

**CENTRAL DUDLEY AREA COMMITTEE – 24<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2006**

**REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT**

**URBAN ENVIRONMENT - MATTERS RAISED AT THE  
CENTRAL DUDLEY AREA COMMITTEE – 8<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2005**

**PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1. To update Committee on a number of issues raised at the 8<sup>th</sup> November 2005 Central Dudley Area Committee that relate to services provided by the Directorate of the Urban Environment.

**BACKGROUND**

2. The Directorate of the Urban Environment provides a number of services that have considerable impact on local communities. This diverse range of technical services focus on regenerating the Borough, maintaining our environment to high standards, protecting our communities and promoting leisure and other community services for all.
3. Requests for service and information are received at Area Committee on a regular basis from both members and the general public, relating to matters such as traffic management, leisure and recreation, regeneration and new development. Few enquiries can be answered immediately, with many prompting further investigation, feasibility studies and public consultation, prior to being reported back to Committee.
4. To keep Committee updated, progress reports are included as an appendix and the proposal resulting from the update is set out at the end of each paragraph.

**FINANCE**

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

**LAW**

6. Section 19 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 empowers the Council to provide recreational facilities in its area.
7. Section 2 of the Local Government Act 2000, enables the Council to do anything that is likely to promote the economic, social and environmental well-being of the Borough.

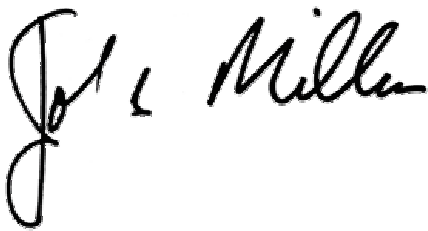
8. Section 111 of the Local Government Act 1972 authorises the Council to do anything which is calculated to facilitate or is conducive or incidental to the exercise of any of its functions.
9. Section 51 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 places a duty on the Council as Waste Disposal Authority for its area to provide 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.

### **EQUALITY IMPACT**

12. The proposals take into account the Council's equal opportunities policies.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

13. That the proposals contained in Appendix 1 attached be approved.



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**Director of the Urban Environment - John B Millar**

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### **Background documents used in the preparation of this report:-**

Action Notes from 8<sup>th</sup> November 2005 Committee.

**DIRECTORATE OF THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT - MATTERS RAISED AT THE CENTRAL DUDLEY AREA COMMITTEE HELD 8<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2005**

1. **CLOSURE OF STEPS, WOODCROFT AVENUE/A4123**

**Background:** At the Central Dudley Area Committee on the 8th November 2005, Councillor Aston submitted a petition on behalf of the local residents requesting the closure of the steps opposite Woodcroft Avenue.

**Comments:** The Woodcroft Avenue steps fall within the jurisdiction of the Highways Agency. The Highways Agency have been contacted and confirmed in writing that an application has been submitted for sufficient funding to be made available within the 2006/07 budget to carry out the requested works. It is hoped this matter will soon be resolved to the mutual satisfaction of the local residents.

**Proposal:** That the Area Committee note the information contained in this paragraph.

2. **CARRIAGEWAY REMEDIAL WORKS, MARLOW CLOSE**

**Background:** At the Central Dudley Area Committee on the 8th November 2005, Councillor Cotterill requested resurfacing works at Marlow Close.

**Comment:** Marlow Close will receive substantial treatment as part of next year's highway maintenance programme. Available survey data and inspection reports indicate that the carriageway and the footway will be treated with micro asphalt which will hopefully address the problems identified by local residents and ensure safe vehicle and pedestrian passage for a number of years.

**Proposal:** That the Area Committee note the information contained in this paragraph.

3. **SCOTTS GREEN CLOSE**

**Background:** At the Central Dudley Area Committee on the 8th November 2005, Councillor Hart requested that the traffic problems identified in Scotts Green Close be revisited.

**Comment:** Following extensive public consultation and liaison with the Scotts Green Close Working Group, a report was presented to Central Dudley Area Committee on 27<sup>th</sup> October 2003. However, it was clear from feedback received in the public forum that no definitive solution was available that would please all the local residents.

As all feasible solutions have now been exhausted, it is recommended that no further action is taken in relation to this matter in the foreseeable future.

**Proposal:** That the Area Committee note the information contained in this paragraph.

4. **DOG FOULING, RUSSELLS HALL ESTATE**

**Background:** At the Central Dudley Area Committee on the 8th November 2005, Councillor Hart requested action be taken against acts of dog fouling on the Russells Hall Estate.

**Comment:** Enforcement officers within DUE have been made aware of Councillor Hart's request and will step up their enforcement activities on Russells Hall Estate in an attempt to resolve this matter to everyone's mutual satisfaction.

**Proposal:** That the Area Committee note the information contained in this paragraph.

5. **RUSSELLS HALL SKATE PARK**

**Background:** At the Central Dudley Area Committee on the 8th November 2005, Councillor Hart requested that bollards or some similar obstruction be installed at the entrance to the Russells Hall Skate Park to prevent motor cycles entering and using the skate park facility inappropriately.

**Comment:** The Cabinet Member for Culture and Community has advised Councillor Hart that there are currently no resources available for any additional works to Russells Hall open space. However, Councillor Hart's request will be considered if resources do become available in the future.

**Proposal:** That the Area Committee note the information contained in this paragraph.

6. **LITTER AND FLY-TIPPING PROBLEMS, BUFFERY ROAD, WARRENS HALL ROAD AND NEW ROAD**

**Background:** At the Central Dudley Area Committee on the 8th November 2005, Councillor J Davies highlighted problems with litter in the gully between Buffery Road and Warrens Hall Road and the need for fencing to prevent fly-tipping at the garages on New Road.

**Comment:** At the time of compiling this report, a litter pick had been undertaken in the gully between Buffery Road and Warrens Hall Road and fly-tipping removed from the garage site off New Road. However, the possibility of providing permanent fencing to prevent future fly-tipping will be explored by the appropriate directorate.

**Proposal:** That the Area Committee note the information contained in this paragraph.

7. **ST PETER'S ROAD BRIDGE - FENCING**

**Background:** At the Central Dudley Area Committee on the 8th November 2005, Councillor J Davies expressed concern for the health and safety of children playing around the embankment adjacent to St Peter's Road bridge.

**Comment:** Officers from DUE visited site and confirmed that the fencing was indeed missing/damaged. Following an investigation, it was revealed that officers from Adult, Community and Housing Services had already programmed the work and the fence has since been repaired to discourage access to the embankment.

**Proposal:** That the Area Committee note the information contained in this paragraph.

#### 8. **CLAUGHTON ROAD FOOTBRIDGE**

**Background:** At the Central Dudley Area Committee on the 8th November 2005, Councillor Ali highlighted the need for the graffiti on the footbridge at Claughton Road to be removed.

**Comment:** Officers from DUE have investigated the graffiti problem and action has been taken to remove graffiti where possible.

**Proposal:** That the Area Committee note the information contained in this paragraph.

#### 9. **FLOODING PROBLEMS - WRENS NEST ESTATE**

**Background:** At the Central Dudley Area Committee on the 8th November 2005, Councillor Aston raised concerns regarding poor drainage on the Wrens Nest Estate.

**Comment:** Officers from DUE have spoken to Councillor Aston and informed her that an investigation into the gully problems on the following roads will take place:

Forrest Road, Chestnut Avenue, Summery Road and Summer Road.

Once the problem has been identified, appropriate remedial action will be undertaken.

**Proposal:** That the Area Committee note the information contained in this paragraph.

#### 10. **PARKING - RUSSELLS HALL**

**Background:** At the Central Dudley Area Committee on the 8th November 2005, Councillor M Davis submitted a petition complaining of the lack of parking control and the lack of parking spaces due to the recent expansion of Russells Hall Hospital.

**Comment:** An area wide Traffic Regulation Order restricting on street waiting is in the process of being prepared and will undergo a public consultation exercise in the New Year. Any objections to the proposals will be reported to this Committee for consideration.

Additionally, it is officers' understanding that the adjacent hospital has recently completed its parking needs survey which will support a future planning application to extend the parking provision within the hospital grounds.

**Proposal:** That the Area Committee note the information contained in this paragraph.

**11. TRAFFIC ISSUES - NEW STREET, QUARRY BANK**

**Background:** At the Central Dudley Area Committee on the 8th November 2005, the Rev. Dr Neil Pophum requested traffic calming measures for New Street, Quarry Bank especially in the light of a recent serious accident.

**Comment:** A site meeting took place with Councillor Cotterill and Rev. Dr Neil Pophum on the 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2005. It was agreed at that meeting that minor works will take place to raise driver awareness of certain road junctions.

**Proposal:** That the Area Committee note the information contained in this paragraph.

**12. TRAFFIC ISSUES - SALTWELLS ROAD, HALESOWEN ROAD, BOWLING GREEN ROAD AND COLE STREET**

**Background:** At the Central Dudley Area Committee on the 8th November 2005, Councillor Male requested a pedestrian crossing in Saltwells Road between its junction with Halesowen Road and Bowling Green Road. Councillor Male also asked for a traffic assessment to be carried out on Cole Street in relation to possible road safety measures.

**Comment:** The request for a pelican crossing in the vicinity of Halesowen Road/Bowling Green Road has previously been investigated but it was felt that at the time a new pelican crossing may conflict with the operation of the adjacent traffic signal control junction and the school crossing patrol. Consequently, the site will be monitored and reassessed for inclusion in the next available programme. A facility in Bowling Green Road is currently on the reserve list for implementation.

Significant local safety scheme measures have been introduced in Cole Street in recent years. Cole Street will continue to be monitored for any amendments or alterations that may be considered necessary to ensure the safe and efficient operation of the public highway.

**Proposal:** That the Area Committee note the information contained in this paragraph.

**13. TRAFFIC CALMING - THE SLING, NETHERTON**

**Background:** At the Central Dudley Area Committee on the 8th November 2005, Councillor Bradney requested traffic calming measures in The Sling at Netherton.

**Comment:** Unfortunately, The Sling is a private street and not adopted highway. Therefore, the Council, as the local highway authority, cannot spend public money introducing traffic calming measures.

**Proposal:** That the Area Committee note the information contained in this paragraph.

**14. TRAFFIC CALMING MEASURES - NEW ROAD, CINDER BANK**

**Background:** At the Central Dudley Area Committee on the 8th November 2005, Councillor Bradney asked for traffic calming measures to be considered at New Road, Cinder Bank.

**Comment:** An investigation has revealed that the underlying problem in New Street is congestion as a result of on street parking by local residents who do not have an alternative location to park their cars. Consequently, there are no current proposals to introduce on street waiting.

**Proposal:** That the Area Committee note the information contained in this paragraph.

**15. TRAFFIC ISSUES - HURST LANE**

**Background:** At the Central Dudley Area Committee on the 8th November 2005, Councillor Bradney highlighted traffic issues in Hurst Lane adjacent to Lodge Farm.

**Comment:** There has only been one injury accident in Hurst Lane during the last 3 years and therefore it is difficult to justify a local safety scheme at this time. This length of highway will continue to be monitored for future local safety scheme programmes.

**Proposal:** That the Area Committee note the information contained in this paragraph.

**16. TRAFFIC ISSUES - COCHRANE ROAD**

**Background:** At the Central Dudley Area Committee on the 6th September 2005, Councillor Bradney requested an investigation into traffic calming in Cochrane Road.

**Comment:** There has only been one injury accident in Cochrane Road during the last 3 years and therefore it is difficult to justify a local safety scheme at this time. Other roads in the area have been the subject of a local safety scheme and we will continue to monitor accidents in Cochrane Road in the future.

**Proposal:** That the Area Committee note the information contained in this paragraph.

**17. TRAFFIC ISSUES - CINDER BANK**

**Background:** At the Central Dudley Area Committee on the 8th November 2005, Councillor Ali highlighted the need for action to be taken to reduce the volume of traffic travelling from Dudley via Cinder Bank on roads not suitable for the amount of traffic.

**Comment:** Cinder Bank is the A459 classified road that links Dudley and the north with Halesowen and the south. Unfortunately, any classified road of this type does have to carry large volumes of traffic no matter how unwelcome this is. There are no proposals to resurrect the Netherton Bypass due to the large numbers of residential properties that would need to be acquired to implement a new road. However, congestion will be monitored as a consequence of the new Traffic Management Act and this may prove a catalyst for future change.

**Proposal:** That the Area Committee note the information contained in this paragraph.

**18. PARKING ISSUES - ST JAMES'S ROAD, DUDLEY**

**Background:** At the Central Dudley Area Committee on the 8th November 2005, Councillor M Davis requested action against inconsiderate parking on St James's Road blocking driveways.

**Comment:** St James's Road has on street waiting restrictions and white "H" markings across private drives to indicate to drivers that the access should remain clear of obstruction. Further to this the police have the appropriate enforcement powers should there be a wilful obstruction of a private drive. Officers will notify the police of the Councillor's concerns.

**Proposal:** That the Area Committee note the information contained in this paragraph.

**19. DANGEROUS STREET LIGHTING COLUMNS, ST JAMES'S ROAD, DUDLEY**

**Background:** At the Central Dudley Area Committee on the 8th November 2005, Councillor Craigie expressed concern in relation to street lighting columns in St James's Road as it had been reported that exposed wires were evident.

**Comment:** The perforation caused by corrosion has been identified in a number of doors on street lighting columns in St James's Road. As the doors are hinged and hence non-standard, engineers have removed the doors and fitted temporary units until new doors can be fabricated.

**Proposal:** That the Area Committee note the information contained in this paragraph.

**20. ST JAMES'S ROAD TREES**

**Background:** At the Central Dudley Area Committee on the 8th November 2005, Councillor Craigie requested that the trees in St James's Road be pruned.

**Comment:** Proactive risk management of our tree stock has identified St James's Road as a priority in terms of cataloguing and condition assessment (and work arising from the assessment). This is due to St James's Road being a major route into Dudley, residential area, with offices and schools in the vicinity. The necessary remedial work has been identified and will be implemented in early 2006.

**Proposal:** That the Area Committee note the information contained in this paragraph.

**21. THE BROADWAY TREES**

**Background:** At the Central Dudley Area Committee on the 8th November 2005, Councillor M Davis raised concerns in relation to the standard of arboricultural work previously undertaken in St James's Road.

**Comment:** It would appear that the last major works undertaken on trees in St James's Road was at least 5 years ago and then only intended to improve street lighting in the area. We are now looking forward to proactively managing the street stock rather than



dwelling in the past and as St James's Road falls into a high priority area, this site will be on the list for far more comprehensive works in line with St James's Road.

**Proposal:** That the Area Committee note the information contained in this paragraph.

## 22. **UNSIGHTLY OVERGROWTH - CAVENDISH HOUSE, DUDLEY**

**Background:** At the Central Dudley Area Committee on the 8th November 2005, Councillor Ali expressed concern in relation to the unsightly overgrown shrubs around Cavendish House and requested that they be removed or cut back.

**Comment:** Cavendish House is not in local authority ownership and as such we are not responsible for its upkeep. Officers have inspected the site and concur with Councillor Ali that the area is unsightly. However, it is not interfering with local authority land or the public highway.

It should be noted that the way in which the site boundary fence has been erected (2 metres into the land) has left a 2 metre strip adjacent to the highway which could appear to be a highway verge. Officers in DUE will continue to investigate the problem to see if any enforcement action can be taken against the owners.

**Proposal:** That the Area Committee note the information contained in this paragraph.

## 23. **PETITION - GRAZEBROOK PARK AND THE GREEN, CORNER OF LISTER ROAD**

**Background:** At the Central Dudley Area Committee on the 8th November 2005, Councillor J Davies submitted a petition on behalf of local residents objecting to the proposed development of The Green at Lister Road and Grazebrook Park.

**Comment:** There is no intention to develop Grazebrook Park for anything other than open space/recreational uses and indeed it has local park status in a recently adopted Unitary Development Plan (UDP) which protects it from inappropriate development.

With regard to the land at Lister Road, which the residents refer to as "The Green", this site is not formally recognised as a park and indeed the southern half of the site is identified in the adopted UDP as part of a much larger key industrial area, where land is safeguarded for employment uses. The northern half, immediately opposite the residential properties does not form part of that area and forms a buffer between the residential and industrial areas.

**Proposal:** That the Area Committee note the information contained in this paragraph.