</sup> May, 2013

5. OUTSTANDING ISSUES FROM PREVIOUS SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

To consider a report of the Lead Officer

6. TO ANSWER QUESTIONS UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE 11.8 (IF ANY).

**To: All Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board:**

Councillor Ridney (Chair)

Councillor Tyler (Vice-Chair)

Councillors A Ahmed, Blood, Boleyn, Caunt, Hale, Islam, James, Kettle and Marrey.

## **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD**

Wednesday, 29<sup>th</sup> May, 2013 at 6.00 p.m.  
in Committee Room 2, The Council House, Dudley

### **PRESENT:-**

Councillors A. Ahmed, Blood, Boleyn, Caunt, Hale, Islam, James, Kettle, Marrey, Ridney and Tyler

### **Officers:-**

Assistant Director, Housing Strategy and Private Sector - Lead Officer to the Committee and Mr. J. Jablonski (Directorate of Corporate Resources)

### **Also in Attendance:-**

Councillor Harley

### 1. **ELECTION OF CHAIR**

RESOLVED

That Councillor Ridney be elected Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board for the 2013/14 Municipal Year.

Councillor Ridney (Chair)

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### 2. **APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR**

RESOLVED

That Councillor Tyler be appointed Vice-Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board for the 2013/14 Municipal Year.

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### 3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No member declared an interest in any matter to be considered at this meeting.

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A joint report of the Lead Officer and the Director of Corporate Resources was submitted on the Terms of Reference of the Board, following the review of the Council's Overview and Scrutiny arrangements, and on the draft Annual Scrutiny Programme 2013/14. The Terms of Reference of the Board, and of the five Scrutiny Committees appointed in 2013/14, were attached as Appendix 1 to the report submitted and the draft Annual Scrutiny Programme for 2013/14 was attached as Appendix 2 to the report submitted.

Following opening remarks by the Chair on the background to the development of the Council's Overview and Scrutiny arrangements, as set out in the report submitted, Members asked a number of questions and made comments with particular reference to the call-in arrangements referred to in the Terms of Reference of the Board and to items considered by the former Scrutiny Committees which were considered to be outstanding and required further consideration.

Further detailed discussion also ensued on how the areas for scrutiny by the individual Scrutiny Committees, as detailed in Appendix 2 to the report submitted, were to be undertaken and in this regard reference was made to the informal development sessions that would be held following the conclusion of formal business at the first meetings of the Scrutiny Committees.

It was emphasised that it was up to each Scrutiny Committee as to how it went about considering the areas for scrutiny allocated to it with the aim of producing a report at a future meeting of the Committee. It was also noted that each Scrutiny Committee could determine its own in-house training requirements.

In relation to the process to be undertaken, the Lead Officer undertook to set out in diagrammatic form the basic process that could be undertaken for carrying out scrutiny of the areas indicated.

#### RESOLVED

- (1) That the Terms of Reference of the Board, and of the five Scrutiny Committees appointed in 2013/14, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report submitted, be noted.
- (2) That the draft Annual Scrutiny Programme for 2013/14, as set out in Appendix 2 to the report submitted, be approved and adopted for consideration by the Council's Scrutiny Committees.

- (3) That Democratic Services circulate, by e-mail, to all Members of the Board, clarification of the call-in arrangements and who can call-in a matter.
  - (4) That a Special Meeting of the Board be held at a date and time to be determined in July, 2013 to give consideration as to how outstanding issues considered by the former Scrutiny Committees are to be dealt with.
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5            FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS

A report of the Director of Corporate Resources was submitted on the Forward Plan of Key Decisions for the four-month period commencing the 1<sup>st</sup> June, 2013, attached as Appendix 1 to the report submitted.

Following consideration of the content of Appendix 1 to the report submitted, it was

RESOLVED

That the report submitted on the Forward Plan of Key Decisions for the four-month period commencing 1<sup>st</sup> June, 2013, be referred to the Council's five Scrutiny Committees with a request that they inform the Board of any items that they would wish to scrutinise so that further consideration can be given to this matter by the Board at a future meeting.

The meeting ended at 7.13 p.m.

CHAIR

**Special Meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board**  
**25<sup>th</sup> July 2013**

**Report of the Lead Officer**

**Outstanding Issues from Previous Scrutiny Committees**

**Purpose of report**

1. To resolve outstanding items of business from the previous Scrutiny Committee regime.

**Background**

2. The inaugural Overview and Scrutiny Management Board felt that from the discussions there were a number of key issues which had not yet been resolved and that a Special Meeting of the Board be set up to take forward these issues.
3. Following a trawl through of previous Committee minutes, Democratic Services staff identified a number of issues. The first related to the last Community Safety and Community Services Scrutiny Committee on the 14<sup>th</sup> March, and its consideration of the report of the Director of Urban Environment (DUE) on Section 17 – Crime and Disorder Act 1998.
4. The second issue revolved around the strategic direction of the Library Service and its funding issues.

**Section 17 Crime and Disorder Act Report 1998**

5. Attached at Appendix A are the minutes of the meeting which clearly indicate that this last Community Safety and Community Services Scrutiny Committee of the year was, in effect, a one item agenda focussing on a key strategic issue for the Council, that of how DUE contributes towards fulfilling the obligations of Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act.



6. As Members will know, this is not a sole responsibility of DUE but each Directorate periodically reports on its contribution to its Section 17 responsibilities.
7. Ordinarily the reports are an opportunity for Members to discuss the contribution each Directorate makes towards ensuring a reduction in crime and disorder. Given the often charged nature of the subject matter, these reports can often stimulate considerable thought and insight into the debate. However, on the night the Members felt that as only one officer from DUE was in attendance, they were not able to respond to many of the questions. "This had resulted in questions having to be answered by written response rather than on the evening of the meeting. Members agreed that not all officers or senior officers of the Directorate would be expected to attend a meeting in the future, however, further officer representation would be required in order that the report could be scrutinised effectively."
8. In essence, it was resolved that the officer presenting the report provide written responses to Members' concerns and that in view of the concerns, further consideration of the Section 17 report be deferred to a future meeting of the Committee in order to be effectively scrutinised.
9. The full report has been attached (Appendix B). As one would anticipate, the four divisional areas of DUE have their own sections outlining their individual contribution and responsibilities under Section 17.
10. Also attached as Appendix C is an undated note from the Assistant Director Culture and Leisure, and a series of very detailed answers to the concerns Members raised. The vast majority of the answers relate to areas outside of his remit.
11. In an effort to address this issue then, on the night of the Overview & Scrutiny Management Board, there will be senior officers from those areas which seemed particularly significant, ie green care, fly tipping, trading standards and street lighting.
12. From analysis of the areas in question, this should cover at least 90% of the areas Members were obviously concerned about.

## Library issues

13. The second item identified by the Overview & Scrutiny Management Board as an area which had some unresolved issues related to the question of the infrastructure of the Library Service in the medium term, given that the sub-regional proposals had not been taken forward in their entirety. Throughout the budget considerations of the Regeneration, Culture and Adult Education Committee deliberations had taken place and, in essence, two issues had been identified:

- (i) The forecast at the 15<sup>th</sup> January 2013 Select Committee had been for a shortfall of £272,000 in revenue funding to meet the medium term financial strategy (see attached Appendix D).
- (ii) As the new infrastructure for the Library Service would be taken forward then commitments were given by officers that the Scrutiny Committee would be involved in that consultation.

14. In the event, the in year financial issues have been resolved and there will be an opportunity for the November Adult, Community & Housing Services Scrutiny Committee to consider this as part of the budget consultation process.

15. On the second point, at present there are no specific plans for restructuring Libraries and therefore there are no consultation issues that could be raised with Members.

## Finance

16. The costs of operating the revised scrutiny arrangements will be contained within existing budgetary allocations.

## Law

17. Scrutiny Committees are established in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 1972 and the requirements of the Council's Constitution, which was adopted under the Local Government Act 2000, subsequent legislation and associated Regulations and Guidance.

18. Scrutiny powers relating to health are included in the Health and Social Care Acts 2001 and 2012 and associated Regulations and statutory guidance. The Police and Justice Act 2006 gives the Council powers to scrutinise the work of the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership and the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 enables local authorities to scrutinise other partners. Much of this legislation has now been consolidated in the Localism Act 2011.

### **Equality Impact**

19. Provision exists within the recommended scrutiny arrangements for overview and scrutiny to be undertaken of the Council's policies on equality and diversity.

### **Recommendation**

20. That the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board note the report.



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Ron Sims

Lead Officer

Contact Officer: Ron Sims, Lead Officer  
Telephone: 01384 815005  
Email: [ron.sims@dudley.gov.uk](mailto:ron.sims@dudley.gov.uk)

### **List of Appendices**

Appendix A – Minutes of the Community Safety & Community Services Scrutiny Committee Meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2013.

Appendix B – Report of the Director of the Urban Environment to the Community Safety and Community Services Scrutiny Committee Meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> March – Section 17 Crime and Disorder Act 1998.

Appendix C – Briefing sheet (not dated) from the Assistant Director Culture and Leisure to members of the Community Safety and Community Services Scrutiny Committee responding to issues raised by Members at the Community Safety and Community Services Scrutiny Committee Meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2013.

Appendix D – Report of the Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services to Regeneration, Culture and Adult Education Scrutiny Committee on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2013 – Libraries, Archives and Adult Learning Division budget update.

**COMMUNITY SAFETY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES**  
**SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2013 at 6 pm  
In Committee Room 2, The Council House, Dudley

PRESENT:-

Councillor Kettle (Chair)  
Councillor Branwood (Vice Chair)  
Councillors Burston, Caunt, Cotterill, K Finch, Harley, J Martin, Ms  
Nicholls, Perks and Russell

OFFICERS

Assistant Director of Corporate Resources (Customer Services)  
(Directorate of Corporate Resources) (Lead Officer to the Committee), the  
Drugs and Alcohol Action Team Manager, (Chief Executive's Directorate),  
Assistant Director of Culture and Leisure (Directorate of the Urban  
Environment), Head of Service, Youth Offending Service, (Directorate of  
Children's Services), and Miss K Fellows, (Directorate of Corporate  
Resources)

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32      APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was submitted on behalf of Councillor Burston

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33      DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

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34      MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on the 17<sup>th</sup>  
January, 2013, be approved as a correct record and signed.

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35      PUBLIC FORUM

No matters were raised under this Agenda item.

SECTION 17 – CRIME AND DISORDER ACT, 1998

A report of the Director of the Urban Environment was submitted on the work that the Directorate of the Urban Environment was involved in that contributes towards fulfilling the obligations of Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.

Arising from the presentation of the report submitted Members asked questions and made comments and the Assistant Director of Culture and Leisure responded as follows:-

- In relation to Culture and Leisure Services, that the holiday activity programmes would be unaffected by the budget and full programmes would continue at all leisure centres and parks.
- That a review was being undertaken in relation to park rangers as the Department of Health grants that funded 50% of these posts would expire at the end of 2013/2014 and discussions and options were being investigated with Public Health in relation to retaining park rangers.
- That the bike ability cycle training to pupils who attend primary and secondary schools within the borough would continue.
- In relation to the street and green care budgetary cuts and how these cuts would impact upon the services provided, the Assistant Director of Leisure and Culture undertook to provide members with a written response in relation to this question.
- The Assistant Director of Culture and Leisure undertook to provide a written response to members in relation to the fly tipping incidents and fixed penalty notices issued for those incidents which occurred in 2011/12, as it appeared that although these incidents had risen to 1500, the number of flytipping incidents actioned and the total number of enforcement actions had reduced when compared to previous years.
- That a written response would be provided in relation to the 3500 items of counterfeit goods with a market value in excess of £1.1 million as it appeared that each of the goods seized would have had a market value of £300. This appeared to the questioner to be a high value should the majority of the goods seized have been fake items.
- In relation to the Council's Trading Standards services and whether this was to be amalgamated with both Sandwell and Walsall Councils, a written response would be provided to Members as to whether this proposal was to take place.
- Members raised concerns in relation to the possible amalgamation of

the Council's Trading Standard services with Sandwell and Walsall Councils and the fact that this may impact upon service standards and dilute the services provided currently.

- A written response would be provided to members in relation to the performance of street lighting to include outage and whether there was a seasonal demand for this.
- In responding to a question regarding highway maintenance and the turn around time for repairing pot holes, the Assistant Director of Culture and Leisure advised that risk assessments would be carried out in relation to pot holes which would be repaired upon the basis of where they were situated and the danger posed to road users.
- In relation to the healthy hubs sites and the success that these had had and the improvements that they had made in relation to anti-social behaviour in the five areas targeted, the Assistant Director of Culture and Leisure advised that the hubs were placed in very different areas with differing starting points in terms of problems within those areas. He referred to the work that had been conducted with the Police and the Coffee in the Dark project which had helped reduce anti-social behaviour and he also outlined the success at Jubilee Park in Coseley in terms of reducing anti-social behaviour there.
- The Assistant Director of Culture and Leisure undertook to provide members with the evaluation that had been prepared by Worcestershire University in relation to the impact that the Healthy Towns Programme had had on anti social behaviour.
- Members raised concerns that the report outlined the activities of the whole of the Directorate of the Urban Environment and that one officer was in attendance to respond to questions and this had resulted in questions having to be answered by written response rather than on the evening of the meeting. Members agreed that not all officers or senior officers of the Directorate would be expected to attend a meeting in the future, however further officer representation would be required in order that the report could be scrutinised affectively.

Following further discussion it was

#### RESOLVED

- (1) That the Assistant Director of Culture and Leisure be requested to provide members written responses to the questions outlined above.
- (2) That the information contained in the report and appendices to the report, submitted on the work that the Directorate of the Urban Environment is involved in that contributed to fulfilling the obligations of Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, be noted.

CSCSSC/26

- (3) That in view of the concerns raised further consideration of the Section 17 – Crime and Disorder Act 1998 report be deferred to a future meeting of the Committee in order to be affectively scrutinised.

The meeting ended at 6.40 pm

CHAIR

**Community Safety and Community Services Scrutiny Committee**  
**14 March 2013**

**Report of the Director of the Urban Environment**

**Section 17 – Crime and Disorder Act 1998**

**Purpose of Report**

1. To review the work that DUE is involved in that contributes towards fulfilling the obligations of Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.

**Background**

2. The 1998 Crime and Disorder Act places an obligation on local authorities and the police to co-operate in the development and implementation of a strategy for tackling crime and disorder. The causes of crime and disorder are complex and varied and the Act reflects the view that achieving a reduction in crime and disorder is not solely a matter for the police. Accordingly, Section 17 of the Act imposes a duty on a number of bodies including Local Authorities and the police to:

‘Without prejudice to any other obligation imposed upon it... Exercise its functions with due regard to...the need to do all it reasonably can to prevent crime and disorder in its area’.

3. Section 17 is an ‘enabling device’ for the promotion of effective crime reduction in the day to day activities of the police and the various services of the local authority.
4. As the Directorate has a range of responsibilities, the report is structured so that each division within the Directorate has contributed to the report highlighting its responsibilities and contributions. These are attached to the report as appendices as listed below.

Appendix 1 – Environmental Management

Appendix 2 – Culture and Leisure

Appendix 3 – Economic Regeneration

Appendix 4 – Planning and Environmental Health.



### Finance

5. There is no additional budgetary provision to deliver Section 17 requirements.

### Law

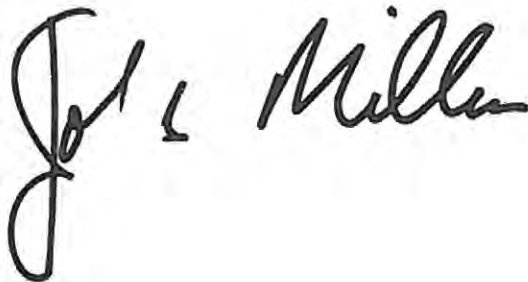
6. To fulfil the obligations of Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.

### Equality Impact

7. The report in itself is not subject to equality impact. The contents of the appendices covers services intended to protect and/or help the more vulnerable in society and equality impact would need to be assessed for each service.

### Recommendation

8. Members are asked to note the work undertaken by DUE in response to Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Millar'. The signature is stylized with a large, looped initial 'J'.

**J MILLAR**  
**Director of the Urban Environment**

Contact Officer: Duncan Lowndes, Assistant Director (Culture & Leisure)  
Tel: 01384 815500  
Email: [duncan.lowndes@dudley.gov.uk](mailto:duncan.lowndes@dudley.gov.uk)

List of Background Papers

### Environmental Management

The Environmental Management Division of DUE has a workforce of 650+ employees and is based at the Lister Road Depot. The Division comprises two service areas, Street and Green Care and Waste Care.

Environmental Management provides a wide range of key front line services that have a direct impact upon all those who live in, work in and visit the Borough. Many of these help to fulfil the Council's obligations under Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, in particular in addressing problems which impact on communities' feelings of safety such as graffiti, fly tipping and abandoned vehicles and in undertaking duties that can actually contribute to reducing crime and disorder, such as effective street lighting and waste enforcement.

### Street and Green Care

One of the key priorities within Street and Green Care is to deliver a high quality local environment which deters anti-social behaviour and environmental crime.

The Street Cleansing team, short listed as 'best in category' in the 2012 annual national APSE awards, sweep 390k of roads and empty 2,500+ litter and dog bins each week. In addition to their scheduled programme of work, they respond to requests for assistance in reducing crime and disorder through the removal of fly tips and waste deposits that lower the environmental standards of an area, and may prove an arson risk. The team's target is to remove all reported incidents of fly-tipping within 1 day of reporting; they deal with in excess of 700 fly tipping incidents each year. Some of the waste removed will include drugs related debris; in 2011/12 the team dealt with 76 such incidents which ranged from the removal of one to numerous discarded syringes.

The team also ensures the rapid clean up of graffiti, thus removing signals that anti-social behaviour is acceptable. They deal with over 1,000 requests for graffiti removal each year, with a target to remove incidents of racist and highly offensive graffiti within 90 minutes of reporting, including out of hours. Street Cleansing also have a successful partnership arrangement in place with BT Open Reach & Virgin Telewest to apply paint and anti-graffiti coatings to utility boxes across the Borough.

In addition, Street Cleansing work to actively develop community involvement in environmental improvement activities and to engender pride and ownership of the local area. The team support over 40 community groups and organisations to carry out litter picks through the loan of equipment and the collection and disposal of the waste collected.

The Green Care team have responsibility for the maintenance of the Borough's parks, open spaces and green spaces. Effective maintenance includes grass cutting, pruning and weed removal, minimising overgrowth to prevent public areas from becoming hotspots for anti-social behaviour, such as the the misuse of drugs and alcohol. The team also oversees the repair of children's play equipment in the event of vandalism.

A key objective of the Parking Management team is to increase the number of Council-operated parking facilities that meet the Park Mark standard. Park Mark is the award given by the police to car parks that have achieved the standards of the Safer Parking

Scheme. 17 Council car parks have achieved this accreditation so far. Parking Management are also responsible for the civil enforcement of on-street parking.

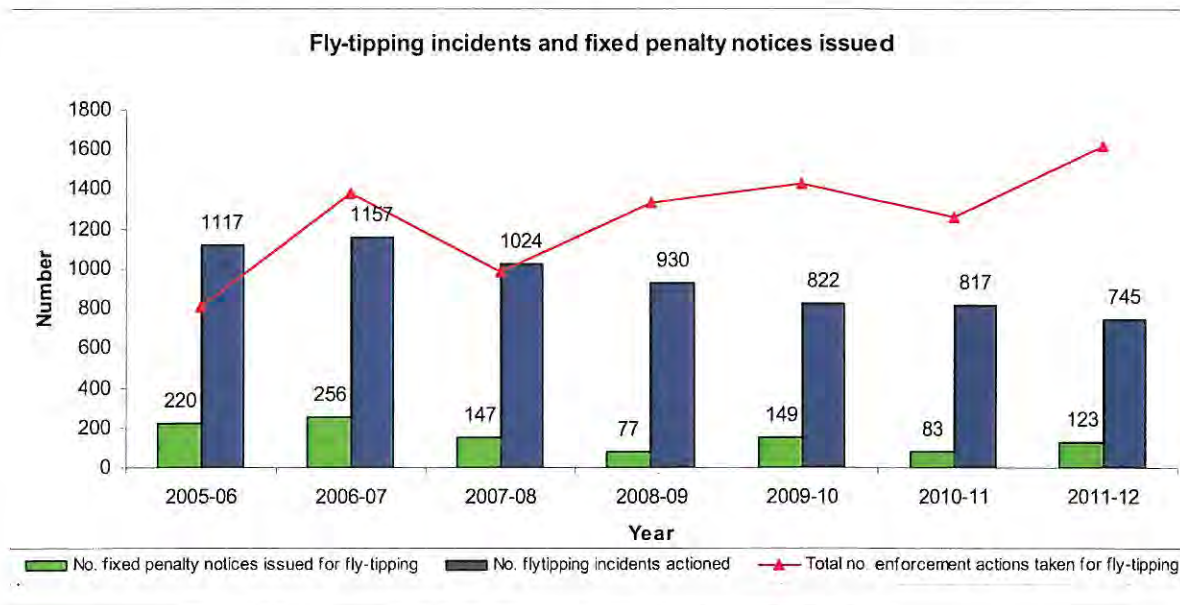
The role of the Street Lighting team is to maintain effective street lighting, looking after the 32,000 street lights in the Borough. Street lighting has a major contribution to make in preventing night-time crime, particularly anti-social behaviour, property crime, violent crime and vehicle related crime. A number of lighting and crime evaluations have been carried out in major towns and cities in England, Scotland and Wales, including Dudley. The Dudley project provided clear and reliable evidence that targeted, improved street lighting can reduce all types of crime and disorder.

The Highway Maintenance team work with the emergency services to ensure safety in events and demonstrations that take place across the Borough. Dudley's Safety Advisory Group includes representation from Highway Maintenance, and is chaired by the Assistant Director of Environmental Management. Highways officers ensure that the necessary road closures and crowd control mechanisms are place to ensure public safety and to minimise public order problems where required.

### Waste Care

One of the key priorities within Waste Care is to ensure that an effective waste enforcement policy is in operation across the Borough.

The Waste Enforcement team carry out enforcement actions to tackle environmental crime, including fly-tipping. The chart below highlights how sustained effective enforcement activity has successfully reduced the number of incidents of fly-tipping experienced in the Borough.



Waste Enforcement have statutory powers to issue fixed penalty notices for fly-tipping, litter and dog fouling offences, pursuing matters through to prosecution where required. Enforcement officers will also undertake street patrols in environmental hotspot areas where needed.

The team work with the police on vehicle related crime, participating in joint prevention and enforcement operations regarding un-roadworthy vehicles, for example, and effectively remove the nuisance of untaxed and abandoned vehicles. Enforcement officers also work with the police and HM Customs and Excise to tackle the ongoing problem of metal theft. Recent operations include touring scrap yards in the Dudley area as part of the national 'Operation Steel', and checking carriers carrying scrap metal for their waste carriers licences and waste transfer notes.

Another key role of the Waste Enforcement team is education and awareness raising of environmental crime. They support local residents in undertaking community clean ups and take part in school assemblies to educate pupils about litter issues. They also work with local PCSOs in the development of initiatives such as junior Neighbourhood Watch groups. In response to complaints of anti-social behaviour in the Kates Hill area of Dudley recently for example, local PCSOs arranged for the offending young people to undertake a street clean which was supported by Enforcement Officers.

## APPENDIX 2

### Culture and Leisure Services

In terms of Culture and Leisure Services contributing to the Council's efforts to prevent Crime and Anti-social Behaviour there are a number of 'indirect' contributions that the service can claim to make.

Evidence of the impact that Sport and the Arts make to the Community Safety agenda have been identified in research undertaken by both Sport England and the Arts Council. Specifically these are as of impact have been identified as follows:-

1. Positive Activities:- Sport and Arts participation has been found to have a beneficial impact over both the short and long-term . Research has found a link between participation in Sports and Arts by people in their youth reducing the likelihood that they became socially excluded as adults. Furthermore research into Volunteering by young people identified that sports volunteering plays an important role in developing young people as active citizens who engage positively in their community. Sport has been identified as the most popular volunteering activity for young people and was also identified as particularly effective at engaging hard to reach groups, including disaffected young men.
2. Supporting Young People and Preventing Anti-social Behaviour:- Evidence from the national programme 'Positive Futures' showed that many young people were helped across a range of social issues, which included the propensity to commit anti-social behaviour through their involvement in sport and leisure activities.
3. Cohesion and Fear of Crime:- the Institute of Community Cohesion states that sport and leisure has a key part to play in developing social capital and facilitating cross cultural understanding. The refurbishment of facilities and spaces alongside the development of activity programmes has revitalised areas, changed patterns of use and perceptions of safety, contributing to the regeneration of an area.

In practical terms the Culture and Leisure Division has various examples of how the Council's support of Sport, Arts and Leisure activities delivers the impacts identified above.

In terms of 'Positive Activities' the Sport and Physical Activity Section

1. Leisure Centre Activities and Clubs
2. Sports Development Programmes and Sports Club support
3. Park Ranger Activities

1. All of the Council's Leisure Centres offer a wide range of clubs, classes and sessions for children and young people and the recently introduced Junior Membership Scheme has increased the offer and accessibility of facilities still further. Each centre has Learn to Swim, Swimming Clubs and Sports specific coaching programmes whilst Crystal Leisure Centre has a specific programme of activities on Friday and Saturday nights in an attempt to address the issue of young people not having anything available to do on these specific nights.
2. The Sports Development Service provides a general programme of activities run directly in partnership with local sports clubs. Activezone and Inclusive Active zone, Sportslink and the extensive summer Holiday Programme provide a wide range of opportunities for children and young people to engage in purposeful, positive activities and in 2012 the team delivered some 76,000 hours of physical activity to children and young people. Sports clubs are able to access advice and support for grant applications and specific training courses have been delivered to make clubs better able to deal with children and young people who exhibit challenging behaviour.
3. Throughout all holiday periods the Council provides an extensive range of activities for children and young people which has been added to by the Park Ranger Service, based at the Healthy Town hub sites, alongside the regular programme of weekly activities.

In addition to the general list 'Positive Activities' approach of providing facilities and programmes available to all children and young people the Council and partner organisations have also participated in 'targetted' programmes and initiatives.

For example Dudley Leisure Centre has worked with local police on a project for children from one of the local neighbourhoods where equipment was purchased (Dance Mats and Trixter Bikes) to provide activity sessions for an 'at risk' group. Similarly to 'Look Out' project utilises The Dell Stadium on Friday evenings for Sport and Social activities. 'Get Going/Keep Going' project based at Crystal Leisure Centre which provides holiday activities for Looked After Children has been so successful that a weekly session is being introduced.

Alongside the Council's own direct provision the service has worked with a number of sports clubs to provide targeted activities in club settings for 'at risk' young people. Specifically both Lions and Priory Boxing Clubs have been particularly successful in identifying young people within their catchment areas who are potentially at risk of offending and by providing them with exercise programmes have managed to channel these young peoples energy into positive activities.

In recent years the Council has seen the regeneration of a number of parks through the use of its own resources and significant levels of external funding that has been attracted to the borough.

Funding from the likes of 'Transforming Your Space', 'Liveability' and 'Play Pathfinder' saw many areas/parks benefitting from physical improvements including new/refurbished play areas, provision of Multi Use Games Areas and other features.

In terms of demonstrating the positive impact in respect of reducing levels of anti-social behaviour, changing patterns of use and revitalising an area perhaps the best example that can be given is from the Healthy Towns Project, specifically Silver Jubilee Park, Coseley. Whilst the purpose of the project is primarily 'health focussed' ie an attempt to address rising levels of obesity there have clearly been other benefits associated with it and the regeneration of Silver Jubilee Park and its use by the community is one of the most obvious.

Prior to the implementation of the Healthy Towns Project Silver Jubilee Park suffered high levels of vandalism and anti-social behaviour with Police attending call-outs to the site on an almost daily basis and damage to park facilities a regular occurrence. There was little formal use of the park given that people felt unsafe and the park had a careworn appearance.

The injection of funding from the Healthy Towns project enabled a significant number of physical improvements to the park to be implemented and Park Rangers were stationed there to provide a community information engagement link and develop programmes for the use of the park in partnership with the Friends of Silver Jubilee Park and other community organisations.

The impact has been remarkable with the site transformed into a vibrant public park, extensively used by the local community with minimal levels of vandalism and anti-social behaviour now being recorded.

Underpinning all sports and leisure activity in the borough is a robust child protection policy which is recognised nationally by Barnardos as an example of good practice. Through this the Council ensures that its responsibilities for the safeguarding of children and young people engaged in sport and leisure activities is properly discharged through appropriate staff training, recruitment procedures and advisory services to other providers.

### **Economic Regeneration**

The **Road Safety and Travel Awareness Team** provides advice on safety to a range of age groups.

#### **Pedestrian Education**

We deliver a range of training to pedestrians of all ages in order to develop their knowledge and awareness of how to stay safe when close to the roads.

The training that we deliver includes the following;

- Pedestrian Training, our practical pedestrian training scheme is aimed at pupils in year one and two and consists of a classroom session and several practical sessions, where the children are taken outside the school and practice crossing the roads safely. The practical pedestrian training covers a range of topics such as holding hands with adults when close to the roads, using the Green Cross Code, safe and unsafe places to cross and practical experience of crossing the roads using safer places to cross. At the end of the sessions the children are given literature to take away with them and share with their parents/carers and are encouraged to share and practice what they have learnt during the sessions.
- Transition Training, our transition training scheme is specifically targeted at children in year six who will be moving on to secondary schools. The sessions cover distractions faced by pedestrians and drivers, stopping distances, using safer places to cross and the importance of journey planning.

#### **Pre-Driver Education**

As part of our programme of road safety education we deliver pre-driver education to pupils who attend secondary schools and colleges within the Dudley Borough. The training aims to prepare the students for learning to drive and also covers topics such as safety as a passenger in a vehicle and peer pressure.

#### **Driving Safer for Longer Courses**

Our driving safer for longer courses are aimed at drivers aged 50+. The sessions are held at community venues across the Borough and last for half a day. The sessions are presented by members of the road safety team working in partnership with the Fire Service and Institute of Advances Motorists and cover a range of driving related topics and safety tips. At the end of the session participants are given a range of educational resources to take away with them.

#### **Independent Travel Training**

We deliver Independent Travel Training to students with a range of specific needs who are currently provided with a taxi to transport them to local colleges. The scheme provides one to one training to the students



who are referred on to the scheme in order to enable them to gain the knowledge, awareness and confidence associated with travelling by public transport. Throughout the training the students use public transport to travel to college with the support of their trainer with the ultimate aim of the students being able to make their journey independently. During the training the students complete a booklet which covers a range of safety related topics such as crossing the roads safely, how to deal with unexpected situations, keeping personal belongings safe and various issues related to personal safety when travelling independently. Upon successful completion of the booklet the students receive an accredited qualification from the National Open College Network.

### **Cycle Safety**

We deliver Bikeability cycle training to pupils who attend primary and secondary schools within the Borough. The cycle training teaches the children about riding safely both on and off road and also covers how to check bikes to ensure that they are road worthy prior to starting a journey. As well as cycle training in schools we also provide one to one cycle training sessions for adults and group training at colleges and community venues.

On the first Saturday of each month we run 'Saturday Cycle Training' at local parks. The training is suitable for a range of abilities from complete beginners to current cyclists who wish to refresh their knowledge when cycling on the roads. As part of the Saturday cycle training we also run Breeze rides which specifically target female cyclists and seek to develop their confidence through participating in a led bike ride.

Within our team we have a 'Dr Bike' cycle maintenance van which we take to various community events throughout the Borough. The 'Dr Bike' sessions are free of charge and involve our qualified cycle maintenance instructors performing a health check on people's bikes in order to ensure that they are road worthy and safe to ride.

### **Road Safety Sessions to Community Groups**

As well as the above we also provide age appropriate road safety presentations to various community groups throughout the year. The presentations are specifically tailored to the needs of the groups and can be tailored to cover topics that are of concern or high importance to them. Groups and topics that we have covered in the past include;

- Child car seat checks at local children's centres in partnership with the Fire Service.
- Information about road safety and in car safety at Yemeni women's groups.
- Road Safety advice for people who speak English as an additional language.
- An overview on road safety for pedestrians, cyclists and drivers at tenants and residents associations.
- Road safety presentations for child minders groups.

### **School Crossing Patrol Service**

The school crossing patrol service provides assistance to pedestrians making their journey to and from school. Each day during term time around 100 patrols are on duty across the Borough.

Contact details:

[www.dudley.gov.uk/roadsafety](http://www.dudley.gov.uk/roadsafety)

[Rsafety.due@dudley.gov.uk](mailto:Rsafety.due@dudley.gov.uk)

X5433

### Planning and Environmental Health

- Being a consultee on Licensing Act 2003 applications. Environmental Health were consulted on 56 premise license applications. This proactively allows for members to be alerted to issues affecting neighbours of licensed premises such as noise disturbance and antisocial activity as a result of behavioural noise. Conditions can be brought to the license and in extreme case a request for a license review can be made 5 reviews were undertaken during the relevant period. This may be due to evidence of sale of alcohol to underage children.
- Giving advice and taking formal action on disputes between parties over noise and vibration from commercial and industrial premises. Environmental Health dealt with 515 requests for service in relation to industrial and commercial noise. This can prevent antagonism between neighbours which gives rise to antisocial activity.
- Using legislation to prevent unauthorised access to void and derelict commercial and industrial properties thereby reducing arson, crime and unsociable behaviour at such locations. Environmental Health dealt with 79 requests for service in relation to void and derelict commercial and industrial properties.
- Offering advice to consumers and investigating rogue traders and doorstep crime. Trading Standards carried out the following;
  - The amount of redress recovered as a result of direct intervention by the team was £121,067
  - Continued to support vulnerable groups by tackling rogue traders and ensuring that people use trusted traders through our Fix a Home scheme operated in partnership with Age UK Dudley. As at March 2011 there were 139 members and 90% of customers were satisfied with the service they received.
  - Funding has been secured from the Safe and Sound Partnership to set up four No Rogue Trader Zones at identified hot spots within the borough.
  - Who's after your money - A new advice booklet and training package launched in partnership with Dudley's community safety partnership and West Midlands Police to raise awareness of doorstep scams and outline services offered. Since

September 2010 the training package has been delivered to 150 delegates.

- The detection and investigation of counterfeiting and sales of restricted goods to under aged persons. Trading Standards seized in excess of 3,500 items of counterfeit goods with a market value in excess of £ 1.1 million.
- Enforcing legislation relating to underage sales, through education and joint enforcement activities with the police. 74 test purchases of alcohol were carried out resulting in 6 sales , 21 test purchases of tobacco were carried out resulting in zero sales and 5 alcohol licences were reviewed
- Being an active partner in the Safe and Sound Partnership in particular the Crime and Reduction Implementation Group and Joint Activity Group. (see above)
- Planning Services Service Plan states that:-
  - Our planning policy approach is aiming to deliver an environment free of crime. The entire service ensures its activities contribute to the reduction of crime; however, the Enforcement Section has a particular role, issues brought to the enforcement team often relate to disputes between neighbours and effective intervention and enforcement as required can avert further neighbour antagonism and potential for antisocial behaviour.. The service also supports various partnerships working in areas of derelict and void buildings and eyesore sites.
  - All planning applications are considered in the context of designing out crime. Our award-winning supplementary Planning Guidance – 'Safe by Design' was produced with the support of West Midlands Police and is implemented in the consideration of all relevant planning applications.
- We are also in the process of finalising the Shop fronts Supplementary Planning Document which is being developed in consultation with the Police to ensure opportunities for crime are designed out and that security measures are effective but appropriate to the context. This document when adopted will be a key consideration when considering planning applications.

- We also regularly liaise with Community Cohesion teams in respect of planning proposals and enforcement cases that may have the potential to result in anti-social behaviour.

**Directorate of the Urban Environment**  
Culture & Leisure

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Your ref:	Our ref:	Please ask for:	Direct Line:
	DWL/SMS	Mr D W Lowndes	01384 815500

All Members  
Community Safety Scrutiny Committee

Sent By e-mail

Dear Member

**Community Safety Scrutiny Committee 14 March 2013 – Issues Raised by Members**

Further to the questions raised by Members at the above Committee please find attached a briefing sheet detailing the responses to each question.

In doing so I would like to apologise unreservedly for the delay in getting this response to committee Members. This was entirely due to an oversight on my part and should not have occurred.

If there is any further information that Members require having read this response then please do not hesitate to contact me and I will do what I can to assist.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Duncan Lowndes".

**Duncan Lowndes**  
**Assistant Director Culture and Leisure**

## 1. Street and Green Care Budgetary Cuts – Impact on Section 17 Duties

It is recognised that Council wide budgetary pressures will impact on most sections of the authority with Street and Green Care services required to make savings across a number of different service areas.

In introducing these savings, prior consideration has taken place to their impact on the Council's obligations under Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, in particular those that contribute to seeking to reduce crime and disorder.

Work will continue to take place with community groups and local stakeholders to establish and where possible improve locations and / or features across the Borough identified as having a direct or indirect impact on acts of antisocial behaviour and / or crime.

This work impacts on a range of different areas through street cleansing and the removal of fly tipped material and offensive graffiti, appropriate and adequate street lighting, maintenance and/or removal of problematic shrubberies and vegetation, regular inspection of play equipment and future landscape and design features. The section is also seeking to increase the number of car parks across the Borough with the safer by design award.

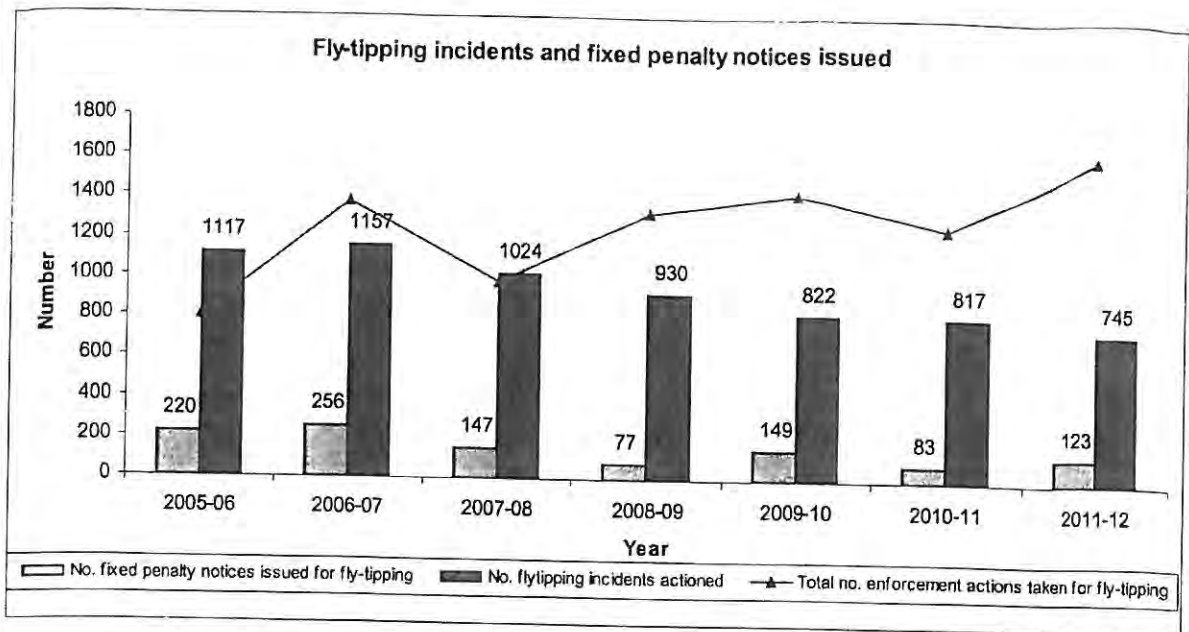
In order to protect the interests of the authority and its future reputation, a safe local environment is of paramount importance. As such the Committee can be assured that the Street and Green Care section will continue to support activities that are perceived to have an impact on crime and disorder on a risk management basis in consideration of existing and future service budgets.

## 2. Flycapture Statistics for 2011/12 – An e4xplanation

Dudley Council reports the number of reported incidents of fly tipping in the Borough each year to DEFRA through the Flycapture data base.

In accordance with previous statutory reporting of this information, both the number of reported incidents and environmental enforcement activity are recorded each year. The emphasis of the reporting matrix being to demonstrate that, where possible, councils are improving environmental standards overall by receiving less instances of reported fly tipping supported by increased instances of enforcement activity.

Data for 2011/12 confirmed that instances of fly tipping in the Borough are continuing to reduce in number. This is extremely encouraging and a trend that the Council seeks to continue by jointly working with local community groups, businesses and stakeholders, through educational programmes and targeting of known hot spot areas. The chart below highlights the steady reduction in the number of incidents of fly-tipping responded to in the Borough, 745 in 201/112. It also shows that the number of fixed penalty notices issued, at 123, remains proportionate to the number of incidents.



The red line on the above chart indicates the increased levels of enforcement activity in 2011/12 when compared to previous years, with over 1,500 enforcement actions completed. In addition to the 123 fixed penalty notices issued, over 700 investigations into fly tipping were carried out by the Waste Enforcement team, over 200 warning letters were sent out and 9 prosecutions were taken to court. The team also undertook over 450 duty of care inspections at businesses across the Borough. All business in the UK regardless of their size must comply with the 'Duty Of Care' provisions of the Environmental Protection Act 1990, in that they must take reasonable measures to prevent the unauthorised deposit, treatment or disposal of their waste; duty of care visits by Enforcement Officers ensure compliance with this legislation. The Council is also empowered to undertake 'stop and searches' on vehicles that are seen to be carrying waste, such as scrap metal, building waste, tree cuttings and similar type waste. These stops are carried out in conjunction with the police and other agencies such as the DVLA, and 5 such joint operations were undertaken in 2011/12.

The Love your Community Campaign will further highlight the importance of community pride and the Council's determination to tackle the anti social behaviour of illegal fly tipping. It will also seek to support actions to further reduce instances of fly tipping and other material items that pose a risk to local people.

### 3. Counterfeit Goods – Query regarding Value of Goods Seized

The figure of £1.1m, which relates to the retail value of the goods seized by Trading Standards included such items as jeans, football shirts, ugg boots, divides and cigarettes.

However, the high value came from goods seized from an electronics warehouse in Birmingham and included such items as counterfeit ipads and rolex watches. This was an exceptional year, in a normal year Trading Standards would expect to seize goods to the value of £100,000 to £150,000.



#### 4/5 Trading Standards – Position Regarding Black Country Collaborative Working

Following Wolverhampton City Council's withdrawal from the Trading Standards shared service project followed by Sandwell this option will not be proceeding. However, collaborative working will continue across the Black Country.

#### 6. Performance of Street Lighting

The Council's Street Lighting service is currently introducing a central management system that will allow future control and monitoring of the Council's street lighting infrastructure. During April 2013, work will commence on the introduction of 11 base stations across the Borough. Once in place, work will progress to replace a number of telecells in lighting columns prior to the commencement of further activities to replace new lanterns across major trafficked routes and residential areas.

The project is expected to take approximately 30 months to complete and will allow the Council to manage its street lighting infrastructure more efficiently through reduced energy consumption in addition to opportunities for future dimming. The central management system will also identify outages without the need for night time monitoring or scouting,

Whilst the invest to save project will ensure that the Council is developing its infrastructure in line with new technology and industry best practice, there will be future opportunities to consider and revise lighting levels in known hot spot areas and those that may be subject to differing levels of crime and disorder.

Benchmarking information for 2011/12 confirmed that over the course of the year 99.43% of the Council's street lights were working as planned. Whilst this result was favourable when compared across the industry, the invest to save project will have a further positive impact on existing performance.

We aim to attend each outage within 5 working days of being reported throughout the year, the recent inclement weather did cause some delays, but this was over a relatively short period. We do undertake more reactive maintenance throughout the winter months as our street lamps burn for much longer periods. This is offset by a reduction in planned maintenance.

#### 7. Potholes – Further clarification on Repairs

For potholes that are reported as 'dangerous' an Inspector goes out to site to confirm and a repair is actioned as soon as possible.

In other circumstances the Directorate has a structured approach to inspection and maintenance of the highway network, inspectors walk the streets on a daily basis, principal roads are inspected monthly, main roads every 3 months and estate roads twice per year. Priority of repairs is given to keep roads and footpaths as safe as possible.

## 8. Anti-social Behaviour in Parks – Healthy Towns Impact

Anecdotal evidence from Friends Groups, Park users, Police and on-site staff have stated that there has been a considerable reduction in anti-social behaviour in park sites which are offering the new Healthy Towns Package of activities.

Not only do increased numbers of visitors on-site act as a deterrent to nuisance, but the Rangers can focus attention on nuisance and either engage with the youngsters through sport and physical activity or call in the Police when necessary.

Crime data from the Police relating specifically to Netherton Park for the two highlighted years of 09/10, the year immediately prior to Healthy Towns starting, and 12/13 indicates 64 and 24 incidents reported respectively indicating a 62.5% reduction. For silver Jubilee Park the numbers are 51 and 18 respectively, a 65% reduction.

The local evaluation of the programme by Worcester University has focussed on the health impact of the project but has noted 'that the Healthy Hub improvements have resulted in increased park use and increased value placed on parks by those that use them'.

**Agenda Item No. 6**

**REGENERATION, CULTURE AND ADULT EDUCATION SCRUTINY  
COMMITTEE 15<sup>TH</sup> January 2013**

**Report of the Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services**

**Libraries, Archives and Adult Learning Division budget update**

**Purpose of Report**

1. This report has been brought to update the scrutiny committee on the proposals in place to achieve the £347,000 saving in the divisional budget as requested at the last meeting of the committee on the 6<sup>th</sup> November 2012.

**Background**

2. The intention had been to deliver these efficiencies as part of the Black Country Library Project, but that is no longer possible due to the withdrawal of the other Black Country Local Authorities at a late stage of development.
3. The budget report of the 6th November stated '*that a management restructure to deliver £75,000 efficiency savings*' would be implemented. It also stated that the '*method of achieving the balance of the savings target is currently being developed. The proposals to date will not impact on the service delivered to the public*'.
4. To meet the identified savings there will be a requirement to reduce staffing level, however, it is not possible to state at this stage exactly how that will be achieved as we are currently in the process of consulting with employees over a number of options. To minimise the need for compulsory redundancies we will be working with employees, their representatives and HR colleagues to explore opportunities for voluntary redundancy, voluntary reduction in hours/flexible retirement, redeployment and redundancy bumping in line with corporate policies and procedures.
5. Further proposals to meet the balance of £272,000 are being developed for consultation later in 2013 once outline political approval has been received.

**Finance**

6. Currently the Directorate have identified £75k of the required savings of £347k for 2013/14. Any deficit in savings being delivered during 2013/14 will be picked up through the medium term financial strategy as part of the overall DACHS strategy.

**Law**

7. Under the terms of the 1964 Public Library and Museums Act, public library services are statutory services with Dudley MBC acting as a designated Library Authority which must provide '*a comprehensive and efficient library service that is available to all who wish to use it*'.
8. It meets these requirements when it provides a library service which: serves both adults & children; is available to everyone & meets any special needs required by members of the community; encourages participation &

full use of the service; provides materials sufficient in number, range and quality to meet the general & specific requirements of those in the community; provides value for money, working in partnership with other authorities & agencies.

9. Recent Judicial Reviews of changes to library services have indicated that they need to be done in the context of full and effective consultation with local communities. They also need to have full Equality Impact Assessments completed showing how the consultation has had an impact on the decisions made.
10. *'Public records, as defined by the Public Records Act 1958 and subsequent amendments to the schedules of such records attached to it, are subject to statutory controls and are placed under the supervision of the Keeper of Public Records (the Chief Executive of The National Archives), and the Lord Chancellor (the Secretary of State for Constitutional Affairs).'* (Taken from the Standard for Record Repositories). Dudley Archives have currently been approved by the Keeper to be a place of deposit as defined by the Act. This status is monitored by periodic inspections and, if lost, would mean that records of national importance would no longer be deposited in Dudley.
11. The Council is under a duty to secure the provision of adequate facilities for further education under Section 15 of the education act 1996. The Adult and Community Learning (ACL) Team manages a subsidised programme of adult and community learning on behalf of the Council. The ACL team acts as the informal Lead Accountable Body by facilitating the Post 19 Learning and Skills Partnership.

### **Equality Impact**

12. All of the staff involved in the redundancy process are female which is consistent with the balance of staff as females make up the largest proportion of the staff in the division - Male 64 (19.7%) Female 261 (80.3%). The majority are in the upper quartile of age for staff which is also the largest group of staff within the division.

### **Recommendation**

13. It is recommended that:
  - The committee note the report
  - Contribute to the consultation process when proposals are more fully developed



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