

Stourbridge Area Committee - 8th March 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 18th January 2010, it was indicated that written replies would be sent to the questioners on the following questions:
3. A member of the public raised concerns that refuse and recycling services had not taken place in his area on 13th January, during inclement weather, when the services were carried out in other areas. The Assistant Director Environmental Management has written to the questioner advising that following a dynamic risk assessment and liaison with drivers the decision had been made to suspend these services on the grounds of safety. January 13th was the only day on which refuse collection had been missed in Dudley. The Group Engineer, Traffic and Road Safety have written to the questioner advising that staff had to carry out other associated duties, such as road gritting, snow clearance and helping unprotected members of the community, instead of their normal work. Both apologised for the inconvenience caused.
4. A member of the public queried the current position regarding the equal pay claims for employees in Children's Services. The Director of Children's Services has written to the questioner advising that advice on equal pay needs to be obtained from a Trade Union Citizen's Advice Bureau or a Solicitor. He also advised that the current position was posted on the intranet.
5. A member of the public questioned the rate of interest and terms being earned on the COIF fixed interest and COIF equity based investments of the Ernest Stevens Trusts. He also questioned when the rent on Jordan Field had been reviewed last.

The Director of Finance, ICT and Procurement has written to the questioner and advised of the value of the funds. He has also advised that the last rent review on

Jordan Field was in 2001, when Nock Deighton indicated that a rent increase was unlikely due to the land and economic conditions.

6. In response to concerns expressed by a member of the public at the 16th November 2009 meeting, the Group Engineer Traffic and Road Safety has written to the questioner advising of his correspondence with National Grid Gas plc, who own the land. He also advised that as the land is privately owned and not part of the public highway, the Council could not expend resources on resurfacing the land.

Finance

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

Law

7. 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

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

Recommendation

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



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Mark Wyatt
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.