

Stourbridge Area Committee - 17th January 2010

Report of the Area Liaison Officer

Responses to Questions

Purpose of Report

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

Background

2. At a meeting of this Committee held on 15th November 2010, it was indicated that written replies would be sent to the questioners on the following questions:
3. A member of the public questioned a Council's Personnel department's decision to employ two part times members of staff, as part of a cost trimming exercise within the Directorate of Adult, Community and Housing Services when he considered that the work referred to should have been carried out by the existing Management and/or Cabinet Member.

The Assistant Director Policy Performance and Resources (Directorate of Adult, Community and Housing Services) has written to the questioner advising that the posts referred to were part of the "Supporting People" programme which is currently funded by a government grant, which was due to reduce over the next three years. He explained the Supporting People programme and advised that the salaries of the additional temporary part time staff would be funded by achieving savings within a budget of £6.2m across some 71 service Agreements with more than 40 provider organisations.

4. A member of the public raised concerns regarding the unkempt state of the changing rooms at Swanpool playing fields, including the graffiti on the walls of the changing rooms and the fencing outside the building and the smell of the toilets. He also expressed concerns regarding a lack of meetings of the Friends of Swanpool Park and as to what had happened to a donation to the Friends of Swanpool park following a visit of a funfair over twelve months previous,

The Assistant Director, Planning and Environmental Health has spoken to the questioner and officers of Directorate of the Urban Environment have updated the questioner verbally.

5. A representative of the Wollaston Village Hall raised concerns regarding the very large potholes in the driveway to the Hall. The Group Engineer Traffic and Road

Safety has written to the representative advising that the potholes will be repaired during the current financial year.

6. A member of the public expressed concerns regarding speeding traffic leaving the Swanpool playing fields near Studley Gate and Duncombe Street.

During the meeting the Group Engineer Traffic and Road Safety undertook to investigate the concerns and submit a written report to a future meeting.

7. A member of the Committee suggested that suitable signage in recognition of the Stourbridge Fair Trade Award be arranged.

The Head of Economic Regeneration Delivery has written to the Member advising that similar town centre signage had been installed in other towns outside the Borough and he had asked the Head of Marketing and Communications to investigate this matter further.

8. A Member of the Committee requested additional information regarding the path upgrades and other improvements to Swinford Common together with costs and timescales. The Assistant Director, Planning and Environmental Health has written to the Members advising that the landscape Works to Swinford Common Path would be as set out in Planning Application No. LD/M133-01C . A contract has been awarded and it has been confirmed by the Council's Development Control that the works constitute permitted development. The Assistant Director, Planning and Environmental Health also advised that the resurfacing phase of work commenced 29th November 2010, and the car parking works and furniture installation would be carried out in Spring 2011.

Finance

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

Law

10. 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

11. The report takes into account the Council's Policies on equality and diversity.

Recommendation

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



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(Acting Area Liaison Officer)

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List of Background Papers:

Question slips handed in at previous meetings of the Stourbridge Area Committee.
Correspondence sent in response by Council Officers.