

**Halesowen Area Committee – 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2006**

**Report of the Director of the Urban Environment**

**Town Centres Management**

**Purpose of Report**

1. To update the Halesowen Area Committee on the service provided by the Town Centre Management Service in relation to Halesowen Town Centre.

**Background**

2. The six priority topics of the Council Plan 2005/6 are Caring, Regeneration, Environment, Safety, Learning and Quality of Service Matters. Town Centre Management is committed to the delivery of the Council Plan by listening to what people say, responding to what local people tell us, be accountable for performance and providing value for money. The Town Centre Management service strives to meet all the council priorities through the service and support it provides to the local community.
3. The information contained in this report provides a summary of progress made by the team since the last report presented on the 25<sup>th</sup> January 2006.
4. Since the last report the town centre has seen a high incidence of graffiti. The Andrew Road “Drop in Centre” was heavily targeted. This has now been cleaned after the West Midlands Police collected evidence. At the time that this report was written the Police are investigating and identifying the “tags” with the expectation that prosecutions will soon take place.
5. The Environment Agency’s “River Bank Squad” removed twelve supermarket trolleys from the River Stour on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2006. The Town Centre Manager with officers from the Environment Agency also visited businesses next to the River Stour on 16<sup>th</sup> February 2006 to advise them over securing their waste and bins.
6. The Somers Square refurbishment is due to commence on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2006. This will involve cleansing of the square and where necessary removal and replacement of damaged paving.
7. Town Centre Management has been advised by colleagues that Severn Trent may have to carry out sewer works in the town in both Peckingham Street and the High Street. Investigatory works, trial holes, will be undertaken during week commencing 13<sup>th</sup> February 2006 at night. A detailed proposal will follow in due course.

8. The Committee was advised on the 25<sup>th</sup> January 2006 of the restructure of the Town Centres Development Team. Since that time, two Project Officers have been appointed. Wayne George and Katherine Blunden will act to coordinate the production of Town Centre Masterplans, and the delivery of projects and initiatives that will follow the adoption of these plans.

### **Finance**

9. The activities discussed in this report are delivered from existing budgets.

### **Law**

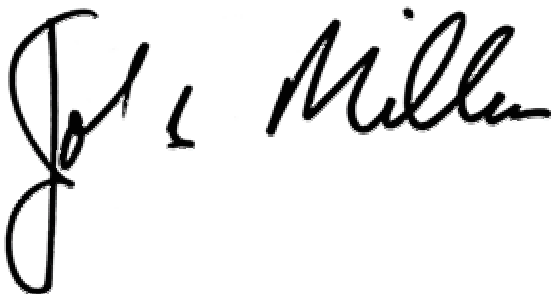
10. The promotion or improvement of the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of an area is supported by Section 2 of the Local Government Act 2000.

### **Equality Impact**

11. A primary role of the Town Centre Management Service is to encourage inclusive amongst all sectors of the community, including the needs of children and young people.

### **Recommendation**

12. It is recommended that:-
- The contents of this report are noted and that reports be provided at future meetings on the activities of the Town Centre Development Service.



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**John Millar**  
**Director of Urban Environment**

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### **List of Background Papers**

None