

COMMITTEE AND SUB- COMMITTEE MINUTES

**SEPTEMBER 2014
TO
NOVEMBER 2014**

**AND
DELEGATED DECISION
SUMMARIES**

**(see delegated decision summaries page for
details of how to access decision sheets)**

LIST OF MEETINGS

<u>Committee/Fora</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Pages</u>	
		<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
<u>COMMUNITY FORA</u>			
Netherton, Woodside and St Andrews and Quarry Bank and Dudley Wood	03/11/2014	NQCF/8	NQCF/12
Gornal and Upper Gornal and Woodsetton	03/11/2014	GCF/7	GCF/10
Coseley East and Sedgley	04/11/2014	CSCF/7	CSCF/9
Halesowen North and Halesowen South	04/11/2014	HCF/7	HCF/9
Norton, Pedmore and Stourbridge East and Wollaston and Stourbridge Town	05/11/2014	NPCF/7	NPCF/9
Castle and Priory, St James's and St Thomas	05/11/2014	CPCF/11	CPCF/15
Kingswinford North and Wallheath, Kingswinford South and Wordsley	11/11/2014	TO FOLLOW	
Brierley Hill, Brockmoor and Pensnett Gornal and Upper Gornal and Woodsetton	11/11/2014	BHCF/7	BHCF/10
Amblecote, Cradley and Wollescote, Lye and Stourbridge North	12/11/2014	ACF/8	ACF/11
Belle Vale, Hayley Green and Cradley South	12/11/2014	BVCF/8	BVCF/10
<u>SCRUTINY COMMITTEES</u>			
Overview and Scrutiny Management Board	16/10/2014	OSMB/13	OSMB/18
Urban Environment	01/10/2014	UE/6	UE/8
Adult, Community and Housing Services	21/10/2014	ACHS/14	ACHS/20

REGULATORY COMMITTEES

Appointments Committee

Appointments Committee	08/10/2014	APP/3	APP/4
Appointments Committee	15/10/2014	APP/5	APP/6
Appointments Committee	20/10/2014	APP/7	APP/8
Appointments Committee	27/10/2014	APP/9	APP/10

Development Control

Development Control Committee	29/09/2014	DC/40	DC/48
Development Control Committee	20/10/2014	DC/49	DC/54
Special Development Control Committee	06/11/2014	DC/55	DC/56
Development Control Committee	10/11/2014	DC/57	DC/59

Licensing and Safety

Licensing Sub Committee 3	30/09/2014	LSBC3/27	LSBC3/28
Licensing Sub-Committee 3	16/10/2014	LSBC3/29	LSBC3/32

Taxis

Taxis Committee	15/10/2014	T/21	T/28
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DUDLEY HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

Dudley Health and Wellbeing Board	30/09/2014	DHWB/10	DHWB/18
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ERNEST STEVENS TRUSTS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Ernest Stevens Trusts Management Committee	27/10/2014	EST/9	EST/12
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CABINET

Meeting of the Cabinet 01/10/2014 C/14 C/17

Meeting of the Cabinet 29/10/2014 C/18 C/25

**Action Notes of the Netherton, Woodside and St Andrews/Quarry Bank and
Dudley Wood Community Forum**

**Monday 3rd November, 2014 at 6.30pm
at The Savoy Centre, Northfield Road, Netherton**

Present:-

Councillor Q Zada (Chair)
Councillor B Cotterill (Vice-Chair)
Councillors J Cowell, W Duckworth, D Sparks and E Taylor

Officers:-

A Tromans - Lead Officer to the Forum (Information Systems Manager, ICT Services) and K Griffiths - Democratic Services Officer (Directorate of Corporate Resources)

Together with 11 members of the public

17 **Welcome and Introductions**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Following general announcements, the Councillors and Council officers introduced themselves.

18 **Chairs Comments – The Big Question**

The Chair referred to the “The Big Question”, a budget consultation which offered the public the opportunity to inform Dudley MBC of the top five most valued Council services, in the light of the continued reduction in national government funding. He encouraged everyone present at the meeting to complete the forms circulated prior to the meeting and either hand them into an officer at the end of the meeting or return to the address printed on the form.

19 **Listening to you – Questions and Comments by Local Residents**

Subject

Concerns were raised in relation to the current system that deals with anti-social behaviour. A resident reported that she was a victim of anti-social behaviour which had been ongoing for two years. She explained, in detail, the nature of the matter and the worry, stress and anxiety that the issues had been having on the family. She indicated that she had not received any positive outcome. She reported that she had made an official complaint, however, she was still awaiting

Action

Referred for further investigation and a written response.

NQCF/8

a response.

It was suggested that the resident contact the Ombudsman and the Chief Police Officer.

A Member of the Anti-Social Behaviour Team Panel expressed their support for the Anti-Social Behaviour Team and reported that current facts and figures proved that the work the Team carried out had been having a positive impact on the Dudley Borough.

The Chair requested that the individual speak to the Lead Officer after the meeting with a view to providing further details and examples of issues that were occurring and that the Lead Officer be requested to liaise with appropriate officers and respond directly.

General concerns were raised in relation to the role of Housing Managers.

Noted. The Chair reported that the Ward Members for Netherton, Woodside and St Andrews and the Cabinet Member for Housing and Community Safety would be meeting with the Housing Managers in the near future to address the general concerns of the residents.

Reference was made to the condition of the roads on the Cradley Park Estate and queried when the work to resurface the roads would be carried out.

Referred for a written response.

Concerns were raised in relation to the barrier on the Black Horse playing fields. Requested that the barrier be locked to stop access on to the fields. A general comment was also made in relation to the heating in the facilities room being left on all week.

Noted and comments referred for consideration.

A number of general concerns were raised in relation to housing issues.

Noted. Referred to the Directorate of Adult, Community and Housing Services for consideration and action.

The Leader of the Council noted the ongoing issues and responded to specific points. He referred to the current Senior Management and Organisational Restructure and assured the Forum that the matter would be dealt with as a priority.

Issues relating to the relocation of Housing officers into the Harbour building at Merry Hill, in particular, inadequate parking and expenses being claimed by staff as a result of agile working.

Noted.

The Lead Officer responded to issues raised and outlined the current terms and conditions where staff would be eligible to claim expenses.

Issue raised in relation to caravans parked on driveways of properties on the Bowling Green Estate and queried the policy regarding this.

Referred for a written response.

Further discussion concerning Saltwells Nature Reserve, with particular reference to the progress on a new Wardens base.

Noted.

The Lead Officer updated the Forum on the current position and indicated that progress would be reported to the next Community Forum.

Reference was made to the site of the White Lion public house at the bottom of Buffrey Road and the car wash operating at the back of the building.

The Chair responded and assured the Forum that the matter would be dealt with.

A general issue was raised in relation to the old factory in Saltwells Lane. It was noted that the site was not secure and that youths had been reported for accessing the site.

Noted.

20 **Working with you: Topics raised by Local Councillors**

Subject

Action

Councillor Sparks referred to the potentially offensive graffiti on the Thorns Road, Quarry Bank and requested that it be removed.

Referred for action to be taken.

Councillor Cotterill referred to the grant previously approved to provide a lockable barrier to prevent fly tipping behind the garages off Heath Road and queried when the barrier would be provided. The Lead Officer updated the Forum on the current position and it was agreed that the Saltwells Tenants and Residents Association would conduct a 'door knock' of the residents surrounding the area to provide evidence that the residents had been consulted on the proposed works.

Noted.

Saltwells Tenants and Residents Association to action.

Councillor Cotterill referred, in detail, to the decision to withdraw the 297 bus route to Russell Hall Hospital and indicated that the decision had created a huge impact on the citizens of the Dudley Borough.

Noted. Referred to the Directorate of the Urban Environment to liaise with Centro and National Express.

He reported that there was no direct bus route, following the withdrawal of the 297 bus route, from certain areas of the Borough, which had resulted in people having to use taxis.

He requested that a meeting be arranged with the senior managers of Centro and National Express to discuss this matter further.

21 **Community Forum – Love Your Local Community Funding**

Application

Recommendation

Black Country Wheels

Refused as it did not meet local guidelines.

Netherton Cricket Club

Netherton, Woodside and St Andrews Ward - approval of £2,000 to contribute towards the installation of CCTV for additional security.

Dudley MBC Environmental Management Division

Netherton, Woodside and St Andrews Ward – approval of £2,211.08 for the cost to purchase, erect and remove trees, together with associated energy cost and lighting in Castleton Street and Highgate Road.

Quarry Bank and Dudley Wood Ward – approval of £1,034.80 for the cost to purchase, erect and remove trees, together with associated energy cost and lighting in High Street/Park Road.

The Chair confirmed the figures available for the Empty Shops Grant and High Street Innovation Fund and encouraged the public to think of ways to use the available funding.

22 **Dates, Time and Venues of Future Meetings**

- Monday 26th January, 2015 - 6.30pm - Woodside Community Centre
- Monday 16th March, 2015 - 6.30pm - Netherton Sports and Social Club

The meeting ended at 7.30pm.

Action Notes of the Gornal and Upper Gornal and Woodsetton Community Forum

Monday 3rd November, 2014 at 6.30pm
at the Baggeridge Social and Welfare Club, 1 The Straits, Lower Gornal, Dudley

Present:

Councillor K Casey (Chair)
Councillor S Turner (Vice Chair)
Councillors A Aston, D Branwood, D Perks and R Scott-Dow

Officers:

J Jennings (Lead Officer) (Head of Communications and Public Affairs) and
K Buckle (Democratic Services Officer)

Together with 16 members of the public

17 **Welcome and Introductions**

The Chair welcomed those present and there followed introductions.

18 **Public Health**

Ms S Cornfield, Weight Management Pathways Programme Management (Children) of the Office of Public Health gave a verbal presentation on health services that were available to members of the public throughout the Borough.

Ms S Cornfield advised of the variety of services that were available including the Keep Warm this Winter Initiative, the Healthy Start Scheme for families living in poverty, the health checks available to anyone over the age of forty with no existing long term condition, weight management initiatives, and healthy eating and support services.

During the presentation Ms Cornfield referred to services that were available to those who were pregnant, those with obesity, the Services operated by Action Heart at Ellowes Hall School and provided details of Healthy Living Pharmacies in the area who could also provide services including those who were entitled to the influenza vaccination.

Those present who wished to access any of the public health services were encouraged to contact their Ward Councillors who could refer them to the appropriate department. Leaflets in relation to the services offered were also displayed for collection at the end of the meeting

Members thanked Ms Cornfield for her presentation.

Listening to you: Questions and Comments from Local Residents**Subject****Action**

Concerns were raised on behalf of residents in Ranscombe Drive, Lower Gornal in relation to anti social behaviour occurring on land adjacent to their properties and a request that the Council continue to maintain the land. A letter expressing concerns was handed to the Vice Chair.

The Vice-Chair to refer the matter to the appropriate Officers.

Concerns were expressed in relation to anti social behaviour in Gornal Village which was posing a danger to both pedestrians and moving traffic. The Vice-Chair referred to two CCTV Cameras which were installed in Gornal Village and urged those present to report such incidents to the Police.

Those present were urged to attend Police and Communities Together meetings and details of forthcoming meetings were provided.

Councillor Scott-Dow also referred to the introduction of legislation that would provide the police with additional powers in order to deal with anti social behaviour.

Concerns were raised in relation to inadequate safety measures being put in place on Church Street, Lower Gornal, following a vehicle colliding with the wall adjacent to the church and the possibility of placing weight restrictions on the roads in Gornal Village in view of the volume of heavy traffic using the Village as a short cut.

Referred to the Directorate of the Urban Environment.

Issues in relation to street lighting not working on the corner of Temple Street and Church Road opposite St James' Church, Lower Gornal.

Referred to the Directorate of the Urban Environment.

<p>A request that trees fronting a bungalow in East Street, Lower Gornal be pollarded. Councillor Branwood referred to the Council's Green Care services advising that the trees were outside the category that could be included to the Council's programme of pollarding.</p>	<p>The Vice Chair undertook to speak to the questioner following the meeting.</p>
<p>The possibility of obtaining display boards in order to advertise activities and meetings in the Gornal Ward.</p>	<p>Noted: That a funding application had been granted for that purpose and the procurement of the boards was imminent.</p>
<p>The lack of parking in Gornal Village causing congestion and obstruction was referred to.</p>	<p>The Vice Chair referred to discussions with the developers of the new supermarket in Gornal Village advising that it had been agreed that they would provide two hours free parking and toilet facilities.</p>
<p>An issue in relation to parked vehicles outside Gornal Library obstructing public transport and a request for double yellow lines.</p>	<p>The Vice Chair to refer the matter to the appropriate Officers.</p>
<p>The possibility of the High Street Innovation/Empty Shops Grant Funding contributing to installing public toilets in Gornal village.</p>	<p>The Vice Chair advised that there would be ongoing maintenance costs associated with the provision of public toilets and the situation would continue to be monitored in view of the proposals referred to above regarding the new supermarket.</p>
<p>Concerns that the bleeping sound to indicate to the visibly impaired that the steady green man was lit was to be switched off nationally and a request was made for assurances that this would not occur in the Dudley Borough.</p>	<p>Referred to the Directorate of the Urban Environment and the Cabinet Member for Transport.</p>

Working with you: Topics raised by Local Councillors

The Vice Chair referred to the Budget Consultation 2015/16 and the leaflets entitled "Big Budget" that were available to consult residents of the Borough on their top five most valued Council services. He encouraged those present to complete the forms that had been circulated prior to the meeting.

Councillor Scott-Dow referred to the implementation of measures to slow down traffic on Church Street, Lower Gornal

21 **Community Forum Funding**

Application

Recommendation

Gornal Business Watch

Approved up to the amount of £4,000 from the Gornal Ward.

Dudley Council –
Environmental Management
Division.

Approved a joint contribution from both Wards in the sum of £2,069.60.

22 **Dates, Time and Venues of Future Meetings**

Monday 26th January, 2015 – 6.30pm – Lower Gornal British Legion

Monday 16th March, 2015 – 6.30pm – Venue to be Confirmed.

The meeting ended at 7.50pm

Action Notes of the Coseley East/Sedgley Community Forum

Tuesday 4th November 2014 at 6.30 pm
at Christ Church C of E Primary School, Church Road, Coseley

Present:-

Councillor D Caunt (Chair)
Councillor C Baugh (Vice-Chair)
Councillors S Etheridge, M Evans and M Mottram

Officers:-

S Cooper (Lead Officer to the Forum) (Head of Strategic Asset Planning) and M Johal (Democratic Services Officer)

Together with ten members of the public.

15 **Apology**

Councillor B Etheridge.

16 **Welcome and Introductions**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting of the Coseley East/Sedgley Community Forum.

17 **Listening to you – Questions and Comments from Local Residents**

Subject

Action

No matters were raised under this item.

18 **Working with you – Topics Raised by Local Councillors**

Subject

Action

Councillor S Etheridge

- (1) Referred to ongoing issues relating to allotments on Bradley Lane. Although the matter had been reported there had been no response from the Officers concerned.

It was reported that there were legal issues relating to accessing the allotments. The matter had been referred to the Council's Legal Section to ascertain ownership.

- (2) Raised a concern that the goalpost at Clayton Park in Coseley had been removed and not replaced.

Councillor M Evans referred to Christmas Decorations in Sedgley and stated that a plan was being drawn up in conjunction with Sedgley Community Association.

Councillor D Caunt informed the meeting that the flag in Sedgley would change to the Union Jack to commemorate Remembrance Day.

The Ward Members undertook to pursue the matter.

Councillor M Mottram reported that he had spoken to the person concerned and the matter had now been resolved.

19

Community Forum Funding

Application

Black Country Wheels

Dudley Duke of Edinburgh Award Association

Bayer Street Allotments Association

Dudley MBC – on behalf of Coseley Residents

Dudley MBC – Environmental Management Division

Recommendation

Refuse – as it does not meet local criteria

Refuse – as it was considered that funding would not benefit the individuals undertaking the Award.

Approve £4146 – Coseley East Ward

Approve £7130 – Coseley East Ward (to be allocated from the Empty Shops Grant)

Approve £2343 – Coseley East and Sedgley Wards

Hurst Hill Community Centre – The Lead Officer to the Committee reported that an application would shortly be submitted from the Centre. The Centre had endured damage to the building and as they were not able to afford repairs it was requested that the matter be dealt with as an urgent matter.

Consider as an urgent application once submitted.

20

Dates, Times and Venues of Future Meetings

Future meetings noted as follows:-

Tuesday 27th January, 2015 (Age Concern, Ettymore Road)

Tuesday 17th March, 2015 (Christ Church C of E School, Church Road)

The meeting ended at 6.50 pm

Action Notes of the Halesowen North and Halesowen South Community Forum

Tuesday 4th November, 2014 at 6.30pm
at Olive Hill Primary School, Springfield Road, Halesowen

Present:

Councillor K Shakespeare (Chair)
Councillor A .Taylor (Vice-Chair)
Councillors H Bills, S Henley and D Vickers.

Officers:

S.Beckett (Lead Officer) (Head of Dudley Council Plus)) and J.Jablonski
(Assistant Principal Officer - Democratic Services)

together with 6 members of the public

15 **Apology for Absence**

Apology submitted on behalf of Councillor N Gregory

16 **Welcome**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

17 **Listening to you: Questions and Comments from Local Residents**

Subject

Action

The pay of the new Chief Executive at a time when cuts to services are being made and the appointment process.

Noted.Councillor Bills offer to speak to questioner following the meeting.

18 **Working with you: Topics raised by Local Councillors**

Subject

Action

Councillor Vickers referred to a petition that he had submitted to the Council on behalf of residents of Illey complaining about a number of highway and traffic issues. The speed of traffic using the stretch of road in question and the implications of this were one of the main concerns. A resident expanded on the points raised.

Lead Officer asked to pursue matters raised with the Cabinet Member and DUE. Noted that Councillor Vickers would raise the matter at the next PACT meeting. General concern raised at vegetation obscuring road signs and the need for action to be taken on this.

Councillors Bills gave a further update on the works being carried out in Narrow Lane.

Noted. .

19 **Community Forum Funding**

A further application to those set out in the report submitted, received from Halesowen and Rowley Regis Rotary Club, was also considered at the meeting.

Councillors Bills and Vickers indicated that they had an interest in the application submitted by Halesowen in Bloom as they were on that body's committee.

Application

Recommendation

Black Country Wheels

Refuse, in that it was considered that colleges in the Borough already offered courses of a similar nature and as the body was based in Lye it was queried as to its impact in the area of the forum.

Halesowen Chamber of Commerce

Approval of £2,500 to the Chamber since the last meeting noted.

Dudley Council's Environmental Management Division

Approve a payment of £1,034.80 only in respect of the one tree cited in the forums area.

(Lead Officer to refer the other tree at St John's Church, High Street, to the Belle Vale, Hayley Green and Cradley South Community Forum for consideration.

Lead Officer to arrange for details of the actual cost in providing the tree and a breakdown of those costs to be reported to be reported to Members)

Dudley Duke of Edinburgh Award Association

Approve a payment of £500.

Halesowen in Bloom

That the Secretary of Halesowen in Bloom be requested to approach other possible sources of funding including CENTRO and Rotary.

If alternative sources are available for the items requested they be invited to submit a further application for other items they require, but if alternative sources of funding are not available the original application be considered again .

Halesowen and Rowley Regis Rotary Club

Approve a payment of £2,170.

20 **Dates, Time and Venues of Future Meetings**

27th January, 2015 – Leasowes School – 6.30pm

17th March, 2015 – Olive Hill Primary School – 6.30pm

The meeting ended at 7.20pm

**Action Notes of the Norton, Pedmore and Stourbridge East, Wollaston and
Stourbridge Town Community Forum**

**Wednesday 5th November, 2014 at 6.30pm
at Wollaston Village Hall, Bridgnorth Road, Wollaston, Stourbridge**

Present:

Councillor N Barlow (Chair)
Councillors M Attwood, C Hale, L Jones, I Kettle, I Marrey, H Rogers and M Wood

Officers:

A Leigh (Lead Officer) (Head of Services (Housing Strategy and Development) – Directorate of Adult, Community & Housing Services) and H Shepherd (Democratic Services Officer – Directorate of Corporate Resources)

Together with 6 members of the public

15 **Welcome and Introductions**

The Chair welcomed those present and Members and Officers introduced themselves.

16 **Apology for Absence**

Councillor C Elcock.

17 **Listening to you: Questions and Comments from Local Residents**

Subject

Action

Mopeds and motorcycles being used around the Wollaston playing field at the rear of St James's Church, Bridgnorth Road, Wollaston causing disturbance and damage to the ground.

Issue had been raised with West Midlands Police.

Referred for a response/action.

18 **Working with you: Topics raised by Local Councillors**

Subject

Action

Councillor H Rogers referred to parking issues at Mary Stevens Park.

It was stated that a review of the situation had been promised.

Councillor M Attwood referred to the proposed change of use of the Gigmill Public House.	The Lead Officer agreed to explore the guidance on listing of assets of community value and correspond with Members direct.
Councillor M Wood raised the issue of dog fouling at Pedmore Cricket Club and requested additional signage and dog bins to be erected in the area.	Referred for a response/action.
Councillor C Hale raised concerns of speeding traffic from the High Street up to Wollaston Village.	Councillor C Hale would continue to monitor the situation.
Councillor N Barlow reported the increase in vehicle crime, particularly in the Stourbridge old quarter area.	Residents were requested to be vigilant and not to leave any items on display in their vehicles and to report any suspicious behaviour to West Midlands Police.
Councillor N Barlow stated that a follow up meeting in relation to the Longlands site would be held at 6pm on 28 th November, 2014 at Greenfields Primary School.	All residents were welcome and encouraged to attend.

19 **Community Forum Funding**

<u>Application</u>	<u>Recommendation</u>
Stourbridge Choir and Orchestra	Approve an upfront contribution of £1500 and approve any additional funding once the total cost is confirmed, up to the amount of £3000, but for the sole purpose to support the production of a World War 1 commemorative concert and not for the making of a charitable donation.
The Friends of Wollescote Park	Deferred – Lead Officer to ascertain how the remaining funding required for the project would be obtained.
Lye Community Centre	Approve £2500
Dudley MBC – Environmental Management Division	Approve £2324.53 allocated from the High Street Innovation/Empty Shops Grant
Dudley Duke of Edinburgh Award Association	Approve £500

20 **Dates, Time and Venues of Future Meetings**

Future meeting dates noted as follows:-

Wednesday 28th January, 2015 – Gig Mill Primary School, The Broadway

Wednesday 18th March, 2015 – Chawn Hill Church, Chawn Hill

The meeting ended at 7.50pm

**Action Notes of the Castle and Priory, St James's and St Thomas's
Community Forum**

Wednesday 5th November, 2014 at 6.30 pm
at Wrens Nest Community Centre, Summer Road, Dudley.

Present:-

Councillor K Finch (Chair)
Councillors K Ahmed, S Ali, M Aston, A Finch and M Roberts.

Officers:-

S Griffiths (Lead Officer to the Forum) (Democratic Services Manager)

Together with 17 members of the public.

15 **Apologies**

Councillors A Ahmed, S Arshad and S Waltho.

16 **Welcome and Introductions**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Councillors and Officers introduced themselves.

17 **Castle and Crystal Credit Union**

The Forum received a presentation from the Business Finance Manager of Castle and Crystal Credit Union.

18 **Listening to you – Questions and Comments from Local Residents**

Subject

Issues relating to green space on Russells Hall Estate and its use for sport and recreational activities.

Action

The Council's Green Care team had undertaken works following a site visit. Further work was required to address drainage issues. Councillor M Roberts reported on ongoing work to form a Friends Group for Russells Hall to assist with funding applications and to encourage community involvement. The Forum supported all the ongoing activity to improve the amenities and facilities on the Russells Hall Estate.

<p>Traffic issues relating to the closure of Blackacre Road, Dudley and ongoing issues in surrounding streets.</p>	<p>Councillor K Ahmed responded to a range of issues raised by local residents at the meeting. Further information was requested concerning the risk assessment and comments of the Chief Fire Officer concerning the closure of Blackacre Road. The situation would be reviewed six months after the reopening of King Street.</p>
<p>Issues relating to blocked drains and litter at Bushey Fields Road/Overfield Road, Russells Hall</p>	<p>The ongoing issues were noted.</p>
<p>Parking Issues at Russells Hall near to the Blue Submarine chip shop and the possible provision of box markings on the roadway.</p>	<p>Councillor K Ahmed stated that box markings would be considered, however, the necessary legal procedures would have to be followed, which could be a lengthy and costly process. Illegal parking on pavements would be raised with the Police at the next PACT meeting.</p>
<p>Concerns were expressed about street lights being turned off at night (Pearce Close, Russells Hall).</p>	<p>Councillor K Ahmed stated that this issue was being considered, however, this would mainly affect rural areas.</p>
<p>Traffic/speed calming measures for Oakham Road, Dudley.</p>	<p>Councillor S Ali stated that this was a long standing issue and an update was given on the current position. Following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Transport, a scheme for traffic calming measures had been produced for consideration by ward Councillors and local residents.</p>
<p>Parking issues outside schools in Milking Bank, Russells Hall and Roberts Street.</p>	<p>Councillor K Ahmed stated that the Council was working in partnership with the Police to address the issues. Residents were encouraged to report matters to the Police if drivers were breaking the law.</p>
<p>Fly tipping on land adjacent to Watson's Green Road, Kates Hill, Dudley.</p>	<p>Referred for a written response.</p>
<p>Anti social behaviour caused by noisy motor scooters and motorbikes on Kates Hill Estate, Dudley.</p>	<p>Referred for a written response.</p>

<p>Flats on Russells Hall Estate – concerns relating to the anti social behaviour of a tenant and issues concerning the housing allocations policy.</p>	<p>The Chair reported on the process for dealing with anti social behaviour via the Anti Social Behaviour Team and the policy of allocating properties based on housing need. Information on the individual tenant would be passed to the relevant officer.</p>
<p>Condition of the slabbed area outside the shops in Summer Road, Wrens Nest, Dudley.</p>	<p>The Estate Manager had visited the site. It was confirmed that this area was the responsibility of the shop keepers.</p>
<p>Replacement of fencing at vacant land in Myrtle Road, Wrens Nest, Dudley.</p>	<p>Councillor A Finch confirmed that this was housing land and he would contact the Directorate of Adult, Community and Housing Services.</p>
<p>Development of a new Community Centre for the North Priory Estate</p>	<p>The Chair reported that discussions had taken place with the Leader and Senior Council Officers. Ward Councillors had been proactively involved in making representations. It was hoped that positive progress could be made in the near future.</p>
<p>Road cleaners cleaning the streets before the refuse collection in the Wrens Nest area.</p>	<p>The comments were noted.</p>
<p>A resident requested information on what was happening to the land on Meadow Road, Dudley.</p>	<p>Referred for a written response.</p>
<p>A resident raised queries concerning areas of block paving in Dudley market place, which were covered by tarmac.</p>	<p>Referred for a written response.</p>
<p>Query concerning the market stalls in Dudley High Street.</p>	<p>Councillor K Ahmed gave a progress report and stated that, once completed, the market stalls would be at the same level as previously.</p>

Working with you – Topics Raised by Local Councillors

Councillor S Ali reported on the forthcoming remembrance service in Grazebrook Park.

Councillor M Roberts reported her concerns regarding synthetic substances being offered for sale to children.

The Lead Officer reported on Dudley's Festival of Remembrance Concert (6th November) and events taking place in Dudley on Remembrance Sunday (9th November) and Armistice Day (11th November, 2014).

20 **Community Forum – Love Your Local Community Funding**

<u>Application</u>	<u>Recommendation</u>
Claughton Youth Centre	Approval of a contribution of £1,500 (St Thomas's ward)
Black Country Wheels	Refusal - priority given to schemes of direct benefit to the wards covered by this Community Forum
Whole Child Foundation	Approval of a contribution of £500 (St Thomas's ward)
Arc Aid Charity Shop	Refusal of both applications – priority to be given to schemes that contribute to the community strategy and which directly benefit the wards covered by this Community Forum. The Forum acknowledged the good work undertaken by this charity, however, raised concerns about setting a precedent in relation to similar applications from other charitable organisations.
Dudley MBC – Environmental Management Division	Approval of £1,289.72 for the Stone Street Square Christmas Tree. (St James's ward) The application for a Christmas Tree at Milking Bank was deferred for a recommendation to be made by the Lead Officer, in consultation with the Chair and ward Councillors, following confirmation of the details of the proposed location.
Duke of Edinburgh Award Association	Deferred for further information on the direct benefit to the wards covered by this Community Forum.

Dates, Times and Venues of Future Meetings

Future meetings noted as follows:-

Wednesday 28th January, 2015 (St Thomas's Community Network)

Wednesday 18th March, 2015 (St Barnabus' C of E Church)

The meeting ended at 8.30 pm

Action Notes of the Brierley Hill and Brockmoor & Pensnett Community Forum

Tuesday 11th November, 2014 at 6.30pm
at the Fens Pool Community Centre, Tennyson Street, Brierley Hill

Present:

Councillor K Jordan (Chair)
Councillor Z Islam (Vice Chair)
Councillors J Foster, R Harris and J Martin.

Officers:

I McGuff (Lead Officer) (Assistant Director – Quality and Partnership) and
K Buckle (Democratic Services Officer)

Together with seven members of the public

17 **Welcome and Introductions**

The Chair welcomed those present and Members introduced themselves.

18 **Apology for Absence**

Councillor M Wilson

19 **Listening to you: Questions and Comments from Local Residents**

Subject

Action

A request that fly tipping on Fens Pool Nature Reserve and Chapel Street and discarded rubble at the rear of houses in Byron Street, Pensnett be removed.

Referred for a written response.

Concerns in relation to ongoing fly tipping on waste land at the top of Albert Street, Pensnett which had created problems with vermin for local residents and a request that this be removed.

Referred for a written response.

Concerns in relation to stray horses on Commonside, Pensnett.

The Chair advised that the horses were grazing on privately owned land and the issue was a matter for the landowner.

Further issues in relation to Albert Street regarding overgrowth, encroaching onto the pavement and the danger caused by the huge decline to the side of the land which was hazardous to pedestrians.

Councillor Harris advised that the Council could serve a Notice upon the owner of the land under the Environment Act, if the owner could be traced and it was agreed that this would be pursued with relevant Officers.

A request that dog bins be installed at entrances of the Fens Pool Centre, Blewitt Street, adjacent to the Old Bulls Head Public House, opposite the Dell Stadium and on the Wallows. There was also a request that an Enforcement Officer patrol the Fens Pool area of the Nature Reserve.

Referred for a written response.

20 **Working with you: Topics raised by Local Councillors**

Subject

Action

Concerns were raised by Members in relation to issues affecting both Wards regarding the following:-

(a) Speeding traffic travelling from Moor Street to Fenton Street and towards Park Street; traffic travelling from Station Road and the surrounding areas and the danger this caused to the many elderly residents in the area and also parents walking with their children to and from Brockmoor Primary school, Belle Isle. There followed a request that an urgent assessment be conducted of the areas above in order to implement measures to prevent speeding traffic.

Referred to the Director of the Urban Environment.

(b) The possibility of widening the carriageway and opening up the junction of Moor Street and Fenton Street in order to improve access to the Medical Centre in Albion Street.

Referred to the Director of the Urban Environment.

(c) The inclusion of Taxis in Bus Lanes for Taxis travelling from the start of Venture Way into the High Street. This would improve traffic congestion, air quality and provide additional transport services for those who were dependent on alternative transport arrangements.

Referred to the Director of the Urban Environment.

(d) Concerns in relation to vehicles u turning in Brierley Hill High Street and the danger this was causing to pedestrians and other road users.

Referred to the Director of the Urban Environment.

(e) The provision of a bus shelter for those travelling from the stop situated on the opposite side of the road to the Library and towards the Police Station in Brierley Hill High Street.

Referred to the Director of the Urban Environment for possible discussion with CENTRO.

Councillor Foster referred to the improvements to Dudley High Street and a meeting that had been arranged with the Express and Star in relation to their article regarding the Dudley High Street.

Councillor Foster referred to the plan for the regeneration of Brierley Hill High Street and a meeting that was to take place with Councillors and a high level of business representatives in December to discuss regeneration.

Councillor Foster to discuss over usage of the High Street, Brierley Hill and the provision of public transport services to those accessing the Health and Social Care Centre, Brierley Hill at the meeting.

The Vice-Chair recommended that those who already use Brierley Hill High Street, together with investors and visitors should be consulted in relation to the regeneration of the High Street.

In response to a question regarding forcing traffic to use Venture Way in order to avoid Brierley Hill High Street, Councillor Foster advised on the impact this may have on passing trade and advised that access issues could be investigated.

21 **Community Forum – Love Your Local Community Funding**

The Lead Officer reported on the successful Application granted at the previous meeting to Puresport Foundation Football Club.

Recommendations made in respect of Applications received and discussed following the meeting were as follows:-

<u>Application</u>	<u>Recommendation</u>
Pensnett Tenants and Residents Association.	Approved a contribution of £2,000 subject to confirmation that the Council would not be responsible for ongoing maintenance costs and Public Liability Insurance was in place.
Dudley MBC Environmental Management Division.	Approved £9,000 – Brockmoor & Pensnett Ward and £1,327.53 – Brierley Hill Ward.
St James Methodist Church, Childrens Group, Pensnett.	Approval of £1,000.
Dudley Duke of Edinburgh Award Association.	Approved a joint contribution of £500
Nine Locks Community Association.	Approval of up to a maximum of £2,000.

21 **Dates, Times and Venues of Future Meetings.**

Future meetings were noted as follows:-

Wednesday 4th February, 2015 (Nine Locks Community Centre)
Tuesday 24th March, 2015 (Fens Pool Community Centre)

The meeting ended at 7.35pm

**Action Notes of the Amblecote, Cradley and Wollescote and Lye and Stourbridge
North Community Forum**

**Wednesday 12th November, 2014 at 6.40pm
at Providence Methodist Church, Colley Orchard, Colley Gate**

Present:

Councillor C Perks (Chair)
Councillors R Body, P Bradley, T Crumpton, T Herbert and P Lowe

Also in Attendance:-

Councillor K Ahmed (Cabinet Member for Transport)

Officers:

A Grove (Lead Officer - Head of Youth Service) and K Taylor (Democratic Services Officer)

Together with 14 members of the public

18 **Welcome and Introductions**

The Lead Officer welcomed those present. The local Councillors and members of the public introduced themselves.

19 **Apologies for Absence**

Councillors M Hanif, G Partridge and P Martin.

20 **Listening to you: Questions and Comments from Local Residents**

Subject

Action

A resident referred to issues raised concerning the lack of public parking at Wollescote Park, which was raised at a number of Community Forums, and the lack of responses received. He also stated that he had received an unsatisfactory response to another issue raised previously, concerning surface drainage water from the new housing development on the former Hickman's Manufacturing site in Delph Road.

The Chair undertook to action the points raised.

Reference was made to the missing gates at the entrance of Homer Hill Park, which was raised at the last meeting of the Community Forum, however a response had not been received. Councillor Body provided a background and problems resulting from the development undertaken at Homer Hill Park.

Councillor Crumpton responded that he would refer the matter to the Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services, for a response and full report to be completed before the Council Meeting to be held on 1st December, 2014.

Concerns were raised in relation to parking by Wollescote Primary School, Drummond Road and the roundabout at the junction of Crabbe Street, and the potholes at Balds Lane. A request was made for zig zag lines on Balds Lane by the School and Crabbe Street.

Referred for a written response.

The Cabinet Member for Transport also responded that he was meeting with Cllr R Body on 20th November, 2014, and all the points raised would be discussed.

Reference was made to the possibility of merging Community Forum meetings with PACT meetings.

Members suggested that those who attended PACT meetings could be invited to attend future Community Forums per ward.

Issues relating to accidents and obstruction caused by parking in Hillbank Road and Butchers Lane, Cradley.

Councillor Body responded and stated that he had visited a number of residents in Butchers Lane regarding the parking, and had undertaken a traffic exercise. The points raised would be discussed between the Cabinet Member of Transport and Cllr Body on 20th November, 2014

21 **Working with you: Topics raised by Local Councillors**

No issues were raised under this item.

22 **Community Forum Funding**

It was noted that due to limited funding being available, and in the interests of fairness, a maximum of £1,000 would be considered for applications. The Lead Officer also outlined the funding received from the High Street Innovation/Empty Shops Grant.

Application

Recommendation

Stourbridge Glassboys Under 11 FC

Deferred – The group be requested to review other funding sources available.

Lye Community Centre	Approve a contribution of £1,000.
Black Country Wheels	Approve £500.
Transitions Stourbridge	Approve £262.
Dudley MBC – Directorate of the Urban Environment	Approve £2069.60 allocated from the High Street Innovation/Empty Shops Grant
Dudley Duke of Edinburgh Association	Approve £500.

23 **Self Care Week Presentation**

Mr H Bloomer and Mr B Beardow, Representatives of Wychbury Patients Participation Group, gave a PowerPoint presentation on self care for life and how to get the most from Pharmacies.

Mr Bloomer provided a background; in particular, the time taken by GP's to treat patients with minor conditions which could be treated by a pharmacist without an appointment or prescription. He stated that 63 pharmacies and 42 GP surgeries had registered to the scheme, however currently this was only available to patients in underprivileged areas.

All those in attendance thanked Mr Bloomer and Mr Beardow for the presentation given.

24 **Other Business**

A resident referred to a local Cradley man who had written a book specifically relating to World War One that could be distributed to Schools in the Borough, in particular, that an application for funding would be submitted to help fund the publishing of the book. Members agreed that once submitted, the application for funding would be considered before the next meeting of the Community Forum under delegated powers.

It was noted that Councillors Body and Lowe would be 'sleeping rough' on Christmas Eve as part of the Council's bid to raise awareness of the support needed to help homeless teenagers in the Black Country. The Members would be at the Ryemarket on 6th and 20th December, and Halesowen Town Centre on 13th December, 2014, between 10am and 2 pm, should members of the public wish to donate.

Reference was made that the company Midland Film and Art had been involved with producing history trails, which was also available on the St Peters Cradley website.

25 **Dates, Time and Venues of Future Meetings**

Future meetings noted as follows:-

Wednesday 4th February, 2015 (Amblecote Church Hall)

Wednesday 25th March, 2015 (Lye Community Centre)

The meeting ended at 8.45pm

**Action Notes of the meeting of the Belle Vale, Hayley Green
and Cradley South Community Forum**

Tuesday, 12th November, 2014 at 6.30 p.m.
at Lutley Community Centre, Brookwillow Road, Halesowen

PRESENT:-

Councillor D Russell (Chair),
Councillor A Goddard (Vice Chair),
Councillors I Cooper, R James, H Turner and K Turner

OFFICERS:-

A Webb (Lead Officer to the Forum) - Head of Sport and Physical Activity and R Sanders (Assistant Principal Officer - Democratic Services)

together with 12 members of the public

- 15 The Chair welcomed everyone present to the meeting.
-

16 **Listening To You**

Subject

Action

Footpath from Foxlea to Moorfoot Avenue

Condition of footpath surface. Resident who raised the matter not satisfied with response of Directorate of the Urban Environment (DUE) that footpath is up to appropriate standard. Agreement of operative to arrange for his manager to visit the resident not followed up to date.

Referred to the DUE for attention. Vice Chair to take up with DUE.

17 **Working for You**

No issues were raised under this item.

18 **Love Your Community – Love Your Community Funding**

<u>Application</u>	<u>Recommendation</u>
St Margaret's Church, Hasbury	Noted application has been withdrawn, pending determination of a planning application by the church. Application for funding may be resubmitted in due course.
COCOA – Welcome to Dudley Project	No action at present - organisation have not yet indicated whether or not they have succeeded in securing funding from other sources.
Life Centre Debt Advice	Refusal
Halesowen Abbey Trust – Purchase Leasowes Walled Garden	Approval of the sum of £1800.
Halesowen in Bloom	Approval of the sum of £1800.
Dudley Council for Voluntary Service	Refusal since event has already taken place
Halesowen Chamber of Trade	Deferral to enable accounts of organisation to be inspected.
Duke of Edinburgh Award Association	Approval of the sum of £500.
Dudley MBC	Refusal - applicant is neither a community nor voluntary organisation. Provision of a Christmas tree at the St John the Baptist Church in High Street, Halesowen from the Council's resources to be discussed with the Director of the Urban Environment.
West Mercia Scouts	Approval of the sum of £625 to enable the scout named in the application form to attend the 23rd World Scout Jamboree
Halesowen and Rowley Regis Rotary Club	Approval of the sum of £2000.
Hope Centre	Approval of the sum of £5000, subject to three written quotations being submitted to the Director of the Urban Environment; the organisation providing match funding; and to the vehicle selected and proposed by the organisation being to the satisfaction of the Director of the Urban Environment.

19. **High Street Innovation Fund Empty Shops Grant**

The means of distribution of the monies from this grant was raised but no firm conclusions were reached. The view was expressed that further discussion was necessary but that the availability of the monies could be publicised through Rotary and local newspapers.

20. **Funding applications**

Further to consideration of the funding applications above, the view was strongly expressed that funding approved for applications made by the same body to different Community Forums should be limited to £5000 in total. It was agreed that this be recommended accordingly to the Director of Corporate Resources.

21. **Dates, Time and Venues of Future Meetings**

Tuesday, 3rd February, 2015 – Windsor High School
Wednesday, 25th March, 2015 – Earls High School

The meeting ended at 8.10 p.m.

Minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board

**Thursday, 16th October, 2014 at 6.00 p.m.
at the Council House, Priory Road, Dudley**

Present:

Councillor Tyler (Chair);
Councillor A Finch (Vice-Chair);
Councillors D Blood, P Bradley, I Cooper, C Hale, M Hanif, R James, L Jones, P Miller and M Mottram.

Officers:

R Sims, Assistant Director (Housing Strategy and Private Sector - Lead Officer to the Board)

M Bowsher , Assistant Director (Quality and Commissioning) and K Buckle (Democratic Services Officer - Directorate of Corporate Resources).

Also in Attendance

R Harris, Cabinet Member for Human Resources, Legal, Property and Health.

17 **Apology for Absence**

An apology for absence from the meeting was submitted on behalf of Councillor N Barlow.

18 **Appointment of Substitute Member**

It was reported that Councillor P Miller had been appointed as a substitute for Councillor N Barlow for this meeting of the Board.

19 **Declaration of Interests**

Councillor A Finch declared a Non-Pecuniary Interest in Agenda Item No. 5 – Better Care Fund, as his son was employed by the Directorate of Adult, Community and Housing Services.

20 **Minutes**

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting held on 8th September, 2014, be approved as a correct record and signed.

21 **Better Care Fund**

The Assistant Director of Quality and Commissioning gave a powerpoint presentation on the Better Care Fund.

Forming part of the presentation Members listened to an audio presentation of the King's Fund in relation to the purpose of the Better Care Fund. This included a case study of an elderly gentleman suffering from several medical conditions resulting in several periods in hospital and the time taken to be assessed before he was allowed home. This scenario was compared with the joined up care services approach, with shared vision providing good integrated care, which in turn prevented lengthy periods of time in hospital and resulted in the patient remaining in his own home rather than entering residential care. This not only resulted in a higher standard of care but reduced the need for extra resources and expenditure, with the desired result that the patient remained in his own home.

The Assistant Director of Quality and Commissioning referred to the rationale of the Better Care Fund, which was to deliver savings by endeavouring to reduce complex demand, to an ageing community which would involve co-ordination of health care services to support people at home.

It was noted that the Council's aim was to reduce 2,500 unplanned hospital admissions by the end of next year and this was to be achieved by growing new types of health care provision, which would involve a patient's choice and control and the ability to cope with complex needs in the community.

The emphasis on reducing unplanned admissions related to the cost of nursing home beds to each patient ranging from £21,000 to £27,000 per annum.

The Assistant Director of Quality and Commissioning referred to the Better Care Fund Dudley Overview outlining some of the new initiatives including community rapid response to the high risk population with the aim of providing crisis emergency responses, resulting in the reduction in avoidable admissions and the virtual ward which would provide an intermediate service.

The continued provision of Dementia Gateways, extra care housing and reablement services was referred to with the Council continuing to offer current services such as Telecare and the Living Safe and Feeling Safe Welfare Service.

The Governance of Health Care Workers was outlined together with the significant key changes to the Better Care Fund and it was noted that some monies in the fund were contingent upon delivery of performance targets, with a proportion of the benefits arising being spent on out-of-hospital services according to the level of reduction in emergency admissions achieved.

The Assistant Director of Quality and Commissioning referred to the need to avoid unnecessary acute activity, by promoting independence and reducing the delay in dependence by continuing to work with those with long term needs, with end of life care being identified as a particular area of focus.

The requirement to reduce emergency admissions and the number of delayed bed days in hospital together with improving the rate of dementia diagnosis at an early stage was referred to.

The Assistant Director of Quality and Commissioning reported on the proposed allocation of the Better Care Fund and that the additional resources to support the Council in the sum of £3.75m was contingent upon the delivery of service targets and those resources would not become available to the Council unless the projected number of reduced hospital admissions target was met.

It was noted that the Clinical Commissioning Group had agreed that any benefit or loss arising from the fund would be shared jointly with the Council.

In concluding his presentation the Assistant Director of Quality and Commissioning reported on the bid made to NHS England for the Better Care Fund, advising that the authorisation process would take place in November, however it was believed that very few bids would pass without minor amendments or qualifications.

The Cabinet Member for Human Resources, Legal, Property and Health referred to the hard work of the Clinical Commissioning Group and the Directorate of Adult, Community and Housing Services, being impressed by the level of determination and ambition in relation to the bidding process referred to above. She referred to the risks involved and the need to deal with the demographics in order to provide services. The continuing need for partnership working in order to achieve the top to bottom systematic change was referred to.

The Cabinet Member also referred to the work of the Dudley Health and Wellbeing Board in relation to governance of the health care system.

Arising from the presentation Members asked questions and made comments and the Assistant Director of Quality and Commissioning responded as follows:-

The aim of the delivery of the health care service was to make people feel safe, well, confident to remain at home and to reduce isolation and in view of this the quality of care was paramount.

In relation to the performance matrix there were currently agreed data management systems which tracked all hospital admissions, time frames, conditions and outcomes and there was a methodology in place for collecting data. This data was shared with the Clinical Commissioning Group and the Dudley Group of Hospitals, however it was agreed that further work was needed in this area particularly in relation to the new service provision areas where no data currently exists. Investigation of reasonable expectations and how this

could be reported upon would take place in order for action to be taken if there were shortfalls in areas of health care provision.

A Member raised concerns regarding avoiding admissions to hospital in order to meet targets.

A suggestion was made that the Police be included in partnership working in order to target reduction in hospital admissions.

The Assistant Director of Quality and Commissioning advised that two criteria would take precedence when determining whether hospital admissions were necessary and these were clinical diagnosis and the statutory duty of care including the ability to determine when to refer people and the need to admit.

It was also reported that a requirement of the Better Care Fund included the right of the Community to actively challenge the Fund. Dudley Healthwatch were meeting with people to define a matrix as to what mattered most to them, which would be scrutinised from a community perspective and in relation to those clear expectations, as to how issues in relation to the fund would be mitigated should the expectations of the community not be met

The Cabinet Member for Human Resources, Legal, Property and Health advised that Chief Superintendent Johnson of West Midlands Police, was a member of the Dudley Health and Wellbeing Board and a wide dialogue had been conducted with him as to how the Police would become involved and what their role would be in relation to the detection of those requiring health care services. She also reported on the work that was taking place in relation to self awareness for staff, in order to provide early intervention health care.

Members expressed concerns and made suggestions in relation to the following:-

- The elderly being vulnerable and suffering from loneliness, suggesting that additional extra care provision should be provided;
- The work of the befriending service and a request that engagement take place with the voluntary sector in relation to those who were more vulnerable including those with mental health issues;
- That should the elderly require adaptations to their properties these should be carried out on a more timely basis, with a request that health care professionals become engaged with the Council's Housing Services.

The Chair recommended that it was vital for the Council's Housing Services to become involved and included with the health care provision and the Better Care Fund, in order to ensure that there was no hiatus between them. The Assistant Director of Quality and Commissioning agreed to pursue this.

The Assistant Director of Quality and Commissioning referred to the adoption of the trusted assessor model in order to address issues or make recommendations in relation to disabled facilities with funding forming part of the Better Care Fund.

The Assistant Director of Quality and Commissioning also reported on the engagement work conducted with the community advising that their top priority had been transport and concerns surrounding the reduction in transport services. He advised that he had spoken to CENTRO in relation to disability awareness and communication had been entered into with the voluntary sector to investigate whether they had fleet vehicles available to assist with transportation to medical facilities.

He also reported on the isolation work conducted by Dudley Council for Voluntary Services and the 36,000 informal carers within the Dudley Borough.

In responding to a question in relation to how the category of risk was determined, the Assistant Director of Quality and Commissioning advised that there was a clinical diagnosis tool that was used to determine whether the population were categorised as high risk, established risk, emerging risk or low risk.

The Chair suggested that all Members of the Council should be briefed in relation to the Better Care Fund.

Resolved

- (1) That the contents of the presentation on the Better Care Fund, together with Members' comments be noted.
- (2) That the Cabinet Member for Human Resources, Legal, Property and Health be recommended to ensure the inclusion of the Council's Housing Services with health care provision and the Better Care Fund.

22

Forward Plan of Key Decisions

The Board received the Forward Plan of Key Decisions for the four month period commencing 1st October, 2014.

Reference was made to an additional item being included in the Forward Plan concerning parking at Russells Hall Hospital and following further discussion it was

Resolved

- (1) That the Forward Plan of Key Decisions for the four month period commencing 1st October, 2014, be noted.
- (2) That the Lead Officer to the Committee convene a further meeting of the Committee to consider parking issues at Russells Hall Hospital.
- (3) That Members be requested to email the Lead Officer details of relevant partners and organisational representatives they wished to invite to the meeting to consider parking issues.

The meeting ended at 7.35 pm

CHAIR

Minutes of the Urban Environment Scrutiny Committee

Wednesday, 1st October, 2014 at 6.00 pm
in Committee Room 3 at the Council House, Dudley

Present:

Councillor D Tyler (Chair)
Councillor A Finch (Vice Chair)
Councillors S Ali, J Cowell, W Duckworth, N Gregory, C Hale, I Kettle, P Miller,
R Scott-Dow and E Taylor.

Officers:

R Sims (Assistant Director, Adult, Community and Housing Services - Housing Strategy and Private Sector), (Lead Officer to the Committee), R Dugdale (Head of Economic Development), J Scott (Principal Executive Support Officer) (Both Directorate of the Urban Environment) and H Shepherd (Democratic Services Officer, Directorate of Corporate Resources).

5 **Declarations of interest**

No member made a declaration of interest in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct.

6 **Minutes**

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting held on 9th July, 2014, be approved as a correct record and signed.

7 **Public Forum**

No issues were raised under this agenda item.

8 **Inward investment in Dudley Borough and the Black Country**

A report of the Lead Officer to the Urban Environment Scrutiny Committee was submitted to provide Members with a draft work programme to support the scrutiny of inward investment activities in the Dudley Borough and the Black Country.

Arising from the presentation of the report and in response to a question raised by a member, the Head of Economic Development agreed to circulate to Members of the Committee the annual reports and relevant information from the organisations that were proposed to be witnesses, so that Members could obtain an understanding of their business role, achievements and aspirations and that this information be provided prior to the final report being presented at the Scrutiny Committee on 30th March, 2015.

The Chair requested that witnesses with an educational and tourism perspective also be included in the proposed list of witnesses and it was recommended that Lowell Williams, Principal of Dudley College and Peter Suddock, Chief Executive of Dudley Zoological Gardens be invited to a future Scrutiny Committee or asked to provide written representations for consideration.

In referring to the Best Practice area of Scrutiny, the Chair requested that information be provided where inward investment at other authorities had failed and to look at the worst practices so that the Dudley Borough and the Black Country could learn from their mistakes and experiences. Similar information was also requested for the funding category and in relation to funding applications that had been unsuccessful and the reasons why.

Members gave consideration to the opportunities and the possible revival of Dudley Town Centre if a University was to be established within the borough and suggested that this option be explored further. Reference was made to a Notice of Motion that had been made at Council in previous years in relation to this issue and the Chair requested that a copy of the Motion be circulated to Members for information.

Members considered the importance of establishing and developing good teaching centres within the town centre to encourage regeneration and growth which in turn would be linked to the development of additional residential sites to accommodate the staff and students, which would then attract further investments into the town and the borough.

Resolved

- (1) That the draft work programme to support the scrutiny of inward investment activities in the Dudley Borough and the Black Country, as set out in the report submitted and all relevant comments and recommendations made by Members at the meeting, be noted and endorsed.
- (2) That the Head of Economic Development be requested to circulate to Members of the Scrutiny Committee the annual reports and relevant information from the proposed witness organisations, so that Members could ascertain an understanding of their business role, achievements and aspirations and that this information be provided prior to the final report being submitted to the Scrutiny Committee on 30th March, 2015.

- (3) That the Democratic Services Officer be requested to circulate to Members of the Scrutiny Committee a copy of the Notice of Motion considered by Council in relation to the support of the development of a University within the Dudley Borough, for information.

9 **For Information only items**

- (a) Update on the numbers and key demographic characteristics of the Town Centre residents in Dudley

Resolved

That the information contained in the report, circulated to Members prior to the meeting, be noted.

- (b) Review of Environmental Management – Commercial Services

Resolved

- (1) That the information contained in the report, circulated to Members prior to the meeting, be noted
- (2) That an interim report on this item be circulated to Members prior to the final report being submitted to the Scrutiny Committee on 30th March, 2015 and that Members be requested to feedback any comments on the information circulated direct to the relevant Officers.

The meeting ended at 6.50pm.

CHAIR

Minutes of the Adult, Community and Housing Services Scrutiny Committee

Tuesday, 21st October, 2014 at 6.00 p.m.
in Committee Room 2 at the Council House, Dudley

Present:

Councillor M Hanif (Chair)
Councillor R James (Vice Chair)
Councillors B Body, I Cooper, A Goddard, Z Islam, J Martin, D Perks, K Turner, Tyler
and D Vickers.

Officers:

M Williams (Assistant Director, Customer Services), (Lead Officer to the Committee), D
Channings (Assistant Director of Housing Services), P Griffiths (Head of Investment),
(Both Directorate of Adult, Community and Housing Services), and K Buckle
(Democratic Services Officer) (Directorate of Corporate Resources).

16. **Declaration of Interest**

Councillor R Body declared a non- pecuniary interest in Agenda Item No. 6 –
Sustainability Model to be used to assist in determining Remodelling/
Demolition Options – in particular pertaining to youth housing as he was a host for the
Black Country YMCA.

17. **Minutes**

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting held on 15th September, 2014, be approved
as a correct record and signed.

18. **Public Forum**

There were no issues raised under this agenda item.

19. **Opening Remarks of the Chair**

The Chair referred to an Introduction Note that had been circulated to Members of the
Committee advising that notes as opposed to Minutes of the discussion would be
circulated to Members within the next two days and following this the Head of

Investment would contact Members to enquire whether they had any further suggestions and views they wished to add.

20. **Sustainability Model to be used to assist in determining Remodelling/Demolition Options.**

A report of the Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services was submitted on proposals and work undertaken to date concerning sustainability modelling of the Council's Housing Stock, intended to be used to identify and measure stock performance which could inform stock investment remodelling opportunities and considerations.

The Assistant Director of Housing Services in introducing the report advised that no decision in relation to the Council's housing stock had been taken as Members had requested that the Sustainability Model be considered in greater detail. She also stated that there was a need to evaluate the Council's housing stock during a challenging time and at a time when Members had to make difficult decisions. It was noted that the stock was aging and coupled with this, there was less demand for certain types of housing stock.

There followed a PowerPoint presentation on the Sustainability Model to be used to assist in determining Remodelling/Demolition options by the Head of Investment with Members asking questions and making suggestions throughout the presentation

The Head of Investment outlined the purpose of sustainability Modelling, advising that the term related to the concept of 'rethinking asset management', which posed questions in relation to the Council's current housing stock.

Arising from that part of the presentation relating to ensuring the Council obtained the best from their existing stock, including identifying where investment in housing stock should take place, Members made the following suggestions:-

- In relation to identifying properties or clusters of properties where with investment it may increase demand, properties to assist social services in meeting requirements and targets should be identified and the possibility of adapting smaller properties for the elderly, who currently occupied larger properties should be investigated, which may achieve greater provision of two and three bedroom properties;
- That there may be other community groups who would benefit from occupying clusters of properties, for example parents with young children as some issues were addressed more appropriately in certain environments.
- That sustainable communities were important and it was a matter of choosing optimum ways of maintaining sustainable communities;
- Housing areas should include a mixture of the Borough's population in order to create enhanced communities and areas;
- The possibility of converting low rise properties for those with health issues and the requirement to include the provision of suitable housing in the Better Care Fund.

The Head of Investment referred to unpopular properties that were hard to let and the number of no wait properties including those properties that required significant investment and the need to investigate investment strategies in order to address those issues and Members made the following suggestions:-

- In relation to hard to let properties there was a requirement to investigate different schemes including letting those properties to young people who may be willing to carry out their own repairs and the possibility of promoting hard to let properties to young people in order to encourage them onto the property ladder, as the current position in relation to loss of rent and the continued liability to pay council tax on those properties was unsustainable.
- That there was a need to investigate why some properties in certain areas were hard to let as there may be a requirement to invest in improving the appearance of those areas.
- A suggestion that should hard to let properties consist of blocks of flats that those blocks should be disposed of, with the sale proceeds being invested in current council housing stock or rebuilds;
- The possibility of the Council providing municipal mortgages to those who may wish to purchase hard to let properties;
- The possibility of introducing incentive schemes in relation to hard to let properties for example providing initial free rental weeks and/or providing assistance with obtaining furniture;
- There was a need to investigate options in relation to low level properties and maisonettes and the possibility of working with the voluntary sector and those who operated businesses in areas where there were hard to let properties in order to secure tenants for those properties;
- The possibility of letting properties to Community Centres given the funds available to them and programmes they undertake. Particular reference was made to the Centre for Equality and Diversity.
- Given that a significant proportion of hard to let properties were in high rise blocks the possibility of the remaining occupants being re-housed in order to provide a blank canvass to possible investors.

The Assistant Director of Housing Services stated that the number of no wait properties had increased due to the impact of the welfare reforms and that high rise properties were not the preferred choice of the Boroughs residents.

It was noted that following a consultation with Members it had been agreed that high rise properties should not be offered to those with young children.

The Head of Investment advised there had been open days for viewing high rise properties, which had been reasonably successful and the Assistant Director of Housing Services reported that properties to let were advertised on the Council's vans and also on public transport vehicles.

In relation to the suggestion that incentives should be available to tenants wishing to occupy hard to let properties the Assistant Director of Housing Services stated that this would be integrated but that she wished to secure sustainable tenancies and was concerned that tenants may only occupy properties whilst incentives were in place.

The Head of Investment advised that the sustainability model would assist with identifying those parts of the community and the housing stock within them where consideration could be given for intervention policies to improve demand. The Head of Investment outlined that the model would not provide solutions but would identify the areas where there was a need to identify the types of action required to make council housing stock more attractive for the boroughs' residents.

The Head of Investment returned to the PowerPoint presentation advising of the need for transparency, realism and simplicity in measuring performance to ensure that the performance of housing stock could be measured effectively including capturing financial performance and demand for properties.

Indicative graphs were displayed in relation to how the cost element of sustainability modelling could inform the business case, and the Head of Investment advised that following the assessment of financial performance of properties it would reveal that a number of properties where rental income would not meet the cost of future improvements. Asset groups were referred to, which would form part of a number of sub-models or areas that could require recovery and improvement plans, together with those areas that may require further option appraisal which would investigate achieving the decent homes standard and including any need to provide further investment in order to provide sustainable communities.

The Head of Investment outlined the social responsibility of the Council to provide social housing and the need to consider demand as well as cost. Illustrative visual modelling was displayed in relation to properties that could be high demand with low maintenance costs. Properties where income would not meet investment need but demand was high and low demand properties with high investment needs.

It was noted that modelling would not identify or recommend any specific solutions but would provide a tool to identify pockets of stock where further work could be carried out to identify interventions to improve the ability to let or sustainability of the stock.

The Head of Investment referred to the progress of sustainability modelling which included support of the Housing Futures Board, the use of in house sustainability modelling software, and the formation of a Working Group of Officers.

In relation to the selection of high rise as a property archetype to pilot the model, the Head of Investment reported that high rise had been chosen as a test model due to the fact they were a recognised and transparent property archetype and that modelling that type of property would help to demonstrate over a small number of well known properties that the sustainability modelling was robust, and the data obtained and analysed was consistent with providing identifiable outcomes prior to rolling out the model across the stock.

The Head of Investment advised that Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council were more advanced in sustainability modelling than other Councils and the only benchmarking that could be more easily undertaken was in relation to registered providers/housing associations.

The methodology for measuring demand was outlined and the need to consider readily available qualitative data in order to identify areas where interventions and solutions may be required in relation to council housing stock.

The Head of Investment referred to how the cost of measuring performance of properties in the sustainability model was achieved by assessing the net present value of properties, calculated by taking into account investment need over a five year period (including planned investment, responsive repairs and servicing costs), together with rental income over the same period.

Relating to that part of the presentation regarding sustainability modelling cost Members raised concerns and made the following suggestions:-

- The need to investigate costs further and for the Council to become a commercial and economic enterprise in relation to their housing stock.
- The Council could not continue to sustain the current rental loss and the urgency of the decision whether to sell or maintain those no wait properties in particular high rise flats.

In responding to Members' questions the Head of Investment advised that he was confident in the data relating to stock evaluation, as a data survey had been carried out last year which found the data to be 90% accurate and he was confident that the data was robust for the purpose of stock.

A Member suggested that an on-site presence such as a concierge was required in high rise buildings and there was a need to consider the convergence of rent between the public and private sector housing providers in order to establish whether council properties were being let at the correct price for the current housing market. There was also a request for exit questionnaires and data from those who had vacated council properties.

The Assistant Director of Housing Services advised that rents were controlled by a formula and in Dudley Borough the possibility of a service charge in order to provide twenty four hour concierge had not been pursued. It was stated that there were exit questionnaires, however it was not always possible to obtain completed questionnaires as some tenants abandoned properties and work was being undertaken to discover the whereabouts of those who had vacated their properties.

In responding to a concern raised by a Member that there was a general conception that high rise properties were areas of trouble and anti social behaviour, the Assistant Director of Housing Services advised that high rise properties were not let to transient families.

A Member suggested that work be conducted with the Borough's three colleges to ensure that they were aware of the no wait properties available should their students require them and that in turn this may encourage students to continue to live and work in the Borough following completion of their studies.

In responding to a suggestion of a Member that a show home be created in order to encourage residents of the Borough into high rise properties, the Assistant Director of Housing Services indicated that prior to investment there was the need to ensure that there was a demand for such properties and that the introduction of a service charge to provide a concierge service may price residents out of the market so far as rents were concerned.

The Assistant Director of Housing Services referred to a project in Wolverhampton which involved the sale of high rise blocks adjacent to New Cross Hospital and the provision of a secure underground car park for those occupying the properties who were employed by the hospital and undertook to carry out enquiries in relation to whether the project proved successful, in order to explore the possibility of a similar project at Russells Hall Hospital.

In concluding the presentation the Head of Investment referred to the sustainability modelling, demand, criteria and weightings for high rise properties and displayed the high rise pilot results based upon the initial criteria, which including assessing tenancy turnover rates, the number of bids per advert per property type for the area, the percentage of voids in the block, crime statistics and the affordability of the properties based on energy ratings. He also referred to the next steps which included rolling out the project for general stock.

Members congratulated Housing Officers present and welcomed the presentation together with the work conducted to date on sustainability modelling.

The Vice-Chair referred to problematic properties advising that time was of the essence in dealing with such properties and referred to the provision of particular properties that were in demand and the requirement for further one and two bedroom properties. He urged Members to continue to advise on suggestions to improve on the current housing stock in order to provide the best housing stock for the residents of the Borough.

The Chair also encouraged Members to provide further feedback and suggestions to the Head of Investment and/or the Assistant Director of Housing Services.

In responding to a Member's question in relation to providing further incentives to potential tenants and the possibility of working with private agencies to acquire tenants, the Assistant Director of Housing Services advised that properties continued to be advertised and reported on the wish to secure tenancies from residents who wished to reside in properties and contribute to the community. She further reported that the Council were unable to discharge the under occupancy tax for those who were struggling financially and although some Authorities have reclassified their housing stock this had not increased demand and future problems with reclassification could occur as once the Authority had reclassified a property down they could not reclassify upwards in the future.

In responding to a concern in relation to the percentage of hard to let properties as compared with other Authorities the Assistant Director of Housing Services advised that Authorities across the Country were experiencing the same problems and the percentage of hard to let properties in the Dudley Borough was relatively small as compared with other authorities. She also referred to the introduction of Universal

Credit, which may result in further difficulties with tenants discharging rent payments.

The Assistant Director of Housing Services undertook to forward to Members details of hard to let properties.

A Member suggested the need to investigate further partnership working with all of the Borough's further education facilities and the possibly of partnership working with the two Birmingham universities.

The same Member referred to the fact that Russells Hall Hospital was a teaching facility and it was agreed that providing housing for those at the hospital should be pursued, together with the introduction of a policy that housing stock should be replaced following disposal of current stock.

Following Member requests the Assistant Director of Housing Services undertook to forward to all Members of the Council, the report submitted to the meeting together with the PowerPoint presentation on Sustainability Modelling in order to conduct a wider consultation on Sustainability Modelling.

The Assistant Director of Housing Services also undertook to provide Members with details of the exit surveys in relation to high rise and maisonette properties.

A Member sought assurances that exit surveys be vigorously pursued in the future as the importance of capturing as much information as possible on housing stock was paramount.

Resolved

- (1) That the information contained in the report, and Appendices to the report, submitted on the Sustainability Model to be used to assist in determining Remodelling/Demolition Options, be noted.
- (2) That the Assistant Director of Housing Services pursue Members' comments and suggestions in relation to determining Remodelling/Demolition Options.
- (3) That the Assistant Director of Housing Services be requested to circulate to Members details of the areas where hard to let properties were and Exit Surveys in relation to high rise and maisonette properties.
- (4) That the Assistant Director of Housing Services be requested to circulate to all Members of the Council the report submitted to the meeting together with the PowerPoint presentation on Sustainability Modelling.

The meeting ended at 8pm

CHAIR

ACHS/20

Minutes of the Appointments Committee

Wednesday 8th October, 2014 at 5.00 pm
in Committee Room 3 at the Council House, Dudley

Present:

Councillor D Sparks (Chair)
Councillor P Lowe (Vice-Chair)
Councillors P Brothwood, M Evans, P Harley, R Harris, D Vickers and S Turner.

Officers:

T Reilly (Assistant Director of Corporate Resources - Human Resources and Organisational Development), C Williams (Director – West Midlands Employers) and S Griffiths (Democratic Services Manager)

7 **Apology for Absence**

An apology for absence was received on behalf of Councillor J Foster.

8 **Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of interest, in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct, were received in respect of any matters to be considered at this meeting.

9 **Minutes**

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting held on 21st July, 2014 be approved as a correct record and signed.

10 **Exclusion of the Public**

Resolved

That the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information relating to any individual(s) and to the financial or business affairs of particular persons as defined under Part I of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

11 **Post of Chief Executive**

The Assistant Director of Corporate Resources (Human Resources and Organisational Development) reported on the ongoing recruitment process in respect of the post of Chief Executive.

Resolved

That approval be given for the five candidates, as recommended at the meeting, to progress to the next stage of the recruitment process.

12 **Senior Management Restructure**

A report of the Assistant Director of Corporate Resources (Human Resources and Organisational Development) was submitted on the recruitment process for the Strategic Director and Chief Officer posts.

Resolved

- (1) That, subject to the approval of the senior management structure at the Council meeting on 13th October, 2014, the process outlined in the report concerning the recruitment of Strategic Director and Chief Officers, be approved.
- (2) That the Assistant Director of Corporate Resources (Human Resources and Organisational Development) be authorised to take any necessary or consequential action to implement the decision of this Committee.

The meeting ended at 5.17 p.m.

CHAIR

Minutes of the Appointments Committee

Wednesday 15th October, 2014 at 5.30 pm
in Committee Room 4 at the Council House, Dudley

Present:

Councillor D Sparks (Chair)
Councillor P Lowe (Vice-Chair)
Councillors H Bills, P Brothwood, M Evans, P Harley, R Harris, D Vickers and S Turner.

Officers:

T Reilly (Assistant Director of Corporate Resources - Human Resources and Organisational Development) and C Williams (Director – West Midlands Employers)

13 **Apology for Absence**

An apology for absence from the meeting was received on behalf of Councillor J Foster.

14 **Appointment of Substitute Member**

Councillor H Bills was serving in place of Councillor J Foster for this meeting of the Committee.

15 **Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of interest, in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct, were received in respect of any matters to be considered at this meeting.

16 **Minutes**

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting held on 8th October, 2014 be approved as a correct record and signed.

17 **Exclusion of the Public**

Resolved

That the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information relating to any individual(s) as defined under Part I of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

18 **Post of Chief Executive**

Further to Minute No. 12 of the meeting held on 8th October, 2014, the Committee considered the short-listing of applicants in respect of the post of Chief Executive.

Resolved

That the following candidates be short-listed and invited for interview at the meeting of this Committee to be held on Monday, 20th October, 2014:-

SN, SM and EA

The meeting ended at 6.10 p.m.

CHAIR

Minutes of the Appointments Committee

Monday 20th October, 2014 at 9.15 am
at Himley Hall, Himley Park, Dudley

Present:

Councillor D Sparks (Chair)
Councillor P Lowe (Vice-Chair)
Councillors H Bills, P Brothwood, M Evans, P Harley, R Harris, D Vickers and S Turner.

Officers:

T Reilly (Assistant Director of Corporate Resources - Human Resources and Organisational Development) and C Williams (Director – West Midlands Employers)

19 **Apology for Absence**

An apology for absence from the meeting was received on behalf of Councillor J Foster.

20 **Appointment of Substitute Member**

Councillor H Bills was serving in place of Councillor J Foster for this meeting of the Committee.

21 **Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of interest, in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct, were received in respect of any matters to be considered at this meeting.

22 **Minutes**

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting held on 15th October, 2014 be approved as a correct record and signed.

23 **Exclusion of the Public**

Resolved

That the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information relating to any individual(s) as defined under Part I of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

24 **Post of Chief Executive**

Further to Minute No. 18 of the meeting held on 15th October, 2014, the Committee interviewed candidates for the post of Chief Executive, in accordance with the short list approved at the previous meeting.

Resolved

That the Council be recommended:

- (1) That Sarah Norman, currently the Strategic Director for Community, Wolverhampton City Council, be appointed to the post of Chief Executive on the terms, conditions and salary applicable to the post.
 - (2) That, subject to her formal acceptance of the post, Sarah Norman be appointed as the Head of the Council's Paid Service, pursuant to Section 4 of the Local Government and Housing Act, 1989 with effect from the date her employment commences with Dudley MBC.
-

25 **Strategic Director and Chief Officer Appointments**

The Committee considered the future arrangements for the interviews for Strategic Directors and Chief Officers.

Resolved

That, in accordance with the process agreed by the Committee, meetings be held on the following dates to consider appointments to the posts indicated:

27 th October, 2014	Strategic Directors
14 th November, 2014	Chief Officers (Resources and Transformation)
18 th November, 2014	Chief Officers (People Services)
20 th November, 2014	Chief Officers (Environment, Economy and Housing)
25 th November, 2014	Chief Officer (Health and Wellbeing)

The meeting ended at 3.30 p.m.

CHAIR

APP/8

Minutes of the Appointments Committee

Monday 27th October, 2014 at 9.00 am
in Committee Room 3, Council House, Priory Road, Dudley

Present:

Councillor D Sparks (Chair)
Councillor P Lowe (Vice-Chair)
Councillors H Bills, P Brothwood, M Evans, J Foster, P Harley, G Partridge and
D Vickers.

Officers:

T Reilly (Assistant Director of Corporate Resources - Human Resources)

26 **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence from the meeting were received on behalf of Councillors R Harris and S Turner.

27 **Appointment of Substitute Members**

Councillors H Bills and G Partridge were serving in place of Councillors R Harris and S Turner, respectively, for this meeting of the Committee.

28 **Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of interest, in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct, were received in respect of any matters to be considered at this meeting.

29 **Minutes**

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting held on 20th October, 2014 be approved as a correct record and signed.

30 **Exclusion of the Public**

Resolved

That the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information relating to any individual(s) as defined under Part I of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

31

Strategic Director Appointments

The Committee interviewed candidates for the posts of Strategic Director of Environment, Economy and Housing and Strategic Director of Resources and Transformation. It was noted that there were no internal applicants for the post of Strategic Director for People Services.

Resolved

- (1) That the post of Strategic Director – People Services be externally advertised.
 - (2) That the Council be recommended:
 - (a) To appoint John Millar, presently the Director of the Urban Environment, to the post of Strategic Director – Environment, Economy and Housing, in accordance with the salary and terms and conditions of employment applicable to the post.
 - (b) To appoint Philip Tart, presently the Director of Corporate Resources, to the post of Strategic Director – Resources and Transformation, in accordance with the salary and terms and conditions of employment applicable to the post.
-

The meeting ended at 12.45 p.m.

CHAIR

Minutes of the Development Control Committee

Monday 29th September, 2014 at 6.00 pm
In Committee Room 2, The Council House, Dudley

Present:-

Councillor Q Zada (Chair)
Councillor K Casey (Vice-Chair)
Councillors A Ahmed, N Barlow, D Caunt, N Gregory, H Turner, J Martin and C Perks

Officers:-

G Breakwell (Senior Solicitor), J Butler (Group Engineer), M Johal (Democratic Services Officer), H Martin (Head of Planning), D Owen (Principal Planning Officer), P Reed (Principal Development Control Officer) and S Willetts (Planning Control Manager)

28 **Declarations of Interest**

No Member made a declaration of interest in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct.

29 **Minutes**

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 8th September, 2014, be approved as a correct record and signed.

30 **Plans and Applications to Develop**

A report of the Director of the Urban Environment was submitted on the following plans and applications to develop. In addition, where appropriate, details of the plans and applications were displayed by electronic means at the meeting. In addition to the report submitted, notes known as Pre-Committee notes had also been circulated updating certain of the information given in the report submitted. The content of the notes were taken into account in respect of the applications to which they referred.

The following persons had indicated that they wished to speak at the meeting and spoke on the planning applications indicated:-

<u>Application No</u>	<u>Objectors/supporters who wishes to speak</u>	<u>Agent/Applicant who wishes to speak</u>
P14/1027	Mr David Wall	Mr Banks
P14/1028	Mr David Wall	Mr Banks
P14/1140	Mr David Clarke and D Russell (Ward Councillor)	Mr Keith Bate

Prior to speaking Councillor D Russell declared non-pecuniary interests in that she is a Governor at Newfield Primary School and also her son attends Earls High School.

<u>Application No</u>	<u>Location/Proposal</u>	<u>Decision</u>
P14/1027	Far Acre, Quarry Park Road, Stourbridge – Two Storey Front and Side Extension with a Rear Covered Balcony (Following Demolition of Existing Garage). Single Storey Rear Extension (Following Demolition of Existing Sun Room). Relocation of Swimming Pool and New Entrance Gates (Resubmission of Withdrawn Application P14/0746)	Approved, subject to conditions, numbered 1 to 10 (inclusive), as set out in the report submitted.
P14/1028	Far Acre, Quarry Park Road, Stourbridge – Extension to Existing Detached Garage with a Pitched Roof Above with Side Dormers to Replace Existing Flat Roof	Approved, subject to conditions, numbered 1 to 8 (inclusive), as set out in the report submitted.

P14/1140	Halesowen College, Whittingham Road, Halesowen – Erection of a Two Storey Building to Create a Performing Arts Centre	Approved, subject to conditions, numbered 1 to 6 (inclusive), as set out in the report submitted, together with an additional condition, numbered 7, as follows:- 7. Prior to commencement of the development hereby approved, an updated Travel Plan shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority, including details of a Travel Plan Co-ordinator, Staff Travel Survey, Car Parking Management, Walking and Cycling Initiatives, Publicity and Marketing, Set Targets and Monitoring and to join Company Travel Wise in Dudley together with a timetable for the implementation of each such element. The Travel Plan shall be updated each year and implemented in accordance with the details approved by the Local Planning Authority and remain operational for the life of the development.
P13/1866	Bains Wines, 77 Halesowen Road, Netherton, Dudley – Demolition of Existing Outbuilding and Erection of Single Storey Rear Extension to 77 Halesowen Road. Two Storey Rear Extension to Create Lobby and Staircase Area, First Floor Extension and Conversion of Existing First Floor Extension to Create 5 No Flats and New Shop Front at 79 Halesowen Road. Erection of New Walls and Gates. (Resubmission of Withdrawn Planning Application P12/1488)	Approved, subject to conditions, numbered 1 to 8 (inclusive), as set out in the report submitted, together with additional conditions, numbered 9 to 12, as follows:- 9. The development hereby permitted shall not be occupied until the existing shop front signage and external roller shutter fixed to the front elevation of 77 Halesowen Road has been removed in accordance with the approved details shown on drawing No 101 Rev G. 10. Notwithstanding the details shown on the submitted drawings, development shall not begin until details of the joinery (for the sash windows, shop front, doors, fanlights, tracery etc) to be used in the external elevations and its colour

and finish have been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. Large scale architectural drawings (at 1:1, 1:2 or 1:5) and/or samples of the sections and profiles of jambs, heads, sills, glazing bars, fascia, pilasters, stallriser and headings together with their relationships to masonry apertures.

11. Notwithstanding the details shown on the approved drawings, prior to the commencement of development the following shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority:

a) Large scale architectural drawings of the proposed new entrance and first floor extension at the rear as shown in the 'Proposed Rear Elevation C' and 'Proposed Side Elevations'

b) Details of the shop front sign writing or peg lettering (font, size and finish) for both Nos 77 and 79 Halesowen Road.

c) Details /samples of the type, texture, colour and finish of the proposed render.

d) Details/samples of the type, texture and colour of the roofing material

e) Details/samples of the type, texture, colour and finish of the proposed cladding, curtain walling, and aluminium windows and railings and gates.

f) Details/samples of the type, texture and colour of the proposed coping stones.

g) Details/samples of the type, texture, colour and bond of the proposed facing bricks.

h) Roof top garden

12. The external windows, shop front, doors and associated features installed on the buildings shall be in accordance with the approved details and shall not be replaced, except in accordance with the same approved details. The external render shall be colour coated in accordance with the same approved details and the colour shall not be changed without the prior written agreement of the Local Planning Authority.

P14/0728	Former Dudley Post Office, Wolverhampton Street, Dudley – Convert Former Post Office into 21 No Residential Units with Associated Access and Parking. Elevational Changes to Include Alterations to Windows and Doors	Approved, subject to conditions, numbered 1 to 9 (inclusive), as set out in the report submitted.
P14/0803	Former Dudley Post Office, Wolverhampton Street, Dudley – Listed Building Consent for Internal and External Alterations to Include Repositioning of Windows and Doors	Approved, subject to conditions, numbered 1 to 3, 6, 8 to 11 (inclusive), as set out in the report submitted, together with amended conditions, numbered 4, 5 and 7 and additional conditions, numbered 11 to 15, as follows:-

4. Development shall not begin until a Schedule of Works/Repairs Schedule has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority (including repairs schedule for existing windows and doors, details of cast iron rainwater goods, lead work). Any departure from the approved schedule of works/repairs schedule will require the prior written approval of the Local Planning Authority.
5. Prior to the commencement of development, full details and specifications of the types, colours and textures, applications and finishes of all materials to be used in both new work and in restoration shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. Development shall proceed in accordance with the agreed details and retained for the lifetime of the development.
7. Prior to the commencement of development the following shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority:
 - a) Details/samples of the type, texture, colour and bond of the bricks to be used and a sample panel measuring not less than 1m² shall be erected on site and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The panel shall be retained on site for the duration and the development and thereafter new brick work shall only be constructed in accordance with these approved details. The development shall be carried out in complete accordance with the approved details.
 - b) Details /samples of the type, texture and colour of any new window heads or cills.

11. Development shall not begin until an audit has been undertaken on all the historic windows and doors and details have been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority on their repair and finish and their treatment in respect of upgrading with internal secondary glazing for the windows and upgrading with envirograph or similar for the doors. The scheme shall be implemented in accordance with the approved details and retained for the lifetime of the development.
12. Notwithstanding the details shown on the submitted plans, development shall not begin until a scheme for providing sound and fire insulation between the apartments has been submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority and all works which form part of the approved scheme have been completed in accordance with the approved details and retained for the lifetime of the development.
13. Any damage caused to the listed building in performance of the works permitted by this consent shall be made good.
14. The demolition works hereby permitted shall not be undertaken before a contract for the carrying out of the works of redevelopment of the site has been executed and planning permission has been granted for the redevelopment for which the contract provides. Evidence that a contract has been executed shall be submitted in writing to the Local Planning Authority 14 days prior to any demolition works commencing.

15. The demolition works hereby permitted shall not be undertaken until the a method statement has been submitted and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority in respect of the proposed methods of removal fabric including protective measures to be taken to avoid damage to historic fabric during demolition work and details of the steps to be taken to rectify any damage to the historic building caused or revealed by demolition or removal of fabric. The scheme shall be implemented in accordance with the agreed method statement.

P14/0962	Fairfield Inn, Fairfield Road, Hurst Green, Halesowen – Erection of Timber Post Posts with Lighting Hung Between and Erection of Fixed Bench/Bar Structure (Retrospective)	Deferred to the next meeting.
P14/1060	Land to the Rear of 21-22 Southwick Road, Halesowen – Demolition of Existing Garages and Erection of 5 No Dwellings (Outline) (Access, Appearance, Layout and Scale to be Considered)	Approved, subject to conditions, numbered 1 to 16 (inclusive), as set out in the report submitted.
P14/1065	2 Birch Coppice, Quarry Bank, Brierley Hill – Change of use from Public House (A4) to Children’s Care Home (C2), Demolition of Existing off Sales Area and Erection of Single Storey Side Extension, External Platform Lift at Rear and Repositioning of Windows and Doors	Approved, subject to conditions, numbered 1 to 13 (inclusive), as set out in the report submitted.

P14/1074	12 Whittington Road, Norton, Stourbridge – Part A: Retrospective Front and Side Boundary Treatment. Part B: Single Storey Side Extensions (Following Demolition of Existing Garage) and Loft Conversion with Front Dormer to Create Habitable Room. (Resubmission of Approved Planning Application P14/0271)	<p>(1) That Part A of the application for retrospective front and side boundary treatment be refused for the reason, as set out in the report submitted.</p> <p>(2) That Part B of the application for single storey side extensions be approved subject to conditions, numbered 1 and 2, as set out in the report submitted.</p>
P14/1121	2 Woodland Grove, Lower Gornal, Dudley – Single Storey Side/Rear Extension	Approved, subject to conditions, numbered 1 to 3 (inclusive), as set out in the report submitted.
P14/1193	Dudley Market, Market Place, Dudley – Listed Building Consent for the Restoration of Dudley Market Place Fountain to Include Reinstatement of Lost Architectural Features and to Enable the Fountain to be Fully Functional	Noted that the application has been deemed to have been referred to the Secretary of State.
P14/1248	St Edmunds Church, Castle Street, Dudley – Proposed Up-Lighting to Church (Resubmission of Withdrawn Planning Application P14/0504)	Approved, subject to conditions, numbered 1 to 4 (inclusive), as set out in the report submitted.

The meeting ended at 7.05 pm.

CHAIR

DC/48

Minutes of the Development Control Committee

Monday 20th October, 2014 at 6.00 pm
In Committee Room 2, The Council House, Dudley

Present:-

Councillor Q Zada (Chair)
Councillor K Casey (Vice-Chair)
Councillors A Ahmed, N Barlow, D Caunt, J Martin, C Perks and R Scott-Dow

Officers:-

G Breakwell (Senior Solicitor), T Glews (Environmental Protection Manager), M Holloway (Head of Traffic and Transportation), M Johal (Democratic Services Officer), V Kaul (Planning Officer), H Martin (Head of Planning), P Reed (Principal Development Control Officer) R Stevenson (Senior Development Control Officer), and S Willetts (Planning Control Manager)

31 **Apology for Absence**

An apology for absence from the meeting was submitted on behalf of Councillor N Gregory.

32 **Declarations of Interest**

In accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct, Councillor Q Zada declared a pecuniary interest in planning application No P14/1231 (Land Between 123 and 130 Northfield, Road, Netherton) in view of him being the applicant and owner of the land.

33 **Minutes**

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 29th September, 2014, be approved as a correct record and signed.

34 **Plans and Applications to Develop**

A report of the Director of the Urban Environment was submitted on the following plans and applications to develop. In addition, where appropriate, details of the plans and applications were displayed by electronic means at the meeting. In addition to the report submitted, notes known as Pre-Committee notes had also been circulated updating certain of the information given in the report submitted. The content of the notes were taken into account in respect of the applications to which they referred.

The following persons had indicated that they wished to speak at the meeting and spoke on the planning applications indicated:-

<u>Application No</u>	<u>Objectors/supporters who wishes to speak</u>	<u>Agent/Applicant who wishes to speak</u>
P14/0962	Miss Robyn Hubbard	
P14/1067		Mr Tim Holloway D Vickers (Ward Councillor)
P14/1243		Mr Brian Stanford
P14/1305	T Crumpton (Ward Councillor)	Mr Michael Lay

<u>Application No</u>	<u>Location/Proposal</u>	<u>Decision</u>
P14/0962	Fairfield Inn, Fairfield Road, Hurst Green, Halesowen – Erection of Timber Post Posts with Lighting Hung Between and Erection of Fixed Bench/Bar Structure (Retrospective)	<p>(1) That the erection of the timber post posts and the erection of the fixed bench/bar structure (Part B) be approved, subject to conditions, numbered 1, 2 and 4, as set out in the report submitted.</p> <p>(2) That the lighting hung between the timber posts (Part A) be refused for the following reason:</p> <p>The provision of the lighting due to its glare is considered to be harmful to the amenity of adjoining neighbours and as such is considered contrary to saved Policy DD4 of the Dudley Unitary Development Plan.</p>

(3) That the Director of the Urban Environment be authorised to take enforcement action for the removal of the lighting.

In considering the above application Members noted the comments made by the objector in that the glare from the lights had a detrimental impact upon them as it lit their entire property and that several incidents relating to noise, litter, foul language and abuse had been reported.

P14/1067	Power Plant Hire Ltd (Power House), Whitehall Road, Halesowen – Following Demolition of Existing Building, Erection of 14 No Dwellings with Associated Access and Garden Amenity Areas	Approved and that the Director of the Urban Environment, in consultation with the Chair, be authorised to draft and submit related conditions to Members of the Committee prior to final approval.
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In considering the above application Members noted the comments made by the applicant and Ward Councillor and it was considered that the area was in need of regeneration and the benefits in proceeding with the development outweighed the reasons for refusal.

P14/1243	66 Manor Lane, Halesowen – Fell 1 No Cedar Tree	Refused, for the reason as set out in the report submitted.
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P14/1305	68 Windmill Hill, Cradley, Halesowen – Removal of Condition 6 of Planning Approval P14/0887 Which States 'The Infill Extension Hereby Approved Shall not be Sub-Divided, Sold-Off or Sub-Let Separately but shall Remain an Integral Part of No 68 Windmill Hill, with Internal Access Retained to Both Members of the Public and Staff During Operating Hours for the Lifetime of the Development'.	Refused for the following reasons:- <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The proposed removal of condition 6 of planning approval P14/0887 would result in the creation of an additional hot food takeaway which would be perceived to result in a more intense operation at the site which may prejudice existing surrounding residential amenity. This would be contrary to Saved Policy DD4 (Development in Residential Areas) of the Dudley Unitary Development Plan and Planning for Health Supplementary Planning Documents. The condition should there remain.
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2. The proposed removal of condition 6 of planning approval P14/0887 would result in the creation of an additional hot food takeaway which would be perceived to result in a higher turnover of traffic comparable to the approved operation of the site. The perceived increased traffic movements and parking within the locality, especially at lunchtimes and the evening peak, may ultimately detrimentally affect the safe operation of the Classified Strategic (A458) Windmill Hill Highway. Having regard to this, it is considered reasonable that the removal of condition 6 would impede the free flow and safe operation of the highway and its users and would be contrary to the aspirations of Policy TRAN2 (Managing Transport Impacts of New Development) of the adopted Black Country Core Strategy, Saved Policy DD4 (Development in Residential Areas) of the Dudley Unitary Development Plan, the adopted Parking Standards and Planning for Health Supplementary Planning Documents. The condition should therefore remain.

In considering the above application Members noted the comments made by the Ward Councillor in that the condition had originally been included to prevent takeaways being bunched together and to protect residents. Concerns were also conveyed about traffic problems and the difficulties that would be experienced by people getting their vehicles on and off the car park. Members also considered representations made on behalf of the applicant.

P14/0952	Halesowen Fire Station, Hagley Road, Halesowen – Approval of Reserved Matters for Demolition of Existing Fire Station and Erection of 14 No Dwellings (Following Outline Approval P12/0928	Approved, subject to conditions, numbered 1 to 32 (inclusive), as set out in the report submitted.
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P14/0996	5 Queens Gardens, Netherton, Dudley – Erection of Raised Decking Area at Rear of Property (Retrospective)	Approved, subject to the condition, numbered 1, as set out in the report submitted.
P14/1006	Land Adjacent to 16 Ascot Gardens, Wordsley, Stourbridge – Erection of 1 No Dwelling	Approved, subject to conditions, numbered 1 to 10 (inclusive), as set out in the report submitted.
P14/1134	Former Stuart Crystal, High Street, Wordsley – Conversion of Former Stuart Crystal Site to Provide 18 No Apartments, Museum and Commercial Space	Approved, subject to conditions, numbered 1 to 33 (inclusive), as set out in the report submitted, together with an additional condition, numbered 34, as follows:- 34. If, during development, contamination not previously identified is found to be present at the site then no further development (unless otherwise agreed in writing with the Local Planning Authority) shall be carried out until the developer has submitted a remediation strategy to the Local Planning Authority detailing how this unsuspected contamination shall be dealt with and obtained written approval from the Local Planning Authority. The remediation strategy shall be implemented as approved.
P14/1174	1 Perrins Lane, Wollescote, Stourbridge – Two Storey Side/Rear Extension and Single Storey Rear Extension (Resubmission of Previously Refused Application P13/0890)	Approved, subject to conditions, numbered 1 to 3 (inclusive), as set out in the report submitted.

(Having previously declared a pecuniary interest in the following application Councillor Q Zada vacated the Chair and withdrew from the meeting).

Councillor K Casey in the Chair

P14/1231	Land Between 123 and 130 Northfield Road, Netherton, Dudley – Erection of 1 No Dwelling with Detached Garage and 1.5M High Wall with Double Gates to Side and Front Boundary	Approved, subject to conditions, numbered 1 to 7, 9 and 10 (inclusive), as set out in the report submitted, together with revised condition, numbered 8, as follows:- 8. Details of the footway crossing onto Northfield Road shall be submitted to the Local Planning Authority and agreed in writing prior to the commencement of development. The agreed details shall be implemented prior to first occupation of the dwelling and thereafter maintained for the lifetime of the development.
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Councillor Q Zada in the Chair

35 **Enforcement Action**

A report of the Director of the Urban Environment was submitted on whether enforcement action should be authorised in respect of 27 Jason Road, Wollescote, Stourbridge.

The Planning Control Manager reported that a retrospective application had now been submitted and suggested that enforcement action be deferred pending the outcome of the application.

Resolved

That enforcement action against the breach of planning control at 27 Jason Road, Wollescote, Stourbridge be deferred to the next meeting and be considered together with the accompanying planning application.

The meeting ended at 7.15 pm.

CHAIR

DC/54

Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Development Control Committee

Thursday 6th November, 2014 at 6.00 pm
In Committee Room 2, The Council House, Dudley

Present:-

Councillor Q Zada (Chair)
Councillor K Casey (Vice-Chair)
Councillors A Ahmed and R Scott-Dow

Officers:-

G Breakwell (Senior Solicitor), M Johal (Democratic Services Officer), H Martin (Head of Planning) and S Willetts (Planning Control Manager)

36 **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors N Barlow, D Caunt, N Gregory, J Martin and C Perks.

37 **Declarations of Interest**

No member made a declaration of interest in accordance with the Members Code of Conduct.

38 **Minutes**

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 20th October, 2014, be approved as a correct record and signed.

39 **Development Control Performance 1st April 2014 – 30th September 2014**

A report of the Director of the Urban Environment was submitted on the performance of the Development Control Section for the period 1st April 2014 – 30th September, 2014.

The Chair, on behalf of the Committee, thanked Officers for their continuing hard work and commitment.

Resolved

That the information contained in the report submitted, on the performance of the Development Control Section for the period 1st April 2014 – 30th September 2014, be noted.

The meeting ended at 6.20 pm.

CHAIR

Minutes of the Development Control Committee

Monday 10th November, 2014 at 6.00 pm
In the Council Chamber, The Council House, Dudley

Present:-

Councillor Q Zada (Chair)
Councillor K Casey (Vice-Chair)
Councillors A Ahmed, N Barlow, D Caunt, J Martin, C Perks and R Scott-Dow

Officers:-

G Breakwell (Senior Solicitor), J Butler (Group Engineer – Traffic and Transportation, T Glews (Environmental Protection Manager), M Johal (Democratic Services Officer), H Martin (Head of Planning), D Owen (Principal Planning Officer), P Reed (Principal Development Control Officer) and S Willetts (Planning Control Manager)

40 **Apology for Absence**

An apology for absence from the meeting was submitted by Councillor N Gregory.

41 **Declarations of Interest**

No member made a declaration of interest in accordance with the Members Code of Conduct.

42 **Plans and Applications to Develop**

A report of the Director of the Urban Environment was submitted on the following plans and applications to develop. In addition, where appropriate, details of the plans and applications were displayed by electronic means at the meeting. In addition to the report submitted, notes known as Pre-Committee notes had also been circulated updating certain of the information given in the report submitted. The content of the notes were taken into account in respect of the applications to which they referred.

The following persons had indicated that they wished to speak at the meeting and spoke on the planning application indicated:-

<u>Application No</u>	<u>Objectors/supporters who wishes to speak</u>	<u>Agent/Applicant who wishes to speak</u>
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P14/1353 Mr T Wright (objector) Mr Al-Samarraie (Agent)
 Councillor S Ali (Ward Councillor
 – supporter)

<u>Application No</u>	<u>Location/Proposal</u>	<u>Decision</u>
P14/1353	Land East of Hall Street, Dudley – Reserved Matters Application for the Erection of a Community, Training and Enterprise Centre and Mosque Including Two Flats and Associated Parking (Following Outline Approval P07/0053/E1)	Approved, subject to conditions, numbered 1 to 15 (inclusive), as set out in the report submitted.
P14/1308	Black Country Living Museum, Tipton Road, Dudley – Erection of New School Visitor Reception Building and Associated Works	Approved, subject to conditions, numbered 1 to 6 (inclusive), as set out in the report submitted.
P14/1453	Land North of Manor Lane, Halesowen – Change of use of Land for the Provision of Below Ground Sewerage Tanks, Improvements to Existing Access, Provision of Truckpave, Stone and Bitumen Hardstanding, Provision of Six Manhole Covers and Reprofilng of Land to Provide Sufficient Cover the Pipes (Resubmission of Withdrawn Planning Application P14/0998)	Approved, subject to conditions, numbered 1 to 6 (inclusive), as set out in the report submitted, together with the deletion of the condition, numbered, 8 and an amended condition, numbered 7, as follows:- 7. The development hereby approved shall be undertaken in complete accordance with the details contained within the submitted Arboricultural Method Statement (Section 8 of the submitted Arboricultural Survey (October 2014) (Rev 2)) and the schedule of arboricultural supervision received 10 th November 2014. Any variation or amendment of the submitted Arboricultural Method Statement shall be approved in writing with the Local Planning Authority before implementation on site.

P14/1455	27 Jason Road, Wollescote, Stourbridge – Change of Land Levels to Rear Garden and Erection of Retaining Wall (Part Retrospective) (Resubmission of Refused Planning Application P14/0709)	Approved, subject to conditions, numbered 1 to 4 (inclusive), as set out in the report submitted.
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43 **Confirmation of Tree Preservation Orders**

A report of the Director of the Urban Environment was submitted requesting consideration as to whether the following Tree Preservation Orders (TPO) should be confirmed with or without modification in light of the objections that had been received.

<u>TPO No</u>	<u>Location/Proposal</u>	<u>Decision</u>
TPO/0087/PED	Thicknall Drive/Harborough Way, Pedmore	Confirmed subject to the following modifications: The species of T2 is amended to Lime.
TPO/0088/WST	Ridgewood Avenue/Ridge Street, Wollaston	Confirmed without modification.

44 **Enforcement Action**

A report of the Director of the Urban Environment was submitted on whether enforcement action should be authorised in respect of 133 Brettell Lane, Amblecote, Stourbridge.

Resolved

That enforcement action not be authorised against the planning breach at 133 Brettell Lane, Amblecote, Stourbridge in respect of the installation of the external shuttering at the frontage of the restaurant premises trading as East 2 West Fusion.

The meeting ended at 7.25 pm.

CHAIR

DC/59

Minutes of the Licensing Sub-Committee 3

Tuesday 30th September, 2014 at 10.00 am
in the Council Chamber, The Council House, Dudley

Present:-

Councillor J Cowell (Chair)
Councillors A Taylor and E Taylor

Officers:-

R Clark (Legal Advisor), L Rouse (Licensing Clerk) and K Griffiths (Democratic Services Officer) – All Directorate of Corporate Resources.

18 **Declarations of Interest**

No Member made a declaration of interest in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct.

19 **Minutes**

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting of the Sub-Committee held on 26th August, 2014, be approved as a correct record and signed.

20 **Application to Transfer a Premises Licence – Select Food and Beverages, 95 High Street, Dudley**

A report of the Director of Corporate Resources was submitted on an application for transfer of the premises licence in respect of the premises known as Select Food and Beverages, 95 High Street, Dudley.

Ms J Braham, applicant was in attendance at the meeting.

Following introductions by the Chair, the Licensing Officer presented the report on behalf of the Council. It was noted that the representations received from West Midlands Police had been withdrawn.

Resolved

That the application for transfer of the premises licence in respect of the premises known as Select Food and Beverages, High Street, Dudley, be approved.

The meeting ended at 10.15 am.

CHAIR

Minutes of the Special Meeting of Licensing Sub-Committee 3

Thursday 16th October, 2014 at 10.15 am
in Committee Room 2, The Council House, Dudley

Present:-

Councillor J Cowell (Chair)
Councillors D Blood and K Finch

Officers:-

R Clark (Legal Advisor), L Rouse (Licensing Clerk), B Hughes (Licensing Enforcement Officer) and K Taylor (Democratic Services Officer) – All Directorate of Corporate Resources.

21 **Declarations of Interest**

No Member made a declaration of interest in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct.

22 **Minutes**

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting of the Sub-Committee held on 30th September, 2014, be approved as a correct record and signed.

23 **Notice of Temporary Event – Seven Stars, Brook Road, Oldswinford, Stourbridge**

A report of the Director of Corporate Resources was submitted on the objections received to the Notice of Temporary Event served on the Council by Miss F Witts-Hewinson in respect of The Seven Stars, Brook Road, Oldswinford, Stourbridge.

In attendance at the meeting were Mr T Glews, Environmental Protection Manager, Directorate of the Urban Environment, and PC A Baldwin, Licensing Officer, West Midlands Police.

It was noted that the applicant, Miss F Witts-Hewinson, was not in attendance at the meeting, and reasons for her non-attendance had not been received, despite having been hand delivered a letter dated 8th October, 2014.

Following a brief adjournment, during which Mr Hughes attempted to contact Miss Witts-Hewinson, the Sub-Committee being satisfied that appropriate notice had been given, resolved to proceed in the absence of the applicant.

The Licensing Clerk then presented the report on behalf of the Council.

Mr Glews presented the representations of Environmental Health and Safety and in doing so referred to the history of noise complaints made by nearby residents dated back to 2005. He stated that during the period dating July 2007 to November 2009, fifteen different noise related complaints alleging nuisance were submitted, and following a Licensing Sub-Committee meeting a number of conditions were attached to the Premises that were consistent with the Operating Schedule in order to promote the four licensing objectives, in particular, the prevention of public nuisance.

Mr Glews then reported that since 8th May, 2014, and Miss Witts-Hewinson's appointment as Designated Premises Supervisor, a number of complaints had been received from three different households in the vicinity of the premises in respect of noise nuisance, in particular of patrons occupying the beer garden and the front car park after the permitted hour of 11.00 pm. Mr Glews referred to an event that had taken place on 24th August, 2014, that commenced in the early afternoon and finished just after midnight the following morning, which involved the speakers being used outside the premises. It was noted that the event had taken place after Licensing Officers had undertaken an enforcement visit to the premises two days earlier.

In concluding, Mr Glews recommended that the Sub-Committee refuse the application to extend the licensing hours to 1.00 am due to the difficulty in controlling noise made by regulated entertainment, patrons and vehicles outside the premises in such close proximity to residential accommodation.

PC Baldwin then presented the representations of West Midlands Police and in doing so referred to the number of calls associated to the premises, predominately relating to noise and disorder, in particular to an incident that had taken place on 26th September, 2014, involving a large number of people in a disturbance around midnight.

It was noted that PC Baldwin, together with Mr Hughes, had visited the premises and discussed with Miss Witts-Hewinson the premises licence, including the conditions imposed, and her responsibility associated to it. However, since the meeting, there have been at least two breaches of the premises licence that had been documented by Police and Dudley MBC that were currently under investigation and complaints continued to be received.

In responding to a question by a member, it was confirmed that the current licensing hours permitted inside the premises were 1.00 am, and 11.00pm outside.

In responding to a question by a member, Mr Hughes stated that both West Midlands Police and Licensing had concerns in respect of the management of the premises following the number of complaints received, in particular, in relation to the use of the beer garden after 11.00 pm. It was also noted that Miss Witts-Hewinson had not cooperated with Police or Licensing in order to address the concerns and complaints made associated to the premises.

Mr Glews reported that the latest noise complaints were received on 27th September, 2014 at 12.45 am and 28th September, 2014 at 12.30 am.

The Legal Advisor stated that consideration should be given to the evidence presented and whether it impacted on the Licensing Objectives, in particular, in relation to noise and crime and disorder. He stated that the temporary event notice had been appropriately given, in accordance with statutory time scales, and that although conditions could be placed on the notice, these should relate to the existing conditions imposed on the licence.

Following further discussion the parties then withdrew from the meeting in order to enable the Sub-Committee to determine the application.

The Sub-Committee having made their decision invited the parties to return and the Chair then outlined the decision.

Resolved

That the application received for the Notice of Temporary Event served on the Council by Miss F Witts-Hewinson in respect of The Seven Stars, Brook Road, Oldswinford, Stourbridge, be refused.

Reasons for Decision

This is an application for a Temporary Event, made by Miss Francesca Witts-Hewinson, the Premises Licence Holder at the Seven Stars for a Halloween party from 19.00 until 1.00am on the morning of 1st November, 2014. The TEN has been appropriately given, in accordance with statutory time scales. Representations have been received from the police and environmental health.

Miss Witts-Hewinson did not attend the Sub-Committee today, despite having been given notice of the hearing by hand delivery on 8th October. The Licensing Officer attempted to make contact with her by telephone this morning but both of her telephone contact numbers went to voice mail. She had not attended at the time when the Sub-Committee concluded hearing representation at about 10.50am.

Evidence was heard from Mr Glews from Environmental Health. There has been a history of complaints relating to the premises whilst under previous management, but also complaints since Miss Witts-Hewinson became the Premises Licence Holder in May, 2014. The last noise complaints were on 27th September at 12.45am and 28th September at 12.30am. Although the premises are licensed until 1.00am the beer garden is only licensed until 11.00pm.

There have been a number of issues on the premises, which have necessitated the police being called, in August and September 2014. Persons have had to be cleared from the outside beer garden after midnight and the police have attended to deal with an alleged assault, substance abuse on the premises and public nuisance issues.

A series of complaints has been received by the Licensing Authority and they have attended with the police and Environmental Health.

The Premises Licence Holder has not contacted any of the Responsible Authorities in order to discuss the presentations and with a view to mediate the concerns. PC Baldwin from the Police have evidence that the Premises Licence Holder has not cooperated with the Police in order to address concerns generally about the premises, and this has made addressing the licensing objectives very difficult indeed.

On the evidence heard today, the Sub-Committee finds that to open the beer garden for the sale of alcohol and recorded music after 11.00pm is likely to cause a public nuisance due to noise. The application is therefore refused.

The meeting ended at 11.10 am.
CHAIR

Minutes of the Meeting of the Taxis Committee

Wednesday 15th October, 2014 at 5.30 p.m.
in Committee Room 3 at the Council House, Dudley

Present:-

Councillor R Body (Chair)
Councillor A Ahmed (Vice-Chair)
Councillors P Bradley, J Cowell, C Elcock, J Martin and G Simms

Officers:-

T Holder, Solicitor, B Hughes, Licensing Enforcement Officer and K Griffiths,
Democratic Services Officer (all Directorate of Corporate Resources)

43. **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of
Councillors A Aston and C Billingham.

44. **Declaration of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest from Members in accordance with
Members' Code of Conduct.

45. **Minutes**

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 23rd
September, 2014 be approved as a correct record and signed.

46. **Voyager Ford Torneo Custom, Transit Custom**

A report of the Director of Corporate Resources was submitted on whether a
Voyager Ford Torneo Custom, Transit Custom should be licensed as a
hackney carriage.

The applicant, Mr Rashid Hanif was not in attendance at the meeting.

In view of the applicant's non-attendance, Members of the Committee were
unable to inspect the vehicle and it was

Resolved

That consideration of the application on whether a Voyager Ford Torneo Custom, Transit Custom should be licensed as a hackney carriage be deferred to the next meeting of the Committee.

47. **Amendment to Conditions on Private Hire Vehicle Licences**

A report of the Director of Corporate Resources was submitted to consider amending the wording of the current conditions of licence in respect of private hire vehicles.

Superintendent Andy Parsons and Inspector Julie Mason were in attendance at the meeting, together with eleven members of the Dudley Borough taxi trade.

Following introductions, the Licensing Enforcement Officer outlined the report submitted to the meeting and reported that the purpose of the report was for Members of the Committee to consider amending licensing conditions 4b iii and 8 of Private Hire vehicles.

It was reported that the current conditions read as follows:

Condition 4b iii

From the 1st March 1999, all private hire vehicles shall display the roof sign approved by the Council. The sign shall display the name and telephone number of the company, PRIVATE HIRE OFFICE BOOKINGS ONLY and shall be customised by the Council with the vehicle registration number and private hire plate number.

Condition 8

That in respect of private hire vehicles as from the 1st June 2014, Private Hire Vehicles will be allowed to be any colour provided that the vehicle displays:-

- Two door signs, of which one door sign will be displayed on the vehicle's front offside door
- and one to be displayed on the vehicle's front nearside passenger door.

The door sign will display the vehicle's licence plate number, the operator's base, telephone number, and include the wording "Licensed Private Hire Vehicle" and TELEPHONE BOOKINGS ONLY.

The Licensing Enforcement Officer reported that the proposed amended conditions referred to the removal of displaying vehicle registration numbers on roof signs only.

In responding to a question from the Committee, Mr Saleem of Dudley Private

Hire and Taxi Association, confirmed the exact working on the door signs of all private hire vehicles.

Following concerns raised, the Licensing Enforcement Officer indicated that the safety of customers was paramount, however, door signs displayed the required information and that roof signs were used for advertising purposes. He further stated that roof signs were only used when a taxi driver was on duty and that failure to display the roof sign was an actionable offence.

In responding to questions from a Member, the Licensing Enforcement Officer confirmed that the cost of transferring a vehicle registration number on to a roof sign cost the driver £5.00. He indicated that drivers were not permitted to use Dudley MBC resources, however, he stated that it was always encouraged. He further stated that the machine to transfer vehicle registration numbers on to roof signs was currently broken and would need to be replaced.

In responding to a question from a Member, the Licensing Enforcement Officer reported that the majority of taxi drivers' used magnetic door signs when on duty, however failure to display door signs was a breach of condition of licence and an actionable offence.

Following consideration of the matter, it was

Resolved

That approval be given to amend the wording to current conditions of licence in respect of private hire vehicles to read as follows:-

Condition 4b iii

All private hire vehicles shall display a roof sign approved by the Council. The sign shall display the name and telephone number of the Company, and shall display the wording PRIVATE HIRE OFFICE BOOKINGS ONLY.

Condition 8

That in respect of private hire vehicles as from the 1st June 2014, Private Hire Vehicles will be allowed to be any colour provided that the vehicle displays:-

- Two door signs, of which one door sign will be displayed on the vehicle's front offside door
- and one to be displayed on the vehicle's front nearside passenger door.

The door sign will display the vehicle's licence plate number, the operator's base, telephone number, and include the wording "Licensed Private Hire Vehicle" and the

words TELEPHONE BOOKINGS ONLY. These door signs shall be approved and issued by the Council.

48. **Review of Licence Conditions in relation to Private Hire Operator's Licences and Hackney Carriage Vehicle Licences – The use of 'Taxi Agents' in public**

A report of the Director of Corporate Resources was submitted on a proposal that conditions be appended to Private Hire Operator's Licences and Hackney Carriage Vehicle Licences to prevent the use of 'Taxi Agents'.

Superintendent Parsons and Inspector Mason were in attendance at the meeting, together with eleven members of the Dudley Borough taxi trade.

The Licensing Enforcement Officer outlined the report on behalf of the Council and indicated that during the consultation period, the Licensing Office had received a total of 4 petitions signed by 129 drivers against the use of taxi booking agents within the Dudley Borough. A petition from the Private Hire Association supporting the use of taxi booking agents had also been received which had been signed by approximately 150 private hire and hackney carriage drivers.

Inspector Mason reported a number of concerns by the on-going issues arising from what appeared to be a dispute between two rival taxi firms based in Dudley Town Centre. Representations highlighting the problems had been circulated to Committee Members. She indicated that there had been reports of fighting, aggressive and intimidating behaviour to other drivers and on occasions other taxi firms. This had had an impact on Police resources and members of the Community that lived, worked and socialised in Dudley Borough.

Several incidents had been reported in December 2013, which had resulted in two Operator Licence holders being given a warning regarding their behaviour. Inspector Mason indicated that she had requested that the two taxi firms resolved any differences, otherwise she would challenge the current 'Taxi Agent' contract between a local taxi firm and establishment as, in her opinion, this was the catalyst for the majority of issues reported. She reported that the problems did appear to abate, however in March 2014 further problems of a similar nature had been reported to the Police. A full list of reported incidents had been circulated to Members prior to the meeting.

Inspector Mason continued by stating that incidents regarding taxi drivers parking in a loading bay in King Street had been reported and she suggested that the two taxi firms discuss and agree a fair solution for both taxi firms to use the location. It was reported that further meetings had taken place with all parties concerned to resolve the issues as it had been clarified that the Police had no powers to enforce the loading bay area.

Inspector Mason reported that despite numerous attempts to try and resolve the issues between the two rival firms, a solution had not been established.

She reported that the Police would support the local authority with particular activity concerning touting or compliance with licences, however she stated that the issues in King Street had proved time and resource intensive and without sufficient policing, enforcement or legislation, the matter would continue.

Superintendent Andy Parsons acknowledged that in some areas, agency agreements did work, however, due to the number and nature of incidents reported in King Street, it appeared that the use of "Taxi Agents" in Dudley did not. He indicated that he supported the legislation put forward to ban the use of 'Taxi Agents'.

It was noted that the issues raised by the Police related to Dudley only, however, if the Committee approved the proposal, the whole Borough would be affected.

The Legal Advisor suggested that the Local Authority work with the Police to carry out a 'sting operation' to eradicate touting in Dudley. Superintendent Parsons reported that following a previous investigation, evidence to prove touting had been unsuccessful, however he indicated that such incidents often occurred during the early hours of the morning. He stated that the use of taxi agents, when operated successfully, could help reduce crime and anti-social behaviour, however evidence of well managed taxi agents had not been identified in Dudley.

Mr Saleem of Dudley Private Hire and Taxi Association then reported on the representations submitted on behalf of Dudley Private Hire and Taxi Association, which had been circulated to the Committee prior to the meeting. He briefly reported on the background to the use of taxi agents and why they had been implemented. He stated that in other areas of the Borough, the use of taxi agents had proven to be highly effective in reducing illegal 'pick ups', controlling taxi queues and improving the safety of vulnerable persons.

Mr Saleem referred to the problems affecting Dudley Town Centre and stated that the problems had been occurring due to two rival taxi operators not conducting their businesses properly. He reported that such taxi operators should be called to Committee for appropriate action to be considered. He indicated that taxi owners were businesspeople that relied on their income and should not be punished for issues affecting Dudley Town Centre.

In responding to questions from Members, Mr Saleem reported that public safety was paramount and clarified the well managed system in Stourbridge. He also reported on the differences between 'Agents' and 'Marshalls'.

Mr Saleem indicated that the use of taxi agents in Stourbridge had been in operation for approximately six years and the system had been managed effectively. He reported that there had been no issues or complaints received during that time to either the Local Authority or the Police.

Members expressed concern that if the proposed conditions were approved, the whole of Dudley Borough would be affected, which seemed unfair given

that other areas of the Dudley Borough, who used taxi agents, had been operating a similar scheme successfully. It was suggested that further investigations be carried out to ascertain what systems other areas operated and that a number of options be identified for Members to consider.

A member of the taxi trade who had been affected by the issues reported in Dudley Town Centre indicated that problems had only arisen since the introduction of taxi agents in Dudley Town Centre. He stated that vandalism of taxis, verbal abuse and other offences had occurred as a result of the dispute between two rival firms and questioned the need for taxi agents.

Mr Hussain, of Castle Cars then reported on the current agreement he had with an establishment in Dudley Town Centre and indicated that problems had started to occur when a taxi firm had opened in King Street. He acknowledged that competition between taxi firms was inevitable and stated that should any person, taxi driver or taxi operator, be caught breaking the law or causing unnecessary offences, then that person or persons should be dealt with accordingly either by the Local Authority or Police.

Superintendent Parsons asked Members to consider the differences between Stourbridge Town Centre and Dudley Town Centre when making their decision. He reported that Stourbridge had police presence on Friday and Saturday nights to deal with any potential problems, however, Dudley did not.

It was suggested that should the Committee be minded to defer making a decision, all parties affected by the proposed conditions should be invited to the next Committee meeting where the matter would be considered in order to make appropriate representations.

Having considered all the representations made, it was

Resolved

- (1) That consideration of a proposal that conditions be appended to Private Hire Operator's Licences and Hackney Carriage Vehicle Licences to prevent the use of 'Taxi Agents', be deferred to a future meeting of the Committee to allow for further investigations to be carried out.
- (2) That a list of various options be included in a future report for Members to consider.

49.

Exclusion of the Public

Resolved

That the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information relating to any individual(s) as defined under Part I of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act

50. **Grant of Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Drivers' Licences – Mr AR**

A report of the Director of Corporate Resources was submitted on an application for the grant of private hire and hackney carriage drivers' licences in respect of Mr AR.

It was noted that Mr AR was not in attendance at the meeting due to a family bereavement and it was reported that a letter had been submitted to the Licensing office.

In view of the information contained in the report submitted, the Committee agreed to proceed in his absence.

Resolved

- (1) That, following consideration of the information contained in the report submitted, approval be given to the grant of private hire and hackney carriage drivers' licences to Mr AR for a period of twelve months.
 - (2) That, Mr AR attend medical examinations on a yearly basis, as recommended by his doctor and as outlined in the report submitted, with the next review to be undertaken in June 2015.
-

51. **Grant of Hackney Carriage Driver's Licence – Mr MS**

A report of the Director of Corporate Resources was submitted on an application for the grant of a hackney carriage driver's licence in respect of Mr MS.

Mr MS was in attendance at the meeting, together with a supporter.

Mr MS responded to questions asked by the Committee regarding the offences committed as outlined in paragraph 4 of the report submitted. Mr MS also reported that there were no matters pending that the Committee needed to be made aware of.

Resolved

That, following careful consideration of the information contained in the report submitted, and as reported at the meeting, approval be given to the grant of a hackney carriage driver's licence to Mr MS for a period of twelve months.

52. **Renewal of Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Drivers' Licences – Mr MS**

A report of the Director of Corporate Resources was submitted on the renewal of the private hire and hackney carriage drivers' licences issued to Mr MS, in the light of the information contained in the report submitted.

Mr MS was in attendance at the meeting, together with a supporter.

Mr MS responded to questions asked by the Committee and informed them that there were no matters pending that they needed to be made aware of.

Resolved

That, arising from the information contained in the report submitted, and as reported at the meeting, the private hire and hackney carriage drivers' licences issues to Mr MS, be renewed with effect from the 17th September, 2014 for a period of six months.

53. **Grant of Private Hire Driver's Licence – Mr IK**

A report of the Director of Corporate Resources was submitted on an application for the grant of a private hire driver's licence in respect of Mr IK.

Mr IK was in attendance at the meeting, together with a supporter.

Mr IK responded to questions asked by the Committee regarding the offence committed as outlined in paragraph 4 of the report submitted. Mr IK also reported that there were no matters pending that the Committee needed to be made aware of.

Resolved

That, following careful consideration of the information contained in the report submitted, and as reported at the meeting, approval be given to the grant of a private hire driver's licence to Mr IK for a period of six months.

The meeting ended at 7.20 pm.

CHAIR

Minutes of the Dudley Health and Well-Being Board

Tuesday, 30th September, 2014 at 3.00 pm
at St.Thomas's Community Network,Beechwood Road,Dudley

Present:

Councillor R Harris (in the Chair)
Councillor T Crumpton (Vice-Chair)
Councillor P. Miller
Director of Adult,Community and Housing Services,Interim Director of Children's Services, Interim Director of Public Health, Assistant Director, Planning and Environmental Health,Dr D.Hegarty, Dudley Clinical Commissioning Group, Pam Bradbury – Chair of Healthwatch Dudley, Mr A Gray – Dudley CVS CEO, Chief Superintendant Johnson – West Midlands Police, Mr N Griffiths – Fire Service and Alison Taylor,Local Area Team,NHS Commissioning Board.

In attendance:

B Clifford, Assistant Director, Adult Social Care (Directorate of Adult, Community and Housing Services),Mr N.Bucktin,Head of Partnership Commissioning,Dudley Clinical Commissioning Group and Mr J.Jablonski, Assistant Principal Officer (Democratic Services) (Directorate of Corporate Resources).

Also in attendance:

Diane McNulty,Public Health Programme Manager (for agenda item number 10) and Greg Barbosa (for agenda item number 12)

and ten members of the public.

16

Welcome and Introductions.

The Chair welcomed those present and Members introduced themselves.

17

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors Branwood and Neale,Dr Cartwright and Mr Maubach .

18 **Appointment of Substitute Member**

It was reported that Councillor Miller was substituting for Councillor Neale for this meeting of the Board only.

19 **Declarations of Interest**

No Member declared an interest in any matter to be considered by the Board at this meeting.

20 **Minutes**

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting of the Board held on 17th June, 2014, be approved as a correct record and signed.

21 **Interim Performance Report**

A joint report of Officers was submitted updating the Board on the progress made against the Board's strategic priorities as set out in the Health and Wellbeing Strategy and on the half year position against the health and wellbeing outcomes.

Arising from the presentation given of the report and its Appendix it was noted that one of the issues arising from the recent Peer Challenge was the need to be very focused on priorities.

Particular comments were also made on performance with regard to breast feeding and the need to see improvement, especially given all the work done. Similar comments were also made with regard to the child poverty figures.

With regard to breast feeding a suggestion was made by Councillor Crumpton that popular television programmes be asked to include in their storylines issues to do with breast feeding and he indicated that he would pursue this. He also indicated that he would report back to the Board on work to do with breast feeding arising from the volunteer buddies initiative from the childrens centres.

Resolved

That the information contained in the report, and Appendix to the report, submitted, updating the Board on the current performance status for Dudley Borough, be noted.

Health and Wellbeing Board Communications and Community Engagement Plan

A joint report of Officers was submitted on a draft framework of the Board's communications and community engagement plan, a copy of which was attached as an Appendix to the report submitted.

It was noted that another feature of the Peer Challenge held recently was the need to increase awareness about the Board and consult and engage on the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment.

It was also noted that the Appendix to the report required completion by the various agencies indicated.

Resolved

That the draft framework of the Board's Communications and Community Engagement Plan, attached as an Appendix to the report submitted, be ratified, that the content of the plan be noted and proposed activities supported and that the final communications and community engagement plan be submitted to the next meeting of the Board.

Troubled Families Programme.

A report of the Interim Director of Children's Services was submitted updating the Board on the experience of the first phase of the Troubled Families Programme and on the context for phase two of the programme.

In commenting on the content of the report, Councillor Crumpton referred to a possible name change for the programme to that of Families in Trouble (FIT) and the team that supported it.

Given the success in meeting phase 1 targets, as indicated in the report, the Council had been selected as an early adopter for the phase 2 programme. This would mean meeting the needs of approximately 2,500 families, as opposed to the 740 families in phase 1.

The overall need was to look holistically in respect of the families involved with the team involved being drawn from a wide range of services. It was considered that the success achieved was due to the work of the team and that there was a need to look at how the techniques involved could be used in respect of mainstream provision. Future success would be measured in terms of whether families involved were no longer considered to be in trouble.

Other Board Members commented favourably on the principles involved and on the associated learning that was going on with regard to different layers of vulnerability. It was considered that a modest involvement brought about a greater amount of benefit.

Discussion also centred on the need to ensure data sharing was not a barrier and on maintaining the flow of data.

One problem for the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) was how to share patient data and that there were no quick solution to this.

There was a need therefore to consider how to bring the agencies together to meet the challenges so that using data available made an operational difference.

The CCG would be building on work already done to pursue the issue of data sharing and governance arrangements.

With regard to the troubled families programme basic data was already available and that the need for further data would, it was considered, be an issue that would be addressed by Central Government in due course.

The need for the CCG was to consider what added benefit could be provided on an identifiable patient basis taking that forward to individuals and involved families.

The CCG was asked to liaise with the Interim Director of Childrens Services if there was anything they could add to data in respect of the troubled families programme.

Resolved

That the information contained in report submitted updating the Board on the experience of the first phase of the Troubled Families Programme and on the context for phase two for which the Council had been selected as an early adopter of the phase 2 programme ,be noted together with the need to :-

- ensure cross directorate and partner commitment to the re-design of services and joint Troubled Families phase 2 planning
- recognise the importance of reviewing joint commissioning and de-commissioning and for the flow of data and information to a central coordination ready to feed into the cost calculator
- review future links to the Troubled Families phase 2 programmes in order to ensure the best fit with the corporate structure

- recognise the Council commitment to be an early adopter of phase 2
- adopt the appropriate process to engage with elected members with regard to Troubled Families Phase 2.

Better Care Fund Update

A joint report of Officers was submitted updating the Board on the progress made on the Better Care Fund (BCF) in Dudley.

A presentation was given at the meeting updating the report submitted with information not available at the time the report was written. Particular comments made were:-

- on the overview – this set out the risk stratification for the population of the borough, the related BCF scheme and stream and performance indicators.
- of the key changes - it was noted that a guideline reduction in unplanned hospital admissions of at least 3.5% was expected and that in Dudley the target was a 9.4% reduction. Savings of up to £7.5m to the health and social care economy would be generated and the benefit would be split between the CCG and the Council on a 50/50 basis.
- That the original and revised NET allocation of BCF funding was £23.84m .
- That a number of risks were identified for example non delivery of the 9.4% reduction in emergency admissions and the sharing of risks on a 50/50 basis between the CCG and the Council.
- Regarding the next steps, the BCF bid was submitted to NHS England on 19th September. The authorisation process concluded on 3rd November, the outcome being either a pass/pass with minor amendments/pass with qualifications/fail. The bid was to be assured on 10th November.

For the Board the delivery of the required level of performance was considered to be key as was the need to ensure a fully focused system.

Arising from the presentation given, a number of questions and comments were made, in particular whether the 9.4% target reduction in unplanned admissions was achievable. Responses were given to the effect that whilst the target was ambitious assurances were being worked out and measures being undertaken to achieve the required level of reduction.

Consideration was then given as to how the Board would receive the required assurance, given the risks involved and the need for all those involved to perform, and in addition to further discussion outside of meetings of the Board it was also indicated that this item would appear on a regular basis on agendas for the Board.

Resolved

That the information contained in the report submitted, on progress regarding the Better Care Fund in Dudley and as set out in the presentation given, be noted and that the direction and next steps be confirmed..

25

Care Act Implications and Implementation

A report of the Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services was submitted on the key requirements of the Care Act,2014,the potential impact on the Council and on local progress on its implementation.

Arising from a presentation given an assurance was given to the Board that the Council was well placed to meet the implementation date of April,2015.

However, it was noted that given the level of entitlement the numbers involved would increase and that costs involved for the Council had not been agreed or signed off. Currently estimating and forecasting was being used to put the Council in the best position it could be. Such work was being undertaken regionally and nationally. The position was recognised as a risk.

Resolved

That the information contained in the report submitted, and in the presentation given, on the key requirements of the Care Act,2014,the potential impact on the Council and on the local progress being made in preparing for Care Act implementation from April,2015,be noted.

26

Alcohol Strategic Framework 2014-2017

A report of the Public Health Programme Manager, Office of Public Health was submitted on the Alcohol Strategic Framework 2014-2017;a copy of which was attached as an Appendix to the report submitted.

Diane McNulty, the Public Health Programme Manager, was in attendance at the meeting and commented on the content of the Alcohol Strategic Framework.

An updated copy of the framework had been circulated to Members and was available on the Council's Committee Management Information System.

Board Members were supportive of the content of the document and of its approach.

One particular issue raised was the need to ensure that the Council was fully using its licensing powers especially with regard to sales of alcohol to under age persons and that alcoholic products were less on show.

Resolved

That the information contained in the report, and Appendix to the report, submitted, on the revised Alcohol Strategy Framework 2014-2017 be noted and approval given to the key priorities for implementation over the next three years..

27

Healthwatch – Visiting the Doctors – Young Peoples' Views

A presentation was given by four representatives of Dudley Youth Council, assisted by Melissa Guest, Communications Development Officer, Healthwatch Dudley and Siobhan Lloyd, Officer for Youth Empowerment, Dudley Youth Service on the outcomes of a questionnaire undertaken by the representatives on Young People's views on visiting a doctor's surgery.

A copy of the outcomes was circulated at the meeting, and commented upon, together with a copy of the questionnaire used. Copies of these documents would be uploaded to the Council's Committee Management Information System.

Arising from the presentation given Board Members commented favourably on the presentation given and it was considered that the detail presented had been well thought through and presented information that would not have been available otherwise. It was noted that the CCG were in the process of organising meetings for young people in relation to services provided so that they could comment on them.

As the information presented would be of interest to NHS England Alison Taylor was asked to take back to that body her impressions of the presentation. It was also doubted whether any other part of the Local Area Teams area had carried out a similar exercise.

Board Members asked questions of the Youth Council representatives in respect of certain of their findings for example why young people would not wish to discuss certain issues such as mental health with their doctor. It was indicated that in some cases they would be more likely to see a specialist.

This lack of communication was felt to stay with a person so that in later life they would also be reluctant to talk to their doctor. The reasons for not discussing issues was also explored and it was considered that further work needed to be done on this possibly by asking more questions.

On this aspect it was considered that the findings had raised a lot more questions than answers and further work on other topics needed to be done by young people so that their voice was heard. In response to a question asked a representative commented that it was surprising that 1 in 10 young people would not talk to their doctor about general or long term illness. This raised the question of where would they go for such a discussion.

Chief Superintendent Johnson also commented favourably on the presentation given and indicated that he would like presentations to be given in police stations and to his officers. This would be pursued and the representatives indicated they would wish to take up the opportunity to do more.

A comment was also made that previously young people would have used the walk in centre and it was hoped that they were not lost in the new walk in arrangements.

It was also considered that, in addition to the findings being presented to the CCG, NHS England, including the NHS Youth Forum, Healthwatch England and the British Youth Council, they should also be reported to general practitioners themselves.

Resolved

That the information reported on and comments made arising from the presentation given on Young People's Views on visiting a doctor's surgery, be noted and that all involved be thanked for their hard work and manner of presentation.

Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) Synthesis 2014 Executive Summary

A report from the Office of Public Health was submitted on an overview of the JSNA synthesis 2014 document ;a copy of which was attached as an Appendix to the report submitted. Also submitted was a document outlining the actions needed from the JSNA Synthesis 2014 for prioritisation for the Health and Wellbeing Board Strategy and commissioning plans.

Greg Barbosa from the Office of Public Health gave a presentation on the content of the Actions needed from the JSNA Synthesis 2014 document.

Arising from the presentation given,it was.

Resolved

That further consideration be given to the actions needed identified from the JSNA Synthesis 2014 for prioritisation for the Health and Wellbeing Board Strategy and commissioning plans at the development session for Board Members taking place on 7th November,2014.

Peer Challenge Debrief

The Chair commented on the Peer Challenge that had recently been completed and reported that the full report arising from the challenge had not yet been received.

As soon as the report was available it would be circulated to all Board Members for consideration and comment.

The meeting ended at 5.55 p.m.

CHAIR

Minutes of the Ernest Stevens Trusts Management Committee

Monday 27th October, 2014 at 6.00 p.m.
In Committee Room 2, the Council House, Dudley

Present

Councillor J Cowell (Chair)
Councillor M Hanif (Vice-Chair)
Councillors L Jones, I Marrey, G Partridge and H Rogers

Officers

S Griffiths (Democratic Services Manager), M Wilcox (Interim Principal Lawyer),
N Bangar (Solicitor), R Cooper (Group Accountant) and T Webb (Property
Surveyor) - All Directorate of Corporate Resources
L Stuffins (Greenspaces Team Leader) – Directorate of the Urban Environment

10 **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillor
I Kettle.

11 **Appointment of Substitute Member**

It was reported that Councillor L Jones had been appointed as a substitute
member for Councillor I Kettle for this meeting of the Committee.

12 **Declarations of Interest**

Councillor H Rogers – Non-pecuniary interest as Chair of the Friends Group for
Mary Stevens Park and Swinford Common. Also in relation to her involvement
with the Project Implementation Team - Heritage Lottery Bid for Mary Stevens
Park and attendance at stakeholder meetings.

Councillor J Cowell – Non-pecuniary interest as a Trustee of Mary Stevens
Hospice.

Councillor M Hanif - Non-pecuniary interests as a Trustee of Mary Stevens
Hospice and an attendee at meetings concerning Wollescote Park.

Councillor L Jones - Non-pecuniary interests as a former Trustee of Mary
Stevens Hospice.

Councillor G Partridge – Non-pecuniary interests as she received invitations to
stakeholder meetings and had been lobbied concerning Minute No. 15 below.

Councillor I Marrey – Non-pecuniary interest in relation to stakeholder meetings.

13 **Minutes**

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting held on 9th September, 2014 be approved as a correct record and signed.

14 **Mary Stevens Park, Worcester Street, Stourbridge – Cafe to Lease**

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Corporate Resources on a request to grant a lease to a prospective tenant for a cafe/refreshment use once conversion works had been completed at the former print unit located in Mary Stevens Park, Stourbridge.

Resolved

That the consent of the Committee be given to the grant of a lease to a prospective tenant for a cafe/refreshment use once the conversion works have been carried out to the former print unit at Mary Stevens Park, Stourbridge.

15 **Stevens Park Wollescote, Quarry Bank Park and Mary Stevens Park, Stourbridge – Provision of Ball Games on Sundays**

The Committee considered a joint report of the Directors of Corporate Resources and the Urban Environment concerning the provision of sports facilities and services in the three Stevens parks, with particular reference to the playing of ball games on Sundays.

The original Deeds of Gift contained restrictions concerning certain activities within each of the parks. These conditions had been maintained by the local authority throughout the past 80 years, however, it had been suggested that the condition preventing the use of the parks for ball games on Sundays should now be reviewed. The Friends of the three Stevens Parks had been consulted on this proposal. The Friends of Mary Stevens Park, Stourbridge and Stevens Park, Quarry Bank were against the lifting of the Sunday Play restriction. The Friends of Wollescote Park had, however, indicated that they would like to see the restriction lifted.

The report set out the background to the facilities for ball games at Wollescote Park, the Green Flag Award, volunteer investment in the park and the potential options for lifting the Deed restrictions. The Committee was requested to consider:

- (a) The needs of the various users on the park in particular the sports enthusiasts and the views of the direct descendants of Ernest Stevens.

- (b) The potential for lifting the Sunday restrictions on ball games in Wollescote Park only to accommodate the needs of the users and Friends of this park.
- (c) Authorising the Director of Corporate Resources to apply to the Charity Commission for consent to alter the Deeds of Gift to reflect the outcome of any decision made by this Committee.

The Committee discussed the report in detail and the legal implications of any proposed changes to the conditions set out in the original Deed of Gift. The Deed clearly reflected the wishes of Ernest Stevens at the time he had donated the land in trust to the local authority. Any proposal to lift the restrictions in the Deed of Gift would require the consent of the Charity Commission. A concern was expressed that removing the restriction in Wollescote Park alone would create a precedent for the other two parks. Differing views were also expressed on the practicalities of enforcing the existing restrictions on ball games on a Sunday.

Members expressed the view that consultation should be extended to local residents and other interested parties in addition to the Friends of the Parks Groups. It was also suggested that a preliminary approach be made to the Charity Commission to seek their impartial advice on the potential courses of action available to this Committee.

Resolved

- (1) That, in the light of the report now submitted and the views expressed by the Committee, the Director of Corporate Resources write to the Charity Commission seeking a preliminary view on the potential courses of action and legal implications concerning the restrictions on the playing of ball games on Sundays.
 - (2) That a copy of the correspondence sent to the Charity Commission be circulated to all Members of this Committee.
 - (3) That subject to a further report on the outcome of (1) above, consideration be given to a wider consultation exercise with local residents and interested parties.
 - (4) That the item referred to in Minute No. 9 of the previous meeting (Wollescote Park, Wollescote Road, Stourbridge – Grant of a Licence) be deferred until the meeting on 5th February, 2015 subject to the Director of Corporate Resources, in consultation with all Members of the Committee, being authorised to take any necessary action in case of urgency.
-

Final Accounts

A report of the Treasurer was submitted, under cover of which the accounts of the individual Trusts comprising the Ernest Stevens Bequests for the year ended 31st March, 2014 were presented for approval.

Papers comprising the Notes on the Final Accounts, the Trustees' Annual Report, the Achievements and Performance of the Trust, together with the Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the Ernest Stevens Trust, were attached to the report

The Group Accountant would consider a query raised concerning rental income. With regard to the mechanism for awarding grants, the Chair outlined that limited funds were available and the Committee would consider applications as and when appropriate. Members were asked to promote this and it was noted that potential grant applicants might also request funds from the relevant Community Forum.

Resolved

- (1) That, on behalf of the Council in their capacity as Trustees, the accounts of the Trusts for the year ended 31st March, 2014, be approved by the Committee.
- (2) That the Chair be authorised to sign the accounts

The meeting ended at 7.20pm

CHAIR

Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet

Wednesday, 1st October, 2014 at 6.00pm
in Committee Room 2 at the Council House, Dudley

Present:

Councillor D. Sparks - Leader of the Council (in the Chair)
Councillor P. Lowe - Deputy Leader (Vice Chair)
Councillors K. Ahmed, H. Bills, J. Foster, R. Harris, G. Partridge and
S. Turner

Opposition Group Members nominated to attend meetings of the Cabinet:-

Councillors N. Barlow, A. Goddard, P. Harley, N. Neale, D. Vickers and
M. Wood (Conservative Group);
Councillors P. Brothwood and S. Etheridge (UKIP Group)

Officers:-

J. Polychronakis (Chief Executive), P. Sharratt (Interim Director of Children's Services), T. Reilly (Assistant Director of Corporate Resources – Human Resources and Organisational Development), C. Williams (Director – West Midlands Employers) and S. Griffiths (Democratic Services Manager).

25. **Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence from the meeting were received from Councillors D. Branwood, T. Crumpton, R. James, P. Miller and G. Simms.

26. **Changes in representation of Opposition Group Members**

Councillors N. Barlow, A. Goddard and N. Neale were serving in place of Councillors R. James, G. Simms and P. Miller for this meeting of the Cabinet only.

27. **Declarations of Interest**

Councillor M Wood declared a non-pecuniary interest, in accordance with the Members Code of Conduct, in relation to Minute No. 29 below as a Governor (and Chair of the Finance Committee) at Halesbury School and Vice-Chair of the Board of Trustees at the People's Field Trust (Halesbury and Sutton Schools).

The Chief Executive recorded a pecuniary interest on behalf of all Directors and Assistant Directors in respect of Minute No. 30 below.

28. **Minutes**

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 17th September, 2014, be approved as a correct record and signed.

29. **Demographic Growth Funding – The Creation of a New Special Educational Needs Post 16 facility**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Interim Director of Children's Services, seeking approval to create a new Post 16 facility for young people with learning difficulties and disabilities through the refurbishment of an existing building on the former Pensnett School site. The report also sought approval to develop a master plan for the former Pensnett School site and to commence a series of consultation events.

During the discussion on this item, the Cabinet Member for Regeneration undertook to provide a written response concerning the projection the Council had made for an increase in demand for Special Educational Needs.

Resolved:

- (1) That the proposal to provide a new Post 16 facility for young people with learning difficulties and disabilities through the refurbishment of an existing building on the former Pensnett School site, be approved.
 - (2) That the proposal to develop a master plan for the entire former Pensnett School site, including demolition of the main school building that fronts Tiled House Lane, be approved.
 - (3) That the proposed series of consultation events be commenced.
-

30. **Review of Senior Management and Operational Structure**

The Cabinet received a report of the Chief Executive on the outcome of consultation on the proposed senior management and organisational restructure.

Following the introduction of this item, a question was raised concerning the project methodology used in developing the proposals. The Director – West Midlands Employers reported on the process used, including formal and informal consultation, appropriate external benchmarking and other statutory considerations.

All officers then left the meeting with the exception of the Chief Executive and the Democratic Services Manager.

The Leader responded to points raised by the main opposition group, as summarised in Appendix 3 to the report. He referred to the involvement of all opposition groups in the restructuring process and all consultation responses had been considered. The Leader emphasised the need to implement proposals that were fit for purpose to meet the significant challenges faced by the Council and the clear objectives identified in the report, including the adoption of the leanest management structure of any Metropolitan District Council.

Opposition spokespersons raised concerns regarding the proposed salaries for the new posts of Strategic Director and Chief Officer. The proposed salary levels were based on the outcome of a full job evaluation exercise, taking account of external factors and market forces. The Strategic Directors and Chief Officers were new posts to replace the existing Director and Assistant Director structure. Overall there would be a reduction in the top three tiers of management from 22 to 11 posts. The recruitment process would be considered by the Appointments Committee and Members of the Committee reserved the right to advertise any posts externally if there were no suitable internal applicants.

The Deputy Leader undertook to arrange for a written response to be provided in response to detailed questions concerning the savings of £1m as referred to in the report. The Chief Executive made specific reference to paragraph 22 of the report concerning the financial implications and would provide a written response prior to the meeting of the Council on 13th October, 2014.

Resolved:

That the Council be recommended to:

- (1) Note the outcome of the formal consultations summarised in Appendix 2, and the comments of the Conservative Group and Overview and Scrutiny Management Board as set out in Appendices 3 and 5 of the report now submitted.
- (2) Approve the new senior management structure as set out in Appendix 1 of the report now submitted.
- (3) Approve the spot salaries for the new Strategic Director and Chief Officer posts as set out in paragraphs 10 and 11 of the report now submitted.
- (4) Approve the policy and procedure for market forces supplements as set out in Appendix 4 of the report now submitted.

- (5) Amend the terms of reference of the Appointments Committee and the Appeals Committee as set out in paragraphs 15 and 18 of the report now submitted.
- (6) Authorise the Chief Executive to apply the approved policy on voluntary redundancies in accordance with paragraph 17 of the report now submitted.
- (7) Note the next phase of consultation on the 4th tier structure as referred to in paragraph 20 of the report now submitted.

(This was a Key Decision with the Cabinet and the Council named as Decision Takers)

The meeting ended at 6.55pm

LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

Minutes of the Cabinet

Wednesday, 29th October, 2014 at 6 p.m.
in Committee Room 2, The Council House, Dudley

Present:

Councillor D Sparks – Leader of the Council (Chair)
Councillor P Lowe – Deputy Leader (Vice-Chair)
Councillors A Ahmed, H Bills, T Crumpton, J Foster and G Partridge.

Opposition Group Members nominated to attend meetings of the Cabinet

Councillors A Goddard, P Harley, L Jones, N Neale, D Vickers and M Wood (Conservative Group); Councillors P Brothwood and B Etheridge (UKIP Group)

Officers:

J Polychronakis (Chief Executive), J Millar (Director of the Urban Environment), P Tart (Director of Corporate Resources), P Sharratt (Interim Director of Children's Services), I Newman (Treasurer), D Channings (Assistant Director of Housing Services), T Reilly (Assistant Director of Human Resources and Organisational Development) and R Sanders (Assistant Principal Officer – Democratic Services).

31 **Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence from the meeting were received from Councillors D Branwood, S Etheridge, R Harris, R James, P Miller and G Simms.

32 **Changes in representation of Opposition Groups' Members**

Councillors A Goddard, L Jones and N Neale were serving in place of Councillors R James, G Simms and P Miller, respectively, for the Conservative Group and Councillor B Etheridge for Councillor S Etheridge for the UKIP Group, for this meeting of the Cabinet only.

33 **Declarations of Interest**

Councillor D Sparks declared a pecuniary interest, in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct, in agenda item no 6 (Capital Programme Monitoring), in so far as paragraphs 9 and 14 of the report submitted to the meeting were concerned, in view of the fact that a member of his family owned a property in Lea Vale Road, Stourbridge.

34 **Minutes**

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 1st October, 2014 be approved as a correct record and signed.

35 **Medium Term Financial Strategy**

The Cabinet considered a joint report of the Chief Executive and Treasurer seeking consideration of the latest General Fund revenue position for 2014/15 and Medium Term Financial Strategy to 2017/18 and which presented spending and funding options.

In the discussion on the report, particular reference was made to and questions asked by the Opposition Groups on the projected overspending on Looked After Children, in the light of the revised predictions indicated in paragraphs 6 to 8 of the report, to which the Deputy Leader, as Cabinet Member for Finance, and the Cabinet Member for Children's Services responded.

Assurances regarding two facilities within the Adult, Community and Housing budget were requested by an Opposition Group Member, but the Deputy Leader, as Cabinet Member for Finance, regretted that he was unable to provide them in the current budgetary climate.

Resolved

- (1) That the Cabinet note the forecast favourable variances in relation to Treasury in paragraph 5 of the report; the forecast unfavourable variances in relation to Children's Services and the implications for future years set out in paragraphs 6 to 8 of the report; and the overall risk to General Fund balances set out in paragraph 10 of the report.
- (2) That all senior managers be reminded of the need for strict budgetary control in accordance with the Financial Management Regime and care and caution in managing the budget, particularly in the context of commitments into later years and the impact that any overspending in any one year will have on the availability of resources to meet future budgetary demands.
- (3) That the preliminary strategy outlined above as a basis for consultation, including the proposed allocation of Public Health funding for 2015/16 as set out in Appendix C of the report, be approved.
- (4) That the various issues and risks which will need to be taken into

account in finalising Budget proposals for 2015/16, and the Medium Term Financial Strategy, be noted.

- (5) That the Council be recommended:
- (a) That, in respect of the Council Tax Reduction Scheme(CTR), the transitional arrangement be terminated on 31st March 2015 and that the full 20% cut be implemented from 1st April 2015, and that full protection should be given to pensioners, disabled adults, disabled children, war pensioners and lone parents with a child under 5, as set out in paragraph 21 of the report.
 - (b) That delegated powers be given to the Director of Corporate Resources for making other changes to the documented CTR 2015/16 scheme in line with any government prescribed regulations, upratings and other minor miscellaneous amendments; the resulting 2015/16 scheme documentation to be published on the Council's website before 31st January 2015.
 - (c) That the delegation for approval of voluntary redundancies to the Cabinet Member for Human Resources, Legal, Property and Health and the Director of Corporate Resources, and of compulsory redundancies to the Cabinet Member for Human Resources, Legal, Property and Health and the Assistant Director for Human Resources and Organisational Development be confirmed up to an initial maximum of £5.0m for direct redundancy costs and the capitalised cost of pension strain, in respect of redundancies required to achieve the proposed savings set out in the report.

(This was a Key Decision with the Council and the Cabinet named as Decision Takers)

36 **Capital Programme Monitoring**

(Having declared a pecuniary interest in this item, in so far as it related to Lea Vale Road, Stourbridge, the Leader of the Council left the meeting and the meeting room prior to consideration of the item and the chair was taken by the Deputy Leader for the remainder of the meeting.)

The Cabinet considered a joint report of the Chief Executive and Treasurer on progress with the implementation of the Capital Programme, and which proposed amendments to the Programme.

Resolved

That the Council be recommended:

- (1) That current progress with the 2014/15 Capital Programme, as set out in Appendix A of the report, be noted, and that budgets be amended to reflect the reported variances.
- (2) That £600,000 of funding be reallocated from the Housing Assistance Grants budget in order to address pressures on waiting lists for Disabled Facilities Grants in 2014/15, as set out in paragraph 5 of the report.
- (3) That the allocation of funding for the North Priory Community Centre be noted, and the project included in the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 6 of the report.
- (4) That the Clean Vehicle Technology funding allocation be noted and the expenditure included in the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 7 of the report.
- (5) That the revised funding for the third phase of the Dudley Grid for Learning project be approved, as set out in paragraph 8 of the report.
- (6) That the Urgent Amendment to the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 9 of the report, be noted.

(This was a Key Decision with the Council named as Decision Takers)

37 **Review of Housing Finance**

The Cabinet considered a joint report of the Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services and the Treasurer which proposed revisions to the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) budgets to reflect latest financial forecasts, and the Public Sector Housing capital programme. The report also sought approval to the HRA's 30 year Business Plan.

In response to a question regarding the budget of £40.6 million for new build, the Cabinet Member for Housing and Community Safety indicated that this was an indicative budget at this stage and that a more comprehensive report would be submitted in due course.

Resolved

- (1) That the Council be recommended that the revised Housing Revenue Account (HRA) budget for 2014-15 as referred to in paragraphs 5 to 13 of the report and as set out in Appendix 1 to the report, be approved.
- (2) That the Council be recommended that the revised Public Sector Housing capital programme for 2014-15 to 2018-19 as set out in paragraphs 14 to 16 and appendix 2 to the report, including the increase in HRA borrowing in 2015-16 and 2016-17 to fund new

building under the Local Growth Fund, be approved

- (3) That the Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services be authorised to buy back former right to buy properties and to buy other properties, either via mortgage rescue or on the open market, subject to a robust assessment that the property will be purchased at a discounted price that offers good value for money and will be sustainable in terms of lettings, maintenance and major works, as set out in paragraph 17 of the report, and that the Council be recommended to approve that these be added to the capital programme as they are purchased.
- (4) That the redevelopment of the site of 14 to 24 Beech Road, in accordance with paragraph 18 of the report be approved, and the following be authorised in this connection:
 - (a) the acquisition of the leasehold interest of flat 22a Beech Road
 - (b) the termination of the lease of shop 20 Beech Road and the payment of statutory compensation equal to twice rateable value
 - (c) the rehousing of remaining existing tenants and the payment of home loss and disturbance payments
 - (d) approval to acquire or divert vehicular access rights to the rear of 24 Pine Close if necessary
 - (e) approval of any other agreement necessary to facilitate the redevelopment of the site
 - (f) approval to use Compulsory Purchase Order powers for the acquisitions, should negotiation fail.
- (5) That the introduction of a charge of £50 with effect from 1st January, 2015 for the provision of solicitors' information packs for leaseholders, as set out in paragraph 19 of the report submitted to the meeting, be approved.
- (6) That the HRA 30 Year Business Plan, as set out in paragraph 20 and appendix 3 of the report, be approved.

(This was a Key Decision with the Council and the Cabinet named as Decision Takers)

38 **Dudley Town Centre Regeneration**

The Cabinet considered a joint report of the Director of the Urban Environment and Director of Corporate Resources providing an update on
C/22

regeneration activity in and around Dudley Town Centre and which also sought approval to the inclusion of the proposed improvements to Coronation Gardens in the Capital Programme.

Resolved

- (1) That the regeneration activity in and around Dudley Town Centre, as referred to in the report, be noted.
- (2) That the Council be recommended that the proposed improvements to Coronation Gardens, as referred to in the report, be approved and included in the Capital Programme.

39 **Business Improvement District**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Director of the Urban Environment seeking authority to working with businesses in Halesowen and Stourbridge on the feasibility of Business Improvement Districts (BID) in those Town Centres.

A question was asked by a Member of the Conservative Group on what provisions were in place to allow for a BID to be wound up within the five year initial period if it was not delivering the economic impact that had been hoped for, to which the Cabinet Member for Regeneration replied that a written response would be submitted to the Member.

Resolved

That the Director of Corporate Resources and the Director of the Urban Environment, in consultation with the Cabinet Members for Finance and Regeneration, be authorised to work with businesses in Halesowen and Stourbridge on the feasibility of Business Improvement Districts in those Town Centres, and, where appropriate, the preparation of fully costed Business Plans, prior to consideration at a future meeting of the Cabinet.

40 **Annual Review of the Constitution**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Corporate Resources on the annual review of the Constitution.

Resolved

That the Council be recommended:

- (1) That the Director of Corporate Resources be authorised to make any urgent, necessary or consequential changes to the Constitution arising from the ongoing review of the Council's Senior Management and Organisational Structure.

- (2) That the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board consider revisions to the Council's Scrutiny Committees and associated scrutiny arrangements in advance of the 2015/16 municipal year with a view to recommendations being submitted to the annual meeting of the Council in May, 2015.
- (3) That the creation of the Integrated Transport Authority (ITA) Overview and Scrutiny Joint Committee in the form set out in the report submitted to the meeting and at Appendix 1 to the report be approved.
- (4) That a Member be appointed as this Council's representative on the ITA Overview and Scrutiny Joint Committee.
- (5) That West Midlands Joint Committee be given delegated powers to determine the remaining places on the ITA Overview and Scrutiny Joint Committee on the principles set out in the report submitted to the meeting and Appendix 1 to the report in order to establish political proportionality.
- (6) That the Director of Corporate Resources be authorised to agree and enter into such documents that are necessary to give effect to the above decisions concerning the ITA Overview and Scrutiny Joint Committee.
- (7) That the proposals set out in the report submitted to the meeting to comply with the Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014 be approved, including the amendment of Council Procedure Rule 24.6 as referred to in paragraph 28 of the report.
- (8) That the amendment of the Employee Code of Conduct, as set out in paragraph 33 of the report submitted to the meeting, be endorsed.
- (9) That appropriate references to the Anti –Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 and the specific provisions referred to in paragraph 36 of the report be included in Part 3 of the Constitution under the portfolios of the relevant Cabinet Members and Officers
- (10) That the proposed amendments to the powers relating to dangerous trees and the functions of the Development Control Committee relating to trees be approved, subject to the revised wording of the Development Control Committee terms of reference being agreed by the Director of Corporate Resources in consultation with the Director of the Urban Environment and the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Development Control Committee.

(This was a Key Decision with the Council named as Decision Taker)

the Annual Review of Equality for 2014. The full copy of the Annual Review had been placed electronically on the Committee Management Information System and in hard copy in the Members' Room.

Resolved

That the Annual Review of Equality 2014 be approved.

The meeting ended at 7.05 p.m.

LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

DELEGATED DECISION SUMMARIES

(Copies of Decision Sheets on the new decisions database can be accessed by logging on to

<http://online.dudley.gov.uk/dudco/decision/decisions.asp>)

1.

Delegated Decision Summary

Exempt
Yes No

Decision Made By Cllr Khurshid Ahmed

Authorised By Cllr Khurshid Ahmed, Cabinet Member for Transport

In Consultation With John Millar, Director of the Urban Environment

Ward(s) Affected Amblecote

Date of Decision 07 November 2014

Reference DUE/46/2014

Safer Routes to School Scheme for Amblecote Primary School, including 20mph Speed Limit Order in School Drive

1.1 That the Safer Routes to School Scheme for Amblecote Primary School, including the Borough Council of Dudley (School Drive, Amblecote) (20mph Speed Limit) Order 2014, be implemented as advertised.

2.

Delegated Decision Summary

Exempt
Yes No

Decision Made By Cllr Khurshid Ahmed

Authorised By Cllr Khurshid Ahmed, Cabinet Member for Transport

In Consultation With John Millar, Director of the Urban Environment

Ward(s) Affected Belle Vale

Date of Decision 07 November 2014

Reference DUE/47/2014

Allocation of new road name off Tenlands Road, Halesowen

1.1 That the road identified on plan no. T&T/D/RN/201 be named 'Laymoor Drive'.

3.

Delegated Decision Summary

Exempt
Yes No

Decision Made By Cllr Khurshid Ahmed

Authorised By Cllr Khurshid Ahmed, Cabinet Member for Transport

In Consultation With John Millar, Director of the Urban Environment

Ward(s) Affected Wollaston & Stourbridge
Town

Date of Decision 07 November 2014

Reference DUE/48/2014

Allocation of new road name off Norfolk Road, Wollaston

1.1 That the road identified on plan no. T&T/D/RN/202 be named 'Waveney Meadows'.

4.

Delegated Decision Summary

Exempt	
Yes	No
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Decision Made By Cllr Khurshid Ahmed
Authorised By Cllr Khurshid Ahmed, Cabinet Member for Transport
In Consultation With John Millar, Director of the Urban Environment
Ward(s) Affected Sedgley
Date of Decision 13 November 2014

Reference DUE/49/2014

Allocation of new road name off The Walk, Sedgley

1.1 That the road identified on plan no. T&T/D/RN/203 be named 'Poppy Fields'.

5.

Delegated Decision Summary

Exempt	
Yes	No
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Decision Made By Councillor Tim Crumpton
Authorised By Councillor Tim Crumpton, Children's Services and Lifelong Learning
In Consultation With Pauline Sharratt, Interim Director of Children's Services
Ward(s) Affected Quarry Bank & Dudley Wood
Brierley Hill
Amblecote
Date of Decision 06 October 2014

Reference DCS/34/2014

New Instrument of Government for Quarry Bank Primary School

To make, by sealing, a new Instrument of Government for Quarry Bank Primary School

6.

Delegated Decision Summary

Exempt	
Yes	No
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Decision Made By Councillor Tim Crumpton
Authorised By Councillor Tim Crumpton, Children's Services and Lifelong Learning
In Consultation With Pauline Sharratt, Interim Director of Children's Services
Ward(s) Affected Netherton, Woodside &
St.Andr
Date of Decision 06 October 2014

Reference DCS/32/2014

New Instrument of Government for Northfield Road Primary School

To make, by sealing, a new Instrument of Government for Northfield Road Primary School

7.

Delegated Decision Summary

Exempt	
Yes	No
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Decision Made By Councillor Tim Crumpton
Authorised By Councillor Tim Crumpton, Children's Services and Lifelong Learning
In Consultation With Pauline Sharratt, Interim Director of Children's Services
Ward(s) Affected Castle & Priory
St James's
St Thomas's
Date of Decision 06 October 2014 **Reference** DCS/35/2014

New Instrument of Government for The Priory School

To make, by sealing, a new Instrument of Government for The Priory School.

8.

Delegated Decision Summary

Exempt	
Yes	No
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Decision Made By Councillor Tim Crumpton
Authorised By Councillor Tim Crumpton, Children's Services and Lifelong Learning
In Consultation With Pauline Sharratt, Interim Director of Children's Services
Ward(s) Affected Coseley East
Date of Decision 06 October 2014 **Reference** DCS/33/2014

New Instrument of Government for: The Coseley School – A Co-operative Trust

To make, by sealing, a new Instrument of Government for The Coseley School – A Co-operative Trust.

9.

Delegated Decision Summary

Exempt	
Yes	No
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Decision Made By Councillor Tim Crumpton
Authorised By Councillor Tim Crumpton, Children's Services and Lifelong Learning
In Consultation With Pauline Sharratt, Interim Director of Children's Services
Ward(s) Affected All
Date of Decision 21 October 2014 **Reference** DCS/36/2014

Outcomes of Consultation "Schools Funding Arrangements and Changes for 2015/16 for Dudley Mainstream Schools".

To confirm the Interim Director of Children's Services decisions following the outcomes in respect of the Consultation "Schools Funding Arrangements and Changes for 2015/16 for Dudley Mainstream Schools" that ended on the 27th June 2014.

10.

Delegated Decision Summary

Exempt
Yes No

Decision Made By Councillor Tim Crumpton
Authorised By Councillor Tim Crumpton, Children's Services and Lifelong Learning
Councillor Rachel Harris, Cabinet member for Human Resources, Legal,
In Consultation With Pauline Sharratt, Interim Director of Children's Services
Philip Tart, Director of Corporate Resources
Ward(s) Affected Kingswinford North &
WallHeath
Kingswinford South
Wordsley
Date of Decision 12 November 2014 **Reference** DCS/37/2014

Academy Order for Crestwood Secondary School to open as an Academy from 1st December 2014

The Secretary of State for Education has issued an Academy Order for Crestwood Secondary School to open as an Academy from 1st December 2014 sponsored by Invictus Education Trust. In order to facilitate this change in school status permission is sought to enter into a Commercial Transfer Agreement, lease and the transfer of staff into the employ of the academy trust under the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) (Amendment) Regulations 2014 (T.U.P.E)

11.

Delegated Decision Summary

Exempt
Yes No

Decision Made By Councillor Tim Crumpton
Authorised By Councillor Tim Crumpton, Children's Services and Lifelong Learning
In Consultation With Pauline Sharratt, Interim Director of Children's Services
Ward(s) Affected All
Date of Decision 17 November 2014 **Reference** DCS/38/2014

Dudley Schools Forum School Member Appointments

In respect of Dudley Schools Forum, to approve the appointment of four Schools' Members from 1st November 2014.

12.

Delegated Decision Summary

Exempt
Yes No

Decision Made By Councillor Rachel Harris
Authorised By Councillor Rachel Harris, Cabinet member for Human Resources, Legal,
Teresa Reilly, Assistant Director
In Consultation With Philip Tart, Director of Corporate Resources
Ward(s) Affected All
Date of Decision 07 October 2014 **Reference** DCR/18/2014

Corporate Landlord Function

To approve the restructuring proposals to establish a Corporate Landlord Function in line with the revenue budget savings approved by the Council.

13.**Delegated Decision Summary**Exempt
Yes No

Decision Made By Councillor Rachel Harris
Authorised By Councillor Rachel Harris, Cabinet member for Human Resources, Legal,
In Consultation With Teresa Reilly, Assistant Director
Ward(s) Affected All
Date of Decision 08 October 2014 **Reference** HOPSS/37/2014

Creation & appointment of Call Centre Manager - Access and Telecare funded by restructure of service

To approve the recruitment of a full time Grade 11 permanent post of Call Centre Manager – Access and Telecare.

14.**Delegated Decision Summary**Exempt
Yes No

Decision Made By Councillor Rachel Harris
Authorised By Councillor Rachel Harris, Cabinet member for Human Resources, Legal,
In Consultation With Teresa Reilly, Assistant Director
Ward(s) Affected All
Date of Decision 08 October 2014 **Reference** HOPSS/36/2014

Transfer of Housing Customer Services to Dudley Council Plus

To agree to transfer front of house customer services for Housing to Dudley Council Plus.

To delete 3 fte Senior Customer Service Officer and 7.8 fte Customer Service Assistant posts in Housing Services, and to create 6 fte additional Customer Service Assistant posts in Dudley Council Plus to undertake the front of house duties and 2 fte additional Housing Management Assistant posts in Housing Services (Tenancy and Estate Management) to undertake the back-office duties.

15.**Delegated Decision Summary**Exempt
Yes No

Decision Made By Councillor Rachel Harris
Authorised By Councillor Rachel Harris, Cabinet member for Human Resources, Legal,
In Consultation With Teresa Reilly, Assistant Director
Ward(s) Affected All
Date of Decision 16 October 2014 **Reference** HOPSS/38/2014

Recruit an additional cleaner at Astley Burf Outdoor Education Centre, due to an increase in buildings at the site. Funded through income from bookings.

To create and recruit an additional cleaner at Astley Burf Outdoor Education Centre, 6 hours per week, 30 weeks per year, due to an increase in buildings at the site. Funded through income from bookings.

16.**Delegated Decision Summary****Exempt**

Yes No

 Decision Made By Councillor Rachel Harris**Authorised By** Councillor Rachel Harris, Cabinet member for Human Resources, Legal,**In Consultation With** Teresa Reilly, Assistant Director**Ward(s) Affected** All**Date of Decision** 16 October 2014**Reference** HOPSS/39/2014**Recruitment and appointment of a Carers Network Support Officer Funded by base budget.**

To approve the creation of and recruitment to a permanent full-time Carers Network Support Officer funded by base budget.

17.**Delegated Decision Summary****Exempt**

Yes No

 Decision Made By Councillor Rachel Harris**Authorised By** Councillor Rachel Harris, Cabinet member for Human Resources, Legal,**In Consultation With** Teresa Reilly, Assistant Director**Ward(s) Affected** All**Date of Decision** 23 October 2014**Reference** HOPSS/42/2014**Recruit a Black Country Strategic Flood Risk Manager funded by the four Black country Councils**

Approval for the appointment of a Strategic flood Risk Manager to represent the Four Black Country Authorities.

18.**Delegated Decision Summary****Exempt**

Yes No

 Decision Made By Councillor Rachel Harris**Authorised By** Councillor Rachel Harris, Cabinet member for Human Resources, Legal,**In Consultation With** Teresa Reilly, Assistant Director**Ward(s) Affected** All**Date of Decision** 23 October 2014**Reference** HOPSS/40/2014**Create and recruit to the post of Educational Psychologist, funded through Traded Services Income**

To create and recruit
1 full-time main scale educational psychologist on a permanent contract, funded through Traded Services income

19.**Delegated Decision Summary**Exempt
Yes No

Decision Made By Councillor Rachel Harris
Authorised By Councillor Rachel Harris, Cabinet member for Human Resources, Legal,
In Consultation With Teresa Reilly, Assistant Director
Ward(s) Affected All
Date of Decision 23 October 2014 **Reference** HOPSS/41/2014

Through restructuring of the Community Safety Team to achieve budget savings create a new post of Community Safety Officer and delete 5 current posts (4.4FTE)

The Team is aware of budget reductions and that the Team will consist of 2.5 FTE going forward but not the detail. This will be shared/consulted on once the decision is approved.

To approve the establishment of the post of a Community Safety Officer - Vulnerability to form part of a newly structured Community Safety Team. In summary this involves the deletion of 5 posts (4.4 FTE) and replacing these with a newly evaluated post.

20.**Delegated Decision Summary**Exempt
Yes No

Decision Made By Councillor Rachel Harris
Authorised By Councillor Rachel Harris, Cabinet member for Human Resources, Legal,
In Consultation With Teresa Reilly, Assistant Director
Ward(s) Affected All
Date of Decision 24 October 2014 **Reference** HOPSS/43/2014

Requesting time off / financial support for post entry qualifications or study

To accept the new requesting time off / financial support for post entry qualifications or study policy and implement across the Council from 1st December 2014.

21.**Delegated Decision Summary**Exempt
Yes No

Decision Made By Councillor Rachel Harris
Authorised By Councillor Rachel Harris, Cabinet member for Human Resources, Legal,
In Consultation With Philip Tart, Director of Corporate Resources
Ward(s) Affected All
Date of Decision 14 November 2014 **Reference** DCR/20/2014

Review and update of the Adoption Leave Policy

To agree updates to the current Adoption Leave Policy as a result of a review of the policy.

To agree to the policy and procedure being implemented with effect from October 2014.

22.**Delegated Decision Summary****Exempt**
Yes No

Decision Made By Councillor Rachel Harris
Authorised By Councillor Rachel Harris, Cabinet member for Human Resources, Legal,
In Consultation With Teresa Reilly, Assistant Director
Ward(s) Affected All
Date of Decision 14 November 2014 **Reference** HOPSS/45/2014

Additional Assistant grade 5 (AC4)- Pharmaceutical Public Health Team

Approval required for appointing to a new post, Administration Assistant 0.6 WTE – to provide administrative support to the Pharmaceutical Public Health Team.

23.**Delegated Decision Summary****Exempt**
Yes No

Decision Made By Councillor Rachel Harris
Authorised By Councillor Rachel Harris, Cabinet member for Human Resources, Legal,
In Consultation With Teresa Reilly, Assistant Director
Ward(s) Affected All
Date of Decision 14 November 2014 **Reference** HOPSS/44/2014

To create the post of Part Time Senior Play Worker at the Sycamore Adventure Centre.

To seek approval to create a new part time position at Sycamore Adventure – Senior Play Worker and to do so by making changes to the current staff structure; creating sufficient savings to recruit to the post for 22 hours weekly.

24.**Delegated Decision Summary****Exempt**
Yes No

Decision Made By Councillor Stuart Turner
Authorised By Councillor Stuart Turner, Cabinet Member for Finance
In Consultation With Iain Newman, Treasurer
Ward(s) Affected All
Date of Decision 31 October 2014 **Reference** DCR/19/2014

Approval to waive Standing Order 8 to award a contract extension by negotiation for an enhancement to the current suite of electronic benefit forms (as describe

That approval is given to waive Standing Order 8 in respect of extending both the scope and end date of the existing contract by negotiation with Victoria Forms. The change in scope being to include integrated risk based verification / evidence checks (RBV) for the benefits change in circumstances form.