

**CENTRAL DUDLEY AREA COMMITTEE – 8<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2005**

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

**URBAN ENVIRONMENT - MATTERS RAISED AT THE  
CENTRAL DUDLEY AREA COMMITTEE – 6<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2005**

**PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1. To update Committee on a number of issues raised at the 6<sup>th</sup> September 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**

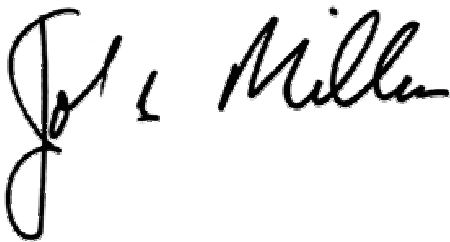
6. Section 19 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 empowers the Council to provide recreational facilities in its area.
7. Section 2 of the Local Government Act 2000, enables the Council to do anything that is likely to promote the economic, social and environmental well-being 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 6<sup>th</sup> September 2005 Committee.

**DIRECTORATE OF THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT - MATTERS RAISED AT  
THE CENTRAL DUDLEY AREA COMMITTEE HELD 6<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2005**

**1. PETITION FOR ROAD HUMPS ALONG NEW STREET, EVERS STREET AND STOUR HILL, QUARRY BANK**

**Background:** At the Central Dudley Area Committee on the 6<sup>th</sup> September 2005, Councillor Cotterill submitted a petition on behalf of local residents of the Quarry Bank area requesting consideration of traffic calming measures to be introduced at New Street, Evers Street and Stour Hill, Quarry Bank.

**Comments:** Speeding issues are strictly an enforcement matter for the Police authority and the Council currently introduces complementary traffic measures, such as road humps, only as part of a local safety scheme where the emphasis is very much related to a reduction in the recorded number of personal injury accidents.

Officers have reviewed the accident records for these particular roads and can confirm there have been no personal injury accidents recorded along any of these roads during the course of the last 3 year review period.

Against this background it is very difficult to justify or recommend a local safety scheme be implemented, but, given the concerns of local residents, the following actions will be taken:

- i Add New Street, Evers Street and Stour Hill to the list of sites that will be assessed later this year for possible inclusion in a future programme of works as this will then enable a further review of accident trends.
- ii Arrange for some temporary 30 mph speed limit signs to be erected in order to raise driver awareness and encourage a more responsible driving behaviour.
- iii Seek the support of the Police to take whatever enforcement action they deem to be appropriate in order to address the issues of speeding traffic.

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

2. **YELLOW BOX JUNCTION AND SIGNAGE - COPPICE CLOSE, QUARRY BANK**

**Background:** At the Central Dudley Area Committee on the 6th September 2005, residents of Coppice Close, Quarry Bank requested an update on proposals to install extra signage and re-line a yellow box junction at the end of the Close to deter motorists from inadvertently turning into the cul-de-sac.

**Comment:** Following the Area Committee, the yellow box junction was relined as a matter of urgency and additional signage installed at the end of the Close.

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

3. **ADDITIONAL SIGNAGE - CHARLES ROAD, QUARRY BANK**

**Background:** At the Central Dudley Area Committee on the 6th September 2005, Councillor Cotterill requested that adequate road signs be installed to identify the small cul-de-sac at the top of Charles Road, Quarry Bank in order for emergency services and others to find their way.

**Comment:** A recent site visit with Councillor Cotterill has been undertaken and, as a consequence, additional street name plates have been ordered to resolve this issue to the mutual satisfaction of residents.

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

4. **TRAFFIC CALMING - COPPICE ROAD, NEAR LODGE FARM**

**Background:** At the Central Dudley Area Committee on the 6th September 2005, Councillor Bradney asked for traffic calming measures to be installed in Coppice Road near Lodge Farm due to speeding motorists.

**Comment:** The Council has an assessment procedure for identifying programmes of work and Councillor Bradney's request has been added to the list of sites that will be assessed later this year.

At this stage officers cannot comment further on what the outcome of the assessment process will be or that any particular site will be considered to have a higher order of relative priority compared to other sites across the Borough as a whole.

Next year's provisional programme will probably be considered by the Cabinet around February/March 2006 and then subsequently reported to the various Area Committees.

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

5. **ST JAMES'S ROAD, DUDLEY AND MERRYFIELD ROAD, DUDLEY - PRUNING OF TREES**

**Background:** At the Central Dudley Area Committee on the 6th September 2005, Councillor Hart and Councillor Ms Craigie asked for the trees in St James's Road and Merryfield Road respectively, to be pruned to allow more adequate lighting for local residents and to deter anti-social behaviour.

**Comment:** Having checked the records, the trees in St James Road have been inspected and categorised as requiring pruning works. However, the work has been detailed as low priority in accordance with the Council's Tree Inspection regime and Tree Strategy.

High priority works are currently being targeted, including dead, dying and dangerous trees. A process of inspecting and cataloguing all of the Borough's trees is also being undertaken. This is an extensive task, however, once complete will enable the introduction of a cyclical programme of maintenance which will over time reduce the number of public nuisance issues associated with trees, including loss of light etc.

The matter in St James's Road will again be brought to the attention of the Arboricultural Manager for consideration of future work in accordance with the tree work programme and the high pedestrian usage of the road.

Since Area Committee, the Tree Inspector has contacted Councillor Craigie regarding the individual trees in Merryfield Road with proposed action.

Public nuisance issues in both areas will be brought to the attention of Alistair Cook, who is the Council's Local Authority Police Liaison Officer. Alistair may be able to arrange support from local PCSOs.

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