

Central Dudley Area Committee - 12th June 2007

Report of the Area Liaison Officer

Responses to Questions

Purpose of Report

1. To inform the Committee of the written responses made to questions asked at a previous meeting.

Background

2. At a meeting of this Committee held on 13th March 2007, it was indicated that written replies would be sent to the questioners concerned. The responses are as indicated.
3. In response to a request from a member of the Committee for information regarding what action the Police would be taking in the summer months to combat gangs and anti-social behaviour on the Wren's Nest and Priory Estates, the Area Liaison Officer wrote to West Midlands Police requesting information.
4. The local Chief Superintendent of West Midlands Police responded, outlining the following measures which the Police will be implementing during the summer in the Wren's Nest and Priory area: -
 - Extra, targeted patrols by the Neighbourhood Policing Team in identified anti-social behaviour/crime hot spots.
 - The use of specialist officers to tackle the problem of off road motorcycles.
 - The use of the Connexions bus to help divert youths from anti-social behaviour.
 - Where appropriate, the increased use of Acceptable Behaviour Contracts and Anti-social Behaviour Orders.
 - Partnership working with other agencies, for example Trading Standards, the Fire Service and the Local Authority.
5. In the response, the Chief Superintendent also stated that Officers have identified a lack of youth provision in these areas which contributes to levels of anti-social behaviour, and commented that there is also a perceived reluctance, in comparison with other Authorities, to evict tenants in the area who have breached their tenancy agreements. He requested that Councillors assist in resolving these and other causal factors in the area.
6. In response to a question raised by a member of the public in the Public Forum regarding the sale of Council land, the Assistant Director of Law and Property

(Corporate Estate Services) has written to the questioner setting out the current procedures employed by the Council for dealing with external applications for the purchase of Council land, and the processes through which Council Directorates are able to declare land surplus to requirements and sell it on the open market.

7. The response also outlined the ability of the Regeneration Division in the Directorate of the Urban Environment to request that the Directorate of Law and Property assemble sites for regeneration purposes which can later be sold on for comprehensive redevelopment schemes. These sites can be a mixture of Council owned land, land swaps or land acquired from third parties through compulsory purchase orders.
8. In response to a question raised by a member of the public in the Public Forum regarding the position with regard to the Council's Dudley Council Plus project, the Chief Executive has written to the questioner stating that operations at Dudley Council Plus are continuously under review and that recent improvements include more services available, more requests for services or information, and improved performance, with customer satisfaction remaining at over 95%.

Finance

8. There are no direct financial consequences arising from this report.

Law

9. Section 111 of the Local Government Act, 1972 enables the Council to do anything that is calculated to facilitate or is conducive or incidental to the discharge of its functions.

Equality Impact

10. The report takes into account the Council's Equal Opportunities Policy.
11. Although the report relates to anti social behaviour, there is no requirement for consultation with children and young people or the involvement of children and young people in noting the report.

Recommendation

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



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Linda Sanders
AREA LIAISON OFFICER

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List of Background Papers

Question slips handed in at previous meetings of the Central Dudley Area Committee.

Correspondence sent in response by Council Officers and replies received from outside agencies.