

Central Dudley Area Committee – 7th June, 2011

Report of the Area Liaison Officer

Matters raised at the Meeting of the Committee held on 15th March, 2011 other than those relating to the Directorate of the Urban Environment

Purpose of Report

1. To note progress on issues raised at the meeting of the Committee held on 15th March, 2011, other than those relating to the Directorate of the Urban Environment.

Background

2. The issues set out in paragraphs 3 to 5 (inclusive) below were raised at the meeting of the Committee held on 15th March, 2011, progress on which is as follows:

3. **Parking problems on Oakham Road**

A Member of the Committee drew attention to the parking problems on the Oakham Road at Turners Hill. Sector Inspector Richard Jones forwarded the information in relation to the issue to his colleague in the Borough of Sandwell for action. The Member of the Committee has since been advised by the Police that the matter would be investigated.

4. **Dudley Mosque and Community Training and Enterprise Centre**

A member of the public asked to be updated on the progress of the Council's decision to buy back the land at Hall Street in view of the scarcity of media coverage. A written response sent to the questioner has indicated that the Council had submitted the relevant paperwork to the High Court in London, however, a date has not yet been set for the hearing.

5. **Rent Arrears**

In commenting on the recent budget reductions, a member of the public queried what the Council's chances would be of recovering the reported £1.2m rent arrears. In responding, the Acting Area Liaison Officer, as Assistant Director of Housing, has commented as follows:-

“Housing is not funded from the General Fund but the Housing Revenue Account and although it would be wrong to assume that the efficiency savings to be made

by the Council and the welfare reform changes will not have an impact on services, recognising the importance of income collection, protected resources in this area of the service.

The specialist Income Management Teams have, since April 2009, reduced current arrears by £307,199 and former tenants by £339,488.

The Council continue to look for ways to improve our services to our customers and work with partners to address issues of debt. The proposed Welfare Reforms will present challenges and planning is already underway to ensure income is secured and that customers receive good advice.”

Finance

6. This report has no direct financial implications.

Law

7. Under Section 111 of the Local Government Act 1972, the Council is empowered to do anything which is calculated to facilitate, or conducive to, or incidental to the discharge of its functions.

Equality Impact

8. This report complies with the policies of the Council on Equality and Diversity.
9. Children and young people have not been consulted on the preparation of this report, as report seeks only to note progress on issues raised at its previous meetings.

Recommendation

10. That the report be noted.



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ANDREA POPE-SMITH
AREA LIAISON OFFICER

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List of Background Papers Minutes of the meeting of the Central Dudley Area Committee held on 15th March, 2011