

BRIERLEY HILL AREA COMMITTEE

THURSDAY 8TH NOVEMBER 2012

**AT 7:00PM
THE BRIER SCHOOL
BROMLEY LANE
KINGSWINFORD**

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

**KIM FELLOWS
DEMOCRATIC SERVICES OFFICER
Internal Ext – 5242
External – 01384 815242
Email: kim.fellows@dudley.gov.uk**

You can view information about Dudley MBC on
www.dudley.gov.uk



IMPORTANT NOTICE

MEETINGS AT THE BRIER SCHOOL, KINGSWINFORD

Welcome to The Brier School

In the event of the alarm sounding, please leave the building by the nearest exit. There are Officers who will assist you in the event of this happening, please follow their instructions.

There is to be no smoking on the premises in line with national legislation. It is an offence to smoke in or on these premises.

Please turn off your mobile phones and mobile communication devices during the meeting.

Thank you for your co-operation.

Directorate of Corporate Resources

Law and Governance, Council House, Priory Road, Dudley, West Midlands DY1 1HF
Tel: (0300 555 2345) Fax: (01384) 815202
www.dudley.gov.uk



Our Ref:	Your Ref	Please Ask For:	Telephone No:
KFE/kfe		Miss K Fellows	01384 815242

24th October, 2012

Dear Councillor

BRIERLEY HILL AREA COMMITTEE – THURSDAY, 8TH NOVEMBER, 2012 AT 7.00 P.M.

You are requested to attend a meeting of the Brierley Hill Area Committee to be held on Thursday, 8th November, 2012, at 7.00 p.m. at The Brier School, Bromley Lane, Kingswinford, to consider the business set out in the agenda below.

The agenda and reports for this meeting can be viewed on the Council's website www.dudley.gov.uk (Follow the links to Council Decisions and Committee Information).

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "K. Fellows".

Director of Corporate Resources.

Please note that the "Smokefree", no smoking legislation is now in effect and includes both the inside and external areas of these premises.

A G E N D A

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

To receive apologies for absence from the meeting.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

To receive declarations of interest in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct.

3. MINUTES

To approve as a correct record and sign the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 28th June, 2012 (copy attached).

4. RECEIPT OF PETITIONS

(a) To report on Petitions received since the last Meeting (if any).

(b) To receive any Petitions.

5. YOUTH SERVICE (PAGES 1 – 6)

To consider a report of the Director of Children's Services

6. FIRE SERVICE

To consider a verbal update from the Fire Service representative.

7. WEST MIDLANDS POLICE

To consider a verbal update from the Police.

8. BEECH ROAD, KINGSWINFORD (PAGES 7 – 8)

To consider a report of the Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services.

9. THE WORK OF THE JOINT ACTIVITIES GROUP (PAGES 9 – 12)

To consider a report of the Chief Executive.

10. CONSULTATION ON THE REVIEW OF AREA COMMITTEES (PAGES 13 – 19)

To consider a Consultation Document.

11. PUBLIC FORUM

To respond to questions from the public.

12. AREA COMMITTEE GRANTS (PAGES 20 – 22)

To consider a report of the Area Liaison Officer

13. MATTERS RAISED AT THE MEETING OF THE BRIERLEY HILL AREA COMMITTEE ON 28TH JUNE, 2012 (PAGES 23 – 28)

To consider a report of the Area Liaison Officer.

14. WARD ISSUES TO BE RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

MEMBERS ARE ASKED TO E-MAIL KIM FELLOWS, AT THE ADDRESS SHOWN ON THE AGENDA COVER, AT LEAST THREE WORKING DAYS BEFORE THE MEETING, DETAILS OF ANY ISSUES THEY WOULD WISH TO RAISE UNDER THIS AGENDA ITEM, SO AS TO ENSURE THAT AN EXPEDITIOUS RESPONSE MIGHT BE GIVEN AT THE MEETING.

THE WRITTEN RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS WILL BE CIRCULATED PRIOR TO THE START OF THE MEETING. ITEMS TO BE RAISED AS A MATTER OF URGENCY, OF WHICH IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE BY THEIR NATURE TO GIVE THE REQUIRED NOTICE, CAN CONTINUE TO BE RAISED AT THE MEETING.

15. QUESTIONS UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE 11.8 (IF ANY)
16. SCRUTINY COMMITTEE PUBLICITY

As a way of giving publicity to meetings of the Council's Scrutiny Committees it has been agreed that the dates of future meetings of the Committees be included on the agendas of meetings of Area Committees.

Set out below is a list of all future meetings-

<u>Scrutiny Committee</u>	<u>Dates</u>
Regeneration, Culture and Adult Education	6th November 2012 15 th January 2013 6 th March 2013
Community Safety and Community Services	1st November 2012 17 th January 2013 14 th March 2013
Environment	5 th November 2012

	22nd January 2013 18 th March 2013
Health and Adult Social Care	12 th November,2012 24 th January, 2013 26 th February,2013 27 th March,2013
Children's Services	14 th November,2012 23rd January, 2013 21 st March,2013

All these meetings start at 6pm and are held in the Council House, Dudley.

Also, the agendas for meetings of Scrutiny Committees include a public participation item at which point members of the public can speak to raise an item relating to the activities of the particular Scrutiny Committee. Please see below as to how this is dealt with.

More information about Scrutiny Committees can be found on the Council's Committee Management Information System (CMIS), which can be accessed via <http://cmis.dudley.gov.uk/cmis5/>

Details about speaking at a scrutiny committee meeting or about Scrutiny Committees can also be obtained by speaking to Joe Jablonski on 01384-815243; e-mail josef.jablonski@dudley.gov.uk or the person whose details appear on the cover of this agenda.

17. DATE OF FUTURE AREA COMMITTEE MEETING

The date and venue of the next meeting of the Committee is as follows:-

Thursday 7^h March, 2013 – TBC

To:- All Members of the Brierley Hill Area Committee

Mrs C Billingham
*(Kingswinford North
& Wall Heath Ward)*

Harley
*(Kingswinford South
Ward)*

J T Jones
(Wordsley Ward)

Mrs Simms
(Wordsley Ward)

Blood
*(Kingswinford
South Ward)*

Harris
(Brierley Hill Ward)

Jordan
*(Brockmoor &
Pensnett Ward)*

Tyler
*(Kingswinford
North & Wall heath
Ward)*

Boleyn
*(Kingswinford North
& Wall heath Ward)*

Hemingsley
(Wordsley Ward)

J.Martin
*(Brockmoor &
Pensnett Ward)*

Mrs Wilson
(Brierley Hill Ward)

Foster
*(Brockmoor &
Pensnett Ward)*

Islam
(Brierley Hill Ward)

Miller
*(Kingswinford
South Ward)*

BRIERLEY HILL AREA COMMITTEE

Thursday, 28th June, 2012 at 7.00 pm
at The Brierley Hill Civic Hall, Bank Street, Brierley Hill

PRESENT: -

Councillors Mrs Billingham, Blood, Boleyn, Foster, Harley, Harris, Hemingsley, Islam, J T Jones, Jordan, J Martin, Miller, Mrs Simms, Tyler and M Wilson.

Officers: -

The Director of Corporate Resources (as Acting Area Liaison Officer), Head of Sport and Physical Activity, Head of Economic Development, Planning Policy Manager, Manager, Executive Support Team, Head of Traffic and Transportation and Group Engineer (Traffic and Road Safety) (all Directorate of the Urban Environment); Head of Service (Directorate of Adult, Community and Housing Services); Detached Youth Worker (Directorate of Children's Services); Senior Account Manager (Chief Executive's Directorate) and Miss K Fellows (Directorate of Corporate Resources).

together with Inspector E Boyle, West Midlands Police and Mr C Newton, Station Commander West Midlands Fire Service and 17 members of the public.

1 ELECTION OF CHAIR

RESOLVED

That Councillor Jordan be elected Chair of the Committee for the ensuing municipal year.

(Councillor Jordan in the Chair)

2 APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIR

RESOLVED

That Councillor Hemingsley be appointed Vice Chair of the Committee for the ensuing municipal year.

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Harris declared a personal interest in Agenda Item number 15 – Brierley Hill High Street Working Group – High Street Enhancements – in so far as the report

related to enhancements to High Street, Brierley Hill as part of the Brierley Hill Sustainable Access Network major scheme as she was Honorary Treasurer of the Brierley Hill Civic Society.

4 MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 8th March 2012, be approved as a correct record and signed.

5 OPENING REMARKS OF THE CHAIR

The Chairman welcomed newly Elected Members and thanked those former Councillors who had not been re-elected for their contribution to the work of the Council, in particular referring to Councillor Southall's contribution and work in relation to the Brierley Hill Area Committee.

6 PETITIONS

No Petitions had been received since the last meeting and no further Petitions were presented at this meeting.

7 YOUTH ISSUES.

The Area Team Leader, Early Years, Youth and Education Services gave a verbal presentation of the youth service activities which were taking place in the Brierley Hill Area Committee area making particular reference to the following:-

Activities at the Kingswinford Youth Centre, local schools and private individuals and church groups that offered a variety of activities ranging from kick boxing, zumba, karate, performing arts, youth activities as well as the Gold DofE Award scheme.

It was reported that the Kingswinford Youth Centre would be launching a new gymnasium and offering activities in relation to the indoor climbing wall, with Summer activities at the Youth Centre being scheduled for week commencing 30th July, 2012.

In relation to the Pensnett Youth Club that this continued to meet every week on Mondays and Thursdays. That attendance numbers were beginning to rise with new members joining each week. It was noted that the Junior Sports Leaders Awards would commence at the Youth Club on week commencing 13th August, 2012.

The Dell football project was referred to including details of the weekly attendance, the League that those attending were involved with, the provision of football strips and that the local young people were committed to the project, developing their football and team working skills. Details of the 30 hour ASDAN activity award were also noted.

The Detached Youth Worker reported on the Brierley Hill Detached Project which was organised by her, whereby the development of a residential project during the summer period would provide young people with the opportunity of working towards some accredited outcomes and the team were engaging with young people in the Hawbush and Wordsley areas building relationships and carrying out consultations in order to ascertain what future provision was required.

It was further reported that the detached team continued to work across the Brierley Hill area, forging links with Wordsley library.

It was stated that there were large groups of young people gathering behind Kingswinford Youth Centre during Friday evenings and that in partnership with the police, the detached youth team continued to offer young people advice on how to stay safe and the dangers of underage drinking and illegal drug use, and also provide advice and help with career opportunities and a survey was being undertaken in relation to young people's drinking habits, with a view to providing a drop in service.

Details of the new Source Youth Centre Manager were noted, together with contact details.

Youth workers had commenced outreach work around the Wordsley area as the weather improved, in order to develop greater links with the centre and public spaces such as parks. The team was also working with young people to set up a youth activity programme over the summer months.

Details of the Wednesday evening 4US Social Inclusion Project were outlined, together with participation rates and the ages of those who attended the Project. A group residential in April, 2012 was referred to, which had been extremely successful and attended by many young people with disabilities.

It was reported that the parents committee had applied for funding in order to obtain equipment and accessories for the Youth Club and details of a programme of events currently being planned which included a jubilee party, a first aid course, the introduction of boxing and a junior Olympic sports day event were also outlined.

It was stated that at the Nine Locks Youth Centre, young people were engaging in a varied programme of activities, including running their own monthly café. A recent weekend residential was reported upon whereby young people had had the opportunity to learn to face their fears by taking part in activities including zip wires, quad biking and water sports in order to develop self confidence.

Holiday activities including activities that had taken place at Easter were also outlined.

Arising from the presentation Members asked questions and the Detached Youth Worker responded stating as follows:-

In relation to the Kingswinford Youth Centre, staff had now been trained in order to facilitate requests of young people to use the gymnasium and indoor climbing wall.

The Pensnett Youth Club had organised a residential project that had taken place in May 2012 with a further residential planned for August, 2012.

The Dell Stadium attracted young people from the Pensnett and Brockmoor areas and that the Look Out Project also undertook projects in the above areas including football and gardening projects.

That linkages with other partners, such as work undertaken with the Fire Service and the Look Out Project continued to be forged.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the information reported on at the meeting be noted.
- (2) That the Director of Children's Services be requested to:-
 - (a) Submit a report in relation to the activities carried out by the Look Out Project to a future meeting of the Committee.
 - (b) Provide details to Councillor Foster of the linkages and other partners that the Youth Service were involved with.
 - (c) Submit a report to the next meeting of the Committee detailing further work undertaken with young people.

FIRE SERVICE

Station Commander Colin Newton of West Midlands Fire Service reported on fire issues in the Brierley Hill Area Committee area. He indicated that the number of reported arson fires had reduced in comparison with the figures for last year, and believed that the reduction had been contributed to by the wet weather conditions as this had resulted in a reduction in arson rubbish fires. There had also been a reduction in arson dwelling fires with an increase in one accidental dwelling fire since last year.

Station Commander Newton also detailed the youth activities that had been taking place including those fire projects that had taken place in schools and a passing out parade that was to take place at Dudley Fire Station on Friday 29th June, 2012, inviting Members to attend the parade.

In responding to a request from Councillor Foster, Station Commander Newton confirmed that he would provide Members with a breakdown of reported monthly fire incidents together with locations.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the information reported on at the meeting be received and noted.
 - (2) That Station Commander Newton be requested to provide Members with a breakdown of reported monthly fire incidents together with their locations.
-

10 POLICE ISSUES

Inspector Boyle of West Midlands Police reported on current Police issues in the Brierley Hill Area Committee area. He circulated details of comparative crime figures and a briefing note on other crime including metal theft, vehicle crime and preventative measures that were being taken in relation to crime. He indicated that on the whole the number of offences committed compared to this time last year had reduced, however he confirmed that vehicle crime had increased and work was being conducted with parking Managers at the Merry Hill Centre, Brierley Hill which was a hot spot for vehicle crime.

Inspector Boyle also reported on Anti Social Behaviour and Quality of Life issues that were being targeted together with the involvement with the Joint Activities Group which helped bring the key stakeholders together in order to address crime and community safety.

In responding to Members questions Inspector Boyle indicated as follows:-

In relation to rising car crime figures, locations and known offenders would be targeted based upon whether the offenders posed a high or middle risk. Those posing a high risk were often repeat offenders.

He confirmed that the crime figures referred to were based on comparisons for the same three months in 2011/12 and 2012/13.

Regarding preventative work it was confirmed that work to encourage members of the public to receive advice and expertise from the police was conducted.

There had been a reduction in staffing levels due to the loss of Sergeants and Constables, however structures locally were monitored in order to ensure that there was maximum front line policing.

The Chairman asked Inspector Boyle to commend Sergeant Thompson for the work he had conducted in relation to stray horses and Councillor Islam also praised the expertise of Sergeant Thompson when attending the Council's Regeneration, Culture and Adult Education Scrutiny Committee Working Group that addressed issues in relation to stray horses.

Councillor Tyler requested Inspector Boyle to pass on his thanks to Sergeant Andrew Springthorpe advising that he was an outstanding member of the Police Force.

Councillor Islam welcomed the reduction in crime figures commending the work of West Midlands Police.

RESOLVED

That Inspector Boyle be thanked for his presentation and that the information reported be received and noted.

11 CO-OPTED MEMBERS

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

RESOLVED

That, at this time, no co-opted members be appointed to serve on the Committee.

12 APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES

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

RESOLVED

That the following Members be appointed to serve on the following bodies for the 2012/13 municipal year:-

Social Inclusion

- (a) Brierley Hill Committee for the Welfare of the Physically Handicapped – Councillors M Wilson and Islam with Councillor Harris as a Deputy.
- (b) Peter Harris Almshouses – Councillor Islam – four year term from 30.06.2012
Councillor Harris – four year term from 18.11.2012

Community Associations

- (a) Brockmoor – Councillors J Martin and Jordan.
- (b) Dingle – Councillors J Jones and Hemingsley.

- (c) Fens Pool – Councillor Foster.
 - (d) Hawbush – Councillors Harris and Islam.
 - (e) Kingswinford – Councillors Harley and Miller.
 - (f) Nine Locks – Councillors Harris and M Wilson.
 - (g) Pensnett – Councillors Foster and J Martin.
 - (h) Wall Heath – Councillors Boleyn and Tyler.
 - (i) Wordsley – Councillors Mrs Simms and Hemingsley.
-

12 APPOINTMENT OF WORKING GROUPS

A report of the Area Liaison Officer was submitted on the reappointment of Working Groups for the 2012/13 municipal year.

In presenting the report submitted, the Area Liaison Officer referred to the procedure for dealing with urgent applications for capital allocation in between meetings, as set out in paragraph 2 of the report submitted.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the Area Committee Grants Working Group, (formerly the Capital Allocations Working Group) be reappointed comprising Councillor Jordan, (Chair), Hemingsley, (Vice Chair), J Martin, Miller, Mrs Simms and M Wilson.
 - (2) That the Young People's Working Group be not appointed.
 - (3) That the Area Liaison Officer be authorised to administer the urgent applications for Area Committee Grants in between meetings during the next municipal year in accordance with the provisions contained within paragraph 2 of the report submitted.
-

14 PUBLIC FORUM

Consideration was given to the following written/oral questions raised:-

- (a) A written question from a member of the public in relation to the level of noise emanating from the Dell Stadium, Brierley Hill from the tannoy and firing pistol devices. Councillors Foster and J Martin made representations on behalf of the questioner, advising that they had made a site visit to the Dell Stadium and made recommendations as to limiters on the tannoy system and advice to the groups utilising the equipment in order to limit the level of noise. The Head of Sport and Physical Activity undertook to investigate the matters raised and respond to the questioner direct.
- (b) A written question from a member of the public in relation to Excel Parking Company who were private car park operators issuing parking fines at the Moor Street Shopping Centre, Brierley Hill and thus deterring visitors from the area. Councillor Tyler responded indicating that, although parking fines should not be ignored, private car park operators were unable to issue fines and the only penalty they could impose was the cost for overstaying the period of payment. The Area Liaison Officer also reported that the Government would be legislating in relation to private car parking operators.
- (c) Written questions from members of the public in relation to the provision of parking bays in Brierley Hill High Street were deferred until the presentation of the report entitled Brierley Hill High Street Working Group – High Street Enhancements which would be presented later on in the evening.
- (d) A written question from a member of the public in relation to whether there was a new Town Centre Manager for the Brierley Hill area together with details of their role. The Head of Economic Development responded stating that the service had ceased last year and there were no plans to re-commence the service.
- (e) A written question from a member of the public regarding the parking bay after Bell Street, Brierley Hill and a request that this be monitored as members of the public were parking in the bay all day, thus deterring customers from visiting retailers and suppliers failing to deliver goods due to the lack of parking and unloading facilities. The Group Engineer, Traffic and Transportation undertook to investigate the issues raised and respond direct to the questioner.
- (f) A written question from a member of the public expressing concerns that new contracts may be issued to four further pharmacies in the Brierley Hill Area of the Area Committee and the affect that this would have on the current pharmacies situated in the area. Members responded direct to the questioner expressing their support for no further pharmaceutical licences to be issued to new pharmacies in the above area.

RESOLVED

That a letter be written by Members of the Committee to the Black Country Pharmaceutical Society expressing their support for no further pharmaceutical licences to be issued to new Pharmacies within the Brierley Hill area of the Area Committee.

15 AREA COMMITTEE GRANTS

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. Appended to the report submitted was the criteria for the awarding of funding allocations.

The Area Liaison Officer referred to four new applications for Area Committee Grants and suggested that a meeting of the Working Group take place prior to the next meeting of the Area Committee in order that those applications could be considered.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the process for dealing with Area Committee Grants for 2013, as set out in the report submitted together with the criteria for the awarding of funding allocation be noted.
 - (2) That the Area Liaison Officer be authorised to administer the Area Committee grants process in accordance with any decisions made by the Committee.
 - (3) That a meeting of the Area Committee Grants Working Group be convened as soon as practicably possible.
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16 BRIERLEY HILL HIGH STREET WORKING GROUP – HIGH STREET ENHANCEMENTS

A report of the Director of the Urban Environment was submitted on the proposed enhancements to High Street, Brierley Hill as part of the Brierley Hill Sustainable Access Network major scheme (BHSAN). Details of the original and new scheme proposals were Appended to the report submitted.

Arising from the presentation of the report submitted, members of the public raised concerns in relation to the restriction on parking and the affect that this would have on deliveries and trade.

Following further discussions Members agreed that all traders within the Brierley Hill High Street should be consulted further in relation to the proposals outlined in the

report submitted. Following a suggestion by the Cabinet Member for Transportation and Community Safety it was

RESOLVED

- (1) That the proposed enhancements to High Street, Brierley Hill as part of the Brierley Hill Sustainable Access Network major Scheme (BHSAN) as outlined in Appendix 2 to the report submitted, be noted.
- (2) That the Director of the Urban Environment be requested to convene a meeting with all Traders within the Brierley Hill High Street, the Cabinet Member for Transportation and Community Safety and appropriate Officers to further consult on proposals in relation to the Brierley Hill High Street enhancements as part of the Brierley Hill Sustainable Access Network major Scheme.

17 HIGHWAYS MINOR WORKS CAPITAL PROGRAMME FOR 2011/12

A report of the Director of the Urban Environment was submitted on the proposed programmes of work for Local Safety Schemes and Safer Routes to School within the Brierley Hill Area for the 2012/13 financial year. Details of proposed schemes were set out in Appendix A to the report submitted.

Arising from the presentation of the report submitted Councillors Harley and Miller congratulated Officers and welcomed the proposals in relation to the refuge splitter island on Market Street/Moss Grove, Kingswinford and the school 20 miles per hour zones at Cot Lane between Lodge Lane and Broad Street respectively.

RESOLVED

That, the proposed Local Safety Schemes and Safer Routes to School Schemes , as outlined in Appendix A to the report submitted, be noted.

18 OBJECTIONS TO WORDSLEY AND KINGSWINFORD TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDERS.

A report of the Director of the Urban Environment was submitted regarding the objections that had been received to the proposals for Traffic Regulation Orders in Wordsley and Kingswinford. Plans of the proposals that had been objected to were Appended to the report submitted.

The Licensee of the Public House referred to in the report submitted was in attendance and made representations objecting to the proposals for double yellow lines and no waiting at any time to prevent visitors to a public house causing nuisance to local residents by parking in the street.

RESOLVED

That the Cabinet Member for Transportation and Community Safety be recommended to approve the introduction of the Traffic Regulation Orders referred to in the report submitted for Cot Lane and Broad Street Kingswinford and Highcroft Avenue, Kingswinford only.

19 SANDRINGHAM PLACE, WORDSLEY.

A report of the Director of the Urban Environment was submitted on issues associated with vacant retail units at Sandringham Place, Wordsley

In presenting the report submitted the Head of Economic Development reported that all property owners had now been identified and he would write to them in relation to redevelopment opportunities.

In responding to a question from the Vice-Chair, the Head of Economic Development reported that in relation to the owner of three of the properties who may wish to sell the properties he could provide support and guidance to the property owner.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the information contained in the report, submitted be noted.
 - (2) That the Head of Economic Development be requested to provide feedback to the Vice-Chair following discussions with the owner of the three properties referred to above.
-

20 BEECH ROAD, KINGSWINFORD

A report of the Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services was submitted on the condition of the flats at Beech Road, Kingswinford.

In responding to a question from a Member, Inspector E Boyle advised that should it be established that the overgrown part of the site was a cause of anti social behaviour an approach could be made to the Joint Activities Group to utilise the services of the Payback Group in order to clear the overgrown vegetation.

Councillor Harris suggested that the shops be rented on short term Peppercorn Leases to those businesses wishing to expand, as increased activity would increase security for those residing above the shops.

Councillor Harley referred to the difficulties with renting the shops within the Beech Road area.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the information contained in the report, submitted be noted.

- (2) That the Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services submit a report to the next meeting of the Area Committee updating Members on the outcome of the options appraisal and associated costs in relation to the flats at Beech Road, Kingswinford.
-

21 BADGERS AT THE HAVEN, WORDSLEY

A report of the Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services was submitted on the issue of Badgers at the Haven, Wordsley.

RESOLVED

That the information contained in the report, submitted be noted.

22 MATTERS RAISED AT THE MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE HELD ON 8TH MARCH, 2012

A report of the Area Liaison Officer was submitted updating the Committee on a number of issues raised at the meeting of the Committee held on 8th March, 2012. Details of the matters raised at that meeting were set out in the Appendix to the report submitted.

RESOLVED

That the information contained in the report submitted, be noted.

23 WARD ISSUES

Councillor Blood raised written questions as follows:-

- (a) In relation to New Bradley Hall is it the intention of the Area Committee to hold a Special Area Committee and submit the findings to the relevant Scrutiny Committee who will be looking at the wider review to Adult Care?
- (b) Am I correct in interpreting the amended recommendations submitted on the evening of Cabinet, that New Bradley Hall will remain open as a residential care home for the duration to all current residents irrespective of their age, or only for the foreseeable future, which?

The Area Liaison Officer confirmed that New Bradley Hall will remain open as a residential care home for long term residents: for the duration of their stay for current residents and for the foreseeable future.

That a Stakeholder Working Group comprising Members of both political groups and other stakeholders be set up to consider the full range of the wider implications for all older people in the Borough.

That deliberations around New Bradley Hall would be fed into a much wider review in the light of the impending White Paper and Social Care Bill for a complete review of adult social care strategy, this to be carried out at the highest level by a relevant Scrutiny Committee and that the Stakeholder Working Group above feed into the wider review.

Following further discussion it was:-

RESOLVED

That the Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services be requested to provide Councillor Blood with a written response in relation to the questions raised above regarding New Bradley Hall.

24 SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

RESOLVED

That in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 22.1 Standing Orders be suspended to enable the remaining Agenda Items to be considered.

25 WARD ISSUES

In responding to a further Ward issue raised, the Cabinet Member for Transportation and Community Safety advised that appropriate action would be taken in relation to problems with clearing drains following heavy rain downpours.

Councillor J. Martin requested that a report regarding the work carried out by the Joint Activities Group be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee.

RESOLVED

- (a) That the information reported on at the meeting be noted.
- (b) That the Chief Executive be requested to submit a report to a future meeting of the Committee regarding the work carried out by the Joint Activities Group.

26 SCRUTINY COMMITTEE PUBLICITY

The dates of future meetings of the Council's Scrutiny Committees in the current municipal year were received and noted.

27 DATES OF VENUES OF FUTURE AREA COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The following dates and venues for future meetings of this Area Committee were noted:-

Thursday 8th November, 2012 at the Brier School, Bromley Lane, Kingswinford.

Thursday 7th March, 2013 at the Brier School, Bromley Lane, Kingswinford;

Meetings to commence at 7.00 pm.

The meeting ended at 9.35 pm.

CHAIRMAN

Brierley Hill Area Committee – 8th November 2012

Report of the Director of Children’s Services

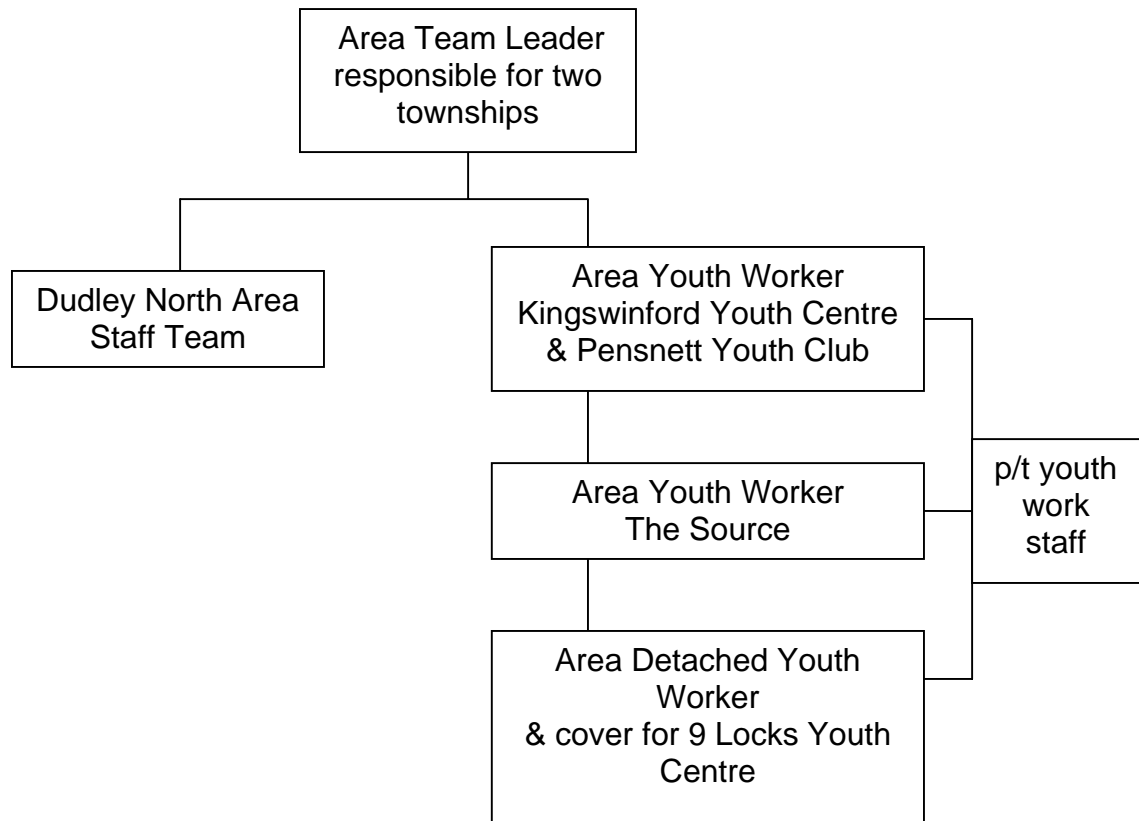
Youth Service Report

Purpose of Report

1. To update the Committee on the Youth Service provision for the Brierley Hill Area.

Background

2. Youth work delivery supports young people’s personal and social development. Through the provision of a range of interventions including targeted support, signposting, strong social support networks that develop and strengthen resilience and access to safe and supportive environments to challenge and be challenged, young people are able to raise aspirations and to contribute to decision making amongst peers and the wider community. “... involvement in activities of this nature is having a significant impact on the confidence and self esteem of young people” Dudley Inspection of Safeguarding and looked after children January 2012
3. Youth work is not bound by time limits and some young people will dip in and out influenced by immediate needs and interests. Others will maintain a long term relationship with the service often volunteering peer support and becoming senior members and part time staff.
4. During 2011/12 and 2012/13 the Youth Service reduced the budget through a combination of natural wastage, voluntary and compulsory redundancies and efficiency savings.
5. Support to targeted groups of young people remained constant and provision to vulnerable groups was prioritised. The following is the current youth service staff structure for the Brierley Hill Area;



6 During the same period a review of youth centres was undertaken. This considered condition, current usage and further capacity to support the local youth work sector. The service has a lettings rate that recognises the financial income of many small local groups who may only meet once or twice per week. The ability to generate income is often limited as is the need and capacity to lease, run and maintain a premise. The Service is well placed to manage the risk associated with centre based activity and has the following centres within the area;

- 9 Locks Youth Centre, Brierley Hill
- The Source, Wordsley
- Kingswinford Youth Centre

7. The current weekly youth service programme within the Brierley Hill Area is;

Day	Time	Centre/Project/Club
Monday	6.30-9.30pm 6.45-9.45pm 6.00-9.00pm	9 Locks Youth Centre Pensnett Youth Club Looked After Young People – Fantastic Fun Club @ K/ford YC
Tuesday	6.00-9.00pm 6.30-9.30pm	The Source Youth Centre Kingswinford Youth Centre
Wednesday	6.00-9.00pm 6.30-9.30pm	The Source Youth Centre 4Us disability youth club detached youth work - Hawbush
Thursday	3.00-4.30pm 6.30-9.30pm 6.45-9.45pm 6.30-9.30pm 6.30-9.30pm	PensMeadow After School Club 9 Locks Youth Centre Pensnett Youth Club Kingswinford Youth Centre Detached youth work - Wordsley
Friday	6.30-9.30pm 5.30-7.30pm	Detached youth work – Kingswinford & High Acres Dell football Project

8. A full time youth worker and some part time staff are trained to deliver workshops and run drop in sessions around sexual health and relationship education. The service and NHS Dudley co-manage the CCard system, a programme providing advice and condom distribution in none clinical settings. Through youth centres and alternative drop ins the service is the largest single agency operating the system. The service has also supported the introduction and development of the NHS Dudley Kickash programme. Grants are available to groups of young people to develop projects that educate others around the dangers of smoking. A number of successful projects have been completed by young people in youth centres and detached work within the area.
9. Detached youth work teams will identify and prioritise routes and neighbourhoods based on information received from West Midlands Police and Community Safety with regard to anti social behaviour.
10. Successful grant applications to Short breaks and the Arts Council has enabled the Source Youth Centre to provide a sensory room, purchase additional equipment as well as provide a greater holiday activity programme for the '4 Us' disability youth club. As numbers have grown both at the club and across the Youth Service's borough wide

disability provision, a need for a service specific medication policy has been identified and staff are currently working on a policy with support from nursing practitioners. An Ofsted 2012-13 survey inspection programme: youth work opportunities for young disabled people which took place in July, identified a number of features of good practice within the youth service.

11. During 2011 a mapping exercise was carried out in each of the areas in order to gain as full a picture as possible of the activities available to young people whether statutory, voluntary or private. The information will assist the local authority to determine sufficiency and consider strategies to address identified gaps.
12. To support the above and build local voluntary capacity to provide universal youth activities, a Small Capacity Grant was made available in quarter four of 2011/12. 28 local groups received a grant of between £500.00 and £1,000.00 in order to maintain and/or extend the activities that they offered during 2012/13. Of the 28 groups 10 are based within the Brierley Hill Area. The Directorate of Children's Services has continued to allocate funds known as the Youth Opportunity Fund. Administered through the Youth Service young people are able to access grants of up to £500.00 from a total fund of £40,000.00 divided equally between the five areas and borough wide projects.
13. As the Operating Authority for Dudley's Duke of Edinburgh Award, a more cost effective and efficient model of co-ordination was introduced in 2011 whilst still supporting the individual units in order to meet their responsibilities with regard to safety and assessment.

The following units meet within the Area;

- 2156 Squadron ATC
- Crestwood School
- Kingswinford School
- Kingswinford Youth Centre
- Merryhill
- 1st Pensnett Boys Brigade
- Summerhill
- Wordsley School

14. The Youth Service has a long established commitment to youth participation including co-ordinating and supporting the United Kingdom Youth Parliament project and Dudley Youth Council. The Brierley Hill Area Youth Forum feeds in to both as well as accessing other opportunities to develop democracy and campaigning skills. Young people within the Area contributed to the borough wide survey of young people aged 13 to 19 years (25 with a

disability) completed in 2011/12. The contributing stakeholders included West Midlands Police, Dudley Council for Voluntary Services, young people and NHS Dudley.

An accessible survey was provided in order to ensure greater response from disabled young people and a total of 1,694 were returned. The questions asked young people to comment on 'places to go and things to do', 'making a positive contribution', 'education, employment, training and transport', 'health services and education' and 'staying safe'. The results were analysed by Corporate Policy and Research and the findings disseminated to support strategic planning. It is proposed to repeat the survey in 2013/14. The survey results can be found at www.dudley.gov.uk/education-and-learning/youth-service.

15. As the Service moves forward the priority is to continue to develop 'teen' centres that act as a hub for a combination of targeted, open access, health and other support services for young people. Young people will continue to be actively involved in shaping the services delivered. In addition, the Service will continue to facilitate the capacity building of the voluntary youth sector in order that they are enabled to deliver the majority of universal provision.

Finance

16. The youth service offer within this area is achievable within the 12/13 youth service budget for Brierley Hill area of £359,220 and elements of the universal youth service budget that total £547,650 in 12/13.

Law

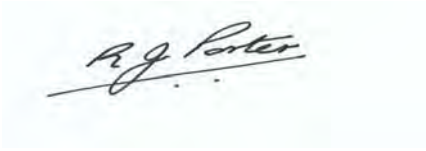
17. The Council can do anything incidental thereto, conducive thereto, or which facilitates the discharge of this function under section 111 of the Local Government Act 1972.
18. Under the Education and Inspections Act 2006, there is a statutory duty on local authorities to secure young people's access to sufficient educational and recreational leisure-time activities.

Equality Impact

19. Services are provided with regard to disadvantaged young people and all young people's needs. The work carried out promotes and ensures that young people are actively involved in shaping and improving services that are provide for them.

Recommendations

20. The Brierley Hill Area Committee notes the report.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jane Porter', is written over a light blue rectangular background.

.....
Jane Porter
Director of Children's Services

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Head of Youth Service
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Brierley Hill Area Committee - Thursday 8th November 2012

Report of the Director of Adult, Community & Housing Services

Beech Road, Kingswinford

Purpose of Report

1. To update Members on issues relating to a specific area in Beech Road. A site made up of ground floor shops, maisonettes above and a garage block.

Background

2. To summarise the report of 28th June; the issues that concerned Members were the disused shops (only one operates as a convenience store) vandalism and fly tipping. It was noted that despite ongoing issues the properties remain popular (largely because of the location) and one maisonette is owned.
3. It was noted that Registered Social Landlords (RSLs) had looked at the site but did not consider it as a viable development site.
4. Members requested that a feasibility study was undertaken.

Current Position

5. Weekly visits are made to the location to address any issues that may have arisen and in particular anything associated with Health & Safety. The Housing Manager makes spot checks when in the area.
6. It is recognised that remedial work to the block would not address the issues highlighted earlier in this report. We are currently exploring with the Police, their offer of assistance (through the Payback scheme), with the cutting back and clearing of overgrown vegetation.
7. It is intended that before plans and costings can be made public that consultation should first take place with the residents who are directly affected.
8. The new HRA (Housing Revenue Account) regime places the Council in a different position and able to take some decisions locally. Cabinet has already taken the decision to replace right to buy sales with new build properties accepting that it is unlikely to be like for like and accepting that receipts will need to be pooled and potentially added to, to make any programme viable.

9. The way forward and in line with the Council's agenda to increase the supply of affordable social homes, will be that all potential development sites (of which Beech Road could be one) will be assessed with decisions taken on a site by site basis to determine property mix.

Finance

10. Right to buy receipts and budgetary provision to be made with the HRA capital programme will determine the level of new build activity.

Law

11. Provisions relating to the Council housing stock are contained in the Housing Act 1985.

Equality Impact

12. This report in itself has no implications for equality impact. A new build programme would necessitate an Equality Impact Assessment.

Recommendation

13. Members are asked to note the contents of the report.



.....
On behalf of Andrea Pope-Smith
Director of Adult, Community & Housing Services

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Brierley Hill Area Committee – 8th November 2012

Report of the Chief Executive

The Work of the Joint Activities Group

Purpose of Report

1. The purpose of this report is to provide information to the Area Committee Meeting in respect of the work of the Joint Activities Group as requested earlier in the year.

Background

2. The Joint Activities Group is a sub-group within safe and sound (Dudley's Community Safety Partnership) partnership structure.

The Joint Activities Group is accountable to the Crime Reduction Implementation Group who is in turn accountable to safe & sound Strategic Board.

3. The Joint Activities Group. (J.AG.) is chaired by the Performance and Commissioning Manager who is based within the Local Authority's Community Safety Team.
4. The Joint Activities Group is a multi agency group that meets monthly to develop joint medium and long term actions to address crime and disorder issues.

The group consider information from all partners and focuses its discussion on victims, location and offenders, that pose the greatest threat to crime and disorder and which provide the maximum opportunity to resolve problems.

5. Partners that attend JAG include:
 - West Midlands Police
 - British Transport Police
 - West Midlands Fire Service
 - Youth Services
 - Trading Standards
 - Youth Offending Service
 - Communications and Public Affairs
 - Housing Services
 - CCTVCommunity Safety Team
 - Domestic Abuse Co-ordinator
 - Community Cohesion Manager
 - ASB Project Co-Coordinator

Other partners contribute to the JAG agenda by exception work and having issues raised with them rather than attending every JAG meeting, for example the Department of Urban Environment -street cleansing, green care and waste enforcement.

6. The work of the Joint Activities Group contributes to delivery against safe & sound's priorities which for 2012/13 are as follows: -

Community Safety Partnership Priorities 2012-13 (All of equal importance)

- Improve town centre safety
- Improve quality of life in key neighbourhoods
- Increase the understanding of Dudley's Youth and Young People
- Tackle re-offending
- Reduce repeat victimisation.
- Safeguarding vulnerable groups and ensure appropriate signposting and access to support services
- Manage community tensions and improve community cohesion.

In addition to the intelligence and crime analysis reports JAG develops action plans against agreed priorities and commissions activity accordingly. It undertakes to monitor and evaluate activities and promote achievements. It has ownership for delivering co-ordinated partnership working to impact upon key crime areas identified as a priority and which have an impact on overall crime for the borough.

7. Making strong links with other groups to ensure work is taken forward and 'doing the right thing' for victims and the vulnerable is a key theme from JAG. JAG has reciprocal working and intelligence arrangements with both Safeguarding Children and Adults boards.
8. Below are examples of work undertaken by the Joint Activities Group and are a snap shot and not an exhaustive list.

JAG undertakes each year its seasonal campaigns. JAG is currently operating its Darker Nights campaign aimed at reducing opportunities for offenders to commit serious acquisitive crime and ASB. The operation deploys a number of tactics including awareness raising campaigns, crime prevention advice, bespoke activities in key neighbourhoods and diversionary measures.

JAG is currently planning its Christmas campaign to reduce crime and disorder over the festive period.

Operation Spotlight- The aim of this operation was to prevent repeat victims of burglaries, raise offenders awareness of the increased likelihood of being apprehended and to reassure victims and their neighbours that positive action was taking place.

The operation was conducted by officers visiting victims of house burglaries and supplying them with DNA property marking kits a product that irrefutably links criminals to crime scenes. Repeat victim of burglary rate fell from the local average of 6.8% to 1.7%.

Operation Teamwork- Partners and the community working together to restore pride in communities through intense activity which included litter picks, surgeries and housing advice.

Rogue Traders scheme “Who’s after your money?”. To deter rogue trader activity in the borough raising awareness and protecting vulnerable people in our communities.

JAG reacts not only to seasonal campaigns but also issues causing the most concern at any one time to a community. Rising number of complaints regarding ‘Off Road Motorcycles’ was tackled by raising awareness and providing support for those affected. Delivering messages around the law, health, tenancy conditions and noise abatement the leaflet produced aims to reduce the incidents. This is currently a piece of work under evaluation.

Other campaigns and activities are our Drop Dead Gorgeous campaign around the dangers of mixing alcohol and cocaine, Operation Stealth reducing metal thefts, Operation Rattrap reducing vehicle crime and Operation Capture reducing burglaries are all co-ordinated through JAG with the aim of reducing serious acquisitive crime.

JAG instigated and co-ordinated efforts to reduce cases of domestic abuse during sporting events fuelled by alcohol. During the European football championships a high profile Booze and Abuse campaign an innovative marketing campaign using beer mats and window vinyl’s to deliver a hard hitting message was used.

The work undertaken by JAG has contributed to making Dudley the safest borough in the West Midlands and to the continued reduction in the number of victims and incidents of crime and disorder.

- 9 In addition to the seven overarching priorities for the Community Safety Partnership that are referred to in paragraph 6 of this Report, three Vulnerable Localities have also been identified through Dudley Borough’s Strategic Assessment. These Vulnerable Localities are Pensnett (Brockmoor and Pensnett Ward), Wrens Nest Estate (Castle and Priory Ward) and Kates Hill (St. Thomas Ward).

Additional work in these localities has included: -

- To reduce serious acquisitive crime particularly burglary capture houses have been installed in Brockmoor and Pensnett and Kates Hill- Locations are secret.
- ASB off road leaflets delivered by PCSOs to all of these locations.
- Work with petrol stations Neighbourhood Police Teams/Fire Service to ensure petrol not sold to underage purchasers.
- Fens Pool area clean up organised by Princes’s Trust but with a partnership input.
- Young Fire-fighter course delivered at Burton Rd Fire Station 4 out of 8 delegates from priority areas.
- UV marker pens provided to boiler installers to mark boilers and copper cylinders in void houses.

Finance

10. There are no direct financial implications arising from this report for the Committee

Law

11. Section 2 Local Government Act 2000 enables the council to do anything which it considers likely to achieve the promotion or improvement of the economic, social or environmental well-being of the borough.

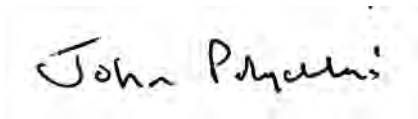
The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and subsequent amendments as well as the Police and Justice Act 2006 and the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 are of particular relevance to the Community Safety Partnership

Equality Impact

- 12 Young people as well as adults have been consulted in respect of setting partnership priorities for 2012/13

Recommendation

13. It is recommended that the Committee notes the contents of this report



.....
John Polychronakis
Chief Executive

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Brierley Hill Area Committee – 8th November, 2012

Consultation on the Review of Area Committees

Report of Scrutiny Chairs

Purpose

1. To outline proposals for a review of Area Committees. These proposals are subject to a consultation period from 1st October to 9th November 2012. Recommendations will then be submitted to the Cabinet and Council in November, 2012.

Background

2. Scrutiny Committee Chairs met on 18th July and 19th September 2012 to discuss the existing Area Committee arrangements and options for change. They were concerned to address three key questions:-
 - What should area/neighbourhood meetings achieve?
 - How should they operate?
 - How do we move forward to change Area Committees?

This report draws from Members' discussion on these questions and sets out a proposal for a preferred option.

3. **The need to change Area Committee arrangements**

There is a general consensus that while Area Committees were useful following their establishment in 2000, subsequently they have become less relevant and appropriate. Some of the concerns around Area Committees are set out below:-

- They are too bureaucratic and formal, which is off-putting for local people to become interested and involved in;
- There is insufficient time devoted to local issues, and for the public to have an opportunity to comment on, or raise items;
- Meetings are an unsatisfactory mix of community engagement and council decision making;
- As there are only three meetings a year, this makes the Area Committees insufficiently responsive to local issues. There needs to be more regular opportunities for local people to discuss issues and engage with Elected Members;

- The Area Committee boundaries are in general, too large, and smaller neighbourhood groupings would be preferable;
- They involve too much officer resource to attend each meeting;
- There is inconsistency in the links with other local events such as the PACT meetings, the Citizen First Panels etc.

4. **Purpose and Format**

It is proposed that in future, Community Forums should be centred around the democratic representational role of local ward Councillors, therefore all Directorates should ensure that ward Councillors are briefed about key issues affecting their wards. The principal focus of Community Forums should be the opportunity for local people to engage with Councillors to discuss local issues.

5. There are clear links to the Government's Localism agenda and the principles of the Localism Act 2011 in terms of effective community engagement. Therefore, while members would take a lead role in a meeting, there should be a clear focus on community engagement and members should encourage community participation.
6. To assist in developing that role, the Council will consider advice from Dudley Council for Voluntary Service (DCVS), drawing on their experience of managing community events and make use of a series of development sessions for Members before the launch of the new Community Forums.
7. In addition, information is available about recent work nationally and locally which considers the democratic role of elected members in the context of the Localism Act. This advice could be used in future Member development sessions.

8. **Geography**

The geographic coverage of the Community Forums ideally should be less than those of the Area Committees.

9. Various options have been considered, all based on existing ward geography and all returning a greater number of forum areas focussing on smaller, more local areas. The options put forward were based on 8, 9, 10 and 12 forum areas. Inevitably, some groupings are more naturally aligned than others and are easier to describe. However, any change to one boundary cannot fail to have knock-on consequences across the rest of the Borough.
10. The preferred option of Scrutiny Chairs is the 9 forum model in recognition of the need to keep to a manageable minimum the support resource required. This is shown as Appendix 1.

11. This proposal creates areas that vary between 25,044 and 47,899 in terms of whole population (2010 estimates). See Appendix 2 for details. In particular, the Scrutiny Chairs recognised that the largest Forum would be in Halesowen and noted that this represented the current Halesowen Area Committee with the exception of the Cradley and Wollescote ward. In putting forward this preferred option, Scrutiny Chairs acknowledged that consultation would be necessary with all ward Councillors and the public before a final decision is taken by the Council.
12. It is important to note that flexibility can be retained so that, for example, members and the public should be able to attend adjoining forums on matters that transcend boundaries, if they wish.
13. **Management and Resourcing**
Firstly, the new structure is to be funded from existing resources.
14. Meetings will be less bureaucratic and move away from stereotype “Council Committee” format:-
 - Forums to meet in locally accessible venues (5 meetings per year);
 - Focus on public forum/ward issues and area funding;
 - Standard times of all meetings to be 6.30pm – 8.30pm (making it easier to publicise across the Borough);
 - Removal of microphone/sound system;
 - No special meetings to be called in view of increased frequency;
 - Rooms to be set out informally;
 - Officer attendance to be only one Senior Officer and a Democratic Services Officer to take a note of issues requiring action/response (bullet point informal minutes);
 - No written committee reports;
 - No separate working groups/pre-meetings (except for discussing funding applications if necessary). However, local ward meetings can take place on specific issues should ward councillors wish to arrange these.
15. However, it is important to ensure that there is an audit trail of the business of meetings and what happens to issues raised at them, otherwise there is scope for community issues to be lost with no apparent action outcome. For example, an issue might have a number of “destinations” depending on its nature, including:-
 - Straightforward service response from the appropriate Directorate;
 - Report to a Scrutiny Committee; a Regulatory Committee; a Cabinet Member or the Cabinet and Full Council;
 - Referred to local partners such as police, fire, health;
 - Bullet point Forum minutes to be reported in White Book to full Council.

16. Communication and Media

Community Forums will be publicised through all available channels such as Council website, Twitter, Facebook, media releases. Other publicity to be more targeted depending on local issues identified by ward Councillors rather than a 'blanket' approach.

17. Dates to be programmed in the Council Calendar with all Community Forums meeting in the same week (i.e. from Monday – Thursday), but ensuring that neighbouring Forums are not on the same night. This makes it easier to publicise meetings during identified 'democracy weeks' and councillors to attend neighbouring Forums as necessary.

18. Agendas to be focussed on local issues, with input from partners when necessary to avoid duplication with other meetings.

19. Venue

The proposal is to use existing community centres or venues provided by local groups, although these may need to be augmented by other premises where appropriate. However, this is a matter that can be left to local discretion.

20. The Way Forward

The Scrutiny Chairs have considered how to take this forward as follows:-

- Approve a process of consultation with Members of the Council, partner organisations and the general public during October/early November 2012 (based on the preferred option);
- Special meeting of the Cabinet to be held 13th November 2012 with a view to making recommendations to full Council on 26th November 2012.

21. A development programme for both members and supporting officers to be arranged between December 2012 and February 2013.

22. New Forums to be launched in February 2013 (the Area Committees previously programmed in 2013 will no longer take place).

23. Build in a process of ongoing review to ensure the new arrangements remain flexible. Community Forum Chairs, Vice Chairs and Lead Officers to meet regularly (i.e. after each cycle initially) with a full review after 12 months.

24. The Scrutiny Committee Chairs, at their meeting on 19th September 2012, recommended that the proposals in this report be accepted as the preferred option for consultation.

Finance

25. Costs will be met within existing budgetary allocations.
26. Area Grant allocations will remain as £10,000 per ward. Funding to be allocated by the Director of Corporate Resources on the recommendation of each Community Forum.
27. Members' allowances payments to be retained for the Chair and Vice-Chair of the new Community Forums but these will be contained within the existing budget allocation (pending a review of the Members Allowances Scheme in 2013).

Law

28. Area Committees are currently established in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 1972.

Equality Impact

29. The report takes into account the Council's policies on equality and diversity.

Recommendations

30. That comments on developing the proposals in this report be submitted to the Director of Corporate Resources by the deadline of 9th November, 2012.
31. That comments and views received during the consultation period be collated and considered by the Cabinet and Council during November, 2012.

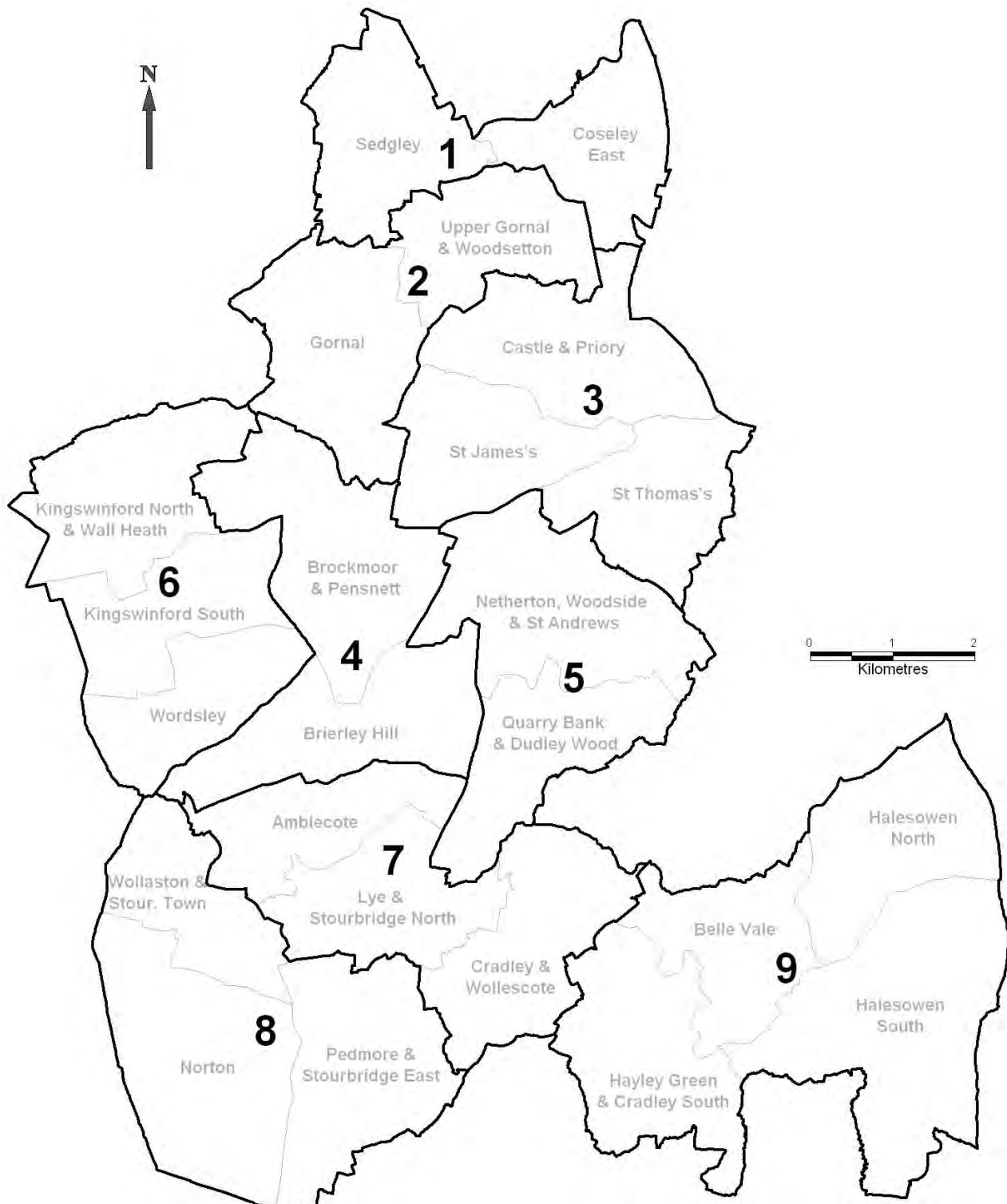
Please submit comments to:

Philip Tart
Director of Corporate Resources
The Council House,
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West Midlands DY1 1HF

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9 Forum Model In Relation To Electoral Ward Boundaries



Source: Corporate Policy & Research, Dudley M.B.C.
Produced by: NL, 20/09/2012, Corporate Policy & Research Team, Dudley M.B.C.
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APPENDIX 2 : Indicative Population Figures For Community Areas: 9 Forum Model

Area No.	No. of Wards	Electoral Wards Covered	Population	Variance From Average Population
1	2	Coseley East / Sedgley	25,044	- 9,107
2	2	Gornal / Upper Gornal and Woodsetton	26,133	- 8,018
3	3	Castle and Priory / St. James's / St. Thomas's	41,848	+ 7,697
4	2	Brierley Hill / Brockmoor and Pensnett	26,483	- 7,668
5	2	Netherton, Woodside and St. Andrews / Quarry Bank and Dudley Wood	27,462	- 6,689
6	3	Kingswinford North and Wall Heath / Kingswinford South / Wordsley	37,597	+ 3,446
7	3	Amblecote / Lye and Stourbridge North / Cradley and Wollescote	38,568	+ 4,417
8	3	Norton / Pedmore and Stourbridge East / Wollaston and Stourbridge Town	36,328	+ 2,177
9	4	Belle Vale / Halesowen North / Halesowen South / Hayley Green and Cradley South	47,899	+ 13,748
		<i>Average Population</i>	34,151	

Source: 2010 Mid-Year Population Estimates, Office for National Statistics (ONS)

Notes:

1. The population figures are based on aggregations of Electoral Wards.
2. 2010 is the latest year for which Mid-Year Population Estimates are available. The scope of these Mid-Year estimates is limited to population figures by age and sex; other demographic and socio-economic data at the ward level is available but must be sourced from the 2001 Census.
3. Data from the 2011 Census at the Ward level is due to be published in the second phase of 2011 Census outputs scheduled for November 2012 - February 2013.
This will enable the data presented here to be updated to give a more accurate picture of the population.
4. The summed variance from average population may not equal the average population due to rounding.

BRIERLEY HILL AREA COMMITTEE – 8TH NOVEMBER 2012

AREA COMMITTEE GRANTS

REPORT OF THE AREA LIAISON OFFICER

PURPOSE

1. To consider recommendations made in respect of applications received for funding from this year's Area Committee Grants budget and to update Members on progress to date.

2.0 APPLICATIONS CONSIDERED SINCE THE PREVIOUS MEETING

- 2.1 In accordance with the Constitution under delegated responsibility, the Area Liaison Officer, in consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair (and the relevant Ward Members as appropriate), is authorised to determine any matters of urgency that cannot reasonably be delayed until the next ordinary meeting of the Area Committee subject to details of the action being reported back to the next available meeting of the Area Committee for information.
- 2.2 Since the previous meeting, the following applications have been determined as shown:
- 2.3 St Mary's Church Centre, Kingswinford. £5,768 requested for general improvements of facilities and to improve disabled access. Application approved.
- 2.4 Wordsley Community Association £5,370 requested for computer equipment and to upgrade the flooring at the centre. Application approved.
- 2.5 Fens Pool Voluntary Association £2,164.45 requested for furniture and various items of kitchen equipment. Application approved.
- 2.6 Enlight Projects, £2,370 (50% of £4,740 request made to both Brierley Hill and Central Dudley Area Committees) to purchase equipment to support the work of the group at Saltwells and High Oak Youth Clubs (shared funding arrangement with Central Dudley Area Committee). Application approved.
- 2.7 Top Church Training, £5,000 requested to support the Project Worker's salary for one year and to finance administration costs to set up the Young People's Allowance Fund. Application approved.
- 2.8 The Change Consortium, £4,957 requested to purchase musical equipment for The People's Orchestra. Application refused on the basis of no direct community benefit for wards within the Brierley Hill area. However, the application has been forwarded to the other Area Committees for consideration.

3.0 **NEW APPLICATIONS TO BE CONSIDERED BY THE AREA COMMITTEE
GRANTS ALLOCATIONS WORKING GROUP**

- 3.1 2156 (Brierley Hill) Squadron, Air Training Corps. £5,000 requested to purchase First Aid, IT and adventure training equipment.
- 3.2 DMBC Environmental Management Division. £3,512 requested towards the purchase, erection and energy usage of installing four Christmas trees in the Committee area. An application for similar funding has been submitted to the other Area Committees.
- 3.3 Wordsley Festival. £5,000 requested to fund the 2013 festival and associated events.
- 3.4 The Samaritans. £5,000 requested to replace ineffective CCTV security system, to improve security lighting and to provide a secure door entry system.
- 3.5 High Oak Youth and Community Centre. £5,000 requested to redecorate and refurbish their premises.

4.0 **FINANCE**

- 4.1 The delegated budget allocation of £50,000 is funded from the Council's mainstream resources. The current position on expenditure will be reported verbally to the meeting by the Area Liaison Officer.

5.0 **LAW**

- 5.1 The Area Committee may incur capital expenditure by providing grants to local organisations provided it is authorised to do so by statute, for example, recreational activities under section 19 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 and generally under section 2 Local Government Act 2000 which permits a Council to do anything which improves the social, economic or environmental wellbeing of the Council's area.

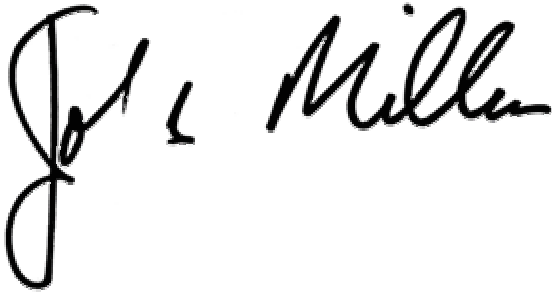
6.0 **EQUALITY IMPACT**

- 6.1 The proposals take account of the Council's policy relating to equal opportunities.

7.0 **RECOMMENDATION**

- 7.1 That the approval of application under delegated arrangements as set out in section 2 of this report be noted.

7.2 That Members approve the recommendations of the Area Committee Allocations Working Group concerning the applications set out in section 3 of this report to be reported at the meeting.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Millar'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J'.

JOHN MILLAR
AREA LIAISON OFFICER

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DUDLEY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

BRIERLEY HILL AREA COMMITTEE – 8th NOVEMBER, 2012

REPORT OF THE BRIERLEY HILL AREA LIAISON OFFICER

**MATTERS RAISED AT THE BRIERLEY HILL AREA COMMITTEE
ON 28TH JUNE, 2012**

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. To update Committee on a number of issues raised at the 28th June, 2012, Brierley Hill Area Committee that relate to services provided by the Council.

BACKGROUND

2. The Council provides a number of services that have considerable impact on local communities.
3. Requests for service and information are received at Area Committee on a regular basis from both members and the general public, relating to a range of services. Few enquiries can be answered immediately, with many prompting further investigation, feasibility studies and public consultation, prior to being reported back to Committee.

FINANCE

5. There are no immediate financial implications arising from this report.

LAW

6. Anti-Social Behaviour Orders are largely governed by the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.
7. Provisions relating to Highways including trees thereon are contained in the Highways Act 1980.

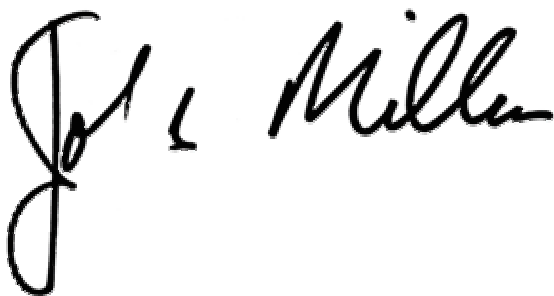
8. Provisions relating to the Council's Housing stock are contained in the Housing Act 1985.
9. Section 51 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 places a duty on the Council as Waste Disposal Authority for its areas to provides places where its residents may deposit their household waste free of charge.
10. Traffic Regulation Orders are made under Section 1 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.
11. The Traffic Calming Act 1992 amends the Highways Act 1980 to allow works to be carried out to promote safety and to preserve or improve the environment.
12. Section 111 of the Local Government Act 1972 authorises the Council to do anything which is calculated to facilitate or is conducive or incidental to the exercise of any of its functions.
13. Section 2 of the Local Government Act 2000 allows the Council to do anything that it considers is likely to promote or improve the economic, social or environmental wellbeing of its area.

EQUALITY IMPACT

14. This report is consistent with the Council's Equality and Diversity policy. There is no direct effect on children or young people.

RECOMMENDATION

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



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Brierley Hill Area Committee Liaison Officer

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Background papers: Progress on matters raised (appendix 1)

**PROGRESS REPORT ON MATTERS RAISED AT THE BRIERLEY HILL AREA
COMMITTEE ON THE 28TH JUNE 2012**

YOUTH ISSUES

Issue – reference minute 7

Following a presentation by the Area Team Leader, Early Years, Youth and Education Services on the youth services activity taking place in the Brierley Hill Area Committee wards, the Director of Children's Services was requested to:

- a) Submit a report in relation to the activities carried out by the Look Out Project to a future meeting of the Committee.
- b) Provide details to Councillor Foster of the linkages and other partners that the Youth Service were involved with
- c) Submit a report to the next meeting of the Committee detailing further work undertaken with young people.

Response:

- a) The Look Out Project is a faith based organisation that does not fall within the responsibility of the Council. However, Councillor John Martin was provided with a link to the website which provides details in relation to Project.
- b) The information as requested by Councillor Foster was provided by Amanda Grove, Head of Youth Service
- c) A report detailing further work undertaken with young people will be provided at the meeting of Area Committee on the 8th November.

PUBLIC FORUM

Issue – reference minute 14 (e)

A written question was submitted from a member of the public regarding the parking bay close to Bell Street, Brierley Hill and a request that this be monitored as members of the public were parking in the bay all day, thus deterring customers from visiting retailers and suppliers failing to deliver goods due to the lack of parking and unloading facilities. The Group Engineer, Traffic and Transportation undertook to investigate the issues raised and respond direct to the questioner.

Response:

A letter was sent by the Group Engineer, Traffic and Transportation to the member of the public concerned, advising on the enforcement of parking restrictions at the location and responding to a request that the one hour limited waiting time period might be reduced.

The member of public was advised that parking restrictions for either one or two hours are the optimum in shopping areas, because either of these waiting periods assists most types of businesses than in a shorter period of time.

In addition, Parking Management have responded to a number of enforcement requests from the member of the public and site visits have been made. The time limited parking bays at this location are enforced, together with all the other parking restrictions in Brierley Hill.

Issue – reference minute 14 (f)

A written question was submitted from a member of the public expressing concerns that new contracts may be issued to four further pharmacies in the Brierley Hill Area of the Area Committee and the affect that this would have on the current pharmacies situated in the area. Members responded direct to the questioner expressing their support for no further pharmaceutical licences to be issued to new pharmacies in the above area.

It was resolved that a letter be written by Members of the Committee to the Black Country Pharmaceutical Society expressing their support for no further pharmaceutical licences to be issued to new Pharmacies within the Brierley Hill area of the Area Committee.

Response:

In reply to letters sent by Democratic Services on behalf of Area Committee, responses were received from the NHS and the Department for Health that were forwarded to the questioner.

BRIERLEY HILL HIGH STREET WORKING GROUP – HIGH STREET ENHANCEMENTS

Issue – reference minute 18

Arising from the report on the proposed enhancements to High Street, Brierley Hill as part of the Brierley Hill Sustainable Access Network major scheme, members of the public raised concerns in relation to the restriction on parking and the affect that this would have on deliveries and trade.

Following further discussions Members agreed that all traders within the Brierley Hill High Street should be consulted further in relation to the proposals.

The Director of the Urban Environment was requested to convene a meeting with all Traders within the Brierley Hill High Street, the Cabinet Member for Transportation and Community Safety and appropriate Officers to further consult on proposals in relation to the High Street enhancements.

Response:

The meeting was convened on 27th September when all traders and occupiers of the High Street between its junction with Venture Way and Level Street were invited by letter. Eight representatives attended the meeting which was held at the Concord Market where they were able to express their views on the current situation and preferences for future management of the road space. It was generally accepted that the need to continue servicing the retail units from the High Street was paramount but it was also recognised that the availability of parking had become a problem in particular with disabled badge users.

The Council were also encouraged to bring forward a solution at the earliest opportunity to safeguard investment in the town.

SANDRINGHAM PLACE, WORDSLEY.

Issue – reference minute 19

Following a report on issues associated with vacant retail units at Sandringham Place, Wordsley, the Head of Economic Development was requested to provide feedback to the Vice-Chair following discussions with the owner of the three properties referred to in the report.

Response:

The owners of the vacant retail units at Sandringham Place have been contacted as to their intentions regarding the future of the units, to request that they carry out improvements and to offer guidance on any redevelopment proposals. To date, no response has been received, however, officers continue to seek feedback on future proposals.

BEECH ROAD, KINGSWINFORD

Issue – reference minute 20

Following the presentation on the condition of the flats at Beech Road, Kingswinford, the Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services was requested to submit a report to the next meeting of the Area Committee updating Members on the outcome of the options appraisal and associated costs in relation to the flats at Beech Road, Kingswinford.

Response:

A report updating Members will be provided at the meeting of Area Committee on the 8th November.

WARD ISSUES

Issue – reference minute 23

In response to matters raised by Councillor Blood in relation to New Bradley Hall, the Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services was requested to provide a written response.

Response:

A Members Working Group, supported by officers has been set up by Councillor Waltho. The purpose of the group is to determine the long term future of New Bradley Hall and the wider options available. The Working Group is also intended to reflect on the whole model of Adult Social Care for Older People in Dudley. The Working Group has met once to date and continues to consider this sensitive issue.

At this time new Bradley Hall remains open and will remain to so until such time as a key decision has been taken. As places become vacant they are being filled with short term placements.

Cllr. David Vickers, as the Shadow Cabinet Member for Adult & Community Services, is a member of the Working Group.

Issue – reference minute 25

Councillor Martin requested that a report regarding the work carried out by the Joint Activities Group be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee.

Response:

A report detailing the work carried out by the Joint Activities Group will be provided at the meeting of Area Committee on the 8th November.

ENDS