

Stourbridge Area Committee 12th September 2005

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 previous meetings.

Background

2. At meetings of this Committee held on 21st March 2005 and 20th June 2005, it was indicated that written replies would be sent to the questioners concerned. The responses are as indicated.
3. In response to comments made by a member of the public requesting information regarding the investigation of the terms of the composting contract at Iverley Park Farm, Norton Road, Iverley, the Head of Traffic and Road Safety has written to the questioner, advising that Dudley Council is a member of the Black Country Purchasing Consortium, and the contract referred to is less than six months old, at the time of the reply. He also advised that as the contents of the contract are deemed to be commercially sensitive, he is unable to disclose any of the details at the present time.
4. In response to comments made by a member of the public regarding the curtailment of the bathing and footcare scheme for the elderly and its resulting impact on staff, the Director of Social Services has written to the member of the public, advising that it was a Council decision to stop providing the service, but that staff affected by the decision would be offered alternative suitable employment. A reassurance was given that additional funding would be made to meet existing pressures and further develop the services of the Social Services Directorate.
5. In response to questions from a member of the public regarding wheeled bins, the Head of Public Protection has written to the member of the public advising that Dudley Council had no immediate plans to transfer to the use of wheeled bins, other Local Authorities also use the black sack scheme and that those currently using wheeled bins were transferring to fortnightly collections.
6. In response to questions regarding the recent unacceptable waiting time for a CT scan by a member of the public, the Director of Corporate Development, Russells Hall Hospital, has written to the member of the public's family, apologising for the delay and explaining that this was due in part to the heavy demand for CT scans.

There are plans to install a second more up to date scanner within the next few months, which it is anticipated will address delays.

7. In response to a query from a member of the public regarding plans for improvements to Wollescote Park, the Greenspaces Team Leader has written to the questioner advising that Wollescote Park had been looked at as part of the Liveability Funding Project as a result of funding from the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister. Consultation will take place on a proposed 10 year Master Plan, which would include security of the park.

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.

Recommendation

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

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J POLYCHRONAKIS
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 Officer.