

**SPECIAL MEETING OF  
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD**

Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> July, 2013 at 6.00 p.m.  
in Committee Room 2, The Council House, Dudley

**PRESENT:-**

Councillor Ridley (Chair)

Councillor Tyler (Vice Chair)

Councillors Blood, Boleyn, Caunt, Islam, James and Kettle

**Officers:-**

Assistant Director, Housing Strategy and Private Sector - Lead Officer to the Committee; Assistant Director Environmental Management and Head of Environmental Health and Trading Standards (both Directorate of the Urban Environment) and Mr. J. Jablonski (Directorate of Corporate Resources)

6. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors Hale and Marrey.

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7. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

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8. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 29<sup>th</sup> May 2013, be approved as a correct record and signed.

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9. **OUTSTANDING ISSUES FROM PREVIOUS SCRUTINY COMMITTEES**

A report of the Lead Officer was submitted on outstanding items of business from the previous Scrutiny Committee regime.

The report identified two issues relating to the consideration of the report of the Director of the Urban Environment on Section 17 – Crime and Disorder Act 1998 considered by the former Community Safety and Community Services Scrutiny Committee on 14<sup>th</sup> March and a second issue around the strategic direction of the library service and its funding issues.

This latter issue was considered at paragraphs 13-15 of the report submitted and it was noted that in respect of the financial issues there would be an opportunity at the November meeting of the Adult, Community and Housing Services Scrutiny Committee to consider this as part of the budget consultation process and on the second point at present there were no specific plans for restructuring Libraries and therefore there was no consultation issues that could be raised with Members.

Regarding the Section 17 Crime and Disorder Act 1998 report the Community Safety and Community Services Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2013 had, because of Member concerns referred to in the report submitted and in the minutes of that Committee, also submitted, resolved to defer further consideration of the report to a future meeting of the Committee in order for the report to be effectively scrutinised.

Following the meeting a note, attached as Appendix C to the report submitted, had been sent to Members of the former Scrutiny Committee from the Assistant Director Culture and Leisure giving a series of very detailed answers to the concerns Members raised.

Members reiterated the concerns they had had with the report and presentation of the report at the former Scrutiny Committee meeting and an apology was given on behalf of the Directorate of the Urban Environment in relation to these matters.

Following a brief presentation of the report, and its Appendices, by the Lead Officer the Assistant Director Environmental Management commented further on the content of paragraphs contained in Appendix C to the report with particular reference to the Street and Green Care Budgetary Cuts – Impact on Section 17 Duties, Flycapture Statistics for 2011/12 – An explanation and Performance of Street Lighting.

Arising from the comments made the following principal points were raised:-

- The chart relating to Flycapture statistics for 2011/12 – An e4 explanation, contained in paragraph 2 of Appendix C to the report submitted, was considered to be confusing and arising from a further explanation of the information contained in that chart it was noted that the chart actually showed the number of fixed penalty notices issued and recorded incidents of fly tipping together with a red line on the chart which indicated the total number of actions by the Enforcement Team. It was considered that the information shown in the chart should have been presented on two charts with the latter information on a separate chart. Furthermore, it was felt that in order to more accurately convey the good work being undertaken by the Enforcement Team that further details of their work and the areas it was being undertaken in the Borough should be more accurately represented in the Quarterly Corporate Performance Management Report and the Assistant Director, Environmental Management was asked to liaise with the relevant officers in the Chief Executive's Directorate who prepared that report so that the information that was readily available could be included in the quarterly report.
- That in response to comments made by the Chair regarding the lack of information on the level of vandalism in respect of toilets in Coseley the Assistant Director, Environmental Management undertook to look into this matter and respond direct to the Chair.
- Regarding the street cleansing work done to actively develop community involvement in Environmental Improvement Activities referred to in Appendix 1 of the Report submitted to the 14<sup>th</sup> March, 2013 Scrutiny Committee it was agreed that the Assistant Director, Environmental Management e-mail to Members of the Committee the list of the 40 community groups and organisations that were supported in carrying out litter picks.
- That in response to comments made by Members regarding their concerns over the need to find the right balance between expenditure considerations and the impact on antisocial behaviour in relation to street lighting it was reported that any new housing scheme took into account crime figures for the area when a determination as to the level of street lighting was made. Members considered that other factors such as the fear of crime, number of children in the area and antisocial behaviour activity should also be included in the criteria used for the provision of street lighting. It was also suggested that evidence of joint working for example between the relevant police bodies and the lighting officers could be provided.

- In respect of the provision of street lighting to specific areas for example former brown field sites that now contain housing and small businesses and trading estates it was reported that each area was looked at in context and that when provision was being considered Ward Members would be contacted and appropriate other consultation undertaken so as to determine the level of street lighting.
- Arising from consideration of the activities of the Enforcement Section referred to in Appendix 4 of the original Scrutiny Report of 14<sup>th</sup> March 2013 the Head of Environmental Health and Trading Standards undertook to arrange for a written response to be given to Councillor Caunt outlining examples of the work the Enforcement Section undertook in relation to work on antisocial behaviour and complaints received.

Arising from the further detailed consideration given to the Section 17 Crime and Disorder 1998 report it was considered that lessons had been learnt arising from the further consideration given to this issue and that these would be taken forward in the new arrangements for scrutiny that had now been introduced.

#### RESOLVED

That the information contained in the report, and Appendices to the report, submitted on outstanding items of business from the previous Scrutiny Committee regime, be noted and that the officers indicated arrange for the action referred to above to be carried out.

The meeting ended at 6.50 p.m.

CHAIR