

## **STOURBRIDGE AREA COMMITTEE**

Monday 25<sup>th</sup> June, 2012 at 7.00 p.m.  
at Wollaston Community Village Hall,  
Bridgnorth Road, Wollaston, Stourbridge

### **PRESENT-**

Councillors Attwood, Elcock, Hale, Hanif, Herbert, L. Jones, Kettle, Knowles, Lowe, Marrey, Mrs. Martin, Perks, Mrs. Rogers, Mrs. Walker and C. Wilson and, following his co-option to the Committee, Mr. Downing.

### **MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL NOT MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE, WHOM HAVE EXERCISED THEIR ENTITLEMENT TO VOTE AT MEETINGS OF THE STOURBRIDGE AREA COMMITTEE**

Councillors Body, Crumpton and Partridge.

### **OFFICERS:-**

Acting Director of Children's Services (as Lead Officer to the Committee), Assistant Director Planning and Environmental Health and Group Engineer – Traffic and Road Safety (both Directorate of the Urban Environment), Youth and Community Worker, Early Years Youth and Education Services (Mr. Nasser), Principal Tax Accountant (Mrs. Robbins), Mr. T. Holder - Solicitor and Assistant Principal Officer - Democratic Services (Mr. Sanders) - all Directorate of Corporate Resources

### **ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:**

Inspector Lambert (West Midlands Police), Mr Wood and Ms. Winpenny (both West Midlands Fire Service), Councillors Tyler and Mrs. Shakespeare (the latter, on behalf of Margot James, MP) and 25 members of the public.

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

##### **RESOLVED**

That Councillor Attwood be elected Chair of the Committee for the ensuing Municipal Year.

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#### 2. **INTRODUCTORY REMARKS BY CHAIR**

In welcoming new Members, further to the local elections in May, 2012, Chair paid tribute to the service given by former members of the Committee, with particular reference to the late Councillor Adams.

In his address, the Chair asked members of the public who wished to ask questions under Agenda Item No. 12 (Public Forum), to do so by way of completion and submission of the question slips circulated prior to the meeting.

The Chair also indicated his intention that, where a question had been submitted in relation to an issue for which there was a substantive item on the Agenda, the question would be referred for consideration under the substantive item.

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3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Declarations of a Personal Interest, in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct, were made at this juncture by the Members below in relation to the issues indicated:-

Councillors L. Jones and Kettle in Agenda Item No. 13 (Ernest Stevens Trust - Mary Stevens Hospice: Consent for Alterations and to Sub-Let to Lymphcare Ltd.) in view of their Directorships of Mary Stevens Hospice.

Councillors Mrs. Martin and C. Wilson in Agenda Item No. 13 in view of their Trusteeships of Mary Stevens Hospice.

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4. MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 20<sup>th</sup> February, 2012 be approved as a correct record and signed, subject to an amendment to the final paragraph of Minute 48(5) to reflect the specific decision of the Committee that a meeting between the member of the Bowls Club who raised the issue, Councillor Mrs. Martin and relevant officers in the Directorate of the Urban Environment, be arranged.

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5. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR

RESOLVED

That Councillor C. Wilson be appointed Vice-Chair of the Committee for the ensuing Municipal Year.

6. CO-OPTED MEMBERS

A report of the Area Liaison Officer was submitted on the co-option of Members to serve on the Committee for the 2012/13 Municipal Year. The Area Liaison Officer advised that Mr. G. Downing, Miss Hathway and Mr. Owen had indicated their willingness to stand for re-appointment but that the intentions of Mrs. P. Shepherd were currently unknown.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the following persons be re-appointed as co-opted Members to the Committee for 2012/13 Municipal Year, representing the groups or organisations indicated:-  
  
Mr. G. Downing - Local Businesses  
Mr. Ryan Owen and Miss Nadia Hathway - Young People
  - (2) That further enquiries be made to establish the wishes of Mrs Shepherd regarding the continuation of her service as a co-opted member and that the outcome be reported to the next meeting of the Committee.
  - (3) That consideration be given to the appointment of further co-opted Members in accordance with the Protocol for Area Committees.
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7. APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES

A report of the Area Liaison Officer was submitted on the appointment of representatives to various outside organisations for the 2012/13 Municipal Year.

RESOLVED

That appointments to the organisations indicated be made as follows:

- (1) Social Inclusion

<u>Organisation</u>	<u>Representative(s)</u>	<u>Period of Office</u>
Mary Stevens Hospice	The 3 members of the Council for the Pedmore and Stourbridge East Ward	Annual

### Community Associations

Lye Body Building Gym	Councillors Hanif and Herbert	Annual
Lye	The 3 members of the Council for the Lye and Stourbridge North Ward	Annual
Norton	Councillor Elcock	Annual
Withymoor	Councillors Mrs. Martin and Perks	Annual

- (2) That the appointment of both Mrs. Martin and Perks to the Withymoor Community Association be subject to its being ascertained from the Association that they will accept the appointment of two Council representatives, rather than one.

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## 8. RECEIPT OF PETITIONS

The receipt of the following petitions since the previous meeting of the Committee and the action being taken was reported, as follows:-

- (a) a petition from local residents requesting the resurfacing of roads and pavements in Pedmore Court Road, in respect of which it had been indicated that the work would be undertaken early in 2013.
- (b) a petition from local residents, complaining of noise and traffic nuisance emanating from a public house in Stourbridge, both issues in respect of which were under consideration by the Directorate of the Urban Environment.
- (c) a petition opposing proposed tree felling at Stevens Road, Pedmore, which was under consideration by the Directorate of the Urban Environment.

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## 9. YOUTH ISSUES

The Youth and Community Worker, Mr. Nasser, reported orally on activities carried out by the Stourbridge Area Team over the Whitsun holiday, with particular reference to a project which addressed participation in, and promotion of, the Youth Council.

Mr Nasser also reported on activities proposed for four weeks over the school summer holidays, which included a week to be devoted to young people with disabilities. Other activities would involve open sessions, to which young people could register in July. Further details were to be distributed to local schools and through partner agencies. Mr Nasser also indicated that, through 2012, the Area Team would be engaging in a number of Borough-wide activities for young people, and which were aimed at building positive relationships and community cohesion.

In the discussion, Councillor Mrs. Walker referred to activities provided by voluntary organisations in the provision of youth activities, particularly for young people with disabilities, and which she considered extremely useful in the promotion of opportunities for socialisation, rather than being targeted for academic purposes.

#### RESOLVED

That the report now made by the Area Youth Worker and the comments made in the discussion, as indicated above, be noted.

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#### 10. POLICE ISSUES

The new Community Police Inspector for Stourbridge, Inspector Dez Lambert, introduced himself to the Committee and was welcomed by the Chair.

Inspector Lambert then reported orally on issues pertinent to the Stourbridge Area, providing statistical information on crime by category in terms of the numbers and percentages of crimes recorded in comparison with the same 3 month period in the preceding year. For all types of crime, except vehicle crime, which had increased by 10%, the figures had shown a significant decrease, with overall victims of crime having reduced by 26% over the period. In relation to anti-social behaviour, Inspector Lambert invited the Committee and the public to contact the Police should they witness any incidents.

In relation to the issue of vehicular parking at Junction Road, as referred to in Minute No. 45 of the meeting of the Committee held on 20<sup>th</sup> February, 2012, Inspector Lambert confirmed that the position was being monitored and that a visit had been made as recently as 24<sup>th</sup> June. The Inspector confirmed that no recent problems of vehicular obstruction had been noted or reported but acknowledged that this might be to be expected since the football season was not in progress. He confirmed that Junction Road would continue to be monitored.

In relation to the suggested opening of a small area of the Junction Road playing fields for vehicular parking, as referred to in minute number 45 of the meeting of the Committee held on 20<sup>th</sup> February, 2012, a member of the public indicated that a lesser scheme than that referred to in paragraph 6 of the report at Agenda Item No. 20 for this meeting might be feasible and advocated the arrangement of a meeting between residents, the Police and the Council on the issue. The matter was referred to the Group Engineer - Traffic and Road Safety for a written response.

In response to a question, Inspector Lambert reported on the deployment of the local Police during the Olympic Games.

A member of the Halesowen Area Committee, who had transferred her voting rights to the Stourbridge Area Committee, asked for the crime figures for the Cradley and Wollescote Ward to be provided, in response to which Inspector Lambert provided overall figures for Cradley and Foxcote. He indicated that detailed figures could be provided to the Member following the meeting.

In relation to another question by a different Member, Inspector Lambert indicated that the highest numbers of recorded vehicle crime in the area of the Committee had been perpetrated in the Lye and Wollescote Ward. The Inspector also emphasised the role the public could play in reducing vehicle crime if they were to contact the Police if they viewed a situation where they suspected that a crime was to be committed.

In welcoming the installation of CCTV in a particular area, a Member advocated that Ward Councillors should be apprised of when and where these were to be installed. He also suggested that Ward Councillors be contacted by the Police when PACT meetings were to be held in their Wards.

#### RESOLVED

That the information above be noted and that the Group Engineer - Traffic and Transportation be asked to respond in writing to the person who raised the issue of the opening of the section of the Junction Road Playing fields referred to for parking provision.

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11.

#### FIRE SERVICE MATTERS

Mr. Wood gave an oral report on fire matters, giving statistical information in relation to different types of incidents handled by the Fire Service, numbers having remained virtually unchanged since the previous meeting. The figures for accidental fires, both in the home and elsewhere, had reduced. False alarm call-outs had also reduced. Mr Wood indicated that, owing to a more challenging approach from the telephone operators to the caller in determining more exactly the nature of the incident the subject of the call, it had been possible to reduce the level of attendance to incidents.

Mr. Wood reported on current on-going projects involving interface with young people, indicating that Key Stage 2 pupils had been visited in ten schools to provide advice in the areas of fire and road safety and healthy eating. Mr. Wood referred particularly to the work undertaken by the Fire Service in communicating with children on obesity and healthy living issues.

A question was asked by a member of the Committee on the areas most affected by arson, in response to which Mr. Wood agreed to respond direct to the Member. Mr. Wood also responded to a different member on a question regarding a particular incident.

RESOLVED

That the information given by Mr. Wood on behalf of the Fire Service be noted.

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12. PUBLIC FORUM

- (a) A resident of Studley Gate referred to a donation of £2,000 that had been made to the Friends of Swan Pool Park and enquired about what had happened to the monies. The same resident also asked about the provision of benches at Swan Pool Park.

RESOLVED

That these matters be referred to the Assistant Director Planning and Environmental Health for investigation and for a response to be sent to the questioner.

- (b) Two local residents raised concerns about safety arising from the excessive speed of some vehicles using Studley Gate. One of the residents lived close to the brow of the hill and he spoke on the particular dangers caused by speeding vehicles at this section of the road. They were also concerned regarding noise nuisance emanating from speeding vehicles. Other resident living in the locality referred to anti-social behaviour perpetrated by young people at Swan Pool Park, with particular reference to the car park.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the Assistant Director Planning and Environmental Health investigate the complaints about the speeding vehicles at Studley Gate with the Police and arrange for the Directorate of the Urban Environment to re-assess the need for a road safety scheme in the area.

- (2) That the Assistant Director Planning and Environmental Health confer with the Police on the issues of anti-social behaviour now reported.
  - (3) That the issue of the gap by the barrier, as referred to in the discussion, be referred to the Directorate of the Urban Environment for consideration and report back.
- (c) A local resident referred to the poor condition of grass verges in Norton and Wollaston in response to which it was

RESOLVED

That the Assistant Director Planning and Environmental Health look into this matter with Green Care and that she arrange for a detailed response to be sent to the questioner.

- (d) The same resident drew attention to pot holes in the driveway to Wollaston Community Village Centre.

RESOLVED

That this issue be referred to the Directorate of the Urban Environment for a response.

- (e) A member of the public complained of a lack of publicity given to the attendance of Councillors Body, Crumpton and Partridge at this meeting of the Committee and another member of the public questioned their eligibility regarding attendance. The Assistant Principal Officer (Democratic Services) reported on the terms of the resolution of the Annual Council Meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> May, 2012, which permitted Members of other Area Committees to transfer their voting entitlement to a different Area Committee. A revised agenda, in which the names of Councillors Body, Crumpton and Partridge had been added had been circulated to Members and published on the Committee Management Information System in advance of the meeting.
- (f) Councillor Mrs. Martin presented a letter on behalf of the member of the public who had raised the issue of the bowls clubs at Wollescote Hall at the previous meeting of the Committee, as referred to in Minute 48(5), in which he had complained that no action had yet been taken regarding the meeting on the issue the Committee had resolved to be arranged.



In apologising for the delay in the response, the Assistant Director Planning and Environmental Health referred to the complexity of some issues that had had to be resolved before a round table meeting could be arranged, but confirmed that the Council was now in a position to proceed with the meeting.

RESOLVED

That the Assistant Director for Culture and Leisure arrange for the meeting to be held without delay.

- (f) A question by member of the public asking how the figure of £193,000 for the construction of a footpath at Racecourse Lane had been arrived at was referred for consideration with the report on the matter at agenda Item No. 17.

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13. ERNEST STEVENS TRUST - MARY STEVENS HOSPICE: CONSENT FOR ALTERATIONS AND TO SUB-LET TO LYMPHCARE UK

A report of the Director of Corporate Resources was submitted seeking confirmation of the consent granted for alterations to Mary Stevens Hospice and the sub-let of office space at the Lodge at the Hospice to Lymphcare UK. Consent had been granted further to correspondence with the members of the Stourbridge Area Committee for 2011/12, as the then Trustees of the Hospice, in response to which no objections had been received.

RESOLVED

That the consent of the Committee, as Trustees to Mary Stevens Hospice, in permitting alterations and an extension to the Lodge at the Hospice, subject to planning consent, and to its sub-letting to Lymphcare UK, be confirmed.

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14. CAPITAL ALLOCATIONS

(During consideration of this item, Councillor Mrs. Walker declared a personal interest, in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct, in respect of paragraph 12 of the report, in view of her membership of the Amblecote Parochial Church Council).

A report of the Area Liaison Officer was submitted on applications received for funding from the Capital and Revenue budget of the Committee.

RESOLVED

- (1) That grants be made to the organisations below for the purposes indicated:-

<u>Organisation</u>	<u>Purpose of Grant</u>	<u>Amount of Grant</u>
Amblecote Church Hall Committee	Contribution towards the refurbishing and improvement of the stage area, including a new ceiling, stage curtains and installation of a staircase	£2,195.48
Stourbridge Quakers	Contribution towards the cost of rectifying structural defects identified at the premises of the organisation in Scotts Road, Stourbridge	£5,000
Youth 4em	Replacement of a pool table	£750
Saturday Special - Amblecote Christian Centre	Contribution towards the purchase of flags, hats, prizes, medals, t-shirts and picnic lunches in relation to a Saturday Special Olympics Event to be organised by the body	£200
Gigmill Methodist Church	Replacement of old chairs with new chairs, tables and storage trolleys and vertical blinds in connection with the refurbishment of the hall	£5,000

(2) That the action taken by the Area Liaison Officer, in consultation with the then Chair and Vice-Chair, Ward Members and other Members of the Committee in approving grants as set out below under the approved urgency provisions, for the reasons indicated in the report now submitted, be confirmed:-

<u>Organisation</u>	<u>Purpose of Grant</u>	<u>Amount of Grant</u>
4 <sup>th</sup> Stourbridge Wollaston Scouts Group	Contribution towards a project for the replacement and repair of tents and the provision of a marquee for joint activities and briefings	£1,740

Wollescote Replacement of gas boiler £1,440  
and St.  
Andrew's  
Scout Group

- (3) That the application now submitted on behalf of the Ruskin Mill Trust for a grant towards the purchase of four gazebos for the Glasshouse College be deferred in order that alternative options for the supply of the gazebos may be explored and that the matter be referred to the Assistant Director Planning and Environmental Health for the appropriate action to be arranged; and that, should it not be possible to obtain four gazebos from other sources, the matter be referred to the Capital and Revenue Allocations Working Group referred to in Minute (5) below for further consideration.
- (4) That the application by DIYYA for funding towards the provision of toys and laptops be deferred until the next meeting of the Committee to enable investigations to be made into whether or not it might be feasible for assets from the liquidated Humara Project, to which the Committee made a financial contribution, to be transferred to DIYYA.
- (5) That a Capital and Revenue Allocations Working Group of the Committee, comprising the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Committee and one member of each ward, be appointed for the 2012/13 municipal year with the membership indicated below and that, should any ward representative be unable to attend, the Member be permitted to nominate a substitute from the ward to attend:-

Amblecote Ward - Councillor Mrs. Martin

Cradley and Wollescote Ward - Councillor Crumpton

Lye and Stourbridge North Ward - Councillor Lowe

Norton Ward - Councillor Mrs. Rogers

Pedmore and Stourbridge East Ward - Councillor Kettle

Wollaston and Stourbridge Town Ward - Councillor  
Marrey

A report of the Treasurer was submitted seeking consideration for a request to change the purpose of a grant from the Stevens Park and Recreation Ground Foundation Trust approved previously.

RESOLVED

That the change in the use of the grant previously awarded to Lye Cricket Club from the purpose of provision of a mobile training cage to the purpose of a slip-catch cricket cradle or other cricket equipment to the same value, be approved.

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16.

HIGHWAYS MINOR WORKS CAPITAL PROGRAMME FOR 2012/13

A report of the Director of the Urban Environment was submitted seeking support for the proposed programmes of work for local safety schemes, safer routes to school and pedestrian crossings within the area of the Stourbridge Area Committee for the 2012/13 financial year. The schemes proposed for the area were set out in the appendix to the report.

In the discussion, Councillor Mrs. Walker expressed the hope that the Penfields Road and Stamford Road Local Safety Scheme would address road safety issues for children arising from parking around Amblecote Primary School. She also expressed reservations about the impact the schemes proposed might have on traffic in Stourbridge generally and asked to be advised of the length of time envisaged the schemes would take to complete.

In response, the Group Engineer - Traffic and Road Safety indicated that detailed schemes had not yet been drafted but confirmed that consultation with Members would be accommodated at the appropriate time.

Councillor Crumpton indicated his view that there were areas in Stourbridge other than those specified in the report where road safety issues were in equal need of addressing, referring in particular to the area around Pedmore School of Technology. In response, the Group Engineer - Traffic and Transportation indicated that the proposals for all Area Committees had been drawn up in cognisance of the priorities which had emerged from the Council's accident reduction data. Councillor L. Jones and other members had doubts about the impact the proposal to reduce the speed limit in Grange Lane from 40 mph to 30 mph would have, since the proposed reduced speed limit was to apply from the uphill section and drivers tended to accelerate downhill. They did not, therefore, support this proposal.

RESOLVED

That the proposals be noted and the comments above referred to the Directorate of the Urban Environment.

17. RACECOURSE LANE, STOURBRIDGE - TRAFFIC MOVEMENTS

A report of the Director of the Urban Environment was submitted seeking consideration of traffic movements in Racecourse Lane, Stourbridge, further to Minute 48(4) of the meeting of the Committee held on the 20<sup>th</sup> February, 2012.

A local resident, Dr. Kumar, drew attention to a number of issues in the report which he considered to be erroneous. Consideration was also given at this juncture to the question submitted by Dr. Kumar which asked how the cost of £93,000 referred to in paragraph 8 of the report now submitted for the construction of a standard new 2-metre wide footway and ancillary work had been arrived at. He contended that a reduced scheme could be provided at a cost of some £30 to £35,000 and indicated the manner in which this could be achieved.

On consideration of this item, Councillor Mrs. Rogers suggested an alternative route from Racecourse Lane to Worcester Lane that might be feasible with lesser work necessary to the infrastructure than that referred to in the report.

While accepting the need for road safety along Racecourse Lane to be improved, the Chair also considered that, in the current financial circumstances, a business case for the Council to provide a footpath could not be made at the current time.

RESOLVED

That the Group Engineer - Traffic and Transportation be asked to refer this matter to the Cabinet Member for Transportation with a view to referring the issue of the safety of Racecourse Lane to the Department of Transport with a request for the introduction of a safety scheme, e.g. the widening of the road.

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18. LYE AND WOLLESCOTE CEMETERY CHAPEL - UPDATE ON PROGRESS ON FINDING A SUITABLE NEW USE AND SECURING EXTERNAL FUNDING FROM THE HERITAGE LOTTERY FUND

A report of the Director of the Urban Environment updating the Committee on the work of the West Midlands Historic Building Preservation Trust undertaken in partnership with the Council to find a new use for Lye and Wollescote Cemetery Chapel which was financially viable and sympathetic to its setting. The report also gave an update on the progress made in securing external funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) for the building, in order to facilitate the necessary repairs and to enable conversion to a new use.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the on-going work undertaken to date by the West Midlands Historic Building Preservation Trust (WMHBPT) in partnership with the Council in order to progress the project further be noted.
- (2) That the Cabinet Member for Environment and Culture be recommended that the existing "Heads of Terms" agreement between the WMHBPT and the Council be renewed and that a grant of £25,000 from the Council be made as partnership funding, if the HLF application is successful.
- (3) That an application be submitted to the HLF in June, 2012 by the WMHBPT (in partnership with the Council) for a Stage 1 bid and that the outcome of the application to the HLF be reported back to the Committee at a later date.

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19. DESIGNATION OF PLAYING-FIELDS IN COMMEMORATION OF QUEEN ELIZABETH'S II FOR THE DIAMOND JUBILEE

This item was withdrawn.

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20. RESPONSES TO ISSUES

A report of the Area Liaison Officer advising the Committee of written responses made to questions asked at the previous meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> February, 2012 was submitted.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

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21. ISSUES RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

(During consideration of these issues, in respect of items (b) and (c) below, Councillor Crumpton declared a Personal Interest, in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct, in view of the fact that he had taken his mother to a meeting of residents in relation to trees at Stevens Road).

- (a) At the request of Councillor Mrs. Walker, it was agreed that the Group Engineer - Traffic and Transportation would look at the issue of speeding vehicles in the vicinity of Cobden Street, particularly at its junctions with other roads. The Group Engineer was also asked to consider road safety issues in the general area of Studley Gate.

- (b) With reference to the petition referred to earlier in the meeting, Councillor Kettle expressed his support for the retention of the trees proposed for felling in Stevens Road. He also asked for a protocol to be drawn up and put in place which would include a provision for local residents and Ward Members to be notified where it was proposed that large trees would be removed. The matter of the protocol was referred to the Assistant Director Planning and Environmental Health for consideration.
- (c) Councillor Crumpton referred to a meeting that would be taking place with residents, Council Officers and the Cabinet Member for Transportation and Community Safety on the issue of the trees at Stevens Road.

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22. SCRUTINY COMMITTEE PUBLICITY

Forthcoming meetings of Scrutiny Committees were received and noted.

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23. FUTURE AREA COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The dates and venues of future meetings of this Committee were received and noted.

The meeting ended at 9.30 p.m.

CHAIR

## **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)

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### **2 APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIR**

#### **RESOLVED**

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

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### **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.

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4 MINUTES

RESOLVED

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

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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.

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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 30<sup>th</sup> 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 13<sup>th</sup> 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.
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#### 9 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 29<sup>th</sup> 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.

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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.

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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.

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### 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.
- 

### 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.

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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.

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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.

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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.
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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.

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22 MATTERS RAISED AT THE MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE HELD ON 8<sup>TH</sup> 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.

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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.

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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.

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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.

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26      SCRUTINY COMMITTEE PUBLICITY

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

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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 7<sup>th</sup> March, 2013 at the Brier School, Bromley Lane, Kingswinford;

Meetings to commence at 7.00 pm.

The meeting ended at 9.35 pm.

CHAIRMAN

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66

Delegated Decision Summary

Exempt

Yes No

**Decision Made By** Cllr David Sparks  
**Authorised By** Cllr David Sparks, Cabinet Member for Policy and Leader of the Council  
**In Consultation With** John Polychronakis, Chief Executive  
**Ward(s) Affected** All  
**Date of Decision** 05 July 2012 **Reference** CE/05/2012

Chief Executive's Directorate's strategic plan

To approve the Chief Executive's Directorate's strategic plan for 2012/13.

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67

Delegated Decision Summary

Exempt

Yes No

**Decision Made By** Cllr David Sparks  
**Authorised By** Cllr David Sparks, Cabinet Member for Policy and Leader of the Council  
**In Consultation With** Iain Newman, Treasurer  
**Ward(s) Affected** All  
**Date of Decision** 05 July 2012 **Reference** DCS/28/2012

Refurbishment Work to Ward House, Himley

To increase the Capital budget for the refurbishment of Ward House to £96,000 (see below).

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68

Delegated Decision Summary

Exempt

Yes No

**Decision Made By** Cllr. Waltho  
**Authorised By** Cllr. Waltho, Cabinet Member for Adult and Community Services  
**In Consultation With** Andrea Pope-Smith, Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services  
**Ward(s) Affected** All  
**Date of Decision** 04 July 2012 **Reference** DACHS/012/2012

Grants to Voluntary Organisations

To fund applications for grants to voluntary organisations 2012/2013. An appendix of the voluntary organisations is attached to this Decision Sheet.

Delegated Decision Summary

Exempt

Yes No

 

**Decision Made By** Cllr. Waltho

**Authorised By** Cllr. Waltho, Cabinet Member for Adult and Community Services

**In Consultation With** Andrea Pope-Smith, Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services

**Ward(s) Affected** All

**Date of Decision** 06 July 2012 **Reference** DACHS/013/2012

Telecare Smoke Detector Installations

To stop installing a telecare smoke detector as part of a standard installation with a dispersed alarm; the preferred option going forward would be to install a telecare smoke detector to meet the need of the individual. This will meet the outcomes of people who use services and make best use of resources for the citizens of Dudley.

# Minority Report

## Special Meeting of the Health & Adult Social Care Committee

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> April 2012

### **Introduction**

This is the Minority Report following the Special Meeting of the Health & Adult Care Committee held on the evening of Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> April 2012. The Special Meeting was convened to examine a 'call-in' of the decision of the Cabinet regarding the Health and Social Care Bill and its implications for Dudley. This report consolidates the key points and views of the following members: Cllr Sue Ridney (Committee Chair), Cllr Rachel Harris, Cllr Ken Finch and Cllr Margaret Aston in supporting their vote against the proposal to confirm the decision of the Cabinet. The minority view expressed is that after reviewing the facts and opinions that were presented in front of the special meeting, we recommend that cabinet should reconsider the decision that was taken around the placing of the new Public Health directorate within the overall operational structure of the Council (i.e. under DACH's). We also recommend that Cabinet reconsider any move at this point in time to have a jointly appointed Public Health Director shared with Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council.

### **Issues arising to be considered:**

The answers the committee received gave rise to our concern that the decision has been driven by financial considerations rather than a measured approach to explore and enhance the exciting strategic possibilities that the new public health powers may bring to the Borough. This view was formed by the following observations:

- There has been no formal consultation or formal dialogue with the new Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) about either the Director of Public Health appointment or consideration of their strategic view of how public health improvements are to be best delivered. As the CCG are key commissioners of local health services and need to be aligned as partners in securing the populations general health we find this omission incredible.
- The decision about the post has been taken without due regard to the advice given to by the Regional Director of Public Health or to the advice issued by Anne Milton MP to the Association of Directors of Public Health about the guidelines to be issued by the Secretary of State in relation to appointments. It also flies in the face of the spirit of the new Act which sets out that the local authorities' duties are tied to the people of its area.
- The relatively small size of the budget (£16.3 m) was quoted as a reason for public health being placed within a directorate for support purposes. This we feel is misleading because:



- The complexity and nature of the services that the public health agenda will bring to the council is very different from any of the current services provided or commissioned. Some parts of the delivery requirements are new to the council and are not the same as the linkages set out by the report to justify this such as carbon emissions and anti-social behaviour.
  - We are not convinced that the children's health agenda would be satisfactorily addressed or recognised as an essential cross cutting issue within the Council if Public Health stays within Adult Services.
  - It sends a mixed message about the importance of Public Health within the Council and in effect will make the incoming Director of Public Health answerable to both another Director as well as the Chief Executive.
  - The funding from government is ring fenced and linked to specific outcomes. The experience cited in the room about previous attempts to direct funding for projects (specifically the Healthy Towns monies) lead us to question the practicalities of how the application and best value of public health funding would transparently be demonstrated to members under the proposed arrangements.
- The autonomy of the post in the proposal would be counter to the authority that Directors of Public Health need to function effectively and are used to having. This may also deter future applications.

**With respect to a joint appointment with Sandwell we have the following observations to make:**

- Despite questioning we remain unconvinced that the realities of one post across two areas have not been fully explored
- It is unclear how the priorities and focus of the post would be effectively guided and how this authority's own outcomes (or Sandwell's) as required by government would be clarified and monitored.
- Not only would the post holder have 2 CEO's and Cabinets to work with but also 2 Health and Wellbeing Boards to advise and potentially 2 different sets of key partners with respect to the CCG arrangements in both boroughs to deal with. This would need extra assistant director posts, support and resources to work - not less.
- There are stark differences between our own and Sandwell's population.
- The comparisons that were put forward in the report have completely different local conditions to our own and certainly did not offer comparative populations.

- We were surprised to discover that the proposals set before the Cabinet in Sandwell were different to those in Dudley
- Wolverhampton and Walsall have chosen to have their own arrangements for the foreseeable future.

**Conclusion and Recommendations:**

This minority report asks Cabinet to reconsider their original decision in the light of the further information arising from the questioning at the special meeting held on the 5<sup>th</sup> April. We conclude that both the proposed internal configuration and progressing with a joint post would not be in the best interests of Dudley Council and the people of this borough at this point in time.