

COMMITTEE AND SUB- COMMITTEE MINUTES

**APRIL 2013
TO
JUNE 2013**

**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>From</u>	<u>Pages To</u>
<u>COMMUNITY FORA</u>			
Coseley East and Sedgley	16/04/2013	CESCF/4	CESCF/6
Castle and Priory, St James's and St Thomas's	16/04/2013	CPSJSTCF/5	CPSJSTCF/8
Castle and Priory, St James's and St Thomas's	17/06/2013	CPSJSTCF/1	CPSJSTCF/4
Netherton, Woodside and St Andrews and Quarry Bank and Dudley Wood	17/04/2013	NWSAQBDWC F/5	NWSAQBDWC F/10
Netherton, Woodside and St Andrews and Quarry Bank and Dudley Wood	17/06/2013	NWSAQBDWC F/1	NWSAQBDWC F/5
Gornal and Upper Gornal and Woodsetton	17/04/2013	GUGWCF/4	GUGWCF/7
Gornal and Upper Gornal and Woodsetton	18/06/2013	GUGWCF/1	GUGWCF/4
Norton, Pedmore and Stourbridge East and Wollaston and Stourbridge Town	18/04/2013	NPSEWSTCF/5	NPSEWSTCF/7
Norton, Pedmore and Stourbridge East and Wollaston and Stourbridge Town	19/06/2013	NPSEWSTCF/1	NPSEWSTCF/4
Belle Vale, Halesowen North, Halesowen South and Hayley Green and Cradley South	18/04/2013	BVHNHSHGCS CF/4	BVHNHSHGCS CF/6
Halesowen North and Halesowen South Community Forum	19/06/2013	HNHNCF/1	HNHSCF/4

Belle Vale and Hayley Green and Cradley South Community Forum	25/06/2013	BVHGCSCF/1	BVHGCSCF/4
Kingswinford North and Wall Heath, Kingswinford South and Wordsley	23/04/2013	KNWHKSWCF/4	KNWHKSWCF/7
Kingswinford North and Wall Heath, Kingswinford South and Wordsley	25/06/2013	TO FOLLOW	
Amblecote, Cradley and Wollescote and Lye and Stourbridge North	23/04/2013	ACWLSNCF/5	ACWLSNCF/11
Amblecote, Cradley and Wollescote and Lye and Stourbridge North	26/06/2013	TO FOLLOW	
Brierley Hill and Brockmoor and Pensnett	24/04/2013	BHBPCF/5	BHBPCF/8
Brierley Hill and Brockmoor and Pensnett	26/06/2013	TO FOLLOW	
<u>SCRUTINY COMMITTEES</u>			
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REGULATORY COMMITTEES

Appeals Panel (Children's Services Transport)

Appeals Panel (Children's Services Transport)	01/05/2013	APCST/4	APCST/5
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Appeals Committee

Appeals Committee	05/06/2013	AC/1	AC/2
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Audit and Standards

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Development Control Committee	13/05/2013	DC/99	DC/105
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Development Control Committee	24/06/2013	DC/10	DC/17
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Taxis

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ERNEST STEVENS TRUSTS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Ernest Stevens Trusts Management Committee	22/04/2013	EST/1	EST/3
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CABINET

Special Meeting of the Cabinet	25/04/2013	C/58	C/61
Meeting of the Cabinet	20/06/2013	C/1	C/9

**ACTION NOTES OF THE MEETING OF COSELEY EAST/SEDGLEY
COMMUNITY FORUM**

held at 6.30 pm on Tuesday 16th April, 2013
at St Andrew's Church, Bilston Street, Sedgley

PRESENT:-

Councillor Caunt (Chair)
Councillors Evans, Ridney and Mrs Westwood

Officers:-

Mr B Clifford (Lead Officer to the Forum) (Assistant Director, Health Reform Programme Lead – Directorate of Adult, Community and Housing Services) and Mrs M Johal (Directorate of Corporate Resources)

Together with twelve members of the public.

7 **INTRODUCTIONS BY THE CHAIR**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting of the Coseley East/Sedgley Community Forum and general introductions were made.

8 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors G Davies and Mottram.

9 **LISTENING TO YOU – QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM LOCAL RESIDENTS**

The following comments and issues were raised:-

- Concern about the lack of maintenance of the grass verges and trees on Paul Street, Hurst Hill and that the dangerous state of the street compromised residents' safety. Reference was also made to a tree that had been condemned but that the wrong tree had been cut down. Petition handed in to Councillor Ridney for actioning.
- The increase in traffic in Paul Street and inconsiderate parking by parents whilst taking and collecting their children from school. Reference was also made to a recent accident that had occurred. Councillor Ridney reported on the various measures and action being taken to combat the problem.

- An update regarding the position on the closure of Roseville Day Centre and Bridgehouse was requested. The Lead Officer and Councillor Ridney gave an update on the position and reference was also made to alternative organisations that offered similar facilities such as those provided by Age Concern.
- Reference was made to the derelict public conveniences on Gospel End Street and it was queried whether these could be demolished and replaced with a piece of public art to identify the history of Sedgley. In response the Chair stated that the site was on the market and indicated that the suggestion would be considered.
- Recent muggings in Coseley – Sergeant Lewis provided an update and indicated that arrests had been made and assured members of the public that there was no need for any concern.
- Current position with regard to the Sedgley Community Police Station; that volunteers were no longer able to help out and whether there were any plans to close the station – Sergeant Lewis stated that volunteers could not continue as they were not covered by the police insurance policy and he indicated that there were no plans to close the station.
- Complaints were made about private hire vehicles causing an obstruction on Friday and Saturday evenings due to inconsiderate parking – Sergeant Lewis undertook to speak to his colleagues that were involved in Taxi Watch.

WORKING WITH YOU – TOPICS RAISED BY LOCAL COUNCILLORS

- (a) The Chair referred to an issue regarding a notice that had been placed by the Fish and Chip Shop near the Sedgley Youth Club whereby they had employed a private parking company to issue fines when parking on Council owned land. The Council were investigating the matter with a view to removing the notice.
- (b) Councillor Ridney;-
 - (i) Referred to a number of measures being put into place to combat parking around schools;
 - (ii) Requested that the Director of the Urban Environment investigate the issue of public toilets in Coseley as there was currently a lack of the facility in the area.

- (c) Councillor Evans referred to the construction work that was underway in Sedgley on Gospel End Street and indicated, as a crossing could not be erected, an alternative scheme for a footpath was being put in its place.

A member of the public asked whether consideration could be given to a one-way system to alleviate the traffic in Sedgley.

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AREA GRANTS

A report of the Lead Officer was submitted on an application for funding received from Summerhill Community Association.

AGREED TO RECOMMEND –

That the Director of Corporate Resources approve the making of a grant in the sum of £3500 to Summerhill Community Association to replace existing windows in order to increase security, retain heat and improve the appearance of the centre.

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DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

It was noted that the details of future meetings would be available following the Annual Meeting of the Council on 16th May, 2013.

The meeting ended at 7.45 pm

**ACTION NOTES OF THE MEETING OF CASTLE AND PRIORY, ST
JAMES'S AND ST THOMAS'S COMMUNITY FORUM**

Tuesday 16th April, 2013 at 6.30 p.m.
at Wrens Nest Community Centre, Summer Road, Dudley

PRESENT: -

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

OFFICERS:

Mr M Bowsher (Lead Officer to the Forum), Quality and Commissioning –
Directorate of Adult, Community and Housing Services and Mrs K Griffiths –
Directorate of Corporate Resources

together with twelve Members of the public

7. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence from the meeting were received on behalf of
Councillors A Ahmed and Waltho.

8. INTRODUCTIONS BY THE CHAIR

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting of the Castle and Priory, St
James's and St Thomas's Community Forum and in his remarks
commented on the purpose of the new Community Forums set up by the
Council. Following the making of other general announcements the local
councillors and council officers introduced themselves.

9. LISTENING TO YOU: QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM LOCAL
RESIDENTS

A number of questions and comments were raised by local residents in
relation to the following:-

Nature of questions/comments

Referred to

- (1) Boy racers speeding on the Southern
Bypass, including on the Birmingham
Road between Castlegate Island and
Burnt Tree Island. Mention was made of
a new campaign to stop boy racers in the
Birmingham area and the questioner
asked if a similar campaign could be
considered for the Dudley area. It was

Directorate of the Urban
Environment and West
Midlands Police for a
written response.

noted that this issue had been raised at a Central Dudley Area Committee in 2009.

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| (2a) | How long are temporary pothole repairs expected to last and is Dudley MBC getting value for money? How long is the work guaranteed for? | Director of the Urban Environment for a telephone response. |
| (2b) | How are Senior Officers salaries determined and what plans are there to restructure the management infrastructure? | Directorate of Corporate Resources for a telephone response. |
| (3c) | How is the new anti-social behaviour team being publicised? It was noted that Dudley MBC officers were not aware of the new service. | Directorate of Adult, Community and Housing Services for a telephone response. |
| (3d) | Flats in Wrens Nest Road. When will the balconies be painted and the guttering be cleared out? It was noted that this issue had been raised in 2011. | Directorate of Adult, Community and Housing Services for a telephone response. |
| (4) | What was the date, under the previous administration of the Council, that a resolution was put to full Council in relation to Dudley MBC becoming a Fair-trade Borough? The questioner requested a copy of the minutes of the relevant meeting where the decision was taken. | Directorate of Corporate Resources for a written response. |
| (5) | Housing waiting lists are too long and the process unfair. What is the current waiting list for Council houses? | Directorate of Adult, Community and Housing Services for a written response |
| (5b) | Green Bins. Concerns were raised that residents were being requested to pay for green bins and asked for this matter to be investigated. | Directorate of the Urban Environment for a written response |
| (6) | Toilet facilities in Dudley Town Centre – could these be opened on a Sunday? It was noted that this was raised at the Community Forum held on 11 th February, 2013. Members suggested that a letter be submitted to Centro asking for consideration to be given to opening the toilet facilities in Dudley Bus Station for shoppers on a Sunday. | Directorate of the Urban Environment for a written response |

Other Issues raised to which responses were given at the meeting:-

- Poor state of the main roads and pavements in the Borough – need repairing.
- Revival Fires – it was stated that Revival Fires would be willing to host a number of events, to include entertainment, food, non-alcoholic refreshments etc, in a variety of parks across the Borough.
- “Bedroom Tax” was raised and discussed in detail.
- Restructuring of Housing Managers – concern was raised that residents were not being informed in relation to changes to Housing Managers.
- Wire fencing that is blocking off the empty space next to Priory Pharmacy had significantly collapsed and is very dangerous.
- Fly tipping on Wolverhampton Street. A member of the public personally thanked Councillor K Ahmed for dealing with this matter promptly, however, Members acknowledged that this was an ongoing problem affecting the whole of the Borough and needed to be looked at in more detail, as a matter of urgency.
- Representative from Time Step Community Hub requested that her recent grant application be considered further.

10. WORKING WITH YOU – TOPICS RAISED BY LOCAL COUNCILLORS

- Councillor Roberts referred to motorist causing anti-social behaviour and leaving tyre tracks on the parks in the Russells Hall Area and requested that this matter be investigated.
- Councillor Roberts referred to the amount of general litter on the Russells Hall Estate and requested that this matter be investigated.
- Councillor Roberts raised concern at the number of speeding vehicles using the Himley Road and requested that consideration be given to introducing a 30mph speed limit.
- Councillor A Finch referred to vehicles using the green area on the Old Park Farm Estate and requested that this matter be investigated.

11. AREA GRANTS

A report of the Lead Officer was submitted on an application for funding.

AGREED TO RECOMMEND:-

That consideration of the application by The Friends and Residents of Buffery Park in the St Thomas's Ward for the sum of £5,000 for regeneration work to Buffery Park, involving the installation of a free public outdoor gymnasium comprising 12 different pieces of fixed equipment, be deferred following confirmation of the receipt of further funding requested from an alternative source.

12. DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

That the date, time and venue of the next meeting of the Community Forum be determined at Annual Council on 16th May, 2013.

The meeting ended at 8.10 pm

**ACTION NOTES OF THE MEETING OF CASTLE AND PRIORY, ST
JAMES'S AND ST THOMAS'S COMMUNITY FORUM**

Monday 17th June, 2013 at 6.30 p.m.
at St Barnabas Church, Middlepark Road, Russell's Hall, Dudley

PRESENT: -

Councillors A Ahmed, Ali, M Aston, A Finch, K Finch and Roberts

OFFICERS:

M Bowsher (Lead Officer to the Forum) – Directorate of Adult, Community and Housing Services and S Griffiths – Directorate of Corporate Resources

together with 25 Members of the public

1. ELECTION OF CHAIR

Councillor K Finch was elected Chair of the Forum for the 2013/14 municipal year.

2. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR

Councillor A Ahmed was elected Vice-Chair of the Forum for the 2013/14 municipal year.

3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence from the meeting were received on behalf of Councillors K Ahmed, Arshad and Waltho.

4. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

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

5. LISTENING TO YOU: QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM LOCAL RESIDENTS

Local residents raised questions and made comments as set out below. These issues would be referred to the relevant Directorate or appropriate body for a response:-

Nature of question/comment

- (1) Requesting the start date for implementing traffic calming measures in Oakham Road, Dudley.
- (2) Request for the repair of a Sewage Pipe at a property in Ashenhurst Road, Dudley.
- (3) Asking that various issues on Russells Hall Estate be attended to, including:
 - lighting in Pearce Close.
 - anti-social behaviour caused by off-road bikes on the park at Barrow Hill.
 - problems with litter starting at the top of Bushey Fields Road, in the park and the need for bushes to be maintained.
 - various car parking issues affecting Overfield Road, Pearce Close, Ashenhurst Road and Bushey Fields Road.
- (4) Comments that the change in the running times of the 222 Bus had led to a worsening of the service.
- (5) Clarification of the ownership of the 'old seed shop' on the corner of King Street/Hall Street, Dudley; asking if the Council is aware of anyone trading from this shop or anyone living above the premises in view of a perceived fire risk.
- (6) Reasons as to why Cider Bank Island was changed to a two-lane approach from Netherton. This has led to traffic congestion at certain times and caused traffic to divert to New Road.
- (7) The Council is requested to reconsider the opening of Dudley Town Centre public toilets on Sundays (ie: 7 days per week). Reference was also made to the availability and maintenance of the toilets in Dudley bus station.
- (8) Requesting the Council to monitor the 'No Entry' Gap on King Street, Dudley as drivers ignored the no entry restriction and the new road markings.
- (9) Requesting the protection of Court Passage in view of its historical importance in Dudley Town Centre.
- (10) Questioning why the Council cannot turn the Dudley Hippodrome building over to the Friends Group to develop it and return the building to a Grade A theatre and for associated community use.

- (11) Ongoing concerns regarding the implications for surrounding roads (particularly Douglass Road) following the blocking-off of Blackacre Road, Dudley to through traffic.
- (12) Query as to whether a retraction had been sought from a magazine relating to figures previously published in connection with fly tipping in Dudley Borough.

Other Issues raised and/or answered on the evening:-

- Wider regeneration aspirations for Dudley Town Centre with a focus on restoration to preserve and promote Dudley's history as a market town, restore civic pride and attract further tourism and business opportunities to the Borough.
- Ongoing issues concerning the regeneration of Dudley Market Place and Castle Hill development.
- Questioning the validity of car parking charges in the Town Centre as these are felt to be contradictory to wider regeneration aspirations.
- Inadequate seating/benches in the Churchill Precinct.
- Concerns about items of furniture and office equipment stored on squash courts at Dudley Leisure Centre preventing the use of the facility for sporting purposes.
- Request for possible assistance with the purchase of a Chain Saw to help with the maintenance the graveyard at St John's Church, Dudley.
- Problems with potholes in Standhills Road, Kingswinford (near former MEB premises).

6. WORKING WITH YOU – TOPICS RAISED BY LOCAL COUNCILLORS

- Councillor Roberts referred to ongoing issue with the non-collection of rubbish and the lopping of trees on Russell's Hall Estate.
 - Councillor Roberts raised further concerns at the number of speeding vehicles using the Himley Road following a request for a 30mph speed limit. She suggested that the traffic survey should be undertaken at times when these problems were most evident.
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7. AREA GRANTS

A report of the Lead Officer was submitted on applications for funding.

AGREED TO RECOMMEND:-

- (1) That, subject to the outcome of the funding application to Brierley Hill/Brockmoor and Pensnett Community Forum, the application from the Association of Retired Employees of Simon Dudley Ltd for funding of up to £5,000 be approved on the basis of equal contributions from the 3 wards comprising this Community Forum.
- (2) That in the event of the funding application to Brierley Hill/Brockmoor and Pensnett Community Forum being successful, the financial contributions from the wards comprising this Community Forum, as referred to in (1) above, be reduced accordingly.
- (3) That the application from the Time Step Community Hub, for funding of up to £5,000, be approved on the basis of equal contributions from the 3 wards comprising this Community Forum and that the Community Hub be requested to provide monitoring information on the use of the facilities by local residents.

8. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Community Forum would be on Monday, 2nd September, 2013, starting at 6.30pm at Wren's Nest Community Centre, Summer Road, Dudley.

The Chair thanked all participants for their attendance and contributions and indicated that any ideas for improving the Forum meetings would be welcomed. Residents thanked the Chair for the way he had conducted the meeting.

The meeting ended at 8.15 pm

**ACTION NOTES OF THE MEETING OF NETHERTON, WOODSIDE AND
ST ANDREWS/QUARRY BANK AND DUDLEY WOOD
COMMUNITY FORUM**

Held at 6.30 pm on Wednesday 17th April 2013 at The Savoy Centre,
Northfield Road, Netherton

PRESENT:-

Councillor Zada (Chair)
Councillor Cotterill (Vice-Chair)
Councillors Cowell, Duckworth, Sparks and Wood

Officers

Mr M Williams (Lead Officer to the Forum) (Assistant Director, Environmental Management – Directorate of the Urban Environment) and Mrs M Johal (Directorate of Corporate Resources)

Together with twenty-five members of the public.

7 **INTRODUCTIONS BY THE CHAIR**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting of the Netherton, Woodside and St Andrews/Quarry Bank and Dudley Wood Community Forum and in his remarks commented on the purpose of the new Community Forums set up by the Council. Following the making of other general announcements the local Councillors and officers introduced themselves.

8 **LISTENING TO YOU – QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM LOCAL RESIDENTS**

The following written queries/complaints were raised:-

<u>Nature of Query/Complaint</u>	<u>Referred to/Action Taken</u>
1. It was queried why the Council did not have emergency provision to clear blocked drains on the weekend. Photographs were circulated of a particular incident whereby the Council had not come out and Severn Trent had instead unblocked the drain even though it was not their responsibility. However, Severn Trent had not cleaned up after them and had left the area in a state.	Director of the Urban Environment

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| 2. | A resident indicated that he had lived in Bournbrook Close for several years and the road had never been resurfaced. | Director of the Urban Environment. Lead Officer to arrange an appraisal. |
| 3. | Reference was made to a derelict private house on Stourbridge Road and that the garden was full of rubbish and had attracted rats. There were also bricks strewn in the nearby park. | Director of the Urban Environment |
| 4. | A mattress had been dumped on Rayboulds Fold. | Director of the Urban Environment |

Other Issues Raised Orally:-

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| 1. | Potholes in roads particularly on Baptist End Road outside the fish and chip shop and Halesowen Road – The Lead Officer indicated that additional funding had been made available to combat the problem and that additional teams had been deployed to tackle the backlog. | Lead Officer to arrange for checks to be undertaken |
| 2. | Complaint made that certain Councillors only had mobile contact numbers and that some people did not have access to a computer and could not afford to ring mobiles. | Chair and Councillor Wood to have discussion |
| 3. | An update on the provision of toilet facilities in Netherton – The Chair indicated that discussions had been held and consideration was being given to various options. | Democratic Services Officer to include reference at item 4 on the agenda for the next meeting. |
| 4. | Complaints about air pollution in Netherton and particular mention was made with regard to Crossley Street – Councillor Wood gave an update and stated that there were fifteen areas in the Borough with Action Plans and that Netherton was in the top five. Some work had already been undertaken to combat the problem. Further meetings were due to be held with the Director of Public Health and the Assistant Director for Environmental Management with a view to discussing more inventive ways to improve the environment. | Lead Officer to consider whether results of pollution monitoring can be publicly made available. |

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| 5. | Illegal parking of cars in Netherton Street and it was suggested that consideration be given to the top part of Cradley Road being closed to stop people turning right. | Chair and Lead Officer to meet with various representatives on site.

Lead Officer to arrange spot checks. |
| 6. | Rubbish across Cinder Bank Island particularly worse when children were at school – The Lead Officer indicated that in order to minimise disruption all maintenance works were undertaken at the same time. | Lead Officer to consider possibility of an educational officer and an environmental officer to attend Hillcrest School with a view to educating children on litter problems. |
| 7. | The lack of enforcement officers in the area which had exacerbated since the service had become the responsibility of the Council. Concerns were expressed that resources were targeted only in the Town Centre. | Lead Officer to arrange for statistical information to be provided on how enforcement resources were deployed across the Borough. |
| 8. | A resident referred to a letter received from the Police stating that the gulley way leading to Linbrook Close was to be closed and she indicated that this was regularly used as a walk through by residents living nearby – The Chair stated that this action had been taken following complaints that the gulley was being used by youths committing a crime and then using the gulley as a means of escaping from the police. However, this was a consultation exercise and no decision had been made. | Questioner to raise issue and express views at PACT meeting to be held the following week. |
| 9. | It was stated that certain people had been knocking on doors of a flat block with a view to getting a petition signed to knock down the flats which had led to residents being worried – Councillor Duckworth reported that he was not aware of any petition and the exercise had been undertaken to gauge the views of residents on a number of issues. | Councillor Duckworth to speak to tenants following the meeting. |

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| 10. | Referred to the repairing of void properties undertaken by the Council and indicated that items that were clearly not rubbish were being thrown out – The Leader to the Council stated that he had raised the issue with the Assistant Director of Housing Services and indicated that it would be useful to convey feedback from this Forum to reinforce the issue. | Lead Officer to write to the Assistant Director of Housing Services |
| 11. | Concern expressed that land around Nethercrest Nursing Home had not been cleaned up – The Lead Officer reported that the management of the home had been written to making them aware of the concerns | Councillor Cowell was pursuing the matter and asked that residents should contact her so that information could be collated with a view to escalating the matter. |
| 12. | Scaffolding left on buildings following work that was undertaken. | Councillor Cotterill had raised the issue several times. |
| 13. | Residents in the bedsits on the opposite side of Stourbridge Road were not putting their bin bags out at the front of the building and instead were putting the bags against the sidewall, which resulted in dogs shredding the bags and rubbish strewn. | Lead Officer to pursue the matter. |
| 14. | Reference was made to the planned Dispersal Order for the Bowling Green area and it was commented that these types of orders did not get rid of the problem and just moved it to another area. The Chair suggested writing to Bob Jones to ensure Dispersal Orders were policed properly. | The Chair to speak to Councillor Foster with a view to steering the issue through to the Police. |

WORKING WITH YOU – TOPICS RAISED BY LOCAL COUNCILLORS

- (a) Councillor Cotterill
- (i) Reported that he had visited Birch Coppice with a view to ascertaining the extent of the potholes, he had taken photographs and the matter was now being pursued.
 - (ii) Had asked the Group Engineer Traffic and Road Safety to reduce the width of the pavement on Victoria Road to allow ease of traffic flow.

- (iii) Referred to grass verges at the bottom of Woodland Avenue as being a quagmire and indicated that he had sent a photograph to Councillor Foster for attention.
- (b) Councillor Wood reported on the St George's Day parade that was due to take place on Saturday 20th April from 10.30 am in Dudley Town Centre.
- (c) Councillor Duckworth
 - (i) Reported on a road that was to be resurfaced on 23rd April, 2013.
 - (ii) Queried the position with regard to the ceasing of cutting grass on steep banks, as he understood that the equipment was no longer available.

The Lead Officer stated that not all grassed steep banks had ceased to be cut and that the majority of equipment had been disposed of with the exception of one set, which was used to cut banks that were considered to be dangerous.

- (d) Councillor Sparks referred to a passageway to the top of Queen Street and stated that he had complained several times about the accumulation of litter. It was requested that a litterbin be provided and that the cleaning regime across the area be looked at due to the endemic problem.

AREA GRANTS

A report of the Lead Officer was submitted on three applications for funding.

The Lead officer reported that he had also received two further applications following the submission of the report for consideration at this meeting.

AGREED TO RECOMMEND

That the Director of Corporate Resources approve the following:-

- (a) A grant in the sum of £300 to West Midlands Police (Quarry Bank and Dudley Wood Neighbourhood Police Team) to purchase two camcorders to help Saltwells Nature Reserve Wardens to identify persons riding motorbikes/quad bikes on the reserve and canal towpaths.
- (b) A grant in the sum of £3,500 to West Midlands Police (Quarry Bank and Dudley Wood Neighbourhood Police Team) to purchase additional barriers and gates to be installed at strategic locations around Saltwells Nature Reserve to help address the issues of motorbikes/quad bikes.

- (c) A grant in the sum of £2916.84 to Woodside Crafts to assist with equipping their office as part of a larger project.
 - (d) A grant in the sum of £5000 to Netherton Central Tenants and Residents Association to assist with Christmas lighting and decoration.
 - (e) A grant in the sum of £2150.50 to Derby End Tenants and Residents Association to buy soil
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DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

It was noted that the details of future meetings would be available following the Annual Meeting of the Council on 16th May, 2013.

The meeting ended at 7.55 p.m.

**ACTION NOTES OF THE MEETING OF NETHERTON, WOODSIDE AND
ST ANDREWS/QUARRY BANK AND DUDLEY WOOD
COMMUNITY FORUM**

Held at 6.30 pm on Monday 17th June 2013 at Quarry Bank Community
Centre, Sheffield Street, Dudley

PRESENT:-

Councillors Cotterill, Cowell, Duckworth, Sparks and Zada

Officers

Mr M Williams (Lead Officer to the Forum) (Assistant Director, Environmental Management – Directorate of the Urban Environment) and Mrs M Johal (Directorate of Corporate Resources)

Together with seventeen members of the public.

1 ELECTION OF CHAIR

It was agreed that Councillor Zada be elected Chair of the Forum for the ensuing municipal year.

(Councillor Zada thereupon took the Chair)

2 APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR

It was agreed that Councillor Cotterill be appointed Vice-Chair of the Forum for the ensuing municipal year.

3 APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was submitted on behalf of Councillor Wood.

4 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting of the Netherton, Woodside and St Andrews/Quarry Bank and Dudley Wood Community Forum.

5 LISTENING TO YOU – QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM LOCAL RESIDENTS

The following written queries/complaints/issues were raised:-

Nature of Query/Complaint

Referred to/Action Taken

1. An update on the Saltwells Nature Reserve Warden Base was requested.

Lead Officer to submit a written response to the questioner.

2. A tenant referred to two young people that were causing disruption by their continuous anti social behaviour on the Bowling Green Estate.

Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services.

Councillor Cotterill indicated that he was aware of the issue and was pursuing the matter as far as he could.

Councillor Sparks stated that the relevant Officers needed to be informed of the concerns raised at the Forum meeting and that they should be made aware that as well as having regard to vulnerable families consideration should also be given to any impact on the community.

3. It was queried why there were so many empty flats in high rise blocks and given the large number of people on the waiting list why these vacant flats were not being advertised on the Council's Dudley at Home website. Concerns were also expressed about the length of time taken to refurbish properties and the choice based lettings system in that it was unfair and disadvantaged those people that did not have a computer.

The Chair, in conjunction with the Lead Officer, to write to the Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services and the Cabinet Member for Housing and Community Safety highlighting concerns raised. Responses to be submitted in writing to Ward Councillors and Chairs of Tenants and Residents Associations.

Other Issues Raised Orally:-

1. In response to a query the Lead Officer gave an update on enforcement action being taken with regard to the illegal parking of cars in Netherton and he indicated that consideration was being given to deploying Enforcement Officers to hotspot areas as identified by the community.

Lead Officer to continue to work with the community to identify hotspots.
2. A resident again expressed concern about traffic flows and air pollution in Netherton and indicated that it was worse in damp weather.

In responding the Chair stated that discussions had been held on site with a view to improving traffic flow. The Lead Officer also reported that a further meeting with Traffic Engineers was due to be held and he informed members of the public that they were welcome to attend to express their views.

Lead Officer to inform members of the public and Ward Councillors on details of the meeting.
3. A complaint was made about the inadequate disabled parking facilities at the Netherton Health Centre. Disabled parking was to the rear of the building and it was not suitable as several obstacles had to be negotiated with a view to gaining access to the building. It was further stated that there were parking spaces to the front of the building but were used by staff that should be parking at the rear.

Lead Officer to pursue concerns with Health colleagues and to consider viable options from highways and health perspectives.
3. As some of the issues raised at Forum meetings related to police matters it was suggested that consideration be given to holding joint Forum and PACT (Partners and Communities Together) meetings.

Lead Officer/ Democratic Services Officer to refer the matter for consideration at the next Community Forum review meeting.
4. In response to a query an update on the possibility of a Boxing Club on the Black Horse site was given and it was indicated that a meeting was due to be held mid July to discuss the matter further.

WORKING WITH YOU – TOPICS RAISED BY LOCAL COUNCILLORS

- (a) Councillor Sparks referred to the skateboard area at Stevens Park in Quarry Bank and stated that he had been informed that the area was hazardous and he requested that the issue be investigated as soon as possible.
- (b) Councillor Cotterill
 - (i) Referred to grass verges at the bottom of Woodland Avenue and reported that a meeting was due to be held the following day regarding the matter.
 - (ii) Stated that Birch Coppice needed resurfacing due to potholes.
 - (iii) Indicated that he had expressed concerns to Traffic Officers that vehicles were carrying out “u turns” on Coppice Close to avoid traffic signals and that he had not heard anything further about the issue.
- (c) Councillor Zada

Gave an update on toilet facilities and it was confirmed that plans had now been put in place to reopen the toilets in Netherton during the summer months. He thanked everyone for their input towards a successful campaign.

AREA GRANTS

A report of the Lead Officer was submitted on two applications for funding.

AGREED TO RECOMMEND

That the Director of Corporate Resources approve the following:-

- (a) A grant in the sum of £1343.65 to The Parishes of St Andrews and St Peters to purchase twelve tables to replace old tables for use in the hall, particularly for the elderly and less mobile users, as the tables were much lighter than those currently being used.
- (b) That, subject to a consultation exercise being undertaken and there being no objections from residents affected by the installation of the barrier, a grant in the sum of £329.48 to West Midlands Police (Halesowen Police Team) to purchase an additional barrier to be installed on Council land next to Nos 66-68 Golden Hillock Road, Netherton to help deter off-road bicycles being ridden on grasslands used by families nearby.

DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

It was noted that the next meeting of the Community Forum would be held on Monday, 2nd September, 2013 at 6.30 pm at the Netherton Sports and Social Club, St Thomas Street, Netherton.

The meeting ended at 7.25 p.m.

**ACTION NOTES OF THE MEETING OF GORNAL/UPPER GORNAL AND
WOODSETTON COMMUNITY FORUM**

HELD AT 6.30PM ON WEDNESDAY 17TH APRIL, 2013

AT THE BAGGERIDGE WELARE CLUB, 1 THE STRAITS, LOWER GORNAL, DUDLEY

PRESENT:-

Councillor Casey (Chair)
Councillor Branwood (Vice Chair)
Councillors Mrs Ameson, A Aston, S Turner and Wright

Officers:-

Mr D Lowndes (Lead Officer to the Committee) (Assistant Director Culture and Leisure) – (Directorate of the Urban Environment) and Miss K Fellows (Directorate of Corporate Resources).

Together with thirteen members of the public

6 INTRODUCTIONS BY THE CHAIR

The Chair welcomed those present to the meeting and Members introduced themselves. The Chair outlined the purpose of the Forum meeting and the process to be followed.

7 LISTENING TO YOU: QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM LOCAL RESIDENTS

The following queries/complaints were raised:-

<u>Nature of Query/Complaint</u>	<u>Referred to</u>
1(a) Concerns were raised in relation to fly tipping in Hermit Street, Upper Gornal and a request that the Council deal with clearing the site.	Director of the Urban Environment
1(b) In relation to the Council's new Anti Social Behaviour team that had been established in order to deal with problematic council tenants please could details of this team be publicised and was there a meeting arranged to advise the public of details of the new team and how they would operate.	Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services.

- 2(a) What is the position regarding proposals for a new landfill site at the Crooked House, Lower Gornal and if this is to go ahead have traffic surveys been undertaken in view of the heavy traffic that would result. Have options been considered for traffic to access the site from Oak Lane, Pensnett. Director of the Urban Environment
- 2(b) Can the staff at the Crooked House Public House be reminded to lock the gate that has been installed once they leave the premises in order to prevent fly tipping. Director of the Urban Environment
- 3 Concerns were raised in relation to Prices Road, Gornal Wood in relation to the large potholes in the roadway due to the volume of traffic using the road and damage to properties and walls that had occurred due to vehicles attempting to reverse due to the narrowness of the road. Director of the Urban Environment
- Concerns were also raised in relation to vehicles failing to stop at the junction of Prospect Road and Prices Road. Residents requested that measures be taken to restrict traffic using the road.
- Local Residents referred to vehicles parking on double yellow lines in Prices Road, which was causing danger to pedestrians, local residents properties and other road users.
- A Petition was handed in relating to the above issues by local residents and accepted by the Lead Officer.
- 4(a) Concerns were raised in relation to the amount of time that scaffolding had been in situ outside a Council property and a request was made for details relating to the weekly cost of scaffolding. Director of the Urban Environment

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| 4(b) | A request was made for grit bins to be installed in the Gornal Area. | Director of the Urban Environment |
| 4(c) | Problems with dog fouling in Gornal were referred to and a request for further bins to be installed in an attempt to limit dog fouling. | Director of the Urban Environment |
| 5 | A local resident requested confirmation of the regulations in relation to drop kerbs outside driveways and details of the cost for installing these. | Director of the Urban Environment |

Other issues raised:-

- The possible introduction of weight restrictions in Redhall Road impacting upon the traffic travelling past Redhall Schools and Gornal Village. Members agreed that all avenues would be investigated in order to limit the displacement of traffic into other areas in Gornal.
- Restricted parking in Gornal Village which was contributing to traffic congestion and limiting footpath space for pedestrians and in particular those who were disabled. Members reported that possible sites for car parking in Gornal Village were being investigated.
- Heavy goods vehicles travelling along Bull Street into Louise Street and the difficult turning circles into Gornal Village.

8 WORKING WITH YOU: TOPICS RAISED BY LOCAL COUNCILLORS

- Councillor A Aston submitted a Petition requesting that the zebra crossing on the Sedgley Road, Woodsetton outside the Swan Public House be replaced by a pelican crossing and the Lead Officer accepted the Petition.
- Councillor S Turner referred to the increase in waiting time to two hours in relation to the parking provision in Louise Street, Gornal Wood and raised concerns in relation to the time that this was taking to implement.
- Councillor S Turner referred to the pot holes in Moden Hill, Upper Gornal stating that the road was well used and suggested the need for the Council to ensure that long terms plans be implemented in order to ensure that the road was properly maintained.
- The Lead Officer confirmed that details of the Highways/Capital Works Programme would be emailed annually to Members of the Forum so that they could make the public aware of its contents.

- It was confirmed that details of future meetings of the Forum would be publicised in Dudley Together.
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9 COMMUNITY FORUM FUNDING

It was noted that no applications had been received.

10 DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

Noted, that the date of the next meeting of the Community Forum would be determined at Annual Council on 16th May, 2013.

The meeting ended at 7.55pm

**ACTION NOTES OF THE MEETING OF GORNAL/UPPER GORNAL AND
WOODSETTON COMMUNITY FORUM**

HELD AT 6.30PM ON TUESDAY 18TH JUNE 2013

AT THE PARKES HALL SOCIAL CLUB, PARKES HALL ROAD, DUDLEY

PRESENT:-

Councillors Mrs Ameson, A Aston, Branwood, Casey, S Turner and Wright

Officers:-

Mr D Lowndes (Lead Officer to the Committee) (Assistant Director Culture and Leisure) – (Directorate of the Urban Environment) and Mrs M Johal (Directorate of Corporate Resources).

Together with twenty members of the public

1 ELECTION OF CHAIR

It was agreed that Councillor Casey be elected Chair of the Forum for the ensuing municipal year.

(Councillor Casey thereupon took the Chair)

2 APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR

It was agreed that Councillor Branwood be appointed Vice-Chair of the Forum for the ensuing municipal year.

3 INTRODUCTIONS BY THE CHAIR

The Chair welcomed those present to the meeting and Members and Officers introduced themselves. The Chair then explained the background and purpose of the Forum meetings.

4 LISTENING TO YOU: QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM LOCAL RESIDENTS

The following queries/complaints were raised:-

Nature of Query/Complaint

Referred to

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| 1 | <p>Reference was made to the Holdens Brewery in Woodsetton and concerns were raised about damage caused to footpaths, grass verges and trees by heavy goods vehicles whilst delivering and collecting supplies. It was also stated that there were bigger gates in Shenley Avenue to gain access however drivers of vehicles continued to use the smaller gate in George Street.</p> <p>The Chair indicated that bollards had been installed to protect grass verges.</p> | <p>Chair and Councillor A Aston to pursue the matter and to consider whether any further preventative measures could be taken.</p> |
| 2 | <p>A request was made for a pedestrian crossing on Sedgley Road West.</p> <p>The Chair referred to the petition that had been submitted at the last Forum meeting requesting that the zebra crossing on Sedgley Road be replaced by a pelican crossing and stated that consideration could be given to upgrading it from a pelican to a pedestrian crossing.</p> <p>A request was also made for Enforcement Officers to monitor parking on zig zag lines at the same location.</p> | <p>Director of the Urban Environment</p> |
| 3 | <p>The need to identify whose responsibility it was to deal with stray or loose dogs, as the Police, the Council and The Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA) were not accepting responsibility.</p> | <p>Chair undertook to raise the matter with the Police.</p> |
| 4 | <p>Questions were asked relating to the recycling programme and recycling bins and in particular concerns were expressed about residents having to pay for replacement bins that may have been stolen or damaged.</p> | <p>The Chair to speak to the Cabinet Member for Environment and Culture on whether there were any special arrangements with regard to replacing stolen or damaged bins.</p> |

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| 5 | An update was requested on whether consideration had been given to any action on heavy goods vehicles that generally travelled through Gornal Village and those vehicles going to landfill. | Chair to speak to relevant Officers in the Directorate of the Urban Environment on whether a public consultation exercise could be undertaken. |
| | Councillor Turner stated that weight restrictions could be introduced but that it was difficult to enforce and could lead to the displacement of traffic. A one-way system could be considered but some residents would be unhappy. | |
| 6 | It was requested whether consideration could be given whilst building works were taking place to temporarily make part of Vale Street into a one-way system, as there would be an increase in traffic. | Chair to speak to relevant Officers in the Directorate of the Urban Environment |

Other issues raised:-

- An update was requested on the prevention of anti social behaviour in Gornal Village, particularly feedback on Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) proposals. Councillor Branwood indicated that discussions were ongoing and that consideration was being given to a CCTV camera that would be linked to the live monitoring centre in Sedgley, however methods of funding also had to be explored and identified. Reference was also made to the need for support from the police to assist with enforcement action and that there was a need for stability and continuity given there had been three Police Sergeants in a short space of time.
- Concerns in relation to traffic congestion on Parkes Hall Road and the impact on the surrounding areas. The Chair stated that he had asked relevant Officers to consider options for the lights at the Bramford junction such as changing the timing of the lights or incorporating a right turn light to ease the situation.
- A complaint was made about the removal of a post box in the Gornal area that had not been replaced. Councillor Turner indicated that he had been advised that it would not be replaced, however he undertook to continue to mount pressure.
- Reference to the Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) in Sycamore Green and concerns that the numbers would increase owing to a rumour that the PRU in Dudley was to close. Members indicated that they were not aware of any rumours that the PRU in Dudley was to close.

8 WORKING WITH YOU: TOPICS RAISED BY LOCAL COUNCILLORS

No issues were raised by Members.

9 COMMUNITY FORUM FUNDING

A report of the Lead Officer was submitted on two applications for funding.

AGREED TO RECOMMEND

That the Director of Corporate Resources approve the following:-

- (a) A grant in the sum of £5358 plus Value Added Tax (VAT) to Abbey Street Neighbourhood Watch to provide a length of fencing and gates to separate the grassed area of the park and the rear of properties between the entrances to the park on Abbey Street.
 - (b) A grant in the sum of £490 to Lower Gornal Royal British Legion Club Limited towards the purchase of a marquee to allow them to hold fundraising events both inside and outside the clubs premises.
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10 DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

It was noted that the next meeting of the Community Forum would be held on Tuesday, 3rd September, 2013 at 6.30 pm at the Lower Gornal Royal British Legion Club, Ruiton Street, Dudley.

The meeting ended at 7.30pm

**ACTION NOTES OF THE MEETING OF NORTON/PEDMORE AND
STOURBRIDGE EAST/WOLLASTON AND STOURBRIDGE TOWN COMMUNITY
FORUM**

Held at 6.30pm on Thursday 18th April, 2013
at the Wollaston Suite, Stourbridge Town Hall, Crown Centre, Crown Lane,
Stourbridge

PRESENT:-

Councillor Attwood (Chair)
Councillor C Wilson (Vice-Chair)

Councillors Elcock, Hale, Jones, Kettle, Marrey, Rogers and Sykes

OFFICERS:-

Mrs S Holmyard (Lead Officer to the Forum), (Assistant Director of Planning and Environmental Health) - (Directorate of the Urban Environment) and Miss H Shepherd – Directorate of Corporate Resources

Together with 12 members of the public

1 INTRODUCTIONS BY THE CHAIR

The Chair welcomed everyone to the Norton, Pedmore and Stourbridge East, Wollaston and Stourbridge Town Community Forum and in his remarks commented on the purpose of the new Community Forums set up by the Council. Following the making of other general announcements the local councillors and Council Officers introduced themselves.

2 LISTENING TO YOU - QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM LOCAL RESIDENTS

A number of questions and comments were raised by local residents in relation to the following:-

Nature of questions/comments

Referred to

- (1) Maintenance of the trees and hedgerows surrounding the Oldswinford Cricket Club, and the need to protect and strengthen the barrier between the club and residential properties. Confirmation was required of the contract established between Dudley MBC Greencare and the Cricket Club for maintenance works and the control the Council had to reinforce contractual arrangements.

Director of the Urban Environment

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| (2) | Request as to why Oldswinford Cricket Club had not been requested to pay the six-year rent arrears for a storage-shipping container and old cricket nets that were situated at the club. | Treasurer |
| (3) | Bowling Greens at Wollescote Hall Park and the fairness of the charging policy. | Director of the Urban Environment |
| (4) | Parking permits/bays for residents in Union Street, Stourbridge. | Director of the Urban Environment |

Other Issues raised to which responses were given at the meeting:-

- Publicity of Community Forums – It was suggested that the Forum meetings be advertised through the Tenants and Residents Associations and the Neighbourhood Watch contacts.
- An update was given and a discussion was had on the traffic issues at Red Hill/Glasshouse Hill, Stourbridge and the legality issues relating to the ownership of the collapsed wall at Red Hill, Stourbridge.
- A representative from NHS Health Exchange wanted to raise awareness of the free health service, Health Trainer scheme that is currently available at Mary Stevens Park Healthy Hub.

4 WORKING WITH YOU - TOPICS RAISED BY LOCAL COUNCILLORS

- Councillor Mrs Rogers requested that parking issues at Oldswinford Cricket Club be investigated to prevent people from overflowing on to the football pitch and asked if a similar procedure as to what the football club currently did could be considered.
- Members discussed whether it was appropriate for a police officer to attend forum meetings to present a statistic report. It was considered that the forum meetings should remain public focused and residents and Members could attend PACT meetings to be updated on police issues.

5 COMMUNITY FORUM FUNDING

A report of the Lead Officer was submitted on an application for funding.

AGREED TO RECOMMEND:-

That the Director of Corporate Resources approve the making of a grant in the sum of £5,000 to Stourbridge and District Scout Council in the Norton Ward for the replacement of old and damaged furniture.

6 DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

Noted that the date and time of the next meeting of the Community Forum would be determined at Annual Council on 16th May, 2013.

The meeting ended at 8.25 pm.

**ACTION NOTES OF THE MEETING OF NORTON/PEDMORE AND
STOURBRIDGE EAST/WOLLASTON AND STOURBRIDGE TOWN COMMUNITY
FORUM**

Held at 6.30pm on Wednesday 19th June, 2013
at Ham Dingle Primary School, Old Ham Lane

PRESENT:-

Councillors Elcock, Hale, Kettle, Mrs Rogers and Sykes

OFFICERS:-

Mrs S Holmyard (Lead Officer to the Forum), (Assistant Director of Planning and Environmental Health) - (Directorate of the Urban Environment) and Miss H Shepherd – Directorate of Corporate Resources

Together with 31 members of the public

1 **ELECTION OF CHAIR**

Councillor Attwood was elected Chair of the Forum for the 2013/14 municipal year.

2 **APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR**

Councillor Mrs Rogers was appointed Vice-Chair of the Forum for the 2013/14 municipal year.

(In the absence of Councillor Attwood, Councillor Mrs Rogers thereupon took the Chair)

3 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence from the meeting were received on behalf of Councillors Attwood, L Jones, Marrey and C Wilson.

4 **INTRODUCTIONS BY THE CHAIR**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the Norton, Pedmore and Stourbridge East, Wollaston and Stourbridge Town Community Forum and the local councillors and Council Officers introduced themselves.

5 LISTENING TO YOU - QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM LOCAL RESIDENTS

Local residents raised questions and made comments as set out below. These issues would be referred to the relevant Directorate or appropriate body for a response:-

Nature of questions/comments

- (1) Council Lettings/Vetting Policy and the validation of respected tenants by bank/building society's. This issue had been raised at the Community Forum meeting in February 2013, in relation to the requirement for a bank/building society to provide a reference on the new application form, which they are refusing to complete and requested that all elected members on the Norton, Pedmore and Stourbridge East, Wollaston and Stourbridge Town Community Forum, receive a copy of the new policy and application form for reference, but this still had not been provided.
- (2) Request as to why it had taken six years for the Legal Services to advise the Oldswinford Cricket Club in relation to rent for a storage-shipping container and old cricket nets that were situated at the club and why the Nisa store, Kingsway, Wollaston, after three years, was still awaiting a rental agreement in relation to a piece of land that they would like to use as a car park.

Other Issues raised to which responses were given at the meeting:-

- A progress update was requested on the Longlands playing field site and concerns were raised in regards to the old college buildings, which had been left derelict and the possibility of making some of these properties listed buildings. Councillor Hale stated that the buildings belonged to the College and that dialogue between the College and the Council had been unsuccessful but would continue. Discussions with Officers in relation to the top playing field, which was council owned, were on going to try to bring the playing fields back into use, however there were funding issues in relation to the repair works that were required.
- A member expressed his thanks to the Wollaston and Stourbridge Town Ward Members for their help and support during a rubbish-collecting event at Wollaston Farm.
- An issue was raised concerning the possibility of changing the start time of the forum meetings to 7pm to accommodate residents who travelled a distance for work. The Lead Officer agreed to forward the comments made to the next review meeting when arrangements for community forums would be discussed.
- Following a question raised, a discussion was held in relation to the distribution of the new recycling boxes and bins and it was confirmed that deliveries of the new facilities would take place during July through to October, with the first collections beginning in August.

- Representatives from Oldswinford Cricket Club were in attendance at the meeting to discuss and clarify the issues that had been raised at the previous meeting and requested that if there were any future issues with regards to the cricket club to contact them direct to try to rectify the problems.
- In response to a question, it was stated that the legality issues relating to the ownership of the collapsed wall at Red Hill, Stourbridge were still on going.

5 WORKING WITH YOU - TOPICS RAISED BY LOCAL COUNCILLORS

- Councillors Sykes and Elcock referred to the proposed relocation of the Worcester Street doctors surgery, and expressed their concerns in relation to how patients would get to the new practise by public transport and would be meeting with the practise managers and CENTRO to discuss this.

6 COMMUNITY FORUM FUNDING

A report of the Lead Officer was submitted on applications for funding. An application from St John's United Reformed Church, Stourbridge was received after the report had been circulated but was also taken into consideration.

The Lead Officer referred to a previous application that had been approved, which in the report stated that the money had been allocated from the Norton ward balance and confirmed this would be rectified for the next Forum and split between the three wards as agreed.

Following a discussion, Members requested that for future reports the balances from the three wards be amalgamated into one lump sum and all approved applications be allocated from that lump sum. The Lead Officer agreed to raise this matter with the Director of Corporate Resources.

At this point, Councillor Sykes declared a non-pecuniary interest in relation to the Community Forum funding application received from St John's United Reformed Church, due to her doing voluntary work for an organisation that used the premises.

AGREED TO RECOMMEND:-

- (1) That the application from the 8th Stourbridge Guides for the sum of £500.00 to provide storage shelving to maximise space available to keep equipment in dry conditions, be approved.
- (2) That the application from Clent Cricket Club for the sum of £468.01 to purchase a waterproof rain cover, be refused. It was considered that it would be more appropriate for the cricket club to contact and obtain additional funding from Bromsgrove District Council.

- (3) That the application from West Midlands Police for the sum of £378.99 to provide Stourbridge Neighbourhood Policing, Crime Prevention Strategy Officers with a laptop to help promote the Immobilise website at police surgeries, be approved.
 - (4) That the application from Stourbridge Street Pastors, Chawn Hill Church for the sum of £4290.00 to help contribute towards the Co-ordinators salary cost over a nine month period, be approved.
 - (5) That the application from St John's United Reformed Church, Stourbridge for the sum of £5000 for improvements to the premises of the church including refitting the vestry, considering the extension of the narthex area, provision of storage, replacement of light bulbs to the roof and offsetting some revenue expenses, be recommended for approval, subject to detailed clarification of the work that the application would be funding being received and to the receipt of additional quotes in relation to these works.
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7 DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

Noted that the next meeting of the Community Forum would be on Wednesday 4th September, 2013 at 6.30pm at Stourbridge Children's and Family Centre, Forge Road, Stourbridge.

The meeting ended at 8.25 pm.

**ACTION NOTES OF THE MEETING OF BELLE VALE, HALESOWEN NORTH, HALESOWEN
SOUTH, HAYLEY GREEN AND CRADLEY SOUTH
COMMUNITY FORUM**

Held at 6.30 p.m. on Thursday 18th April 2013 at
Lutley Community Centre, Brookwillow Road, Halesowen

PRESENT:-

Councillor Burston (Chair)

Councillor Taylor (Vice Chair)

Councillors Bills, Hill, James, Ms Nicholls, Russell, Mrs Shakespeare, Mrs H Turner, K Turner, Vickers and Woodall.

Officers:-

Mr P Coyne (Lead Officer to the Forum – Assistant Director, Economic Regeneration and Transportation) and Mr J.Jablonski (Directorate of Corporate Resources)

together with eight members of the public

7. **INTRODUCTION BY THE CHAIR**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the second meeting of the Forum and in commenting further reiterated the purpose of the new forums.

8. **LISTENING TO YOU – QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM LOCAL RESIDENTS**

The following issues were raised:-

- The lack of a response by the Council to questions raised regarding Halesowen in Bloom. The questioner was asked to give his contact details to the Lead Officer to the forum so that he could arrange for a response to be given.
- Concerns about the apparent lack of interest in Halesowen and delays in progressing projects. It was noted that arising from a visit to the Town Centre by the Cabinet Member for Regeneration that a list of projects had been drawn up and that matters were being progressed as a result of the meeting held. A request was made that the list of projects be published so that the public was aware of what was proposed/to happen.

- In response to a query regarding the implementation of the Halesowen Action Plan it was noted that written representations were being considered and that it was hoped that this stage of the process would be completed by May with a response back to the Council by late Summer. The plan would then be referred to the Cabinet for approval by the end of this year. Arising from concerns raised about the lack of activity arising from former plans produced it was considered that when the Halesowen Area Action Plan had been approved Members would need to take the appropriate action to ensure that things proposed did actually happen.
- The issue of parking in the road around Highfield Lane, Halesowen, was again raised and the previous questioner indicated that whilst she had had a response to her complaint she had been disappointed by that response. Arising from further concerns raised it was suggested that the Council have a further look at this in partnership with the Police and that the Lead Officer also arrange for the issue of private hire vehicles and of coaches parking in the area to be investigated so that hopefully action could be taken to prevent these vehicles parking in the area.
- Issues regarding vehicles making an illegal right turn at the junction in Church Croft were raised and a request made that this issue be looked at again so as to make it more difficult to make a right turn at this location. The Lead Officer was also asked to arrange for the Police to be contacted regarding enforcement action should vehicles attempt to turn right at this location.
- A petition for a 20 mph limit and crossing on Highfield Road was presented at the meeting. The petition was referred to the Lead Officer to arrange for investigation and response direct to the Lead Petitioner. Members were supportive of the request made in the petition. Similar requests were also raised together with a request that current speed limits be reduced.

9. WORKING WITH YOU – TOPICS RAISED BY LOCAL COUNCILLORS

Councillor Ms Nicholls raised the issue of blue graffiti above Murrays the Chemist and asked that the matter be investigated and for the Lead Officer to arrange for a report back to her on this issue.

Councillor James commented that, despite a previous petition and request made, no action had been taken in respect of the traffic lights at the junctions of Haden Hill Road, Coombs Road and Dudley Road. He also reiterated a request made for a filter light to turn right from Haden Hill Road up Furness Hill.

Councillor Russell raised a related point about this junction in relation to the 30 mph sign and its location and a request was made that the layout of the sign be investigated.

Councillor Bills raised a general issue about the number of redundant and surplus signs in the Borough and the need for action to be taken in respect of these.

10. AREA GRANTS

A report of the Lead Officer was submitted on three applications for funding.

Arising from comments made in respect of these applications and the proposal made at a recent Council meeting that the wards comprising the Community Forum be split in the new municipal year it was noted that in the event of this split funding agreed by this Forum would be split equally between the two new Forums. Furthermore, where applications covered more than one Community Forum area it was noted that organisations could submit applications to more than one Community Forum for funding.

Regarding the application submitted by Halesowen British Legion it was agreed that this again be deferred so that the Lead Officer could obtain further information about the funding of this project

AGREED TO RECOMMEND

- 1 That the Director of Corporate Resources be requested to refuse the application submitted by St. Margaret's Well Surgery Patient Panel as it was considered that funding for their project was available from other sources.
- 2 That the Director of Corporate Resources approve the making of a grant in the sum of £5,000 to Halas Homes, Wassell Road, Halesowen to meet the costs of providing an extension to an existing building to enable increased provision of training and development in general life skills including such matters as food preparation, general housekeeping and washing.

11. DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

It was noted that the date of the next meeting of the Community Forum would be determined at Annual Council on 16th May, 2013. Arising from this and in the light of earlier comments made Members commented further on the proposal to split the current Forum into two forums. The majority of Members present considered that the current arrangement worked well and that they would not wish to see the proposal enacted.

Arising from the concerns expressed it was agreed that the Chair make appropriate representations on the basis of the concerns expressed indicating that the majority of Members would prefer to stay as a block of four Wards comprising one Community Forum.

The meeting ended at 7.40 p.m.

**ACTION NOTES OF THE MEETING OF HALESOWEN NORTH AND
HALESOWEN SOUTH COMMUNITY FORUM**

Held at 6.30 p.m. on Wednesday, 19th June, 2013 at
Olive Hill Primary School, Springfield Road, Halesowen

PRESENT:-

Councillors Bills, Hill, Taylor, Vickers and Woodall

Officers:-

Mr. P. Coyne, Assistant Director, Economic Regeneration (Directorate of the Urban Environment) (Lead Officer to the Committee) and Mr J. Jablonski (Directorate of Corporate Resources)

together with fifteen members of the public

1. **ELECTION OF CHAIR**

AGREED that Councillor Hill be elected Chair of the Forum for the ensuing Municipal Year.

(Councillor Hill thereupon took the Chair)

2. **APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR**

AGREED that Councillor Taylor be appointed Vice-Chair of the Forum for the ensuing Municipal Year.

3. **APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE**

An apology for absence from the meeting was submitted on behalf of Councillor Mrs. Shakespeare.

4. **WELCOMES AND INTRODUCTIONS**

The Chair welcomed those present to this, the first meeting of the Halesowen North and Halesowen South Community Forum.

Following introductions of Members and Officers an explanation was given to the background and purpose of the Forum meetings.

5. LISTENING TO YOU: QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM LOCAL RESIDENTS

The following issues were raised orally at the meeting:-

- Concerns were raised on behalf of two elderly residents who had recently had problems with their gas heating and had experienced anxiety over follow-up telephone calls requesting access to their Council properties. The questioner was asked to provide details to the Lead Officer so that he could pursue the matter further.
- A member of the public expressed his thanks to councillors and the Lead Officer for the action taken so that Halesowen in Bloom could take place this year. It was noted that arrangements had been put in hand so that Halesowen in Bloom took place in future years.

Arising from the comments made, further comments were made about the need to improve entry points into Halesowen in particular the roundabouts so that if future competitions were entered into a more favourable impression could be made on visiting judges. Arising from this reference was made to the roundabout at the bottom of Mucklow Hill and the action that had been taken by a utility company following planting undertaken by the Council's Green Care Organisation. It was hoped that the work undertaken by Green Care would be reinstated by the utility company.

The need to look at roundabouts generally in the area was also stressed so that action could be taken not only on these but surrounding roads, for example, Grange Road.

The Lead Officer was asked to take the comments made at the meeting about roundabouts and approaches into consideration and ascertain what could be done. He was also asked to look into the position regarding the funding received from the Highways Agency when responsibility for the Halesowen By-Pass was passed to the Council.

The issue of empty shops in Halesowen was raised with particular reference to two shops in the Town Centre. The position regarding these shops was reported on in that they were privately owned and the owner had, to date, not wished to engage with the Council about them.

Reference was also made to local initiatives to improve shop fronts, for example, in Shell Corner and by the operation of "pop-up" shops which were continuing to be looked at.

- Several local residents raised concerns about a proposal to replace the Swan Pub in Long Lane, Halesowen, with a convenience store.

Reference was made to a newspaper article and to a petition that was going to be presented to tonight's meeting and residents in expressing their concerns wished for more information on the process regarding the change of use.

In this connection, it was noted that the proposal was the subject of a planning application and that the period for objections had expired on 6th June.

Arising from the consideration given to this matter, it was, in particular, stressed that objections to the planning application needed to be made on planning grounds and these were outlined at the meeting relating to the possible impact on traffic flows and parking in the area that would arise from the proposal. This was in addition to the concern expressed in the petition, containing approximately 676 signatures which was presented at the meeting and passed to the Lead Officer for attention, referring to the damage that would be caused to existing independent shops in the area by the proposal.

A number of those present indicated that they had objected to the proposal and on the basis of discussions at tonight's meeting would consider putting in further objections on the grounds indicated. In addition, a further cause for concern was the early delivery of goods to the shop and the early arrival of staff to deal with items such as newspapers. All these matters would lead to further inconvenience to local residents.

- In response to a query as to whether charity shops paid rent, a response was given to the effect that a reduced amount in rent and rates was charged. This was considered to be unfair especially when for some goods there might be direct competition with a shopkeeper paying full rent and rates. However, for various reasons, landlords were willing to let shops, on a short-term basis, for use as charity shops.

6. WORKING WITH YOU - TOPICS RAISED BY LOCAL COUNCILLORS

Councillor Bills raised an issue regarding an apparent difference in approach between the Council's Enforcement Officers and Police Officers on the parking of vehicles on a pavement where there was sufficient room for a double buggy to pass by. In the instances mentioned, the Enforcement Officer had issued a parking ticket, whereas it was indicated that a Police Officer would not have taken action.

Sergeant Hall, West Midlands Police, was in attendance and reported that attitudes to such incidents had changed and that West Midlands Police were inclined to take a common sense approach to the problem. However, without seeing photographs of the vehicles in question, it was hard to comment. There was a need therefore for the Police to discuss the matter with the Council's Enforcement Officers. The Lead Officer would also arrange for the matter to be investigated with particular reference to the issue of whether the cars were parked on or near double yellow lines.

Following the comments made, Sergeant Hall was invited to comment on crime generally in the area and in so doing reported that the level of crime in Halesowen was dropping, although a small seasonal increase was expected. However, overall there were no areas of concern.

7. AREA GRANTS

A report of the Lead Officer was submitted on three applications for funding. Two of the applications had previously been refused, however, the applicants had requested that their applications be reconsidered.

It was further noted that following the division of wards in the Halesowen area into two Community Forums, these applications would also be receiving consideration at the forthcoming meeting of the Belle Vale/Hayley Green and Cradley South Community Forum.

AGREED to recommend -

- (1) That the Director of Corporate Resources again notify the following applicants that their applications had been refused:-
 - (a) Halesowen British Legion;
 - (b) St. Margaret's Well Surgery Patients Panel.
- (2) That the Director of Corporate Resources approve the making of a grant of £2,100 to Halesowen and Rowley Regis Rotary Club, being half of the total funding requested, towards the total cost of highway closures and diversions in relation to the annual fun run and charity race organised by the group for 22nd September, 2013.

8. DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

Noted, that the next meeting of the Community Forum would be held at 6.30 p.m. on Wednesday, 4th September, 2013 in the Cornbow Hall, Halesowen.

Arising from this, it was considered that to aid publicity for future meetings of the Forum details of venues be included on future agendas and it was further noted that a database was currently being developed whereby people who wished their details to be included on the database would be sent regular e-mails notifying them of events such as future Council meetings.

The meeting ended at 7.50 p.m.

**ACTION NOTES OF THE MEETING OF BELLE VALE, HAYLEY GREEN
AND CRADLEY SOUTH COMMUNITY FORUM**

Tuesday 25th June, 2013 at 6.30 p.m.
At Earls High School, Furnace Lane, Halesowen, B63 3SL

PRESENT: -

Councillors Burston, Ms Nicholls, Russell, K Turner and Mrs H Turner

OFFICERS:

Mr P Coyne (Lead Officer to the Forum) – Directorate of the Urban Environment and Miss L Taylor – Directorate of Corporate Resources

together with 17 Members of the public

1. **ELECTION OF CHAIR**

Councillor Burston was elected Chair of the Forum for the 2013/14 municipal year.

2. **ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR**

Councillor Ms Nicholls was elected Vice-Chair of the Forum for the 2013/14 municipal year.

3. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

An Apology for absence from the meeting was received on behalf of Councillor James.

4. **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and made general announcements.

5. **LISTENING TO YOU: QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM LOCAL RESIDENTS**

Local residents raised questions and made comments as set out below. These issues would be referred to the relevant Directorate or appropriate body for a response:-

Nature of question/comment

- (1) A number of issues were raised in relation to Halesowen Town Centre, including:
 - The main roads into Halesowen need to be looked at in relation to potholes and uneven surfaces, particularly the A458, Whitehall Road.
 - Pressure to be put on property management companies to maintain the appearance of buildings in the town centre.
 - Traffic islands in the borough are unattractive and the council should investigate the sponsorship of Islands to improve them, as in neighbouring boroughs.
 - Regular litter picks and maintenance cycles be in progress in alleyways from Whittingham Road to Cranmoor Crescent, and Old Hawne Lane to Cherry Street.

- (2) A question was raised in relation to the disposal of old dustbins once the new black wheelie bins were introduced.

Other Issues raised and/or answered on the evening:-

- Questioning the size of the new black wheelie bins and whether there is a variation in size for households that do not have as much rubbish. Also questions regarding when the bins will be collected.
- Query as to whether the black bin collection will still be weekly.
- A discussion was held in relation to the introduction of new recycling bags for card, cans and plastics etc.
- An issue was raised in relation to utility works on Gorsty Hill. A Member of the public raised a point that only very recently utility works had taken place on the road, and there were now further works by a different utility on the same road. It was requested that there be more liaison between utilities companies to enable less disruption. Due to this repetitive maintenance work, it was felt that the roads were in a bad condition.
- Problems with maintenance of alleyways. It was questioned whether there is scheduled cleaning for these.
- Request for who was responsible for cleaning the pavements around Midland Heart blocks.
- The quality of repair works to roads was brought into question due to potholes reappearing after work had been carried out.

- The issue of 20mph speed limits being introduced around schools was discussed in relation to the individual schools that had been chosen for the scheme. This matter had been considered by Cabinet on the 20th June, 2013. It was said that where the 20mph speed will be periodic (start and end of school days) the lunch time break should also be considered to have the limit where nursery and playschool pupils only go to school for half a day.
- It was noted that at a previous meeting of the Forum the issue of flashing speed limit signs was raised to be followed up with the Police. A member of the public asked for this to be followed up again.
- An issue was raised regarding pooling of water in Purbeck Close, Halesowen.
- A member of the public thanked local Councillors for the improvements in the trees on Furnace Hill, and also a dropped curb in the same area. Thanks were expressed for the traffic now being monitored around Hasbury School.

6. WORKING WITH YOU – TOPICS RAISED BY LOCAL COUNCILLORS

- Councillor K Turner made reference to the Improvements to Waste Management Services, and commented that he feels Members should have been consulted on the schedule of introducing these bins into households. This would be referred by the lead officer to the Assistant Director of Environmental Management.
- Councillor Ms Nicholls raised an issue regarding the Community First Funding that was received for the Belle Vale ward. She made comment that neither her, or residents know how to access this fund, and would like a report on this. She would also like details in the report on where and when the panel would be meeting. Councillor Russell agreed to assist as she was a member of the Panel.

7. AREA GRANTS

A report of the Lead Officer was submitted on three applications for funding. Two of the applications had previously been refused, however, the applicants had requested that their applications be reconsidered.

It was further noted that following the division of wards in the Halesowen area into two Community Forums, these applications had also received consideration at the meeting of the Halesowen North and Halesowen South Community Forum.

At this point Councillor K Turner declared a non-pecuniary interest in relation to the Community Forum Funding application received from the Halesowen and Rowley Regis Rotary Club.

AGREED TO RECOMMEND:-

- (1) That the Director of Corporate Resources again notify the following applicants that their applications had been refused.
 - (a) Halesowen British Legion
 - (b) St Margaret's Well Surgery Patients Panel.

 - (2) That the Director of Corporate Resources be requested to refuse the application submitted by the Halesowen and Rowley Regis Rotary Club, as the forum is of the opinion that the money approved by the Halesowen Area Committee for the same event last year should have been sufficient to cover last year's event, with the club subsequently being able to fund future events.
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8. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Community Forum would be on Wednesday 11th September, 2013, starting at 6.30pm at Huntingtree Primary School, Halesowen.

The Chair thanked all participants for their attendance and it was stated by a member of the public that Armed Forces Day was due to take place on Sunday 30th June, 2013 at Himley.

The meeting ended at 8.00 pm

**ACTION NOTES OF THE MEETING OF KINGSWINFORD NORTH AND
WALL HEATH/KINGSWINFORD SOUTH AND WORDSLEY COMMUNITY
FORUM**

Tuesday, 23rd April, 2013 at 6.30 p.m.
at Holy Trinity Church Hall, Wordsley

PRESENT: -

Councillor D Blood (Chair)
Councillor P Miller (Vice-Chair)

Councillors Mrs Billingham, Boleyn, Harley, Hemingsley, J Jones, Mrs Simms and Tyler

OFFICERS:

Mr I Newman (Lead Officer to the Forum), Treasurer and Mrs L Jury – Both Directorate of Corporate Resources

together with 20 Members of the public

1. **INTRODUCTIONS BY THE CHAIR**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting of the Kingswinford North and Wall Heath/ Kingswinford South and Wordsley Community Forum and in his remarks, commented on the purpose of the new Community Forums set up by the Council. Following the making of other general announcements the Chair introduced other council officers present.

2. **LISTENING TO YOU: QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM LOCAL RESIDENTS**

A number of questions and comments were raised by local residents in relation to the following:-

Nature of questions/comments

Referred to

- (1) A resident raised concern regarding the problems they were having parking outside their property due to other car users parking outside when using local shops and the nearby public house and it was questioned whether a residents parking only scheme could be introduced. It was noted that this was an issue that had been raised with the Council

Director of the Urban Environment for a written response.

previously.

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| (2) | Campaigners raised the issue of the future of New Bradley Hall, in particular the lack of consultation with Adult Services/ Cabinet Member for Adult and Community Services regarding future plans. The date of the next meeting was requested. Councillor Harley also requested that a copy of the plan that had been submitted previously to the Cabinet Member be forwarded to him to discuss with the Shadow Cabinet Member for Adult and Community Services. | Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services for a written response. |
| (3) | A resident raised an issue regarding the unsightly shop fronts in Sandringham Place, off Bells Lane and questioned whether they could be restored. | Director of the Urban Environment for a written response. |
| (4) | A resident raised a query regarding road signs damaged by contractors on Madeley Road and Sunnymead Road. The Sunnymead Road sign had now been repaired but when will the sign on Madeley Road be restored? | Director of the Urban Environment for a written response. |
| (5) | A Resident raised concern regarding the escalating amount of rubbish on the Borough's main roads, especially Duncan Edwards Way. It was questioned whether the Community Payback scheme could be used to resolve the issue? | Director of the Urban Environment for a written response. |
| (6) | In response to the question raised regarding litter, a Youth Worker from the Authority, in attendance at the meeting, reported that she was looking for support from the Forum, such as a skip and other equipment, to organise a litter pick in the area. | Director of the Urban Environment for a written response.

Please copy all correspondence to Councillor Boleyn. |

Other Issues Raised:-

- A query was raised regarding the lack of Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators and it was questioned whether the Police would be informing residents that they should no longer be claiming from their insurance if co-ordinators were no longer in the scheme. In response, Councillor Tyler reported that he would raise the issue of resurrecting Neighbourhood Watch schemes at his next meeting with Chief Superintendent Johnson.
- Noted that the PACT meeting scheduled for this evening had been cancelled. PC Ravenscroft presented the crime figures for March/April 2013 for the area, noting that crime levels had reduced since February. It was also noted that the next PACT meeting was scheduled for 23rd May 2013 at 6.30pm in the Kingswinford Community Centre, DY6 8AP.
- A resident raised concern regarding youths congregating and using offensive language, which was disturbing residents, at the back of Tythebarn Drive on the old Dawley Brook railway line.
- David Stenson, Governor of the Dudley Group of Hospitals National Health Service Foundation, gave a short presentation and left leaflets regarding Healthwatch in Dudley and reported that he would be attending the Forums in the future if anyone wished to raise questions relating to healthcare in the Borough.
- Concern was raised regarding the possible increase in traffic on the A491 when the new Tesco opened in Stourbridge Town Centre. Advertising of the Community Forums was also raised.

3. WORKING WITH YOU – TOPICS RAISED BY LOCAL COUNCILLORS

- Councillors Boleyn and Tyler referred to the meeting they had attended with the Wall Heath and Kingswinford War Memorials Research Group who were seeking information regarding men from the area who had died in the 1st and 2nd World Wars. The group were aiming to publish a detailed Book of Remembrance of the village and its people.
- Councillor Tyler referred to his appointment as Armed Forces Champion for Dudley Council and the remit of the role. It was noted that the scheme entitling veterans to half price leisure facilities in the borough had now been extended to all armed forces and their families. In his role, Councillor Tyler would be visiting military establishment within the borough and should anyone require any further information with regard to the armed forces, they were asked to contact him.

- Councillor Mrs Sims reported that she had just acquired bin bags for two streets in Wordsley who had not received any and had been told by the Council that they had missed the cut off date to receive any bags. It was noted that this was not the case and Councillor Mrs Sims requested that if any resident had been affected by this, to contact their Ward Councillor.
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5. AREA GRANTS

The Lead Officer verbally reported that no applications had been submitted for this round of funding from the Forum and the application submitted to the last meeting, from 4 US Project for the sum of £3,552, which had been deferred for further information, had now been approved.

6. DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

To note that the date of the next meeting of the Forum would be determined at Annual Council on 16th May 2013.

The meeting ended at 8.10pm.

**ACTION NOTES OF THE MEETING OF KINGSWINFORD NORTH AND
WALL HEATH/KINGSWINFORD SOUTH AND WORDSLEY COMMUNITY
FORUM**

Tuesday, 25th June, 2013 at 6.30 p.m.
at St Mary's Church Hall, Kingswinford

PRESENT: -

Councillor D Blood (Chair)
Councillor P Miller (Vice-Chair)

Councillors Hemingsley, Jones, P Harley, Mrs Simms and Tyler

OFFICERS:

Mr I Newman (Lead Officer to the Forum), Treasurer and Mrs L Jury – Both
Directorate of Corporate Resources,

together with Paul Bengé, Stuart Connelly, Steve Cooper, Wayne George,
Pete Hipkiss (in an observation capacity only)

12 members of the public

1. **ELECTION OF CHAIR**

Councillor Blood was elected Chair of the Forum for the 2013/14 municipal
year.

(Councillor Blood thereupon took the Chair)

2. **APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR**

Councillor Miller was appointed Vice-Chair of the Forum for the 2013/14
municipal year.

3. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence from the meeting were received on behalf of
Councillors Mrs Billingham and Boleyn.

4. **INTRODUCTIONS BY THE CHAIR**

The Chair welcomed those present to the meeting of the Kingswinford
North and Wall Heath/ Kingswinford South and Wordsley Community
Forum.

5. LISTENING TO YOU: QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM LOCAL RESIDENTS

Local residents raised questions and made comments as set out below. These issues would be referred to the relevant Directorate or appropriate body for a response:

Nature of questions/comments

- (1) A resident raised concern regarding problems with weeds in the gutters in Balmoral Road and Spinney Close, Wordsley and pot holes in the roads, especially in Spinney Close and questioned when these would be attended to.
- (2) A resident queried why funding had been granted to Wordsley Festival this year, which had not been granted in previous years.
- (3) A resident requested that the grass on the banks in Kinver Street park and the banks in front of properties in Kinver Street be cut.

Other issues raised and/or answered on the evening:

- A resident raised concern regarding weeds on the public footpaths on Sandringham Road.
- Residents queried the policy regarding the clearing of drains within the Borough, especially the drains outside the newsagents in Sandringham Place and Buckingham Road.
- A resident reiterated her comments raised previously with regard to streamlining the Council and requested that the Council consider reducing the number of members per Ward.
- Residents discussed advertising of the Forums and requested that the Forums be advertised in a similar way to that of the old Area Committees. In response, the Chair confirmed that comments made would be forwarded to the Communications and Public Affairs Division within the Council.
- Residents complained that the Council's website was not user-friendly as they were unable to access details of forthcoming Community Forums. In response, the Lead Officer informed the Forum that officers were aware of these concerns and were reviewing the website.
- The format of the new Community Forums was discussed and in response, Councillor Tyler stated that he would forward comments made by residents and Members to the Community Forum review meeting.
- The general issue of parking and parking charges was discussed.

- The Policy regarding the annual charge associated with the collection of a second Green Bin to householders in the Borough was questioned.
- PC Ravenscroft presented the crime figures for May-June 2013 for the area and invited residents to raise any issues of concern for review by the Police. In response, residents raised the following concerns:
 - an on-going issue of speeding vehicles on Balmoral Road/Kinver Street/Tack Farm Road and Bells Road;
 - an issue relating to mini-motor bikes being driven across the park at Kinver Street onto the roads;
 - a problem with youths drinking and urinating in the streets around the Buckingham Grove area;
 - cars being driven across the pavements on Granville Drive towards Fairview Crescent.
- The Lead Officer gave an update on the unsightly shop fronts in Sandringham Place, off Bells Lane. These shops are not owned by the council but officers are trying to pursue this matter with the owner.
- Station Commander for Stourbridge Fire Station addressed the meeting stating that it was their intention to send service personnel to future Forums to receive any issues that residents would like to raise with regards to safety, such as vehicles parked on streets causing an obstruction.

6. WORKING WITH YOU – TOPICS RAISED BY LOCAL COUNCILLORS

- Councillor Jones submitted a petition on behalf of Wordsley Wasps Football Club requesting alternative parking provision for those attending the football matches to prevent individuals having to park along Kinver Street causing an obstruction.
- Councillor Jones raised an issue regarding the problems with badgers in the Haven and New Street and requested that gates be erected similar to those that had been erected in Kingswinford to address this issue.
- For information, Councillor Tyler confirmed that the disused Spar Shop on Enville Road in Wall Heath would shortly become a Veterinary Practice.

7. AREA GRANTS

A report of the Lead Officer was submitted on applications for funding.

AGREED TO RECOMMEND:-

- (1) That the application from the Holy Trinity Community Hall for funding of up to £1,436.40 to enable them to purchase a projector screen and sound vision system equipment be approved.
- (2) That the application from Wordsley Wasps Girls (under 16's) Football Team (formerly Hasbury Rangers Girls) for £2,400 to enable them to purchase equipment, kit and two x FA Coaching courses for volunteers be approved.
- (3) That the application from 2488 (Kingswinford) Air Training Corps for funding for £6,175.80 to enable them to purchase band equipment be approved.
- (4) That the application from the Church of Ascension Church Hall for funding for £3,767.00 to enable them to purchase a new boiler and the re-decoration of the entrance lobby, toilets, kitchen and main hall area be approved.

8. DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

Noted that the next meeting of the Community Forum would be on Tuesday 10th September, 2013 at 6.30pm at a venue to be confirmed.

The meeting ended at 8.15pm.

ACTION NOTES OF THE MEETING OF AMBLECOTE, CRADLEY AND WOLLESCOTE, LYE AND STOURBRIDGE NORTH COMMUNITY FORUM

Held at 6.30pm on Tuesday 23rd April, 2013
At Amblecote Church Hall, Vicarage Road, Amblecote.

PRESENT:-

Councillor Herbert (Chair)
Councillor Perks (Vice-Chair)

Councillors Body, Crumpton, Hanif, Mrs P Martin, Partridge and Mrs Walker.

OFFICERS:-

Miss J Porter (Lead Officer to the Forum - Director of Children's Services)
and Mrs K Taylor (Directorate of Corporate Resources)

Together with 23 members of the public.

7 **APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE**

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

8 **INTRODUCTIONS BY THE CHAIR**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the second meeting of the Forum. Following the making of other general announcements the local councillors and members of the public introduced themselves.

9 **LISTENING TO YOU - QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM LOCAL RESIDENTS**

A number of questions and comments were raised by local residents in relation to the following:-

Nature of questions/comments

Referred to

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| (1) Balconies at Piper Place, Amblecote - when would the balconies would be safe to use again. | Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services. |
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| (1a) | Piper Place, Amblecote – When would front doors and shed doors be replaced, and whether the intercom system would be updated. | Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services. |
| (1b) | A resident reported wasps in his loft – Query why it was his responsibility to remove the wasps just because he had the roof space above his flat. | Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services. |
| (1c) | A resident reported a blockage in his kitchen and bathroom sinks, which had not been resolved with domestic cleaners – Query why he would have to pay the Council to resolve. | Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services. |
| (2) | Councillor Body, on behalf of residents, asked how long it would take to fill the potholes in the Cradley and Wollescote ward. | Director of the Urban Environment. |
| (2b) | How long would it take for the litter to be removed in Colley Gate, Windmill Hill, Highfield Road and Foredraft Street? | Director of the Urban Environment. |
| (3) | Ongoing problems concerning the members of the Wollescote Flat Green Bowls Clubs. | Director of the Urban Environment. |
| (3b) | An issue was raised in regard to public parking at Wollescote Park. | Director of the Urban Environment. |
| (3c) | Bollards at 7 Dwellings Bridge - requested that measures were taken to prevent access. The Chair also suggested that the resident contact Waterways, who were responsible for the bollards. | Director of Urban Environment. |
| (3d) | A resident requested that Dudley Council liaise with Corbett Hospital to cease using the disabled parking bays for the mobile x-ray unit and utilise the entrance to the rear of the hospital left for access only. | Director of the Urban Environment. |
| (4) | Concerns regarding the trees and hedges overhanging the pavements by the corner of Penfields Road, Railway Bridge Walk Way, Lindale Crescent, Speedwell Close, and by the road leading to Sainsbury's. | Director of the Urban Environment. |

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| (4b) | A resident requested that improvements are made to the footpath for Stour Valley Walk from Bagley Street to viaduct and Speedwell Close. It was also reported that vehicles were entering the field from Bagley Street, which was damaging the ground. | Director of the Urban Environment. |
| (5) | Parking in Church Avenue, near Corbett Hospital. Councillors Mrs Martin and Mrs Walker had attended a number of meetings with the Head of Traffic and Transportation, and the NHS in respect of possible enforcement action; introducing red lines, and to provide additional disabled spaces, however action had not been undertaken. | Director of the Urban Environment. |
| (5b) | A resident asked if an official sign could be placed on the post box in Vicarage Road, Amblecote. | Director of the Urban Environment. |
| (6) | Concerns were raised in respect of the lack of a hardstanding footpath with lighting between the Penfields estate at Porloch Road and Chilly Kiddys at Mill Race Lane. | Director of the Urban Environment. |
| (7) | Regeneration of Cradley and the removal and rebuild of derelict shops and housing along the A458 road. When will regeneration begin and what are the plans? | Director of the Urban Environment. |
| (8) | Site of the former Cradley High School, in particular, possible changes to the plans formulated for the planning application P12/1447. Will a new drawing/plan be lodged so that residents are aware of what will be happening? Will this mean a new planning application or an amendment? | Director of the Urban Environment. |
| (9) | A group of new volunteers attempting to revitalise Friends of Wollescote Park require assistance in finding where they may apply for grants. | Director of the Urban Environment. |

- (9b) Concerns have been raised at Friends of Wollescote Park Committee Meetings in relation to the Stevens Trust money and that the money has been used to support other parks. Director of the Urban Environment.

Other issues raised :-

- A resident stated that although he had a response to his questions that he had submitted at the previous Community Forum, in particular, in regard of Lye Cricket/Football and the junction of Cemetery Road and Pedmore Road, he had been disappointed by that response. Councillor Hanif explained that in relation to Cemetery Road and Pedmore Road, he would be meeting with the Group Engineer to discuss the matter further. The Chair also agreed to look at the issue in respect of Lye Cricket/Football Cricket Club.
- A resident invited Members to walk around the pathways at Withymoore Village, which had not been maintained.
- The Chair advised the forum that the police would attend all meetings of the forum, and that residents could discuss any issues with the police after the meeting.
- Irregular patrols by Police from Black Delph Bridge to Station Drive Bridge in early evenings to prevent anti-social behaviour.
- A member of the public suggested that the minutes taken at the meeting were unnecessary, given that residents who required a written response were required to complete a question form. The Lead Officer stated that the forums were under review, and the comments made would be noted.
- Ward boundaries, in particular, areas such as the entrance of Wollescote Park located within Wollescote and Pedmore, Stourbridge.
- Format of Community Forums, to be reviewed, however, they did enable residents to raise all their issues in a more informal setting than Area Committees.
- A resident commented on a scheme where a police officer circulated information such as scams and crime in the area via a distribution list. A scheme was in place, however, it would be impossible to manage on an individual basis and worked mainly through groups such as neighbourhood watch. The police representative agreed to speak to the resident after the meeting.
- The next Friends of the Park meeting would be on Thursday 9th May, 2013, 6.30 pm in the Sons of Rest room, Wollescote Park.

10 WORKING WITH YOU - TOPICS RAISED BY LOCAL COUNCILLORS

- Councillor Partridge informed the Forum that Councillors were working hard on the Parks Initiative, and that she would be able to report back to the Forum on developments at a later date.
- Councillor Perks commented on the pathway from Trinity Road and asked whether it would be possible to have a hard standing, given that the path had become damaged during the winter.
- Councillor Perks commented on the main gates at Corbett Hospital and stated that she had been informed that the Council and not the NHS were responsible for the gates. The Lead Officer agreed to look into the matter further.
- Councillor Perks circulated leaflets in relation to reporting scams. Councillor Mrs P Martin explained that she had attended a number of classes in the area to promote awareness.
- Councillor Perks stated that a table top sale would be taking place on Saturday 11th May, 2013 at Amblecote Church Hall.
- Councillor Hanif commented on the parking bays in Lower High Street, Lye and explained that he would be attending a meeting to review the issues.
- Councillor Hanif raised the issue of anti-social behaviour by Mears Coppice, Sergeant Rudge explained that he had held discussions regarding the anti-social behaviour and confirmed that patrols would be increased.
- Councillor Crumpton commented on the Community Living Fund available within the ward. The grant could be used for community events and it was intended to consult members of the public.
- Councillor Crumpton thanked Councillor Body for the money that he raised for Homer Hill Park/St Peter's Church.

- Councillor Crumpton referred to an event that had taken place on Saturday 20th April, 2013 which raised £2,000 towards the purchase of a dog to help a young autistic child. He encouraged people to attend and support similar good causes.
- Councillor Mrs Walker raised an issue in respect of the electoral register, in particular that postcodes were not listed on the register, and asked for the matter to be looked at.
- Councillor Mrs Walker referred to the grants approved by Stourbridge Area Committee to Stourbridge in Bloom to further aid the opening of the gateway from Amblecote in 2013, and suggested that in future this Community Forum could consider any additional bids.

11 AREA GRANTS

A report of the Lead Officer was submitted on three applications for funding.

Comments were made in respect of the application received by DIYYA, in particular for funding towards the cost for a coach trip for under privileged families and liability insurance. The Lead Officer stated that she would provide support to the group, if the application were approved, to ensure that all safeguarding measures were applied correctly when planning the visit.

Following consideration of the applications submitted, Members requested that the letters sent to the applicant outlining the Forum's decision be amended to request that the applicant submit feedback explaining how the funding has been used and the outcomes.

AGREED TO RECOMMEND

That the Director of Corporate Resources approve the following:-

- (a) A grant in the sum of £4,968.66 to Apni Zaroorat Community Network to purchase kitchen equipment, pool table, air hockey, garden games, computer games, water cooler, indoor and outdoor dustbins.
- (b) A grant in the sum of £719.52 to Stourbridge Cricket Club to purchase two waterproof rain covers.
- (c) A grant in the sum of £1,983.00 to DIYYA to purchase equipment, part cost for coach trip for under privileged families and liability insurance.

12 DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

It was noted that the date of the next meeting of the Community Forum would be determined at Annual Council on 16th May, 2013.

The meeting ended at 8.25 pm.

ACTION NOTES OF THE MEETING OF AMBLECOTE, CRADLEY AND WOLLESCOTE, LYE AND STOURBRIDGE NORTH COMMUNITY FORUM

Held at 6.30pm on Wednesday 26th June, 2013
At Wollescote Community Centre, Wassell Road, Stourbridge

PRESENT:-

Councillors Body, Crumpton, Hanif, Herbert, Lowe, Mrs P Martin, Perks and Mrs Walker.

OFFICERS:-

Miss J Porter (Lead Officer to the Forum - Director of Children's Services) and Mrs K Taylor (Directorate of Corporate Resources)

Together with 14 members of the public.

1. **ELECTION OF CHAIR**

Councillor Herbert was elected Chair of the Forum for the 2013/14 municipal year.

2. **ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR**

Councillor Perks was elected Vice-Chair of the Forum for the 2013/14 municipal year.

3 **APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE**

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

4 **INTRODUCTIONS BY THE CHAIR**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting of the Forum. Following the making of other general announcements the local councillors and members of the public introduced themselves.

5 **LISTENING TO YOU - QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM LOCAL RESIDENTS**

Local residents raised questions and made comments as set out below. These issues would be referred to the relevant Directorate or appropriate body for a response:-

Nature of questions/comments

- (1) Concerns regarding the trees, hedges and branches overhanging the pavements by the corner of Penfields Road, Stamford Road by the Railway Bridge, Lindale and Martindale Road. This matter had been raised at the previous Forum meeting.
- (1a) A resident requested that improvements be made to the footpath and overgrown trees cut back at Stour Valley Walk from the viaduct through to Bagley Street and Speedwell Close.
- (2) A resident referred to the road sign on entering the Borough from Cradley Heath along Cradley Road, which states 'Halesowen', this should read 'Cradley'.
- (2b) Ongoing problems concerning the parking on Oakfield Road outside and along the road from Wychbury Surgery. The traffic flow needed to be re-assessed to determine a new solution for parking. Councillor Body agreed to undertake a site-visit with the resident.
- (2c) Car Parking on Chapelhouse Lane causing obstruction to driveways and buses. The parking was due to patients visiting Chapelhouse surgery. There were also problems with cars and motorbikes travelling at a high speed along the road.
- (3) A resident requested that the chainshop in High Town, Cradley be looked at as it was part of Cradley's heritage and was the only remaining chainshop with possible public access. It had been neglected with overgrown trees causing damage to the roof – there should be public discussions with a view to obtaining funding for improvements. Local schools wish to take children to see the shop and experience it.
- (4) Ongoing problems with parents parking over driveways by Withymoor School, and when asked to move their car the resident and his wife received abuse. Members of the Forum stated that if anyone received any form of abuse to contact the Police. The Lead Officer agreed to re-address the matter in readiness for the start of term in September, and stated that the resident would be welcome to attend any meetings if he wished to do so.
- (5) Councillor Mrs Martin, on behalf of a resident, referred to the bollards at 7 Dwellings Bridge, which had been raised at the previous Forum and actioned, however it was requested that the bollards could be made irremovable to make them permanent as they could be easily stolen.
- (5b) An issue was raised in regard to public parking at Wollescote Park, where a resident was informed that the responsibility for repairs was that of the Council's Green Care organisation who had stated that there was no budget to repair the parking. As Social Services staff used the parking space when attending meetings it was queried whether they could use some of their budget to help with repairs.

Other issues raised :-

- A resident referred to an article in a newspaper with regard to Ernest Stevens Trusts, and asked what had happened to the money made available for grants. Following a discussion it was confirmed that bids for funding could still be made to the Ernest Stevens Trusts.
 - The Chair advised the forum that the police were in attendance and residents could discuss any issues after the meeting.
 - Sergeant R Gardener updated the Forum on crime figures within the three wards, and encouraged members of the public to routinely lock their vehicles, as a number of thefts were occurring in the borough.
-

6 WORKING WITH YOU - TOPICS RAISED BY LOCAL COUNCILLORS

- Councillor Mrs Martin referred to a recent planning project by a resident to build a Pharmacy and two small shops in the Amblecote area. She expressed her disappointment that although the planners were happy with the project, the Highways Section had recommended refusal.
- Councillor Mrs Walker referred to a recent case at Accident and Emergency at Russells Hall Hospital, and suggested that the department be looked at by various health bodies such as Public Health and Health and Wellbeing. Councillor Perks commented that she had spoken to the Director of Public Health, in respect of the case mentioned and would be writing a letter to the contact provided by the director. Councillor Crumpton encouraged people to use the complaints procedure for Hospitals or Healthwatch if they had any bad experiences during their visit to hospital.
- Councillor Hanif referred to the site near Yardley Street, Lye where a manufacturing company was sited. Metal fencing and a building extension had been erected without planning permission, and enforcement action had been taken. Councillor Hanif would report the outcomes at a future forum meeting.
- Councillor Hanif commented on the parking bays in Lower High Street, Lye and explained that he had met with traders and residents to discuss the possibility of realigning the bays. A consultation process would be taking place.
- Councillor Lowe reported on the overhanging trees near Lye Football Club and Cemetery Road. The Chair also commented on the trees and parking in Mears Coppice.

- Councillor Crumpton referred to the Remembrance March in Lye, in particular that the march would be taking place this year. He also referred to the march in 2014 given that it would be the 100th anniversary, of the start of World War One, and that the possibility of incorporating two local schools into the march was being looked at.
- Councillor Crumpton referred to the introduction of the first Friends of Cradley Library Group.
- Councillor Crumpton commented on the Community First Funding available within the ward. Applications for funding could be received by contacting the Ward Members.

7 AREA GRANTS

A report of the Lead Officer was submitted on three applications for funding.

It was noted that an application from Lye and Stourbridge North Neighbourhood Team was received after the report had been circulated, for the sum of £1630.32 towards the purchase of a variety of sports equipment. The Lead Officer reported that a number of required documentation was not submitted, and therefore requested that the application be dealt with under delegated powers in consultation with Members of the Forum, once all documentation had been received.

Following consideration of the applications, it was agreed that any applications received from West Midlands Police in respect of different Neighbourhood Teams would be considered as a separate entity, rather than as a whole organisation.

RESOLVED

- (a) That the action of the Lead Officer, in consultation with members of the forum, in recommending approval of an application in the sum of £2880 from West Midlands Police for the purchase of pitch hire, be noted.
- (b) That the application received from Lye and Stourbridge North Neighbourhood Team be considered under delegated powers, in consultation with members, following receipt of the required documentation.

AGREED TO RECOMMEND

That the Director of Corporate Resources approve the following:-

- (a) A grant in the sum of £1374.35 to Wychbury Patients Participation Group towards the cost of a healthcare event aimed at providing advice and guidance to men in the Cradley, Foxcote and Wollescote area regarding prostate cancer.

- (b) A grant in the sum of £3286 to Bethel Chapel to repair and replace the exiting flat roof which had been causing damage.
- (c) A grant in the sum of £5000 to New Life to extend the kitchen to allow more meals to be served, better quality meals to be provided and the capacity to take on more volunteers. It was noted that New Life had requested whether the Forum could approve additional funding, however following a discussion it was agreed that New Life could contact and obtain additional funding from the Brierley Hill Forum.

8 DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Community Forum would be on Tuesday 10th September, 2013, starting at 6.30pm at Lye Community Centre, Cross Walks, Lye.

The meeting ended at 8.20.

**ACTION NOTES OF THE MEETING OF BRIERLEY HILL/BROCKMOOR AND
PENSNETT COMMUNITY FORUM**

HELD AT 6.30PM ON WEDNESDAY 24TH APRIL, 2013

AT THE BROCKMOOR PRIMARY SCHOOL, BELLE ISLE, BROCKMOOR, BRIERLEY
HILL

PRESENT:-

Councillor Jordan (Chair)
Councillors Foster, Harris, Islam and J Martin.

Officers:-

Mr I McGuff (Assistant Director, Quality and Partnership) – (Directorate of Children's Services) and Miss K Fellows (Directorate of Corporate Resources).

Together with six members of the public

7 APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE

An Apology for absence from the meeting was submitted on behalf of Councillor M Wilson.

8 INTRODUCTIONS BY THE CHAIR

The Chair welcomed those present to the meeting and Members introduced themselves. The Chair outlined the purpose of the Forum meeting.

9 LISTENING TO YOU: QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM LOCAL RESIDENTS

<u>Nature of Query/Complaint</u>	<u>Referred to</u>
1. Can the Council investigate the Swans that are nesting in a vulnerable place at Fens Pool Nature Reserve in order to protect them and their Cygnets. Could a barrier be erected to protect them. They are situated on the Wallows area of the Nature Reserve.	Director of the Urban Environment.
2(a) Can the Council investigate problems with tenants anti social behaviour in Pheasant Street, Brockmoor, Brierley Hill.	Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services.

- | | | |
|-------|--|------------------------------------|
| 2(b) | Could Licensing Enforcement investigate problems with the Star Public House, Norwood Road, Brockmoor as although there is a garden area, customers are smoking to the front and the side of the public house which is causing nuisance to local residents and creating cigarette litter. | Director of Corporate Resources. |
| 2(c) | Can checks be undertaken in the locality of the Brockmoor area of Brierley Hill in relation to owners letting their dogs foul in the streets and failing to clear this up. | Director of the Urban Environment. |
| 2(d) | Could information be provided in relation to the legal position in relation to pruning trees which are overgrown and overhanging from a neighbouring garden in relation to a private residence. | Director of the Urban Environment. |
| 3(a) | Can the street cleaning timing be investigated in the area of Brockmoor, Brierley Hill due to litter and rubbish in the streets. | Director of the Urban Environment. |
| 3(b) | Can drainage clearing in Brockmoor, Brierley Hill be carried out due to blockage of drainage and can the gully cleansing programme be investigated. | Director of the Urban Environment. |
| 4(a). | There has been excessive flying tipping at the site of the former Picture House in Brierley Hill. Could the rubbish be cleared from the site as this is also a cause of anti social behaviour. | Director of the Urban Environment. |
| 4(b). | When is the grit bin to be installed at Lynch Gate, St Marks Church, Brierley Hill as the application has been approved. | Director of the Urban Environment. |
| 4(c). | Could the position in relation to the derelict land and buildings in the locality of the High Oak area of Pensnett be investigated as these are a cause of anti social behaviour. | Director of the Urban Environment. |
| 4(d) | Can the waste land in Albert Street, Pensnett be cleared and the owner be billed for the clear up operation. | Director of the Urban Environment. |
| 4(e) | The waste land area in Commonside, Brierley Hill which was the former site of the Queens Head Public House is causing anti social behaviour and flytipping to occur could this site be cleared. | Director of the Urban Environment. |

10 Other issues raised:-

A verbal presentation was received from Mr D Stenson, Governor of the Dudley Group of Hospitals National Health Service Foundation Trust relating to the changes in the National Health Service and how these would affect the Dudley Borough. Details in relation to the Dudley Clinical Commissioning Group and the Health and Wellbeing Board objectives were outlined. Details of an event for local organisations and the general public to attend on the 9th July, 2013 were provided and leaflets relating to Healthwatch Dudley and Your Trust were circulated to those present.

11 WORKING WITH YOU: TOPICS RAISED BY LOCAL COUNCILLORS

Councillor Foster reported that a multi agency meeting had taken place in relation to putting in place an action plan regarding animal welfare and this would include horse welfare including the safety and threat to the public who use Fens Pool Nature Reserve in relation to horses and those using motorcycles and that grazing issues would also be included. It was noted that the action plan would be carried out and the formation of Friends of Fens Pool Nature Reserve would take place. in order to reclaim the Nature Reserve for the people of the Dudley Borough and the improvement of management of the Nature Reserve and further details in relation to the formation of Friends of Fens Pool Nature Reserve would be publicised in order to make the public aware of this.

In relation to the planning application submitted by Clean Power it was reported that revised plans had been submitted by the Company and should the public wish to view these an appointment should be made with Ednam House, Dudley in order to do so. It was noted that the revised and amended plans would also be available to view at Brierley Hill Library and objectors were urged to view the revised plans and submit their objections to the Council by 30th April, 2013, in order that the objections could be received at the Development Control Committee which would consider the revised and amended plans further.

It was noted that Clean Power had been invited to attend a Public meeting on 15th May, 2013 however to date they had neither declined nor accepted the invitation. Following further discussion it was agreed that the Public meeting would still be convened on 15th May, 2013 although it was noted that Clean Power may not attend.

Following a proposal by Councillor Martin it was agreed that Ward Members would set up a Working Group to consider and discuss issues in relation to Traffic and congestion problems in the Brockmoor and Pensnett areas which would also consider pollution and the impact on health and would encompass the High Oak, Tansley Green Road and High Street Pensnett areas.

12 COMMUNITY FORUM GRANTS

A report of the Lead Officer was submitted on two applications for funding that had been received which were referred to in the report submitted.

AGREED TO RECOMMEND

That the Director of Corporate Resources approve the making of the following grants:-

- (a) A grant in the sum of £5,000 to the Dudley Employees Sports and Social Club to renew carpet and floor edgings.
- (b) A grant in the sum of £5,000 to The Church of St John the Evangelist to enable them to develop a meeting place/café and a safe space/youth facility.

13. DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

Noted, that the date of the next meeting of the Community Forum would be determined at Annual Council on 16th May, 2013.

The meeting ended at 8.20pm

**ACTION NOTES OF THE MEETING OF BRIERLEY HILL/BROCKMOOR AND
PENSNETT COMMUNITY FORUM**

HELD AT 6.30PM ON WEDNESDAY 26TH JUNE, 2013

AT THE NINE LOCKS COMMUNITY CENTRE, HILL STREET, BRIERLEY HILL

PRESENT:-

Councillors Harris, Islam and Jordan

Officers:-

Mr I Curnow (Divisional Lead – Commissioning and Procurement) – (Directorate of Children’s Services) and Miss K Fellows (Directorate of Corporate Resources).

Together with twelve members of the public

1. ELECTION OF CHAIR

Councillor Jordan was elected Chair of the Forum for the 2013/14 municipal year.

2. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR

Councillor Islam was elected Vice-Chair of the Forum for the 2013/14 municipal year.

3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors Foster, J Martin and M Wilson.

4. INTRODUCTIONS BY THE CHAIR

The Chair welcomed those present to the meeting and Members introduced themselves.

5. LISTENING TO YOU: QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM LOCAL RESIDENTS

Local residents raised questions and made comments as set out below. These issues would be referred to the relevant Directorate or appropriate body for a response.

Nature of question/comment

- 1(a) A request that rubbish be removed from opposite the War Memorial in Pensnett and behind the former spa shop site.

- 1(b) A request that dog bins be installed in Milton Street Pensnett and on Dreadnought Road/Tansley Green Road, Pensnett.
- 2(a) A request that car parking by those collecting their children from Brierley Hill Primary school, those operating Taxi's, the general public visiting shops in the Brierley Hill High Street and shop owners be investigated in the Promenade, Brierley Hill and in and around Brickiln Court, Chapel Street. This was causing a hazard and inconvenience to local residents.
- 2(b) Could the tree stumps on the Promenade, Brierley Hill be removed as these were causing a hazard to pedestrians.
- 2(c) Could the gardens be cleared between Brickiln Court and Mill Street, Brierley Hill.
- 2(d) Refuse Collectors were breaking fencing with their vehicles and were finding it difficult to access areas around the Promenade, Brierley Hill including Brickiln Court and Chapel Street please could this be brought to their attention and the fencing replaced.
- 2(e) In between Brickiln Court and Chapel Street there are five bins for bottles, can and clothing can this area be cleared of bottles and cans.
- 2(d) Horse owners were grazing their horses on Fens Pool Nature Reserve. Could a contact telephone be provided should those attending the Nature Reserve notice problems with Horses; Can a copy of the Council's Policy for dealing with stray horses be provided; What was the outcome of the recent meeting in relation to stray horses with Officers, the Cabinet Member for Environment and Culture, the Police and the RSPCA; What is the Council's Policy to prevent/stop horse owners letting their horses graze on their land.
- 3(a) A request that the refuse bin store at Bricklin Court, Chapel Street, Brierley Hill be regularly disinfected, due to smell and infestation in the refuse bin store area.
- 3(b) Could a letter be forwarded to all tenants at Adelphi Court, Brierley Hill advising them not to leave refuse sacks outside the front doors of their properties and utilise the rubbish chute to dispose of refuse sacks.
- 4(a) A request that when the speed limit of 20 miles per hour is in operation during school times that signs be erected in adjacent side streets to advise motorists of this.
- 4(b) Can problems with traffic congestion at school times in Pensnett High Street, past Russells Hall Hospital and into Kingswinford be investigated.
- 5 There is a caravan overhanging the pavement in Albert Street, Pensnett which is causing problems for pedestrians. Can the owners of the caravan be contacted and requested to move this to a more suitable site.

- 6 There was a request that Twitter be accessed at meetings and details and discussions that take place at meetings be reported on Twitter and Members supported this suggestion.
-

6 WORKING WITH YOU: TOPICS RAISED BY LOCAL COUNCILLORS

Councillor Harris provided an update in relation to the planning application submitted by Clean Power, advising that a meeting had taken place on 15th May, 2013 and as a result of that meeting all objections raised and a Petition had been handed to the Chair of the Council's Development Control Committee and that currently further technical information was awaited from Clean Power prior to the application being considered.

Councillor Islam advised that in relation to walls in Marsh Park, Brierley Hill initial work had been commenced, however due to the economic climate this had not been completed and he would contact the appropriate Council Officers and the Cabinet Member for Environment and Culture in relation to the work that was required to the walls and the War Memorial in the park.

7 COMMUNITY FORUM GRANTS

A report of the Lead Officer was submitted on two applications for funding that had been received which were referred to in the report submitted.

The Lead Officer also referred to a further application that had been received from Inspired Communities for the sum of £4,920 in respect of exercise equipment. Further consideration of the application would be deferred to enable further investigations to be carried out.

AGREED TO RECOMMEND

That the Director of Corporate Resources approve the making of the following grants.

- (a) A grant in the sum of £2,000 to the Association of Retired Employees of Simon Dudley Limited.
 - (b) A grant in the sum of £900 to Parkes Street Tenants & Residents Association.
-

8 DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

Noted, that the next meeting of the Community Forum would be on Wednesday 11th September, 2013 at 6.30pm at Nine Locks Community Centre.

The meeting ended at 8.10pm

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD

Wednesday, 29th May, 2013 at 6.00 p.m.
in Committee Room 2, The Council House, Dudley

PRESENT:-

Councillors A. Ahmed, Blood, Boleyn, Caunt, Hale, Islam, James, Kettle, Marrey, Ridney and Tyler

Officers:-

Assistant Director, Housing Strategy and Private Sector - Lead Officer to the Committee and Mr. J. Jablonski (Directorate of Corporate Resources)

Also in Attendance:-

Councillor Harley

1. **ELECTION OF CHAIR**

RESOLVED

That Councillor Ridney be elected Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board for the 2013/14 Municipal Year.

Councillor Ridney (Chair)

2. **APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR**

RESOLVED

That Councillor Tyler be appointed Vice-Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board for the 2013/14 Municipal Year.

3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No member declared an interest in any matter to be considered at this meeting.

A joint report of the Lead Officer and the Director of Corporate Resources was submitted on the Terms of Reference of the Board, following the review of the Council's Overview and Scrutiny arrangements, and on the draft Annual Scrutiny Programme 2013/14. The Terms of Reference of the Board, and of the five Scrutiny Committees appointed in 2013/14, were attached as Appendix 1 to the report submitted and the draft Annual Scrutiny Programme for 2013/14 was attached as Appendix 2 to the report submitted.

Following opening remarks by the Chair on the background to the development of the Council's Overview and Scrutiny arrangements, as set out in the report submitted, Members asked a number of questions and made comments with particular reference to the call-in arrangements referred to in the Terms of Reference of the Board and to items considered by the former Scrutiny Committees which were considered to be outstanding and required further consideration.

Further detailed discussion also ensued on how the areas for scrutiny by the individual Scrutiny Committees, as detailed in Appendix 2 to the report submitted, were to be undertaken and in this regard reference was made to the informal development sessions that would be held following the conclusion of formal business at the first meetings of the Scrutiny Committees.

It was emphasised that it was up to each Scrutiny Committee as to how it went about considering the areas for scrutiny allocated to it with the aim of producing a report at a future meeting of the Committee. It was also noted that each Scrutiny Committee could determine its own in-house training requirements.

In relation to the process to be undertaken, the Lead Officer undertook to set out in diagrammatic form the basic process that could be undertaken for carrying out scrutiny of the areas indicated.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the Terms of Reference of the Board, and of the five Scrutiny Committees appointed in 2013/14, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report submitted, be noted.
- (2) That the draft Annual Scrutiny Programme for 2013/14, as set out in Appendix 2 to the report submitted, be approved and adopted for consideration by the Council's Scrutiny Committees.

- (3) That Democratic Services circulate, by e-mail, to all Members of the Board, clarification of the call-in arrangements and who can call-in a matter.
 - (4) That a Special Meeting of the Board be held at a date and time to be determined in July, 2013 to give consideration as to how outstanding issues considered by the former Scrutiny Committees are to be dealt with.
-

5

FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS

A report of the Director of Corporate Resources was submitted on the Forward Plan of Key Decisions for the four-month period commencing the 1st June, 2013, attached as Appendix 1 to the report submitted.

Following consideration of the content of Appendix 1 to the report submitted, it was

RESOLVED

That the report submitted on the Forward Plan of Key Decisions for the four-month period commencing 1st June, 2013, be referred to the Council's five Scrutiny Committees with a request that they inform the Board of any items that they would wish to scrutinise so that further consideration can be given to this matter by the Board at a future meeting.

The meeting ended at 7.13 p.m.

CHAIR

**CORPORATE PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT,
EFFICIENCY AND EFFECTIVENESS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

Tuesday, 11th June, 2013 at 6.00 p.m.
in Committee Room 2 at the Council House, Dudley

PRESENT:-

Councillor Blood (Chair)
Councillor A. Ahmed (Vice Chair)
Councillors Boleyn, Caunt, Marrey, Mottram, Russell, Sykes and Mrs.
Westwood.

Officers

Assistant Director, Policy and Improvement (Chief Executive's Directorate)
(Lead Officer to the Committee), Principal Policy and Performance Management
Officer and Mr. J. Jablonski (Directorate of Corporate Resources)

Also in attendance

(for Agenda Item No. 5 only)

Assistant Director, HR and Organisational Development; Assistant Director,
Housing Strategy and Private Sector; Assistant Director, Environmental
Management; Head of Service - Housing Options; Head of Service - Private
Sector Housing and Head of Human Resources - HR Supporting DUE

Observers

Councillors Harley and Islam

1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No member declared an interest in any matter to be considered at this meeting.

2 TERMS OF REFERENCE AND ANNUAL SCRUTINY PROGRAMME, 2013/14

A report of the Lead Officer and the Director of Corporate Resources on the
Terms of Reference of the Committee and the items included in the Annual
Scrutiny Programme for detailed consideration by this Scrutiny Committee
during 2013/14 was submitted. Appendix 1 to the report set out the Terms of
the Reference of the Committee and Appendix 2 gave more detailed information
on the topics set out in the Annual Scrutiny Programme for 2013/14 referred to
in paragraph 7 of the report submitted.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the Terms of Reference of the Committee, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report submitted, be noted.
 - (2) That the issues contained in the Annual Scrutiny Programme for 2013/14, as referred to in paragraph 7 and Appendix 2, to the report submitted, be noted.
 - (3) That it be noted that an informal development session would be held for Members and Officers at the conclusion of the formal business of this meeting, to discuss how they wished to progress the items for detailed consideration by the Committee during 2013/14.
 - (4) That a “public forum” session be included as a standing item of business on the agendas for future meetings of the Committee.
-

3 QUARTERLY CORPORATE PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT REPORT

A report of the Chief Executive was submitted on the fourth quarter Quarterly Corporate Performance Management Report for 2012/13, relating to performance for the period 1st January to 31st March, 2013. A copy of the Quarter 4 report had been circulated separately to Members.

Prior to this meeting of the Committee, Members had been asked by the Chair to give notice of issues that they wished to raise questions on and in this connection the Chair referred to questions that he had raised in respect of temporary accommodation, private sector landlords/promoting empty homes into use, recycling “blip” (PI348), and when will the Borough have 100% collection areas for all recycling? In addition, Councillor Caunt had indicated that he wished to raise questions in relation to the Credit Union, Black Country Collaboration, Percentage of Household Waste Recycled and Sickness Absence.

Regarding PI 323: Number of Households Living in Temporary Accommodation - the Head of Service - Housing Options circulated at the meeting further analysis on this performance indicator and commented on the content of the briefing note circulated. A copy of the briefing note would be uploaded to the Council’s Committee Management Information System.

It was noted that there were 55 households in temporary accommodation, as at the 31st March, 2013 and that, for various reasons, the number fluctuated, that of the 2,270 homeless applications received during the year ending the 31st March, 2013, a full housing duty had been accepted in respect of 171 and that temporary accommodation was provided for a number of reasons, for example, the approach made had been late when the household was already homeless and they had arrived late in the day at the Council's offices, the complexity of the casework involving a range of issues and problems were becoming more difficult to solve, for example, due to the impact of the welfare reforms. In the current year, the number of private tenants presenting as homeless had also increased.

Regarding a point raised as to how many of the applicants were from outside the borough, it was reported that there were six such cases and, therefore, this was not considered to be a major issue. Regarding the statistics given in respect of the performance of neighbouring housing authorities, with particular reference to Sandwell, the reasons why the performance for Sandwell was different from that of the other authorities was explained in detail in that, basically, they operated differently to the other authorities indicated. There was not, therefore, a like-for-like comparison.

In response to question asked to how many adults and children were included in the 55 households, it was reported that there were 64 children and that the Head of Service - Housing Options, would arrange for the figures to be reported to members of the Committee.

In response to a question as to how many properties were empty for emergency purposes, it was reported that a portfolio of around 20 furnished units was maintained, together with access to whatever vacant/ready to let housing stock properties, were available. It was further reported, however, that the property types available may not always be suitable for the households presenting as homeless for example high rise flats were not used for families with children.

In response to a query as to the effect of the Choice-based Letting Scheme in relation to homeless households, it was reported that the scheme was working as envisaged in respect of such households. Amongst the 55 cases in temporary accommodation those who were not intentionally homeless or had a dubious tenancy history were only in the temporary accommodation for three months.

In response to a query regarding the circumstances leading to re-housing, it was noted that it was extremely rare for the housing service not to provide assistance and many attempts were made to do this. The main reason why assistance might not be given was if the household concerned did not engage with the Council.

Regarding PI 355; Private Sector Dwellings used/demolished, Councillor Blood commented as to whether the Council were really promoting sufficiently the need for private sector landlords to get their empty homes back into use and referred to the below-target performance in this area.

Councillor Caunt then queried whether Private Sector Housing had difficulties with planning officers in respect of properties that were no longer fit to accommodate anyone but landlords had difficulty in getting approval for the property to be demolished and the land re-developed. In response, it was stated by the Head of Service - Private Sector Housing that she did not recall any properties that she had dealt with where there was any specific problem of this nature. A comment was also made that there was no recollection of any action being taken by Private Sector Housing using their Environmental Health powers. It was also reported that Private Sector Housing would support, advise and assist any landlord who wished to bring their property back into use, but a lot would depend on what the landlord wished to do. The Assistant Director, Housing Strategy and Private Sector undertook to raise with planning officers the points made by Councillor Caunt.

Regarding PI 348 - Percentage of Household Waste sent for Re-use, Recycling and Composting - Below Target Performance and questions related to when the Borough would have 100% collection areas for all recycling and the percentage of household waste recycled, the Assistant Director, Environmental Management reported on the reasons why the performance target for Quarter 4 was below target reiterating comments made in the Quarterly Performance Report, which had had an impact. He also referred to the collection of national figures in this regard which were only now available, three months after the end of the financial year and considered that whilst the performance would still be below that of Quarter 3, he considered that there would be an increase of 2% on the final outturn figure shown.

In respect of the trial roll-out, the first phase for wheelie-bins would commence in July, 2013, with a collection of waste and recycling from August. The second phase would commence in October, with the collection of waste and recycling commencing in November. By the Spring of 2014, the whole Borough will have been completed.

The Assistant Director also commented that, in response to feedback received, collections for waste and recycling would be on the same day.

It was also noted that risk assessments would be carried out in respect of assisted collections and, as appropriate, an alternative option would be pursued. Each property involved would be re-visited.

In response to the question regarding the percentage of household waste recycled and whether increased costs were incurred by greater use of incineration, it was reported that this was not the case as the amount of waste collected had reduced so less had been taken for incineration. There was also the fact that recycling was extending to further areas not previously recycled and so would not go for incineration. The aim in connection with recycling was to reduce the amount going to landfill because of the expense incurred.

In response to a further point from Councillor Caunt it was agreed that actual tonnage figures for recycling be included so that it could be more easily seen whether there had been a reduction in the amount recycled. The Lead Officer would arrange for this information to be included in future quarterly reports.

In response to the issue raised regarding the Credit Union, Councillor Caunt queried the financial health of the Credit Union. In response, an updated background Briefing Note was circulated at the meeting in relation to the Performance Indicators in respect of the Credit Union, in particular, PI 406 and PI 170. It was also commented upon that the Credit Union now received no financial support from the Council and that the trend as regards total number of Credit Union members was upwards, although not in line with the target at Quarter 4. The reasons for this were outlined in the Briefing Note circulated, which included the clearance of dormant accounts and the slow post-Christmas period. Reference was also made to the loan products overview information given in the Briefing Note. There was therefore steady growth in the areas the subject of performance indicators and the Credit Union had funds available which were ready for loaning out.

Regarding the issue of Black Country Collaboration, set out under Reference SB6f(A121), the Assistant Director, Policy and Improvement commented that the notes referred to in relation to libraries did not relate to a shared management service for the Black Country, which had ceased, as reported to a former Scrutiny Committee, but to the on-going ICT work to consider how Black Country Networks could be joined up from a purely technical perspective. In respect of Trading Standards, this was not being pursued, as one of the Authorities involved decided not to participate. In respect of Procurement, this was being led by Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council and a number of initiatives/projects were being developed. As regards Legal Services, the Council was working with Walsall to develop an approach and with Birmingham in respect of the obtaining of specialist Counsel rates. Other measures were also being looked at over the longer term.

Regarding sickness absence, the Assistant Director, HR and Organisational Development, circulated a note at the meeting setting out information on absence, including comments on why there had been the increase in absence shown, statistics relating to absence, actions taken during 2013 and in relation to the Workplace Wellbeing Project. Reference was also made to the introduction with effect from 1st May, 2013, of the new Attendance Management Policy and Procedure and of the new and revised Stress Management Policy and Procedure.

Councillor Caunt, who had raised this issue commented that he was concerned with short term absence and that although there was a Council policy that return to work interviews should be done, he was looking to ascertain what guarantees HR had that managers would be conducting these.

In response, the Assistant Director, HR and Organisational Development commented that within the new Attendance Management Policy there were now three triggers requiring managers to be more proactive and requiring them to undertake mandatory return to work interviews. These were also tied in to absence recording systems introduced which would not close an absence until the return to work interview had been carried out.

Councillor Mottram commented on work-related stress and following the comments made, undertook to get further information so that, if appropriate, the points could be raised with the Assistant Director, HR and Organisational Development.

Councillor Caunt then raised two further issues, firstly in relation to Objective Reference RE1b(A20) in relation to the value of seized counterfeit goods by Trading Standards. The Assistant Director, Policy and Improvement undertook to arrange for the figure quoted to be clarified and for a response to be sent direct to Councillor Caunt.

The second issue was in respect of signage on canals, indicating that canal users were now in the Borough. In this connection, he referred to previous decisions of the former Regeneration, Culture and Adult Education Scrutiny Committee requesting that this work be carried out but that, to date, this had not been done. The Assistant Director, Policy and Improvement undertook to raise this matter with the appropriate officers and respond direct to Councillor Caunt.

RESOLVED

That the information contained in the Quarterly Performance Management Report submitted, and in the Quarter 4 report circulated separately to Members, in respect of performance for the period 1st January to 31st March, 2013, be noted, together with the comments made at this meeting and that the officers indicated undertake the actions referred to above.

4 FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS

A report of the Director of Corporate Resources was submitted on the Forward Plan of Key Decisions for the four month period commencing 1st June, 2013 and on the recommendation from the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board that this Scrutiny Committee considers whether it wishes to recommend that any items contained in the Appendix to the report submitted, setting out a Schedule of Key Decisions, should be scrutinised.

RESOLVED

That the information contained in the report, and the Appendix to the report, be noted and that the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board be informed that there were no items that this Scrutiny Committee wished to recommend be scrutinised.

The meeting ended at 7.22 p.m.

CHAIR

ADULT, COMMUNITY AND HOUSING SERVICES
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 12th June, 2013 at 6.00 p.m.
in Committee Room 3 at the Council House, Dudley

PRESENT:-

Councillor Islam (Chair)
Councillor James (Vice Chair)
Councillors Body, Cowell, Harris, Miller, Mottram, Ridney and Vickers

Officers

Assistant Director, Customer Services (Directorate of Corporate Resources)
(Lead Officer to the Committee) and Mr. J. Jablonski (Directorate of Corporate Resources)

Observer

Councillor Branwood

1 WELCOME

The Chair welcomed all those present to the meeting, following which introductions were made.

2 DEATH OF COUNCILLOR G. DAVIES

The Chair referred to the recent death of Councillor George Davies, who had been appointed as a Member of this committee, and all those present stood in silent tribute to his memory.

3 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors Evans, Herbert, J. Martin and M. Wilson.

4 APPOINTMENT OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

It was reported that Councillors Cowell, Harris and Ridney had been appointed as substitute members for Councillors J. Martin, M. Wilson and Herbert, respectively, for this meeting of the Committee only.

5 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No member declared an interest in any matter to be considered at this meeting.

6 TERMS OF REFERENCE AND ANNUAL SCRUTINY PROGRAMME, 2013/14

A report of the Lead Officer and Director of Corporate Resources was submitted on the Terms of Reference of the Committee and the items included in the Annual Scrutiny Programme for detailed consideration by this Scrutiny Committee during 2013/14. Appendix 1 to the report submitted set out the Terms of Reference of the Committee and Appendix 2 gave more detailed information on the topics set out in the Annual Scrutiny Programme for 2013/14, referred to in paragraph 7 of the report.

Following a presentation of the content of the report and its Appendices by the Lead Officer and comments arising therefrom, it was

RESOLVED

- (1) That the Terms of Reference of the Committee, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report submitted, be noted.
- (2) That the issues contained in the Annual Scrutiny Programme for 2013/14, as referred to in paragraph 7 and Appendix 2 to the report submitted, be noted.
- (3) That it be noted that an informal development session would be held for Members and Officers at the conclusion of the formal business of this meeting to discuss how they wished to progress the items for detailed consideration by the Committee during 2013/14.
- (4) That approval be given to the inclusion of a "Public Forum" session on the agendas of future Meetings of the Committee and that the public forum session be limited to a maximum of 30 minutes in total, with 3 minutes to be allowed for each speaker, and that persons wishing to raise an issue under this Agenda Item be encouraged to submit details of the issue prior to the meeting of the Committee.

7 FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS

A report of the Director of Corporate Resources was submitted on the Forward Plan of Key Decisions for the four-month period commencing 1st June, 2013, and on the recommendation from the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board that this Scrutiny Committee considers whether it wishes to recommend that any items contained in the Appendix to the report submitted, setting out a Schedule of Key Decisions, should be scrutinised.

RESOLVED

That the information contained in the report, and Appendix to the report, submitted on the Forward Plan of Key Decisions for the four-month period commencing 1st June, 2013, be noted, and that the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board be informed that, at this time, there were no matters that this Committee wishes to recommend be scrutinised .

The meeting ended at 6.18 p.m.

CHAIR

CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Thursday, 13th June, 2013 at 6.00 p.m.
in Committee Room 2 at the Council House, Dudley

PRESENT:-

Councillor Marrey (Chair)

Councillors Arshad, Bills, Casey, Hale, Hill, Islam, Mrs. Simms, Sykes, Vickers and Mrs. Walker; Mr. Lynch, Mr. Taylor, Mr. Ridley, Mr. Taylor, Mrs. Ward and the Rev. Wickens.

OFFICERS

Assistant Director, Housing Management (Directorate of Adult, Community and Housing Services) (Lead Officer to the Committee) and Mr. J. Jablonski (Directorate of Corporate Resources).

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors Boleyn and Perks and Mrs. Coulter.

2. APPOINTMENT OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

It was reported that Councillors Sykes and Hale had been appointed as substitute Members for Councillors Boleyn and Perks respectively, for this meeting of the Committee only.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

4. MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 21st March, 2013, be approved as a correct record and signed.

5. TERMS OF REFERENCE AND ANNUAL SCRUTINY PROGRAMME, 2013/14

A report of the Lead Officer and the Director of Corporate Resources on the Terms of Reference of the Committee and the items included in the Annual Scrutiny Programme for detailed consideration by this Scrutiny Committee during 2013/14 was submitted. Appendix 1 to the report set out the Terms of Reference of the Committee and Appendix 2 gave more detailed information on the topics set out in the Annual Scrutiny Programme for 2013/14 referred to in paragraph 7 of the report submitted.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the Terms of Reference of the Committee, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report submitted, be noted.
- (2) That the issues contained in the Annual Scrutiny Programme for 2013/14, as referred to in paragraph 7 and Appendix 2 to the report submitted, be noted.
- (3) That it be noted that an informal development session would be held for Members and Officers at the conclusion of the formal business of this meeting, to discuss how they wish to progress the items for detailed consideration by the Committee during 2013/14.
- (4) That a "Public Forum" session be included as a standing Item of business on the agendas for future meetings of the Committee.

6. FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS

A report of the Director of Corporate Resources was submitted on the Forward Plan of Key Decisions for the four month period commencing 1st June, 2013 and on the recommendation from the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board that this Scrutiny Committee considers whether it wishes to recommend that any items contained in the Appendix to report submitted, setting out a Schedule of Key Decisions, should be scrutinised.

RESOLVED

That the information contained in the report and the Appendix to the Report, be noted and that the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board be informed that, at this time, there were no items that this Scrutiny Committee wished to recommend be scrutinised.

The meeting ended at 6.08 p.m.

CHAIR
CS/2

URBAN ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Thursday, 27th June, 2013 at 6.00 p.m.
in Committee Room 2 at the Council House, Dudley

PRESENT:-

Councillor Tyler (Chair)
Councillor Hale (Vice Chair)
Councillors Ali, Burston, Hanif, Harley, J Jones, Jordan, Marrey and K Turner

Officers

Assistant Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services (Housing Strategy and Private Sector) (Lead Officer to the Committee) and the Democratic Services Manager (Directorate of Corporate Resources);
Assistant Director of the Urban Environment (Environmental Management);
Assistant Director of the Urban Environment (Culture and Leisure); Assistant Director of the Urban Environment (Economic Regeneration and Transportation) together with other Officers from the Directorate of the Urban Environment.

1 DEATH OF COUNCILLOR G DAVIES

Members referred to the recent death of Councillor George Davies and his significant contributions to the work of previous Scrutiny Committees, particularly relating to regeneration and housing issues. All persons present stood in silent tribute as a token of respect to his memory.

2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

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

3 APPOINTMENT OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBER

It was reported that Councillor Marrey had been appointed as a substitute member for Councillor Sykes for this meeting of the Committee only.

4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No member declared an interest in any matter to be considered at this meeting.

5 TERMS OF REFERENCE AND ANNUAL SCRUTINY PROGRAMME, 2013/14

A report of the Lead Officer and Director of Corporate Resources was submitted on the Terms of Reference of the Committee and the items included in the Annual Scrutiny Programme for detailed consideration by this Scrutiny Committee during 2013/14. Appendix 1 to the report submitted set out the Terms of Reference of the Committee and Appendix 2 gave more detailed information on the topics set out in the Annual Scrutiny Programme for 2013/14, as referred to in paragraph 7 of the report.

The Committee noted that the areas chosen for scrutiny were sufficiently flexible to include detailed consideration of specific topics of particular interest to Members. This would be discussed further during the informal scoping exercise. In relation to the scrutiny of support to local business, it was suggested that the scope of the work should include the wider business community and not just those companies or individuals who were affiliated to recognised representative bodies.

Following a presentation of the content of the report and its Appendices by the Lead Officer and comments arising, it was

RESOLVED

- (1) That the Terms of Reference of the Committee, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report submitted, be noted.
- (2) That the issues contained in the Annual Scrutiny Programme for 2013/14, as referred to in paragraph 7 and Appendix 2 to the report submitted, be noted.
- (3) That an informal development session be held for Members and Officers at the conclusion of the formal business of this meeting to discuss how they wish to progress the items for detailed consideration by the Committee during 2013/14.
- (4) That the Committee note the possible inclusion of a "Public Forum" session on the agendas of future meetings of the Committee.

6 FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS

A report of the Director of Corporate Resources was submitted on the Forward Plan of Key Decisions for the four-month period commencing 1st June, 2013, and on the recommendation from the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board that this Scrutiny Committee consider whether it wished to recommend that any items contained in the Appendix to the report submitted, setting out a Schedule of Key Decisions, should be scrutinised.

Reference was made to the item on the Dudley Local Enterprise Zone and the need for this to be referred to in the detailed scrutiny on support for local businesses.

RESOLVED

That the information contained in the report, and Appendix to the report, submitted on the Forward Plan of Key Decisions for the four-month period commencing 1st June, 2013, be noted and that information on the Dudley Local Enterprise Zone be included in the detailed scrutiny work on support for local businesses.

The meeting ended at 6.15 p.m.

CHAIR

APPEALS PANEL (CHILDREN'S SERVICES TRANSPORT)

Wednesday 1st May, 2013 at 10.00 am
in Committee Room 4 at The Council House, Priory Road, Dudley

PRESENT:-

Councillor S Turner (Chair)
Councillors Cotterill and Miller

Officers

Tony Wells, Senior Transport Manager (Directorate of Children's Services)
and Helen Shepherd, Assistant Democratic Services Officer (Directorate of
Corporate Resources)

8 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No member made a Declaration of Interest in accordance with the Members
Code of Conduct.

9 **MINUTES**

RESOLVED

That, the minutes of the meeting of the Appeals Panel (Children's
Services Transport) held on 5th December, 2012, be approved as a
correct record and signed.

10 **EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**

RESOLVED

That the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of
business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt
information as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act
1972 as indicated below:-

<u>Description of Item</u>	<u>Relevant Paragraph of Part 1 of Schedule 12A</u>
Home to School Transport Appeals	1

HOME TO SCHOOL/COLLEGE TRANSPORT APPEAL – MS

The Appeals Panel considered an appeal relating to Home to School/College Transport.

The Applicant, together with a supporter, was in attendance at the meeting.

Following introductions by the Chair, the Assistant Democratic Services Officer outlined the procedure to be followed.

The Senior Transport Manager, Directorate of Children's Services, presented the report on behalf of the Local Authority.

Following the presentation, the Applicants and the Panel were given opportunity to ask questions of the Local Authority report.

Both the Applicant and her supporter made representations in relation to the case.

Following the presentation by the Applicant and her supporter, the Senior Transport Manager and the Panel asked questions.

Following a detailed discussion and questioning, both parties were asked to make final submissions and then withdrew from the meeting so that the Appeals Panel could continue its deliberations in respect of the Home to School Transport Appeal.

RESOLVED

- (1) That, following careful consideration of the written representations as circulated with the agenda papers and all comments and submissions made at the meeting, the appeal be upheld and that transport for MS be provided to the Sutton School from September 2013.
- (2) That the Director of Corporate Resources advise the applicant of the Panel's decision in writing.
- (3) That the Director of Children's Services be requested to email Members with regards to the appeals procedure and process for Children with SEN reports and provide reassurance that all of a child's needs are taken into consideration when writing the SEN report.

The meeting ended at 11.20 am.

CHAIR

APPEALS COMMITTEE

Wednesday 5th June, 2013 at 6.00 pm
in Committee Room 2 at The Council House, Priory Road, Dudley

PRESENT:-

Councillor J Martin (Chair)
Councillor Hale (Vice-Chair)
Councillors A Aston, Bills, Elcock, Evans, Marrey and Mrs H Turner

Officers

Mrs T Reilly – Assistant Director Human Resources, (Directorate of Corporate Resources), Mrs K Jesson – Head of Human Resources, (Directorate of the Urban Environment), Mr T Wells – Senior Transport Manager, Mr D Corbett, Senior Transport Officer, (Directorate of Children’s Services) and Miss K Fellows, Democratic Services Officer (Directorate of Corporate Resources)

1. COUNCILLOR G DAVIES

As a mark of respect following the death of Councillor G Davies the Committee held one minutes silence.

2. APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE

An Apology for absence from the meeting was submitted on behalf of Councillor Ms Nicholls.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No member made a Declaration of Interest in accordance with the Members Code of Conduct.

4. MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of the Disciplinary/Dismissal/ Grading Appeals Committee held on 3rd April, 2013, be approved as a correct record and signed.

5. APPOINTMENT OF A SUB-COMMITTEE TO HEAR CHILDREN’S SERVICES TRANSPORT APPEALS.

A report of the Director of Corporate Resources was submitted on the appointment of a Sub-Committee to hear Children's Services Transport appeals.

RESOLVED

That approval be given to the appointment of a Sub-Committee to hear Children's Services Transport Appeals with the terms of reference referred to in paragraph 9 of the report submitted, and comprising Councillors Hale, J Martin and Mrs H Turner.

The meeting ended at 6.15 pm.

CHAIR

AUDIT AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Thursday, 25th April, 2013 at 6.00 p.m.
in Committee Room 3, The Council House, Dudley

PRESENT:-

Councillor Zada (Chair)
Councillor Arshad (Vice-Chair)
Councillors Branwood, Burston (From Minute No. 41), Cowell, Hill,
Taylor, Tyler (From Minute No. 41) and Mrs. Westwood.

Officers

Treasurer, Head of Audit Services, Head of Accountancy, Audit Manager,
Principal Auditors and Mrs K Taylor (All Directorate of Corporate
Resources).

Also in Attendance

Mr S Turner (Audit Manager) (Grant Thornton)
Councillor S. Turner (Observer)

39

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No Member made a declaration of interest, in accordance with the
Members' Code of Conduct, in respect of any matter to be considered at
this meeting.

40

MINUTES

During consideration of the minutes, reference was made to the
preamble to minute 29, in particular, that Councillor Taylor had not
received a response from the Director of Adult, Community and Housing
Services in relation to the introduction of a policy for deceased clients
balances.

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting held on 14th February, 2013 be
approved as a correct record and signed.

41

GRANT THORNTON AUDIT AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE UPDATE

A report of the Treasurer was submitted on a report published by Grant
Thornton updating members on progress in delivering their
responsibilities as Dudley's external auditors. Attached as Appendix A
was a list of the questions that Grant Thornton believed Audit and

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Standards Committee members should consider and the management responses.

Mr Turner, Audit Manager, presented the report and appendix to the report submitted and commented in particular that the purpose of the report was to report progress and highlight emerging national issues.

Mr Turner further reported that the audit was on track, and that a report outlining the final results would be submitted to the September meeting of the Committee.

RESOLVED

That the information contained in the report, and Appendix to the report, submitted on an Audit and Standards Committee Update published by the Grant Thornton, be noted.

42

CONFIDENTIAL REPORTING POLICY

A report of the Monitoring Officer was submitted on the monitoring of the operation of the Council's Confidential Reporting Policy.

The Treasurer in his presentation of the content of the report and Appendix 1 to the report submitted, which was a copy of the Policy, commented that there had been no incidents of use of the Policy by staff reported this year for any of the Directorates.

Arising from the presentation given Members asked a number of questions and made comments which were responded too, in particular in respect of the various avenues where employees could report any issues and the support available for those reporting serious allegations.

RESOLVED

That the information contained in the report, and Appendix to the report, submitted on the outcome of the recent monitoring of the Confidential Reporting Policy, be noted.

43

UPDATE ON ANNUAL AUDIT REPORT – DIRECTORATE OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

A verbal update was given by the Head of Audit Services updating members in relation to the Annual Audit Report of the Directorate of Children's Services submitted to the previous meeting of the Committee.

Arising from the presentation given, the Head of Audit Services informed the Committee that he had received assurances from the Directorate of Children's Services in relation to monitoring actions, and that a number of actions had been taken in order to address the issues raised at the previous meeting.

RESOLVED

That the information reported on be noted.

44. AUDIT PLAN FOR THE PERIOD 2013/14

A report of the Treasurer was submitted on the work that the Audit Services Division planned to undertake during the period from 1st April, 2013 to 31st March, 2014, further details of which together with the Audit Charter and Audit Strategy were appended to the report submitted.

The Head of Audit Services highlighted one discrepancy in Appendix B to the report in that the figure for the number of Audits in 13/14 should be 167.

RESOLVED

That the information contained in the report, and Appendices to the report, submitted be noted and that the Audit Plan for the period 2013/2014, as set out in Appendix A together with the Audit Charter and Audit Strategy as set out in Appendices C and D to the report submitted be approved.

45. REVIEW OF THE CODE OF CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

A report of the Treasurer was submitted providing a short history on the Code of Corporate Governance in the Council and on the result of a review of the Code of Corporate Governance. A copy of the revised Code of Corporate Governance was appended to the report submitted.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the information contained in the report, and Appendix to the report, submitted be noted.
 - (2) That the revised Code of Corporate Governance, attached as Appendix A to the report submitted, be approved.
 - (3) That the Director of Corporate Resources be authorised to take the necessary action to incorporate the revised Code into the Constitution.
-

46. COMMITTEE BENCHMARKING REPORT

A report of the Treasurer was submitted on a comparison of the practices of the Committee with other Black Country Authorities and Birmingham, which was appended to the report submitted.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the information contained in the report, and Appendix to the report, submitted be noted.
- (2) That the Committee receive information on assurance mapping.
- (3) That Directors or their nominated Assistant Director representatives be required to attend to give explanations if and when “minimal” or “nil” assurance reports have not improved, that is, if the rating had not improved at follow up visit(s).
- (4) That a work plan report be introduced setting out scheduled agenda items for the Committee at the first meeting of the Committee in the next and subsequent Municipal years.
- (5) That the Committee receive reports on the Corporate Risk Register at three meetings per year and that a specific risk in each report be identified to focus on.
- (6) That the frequency of meetings of the Committee be increased from four to five per year.

47

EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

That the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act, 1972, as indicated below: and that in all the circumstances, the public interest in disclosing the information is outweighed by the public interest in maintaining the exemption from disclosure.

<u>Description of Item</u>	<u>Relevant Paragraph of Part I of Schedule 12A</u>
Report required under Standing Orders	2 and 7
Audit Services Annual Fraud Report	2 and 7

48.

REPORT REQUIRED UNDER STANDING ORDERS

A report of the Treasurer was submitted on any instances arising under Standing Order 3.2 and 9.8 during the period July to December, 2012 inclusive.

RESOLVED

That the information contained in the report submitted be noted.

49. AUDIT SERVICES ANNUAL FRAUD REPORT

A report of the Treasurer was submitted on the work that the Audit Services Division had undertaken and was planning to undertake on the issue of fraud, and on the work of the Benefit Fraud Team. The Audit Services Fraud Action Plan, a checklist for those responsible for governance to assess their organisation's approach to Fraud, details of special investigations, and a copy of the Anti-Fraud and Corruption Strategy were appended to the report submitted.

In presenting the report, the Head of Audit Services referred to the Fraud hotline, and that on average the division received two to three calls per weeks.

Arising from the presentation given Members asked a number of questions and made comments which were responded too, in particular in respect of the Benefit Fraud Team now nominally being part of a Single Investigation Service associated with the Department for Work and Pensions and, the support provided and monitoring of Personal Budgets.

Reference was made by a Member in relation to the comprehensive report submitted, and referred to the increase of fraud investigations and noted that further work was planned to improve detection of fraud.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the information contained in the report, and Appendices to the report, submitted, be noted.
- (2) That the Anti Fraud and Corruption Strategy, be approved, and that the Director of Corporate Resources be authorised to take the necessary action to incorporate the revised Strategy into the Constitution.

The meeting ended at 7.10 p.m.

CHAIR

DEVELOPMENT CONTROL COMMITTEE

Tuesday 2nd April, 2013 at 6.00 pm
in Committee Room 2, The Council House, Dudley

PRESENT:-

Councillor Harris (Chair)
Councillor Roberts (Vice-Chair)
Councillors A Ahmed, Casey, S Turner, Mrs Westwood, C Wilson and Wright

OFFICERS:-

Mr J Butler, Mr T Glews, Mrs H Martin, Mr P Reed and Mr R Stevenson (all Directorate of the Urban Environment), Mrs G Breakwell and Mrs M Johal (Directorate of Corporate Resources)

76 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors Herbert and Zada.

77 APPOINTMENT OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBER

It was reported that Councillor A Ahmed had been appointed as a substitute member for Councillor Zada for this meeting only.

78 MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 11th March, 2013, be approved as a correct record and signed.

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 referred to had indicated that they wished to speak at the meeting and, unless indicated, spoke on the planning applications:-

Plan No P12/0304 – Councillor James (Ward Councillor) and Mr Plass – objectors.

Plan No P13/0013 – Mrs N Andreou – an objector and Mr Chana – an agent.

Plan No P13/0041 – Mr Zach Ioannou – an objector (not in attendance) and Mr Clarke – an applicant.

Plan No P13/0173 – Councillor K Turner (Ward Councillor) – an objector and Mrs L Walton and Mr L Adams, Client an agent.

Plan No P13/0206 – Mr Emery – an agent.

- (i) Plan No P12/0304 – Land Adjacent to 1 and 2 Furnace Hill, Halesowen – Outline Application for the Erection of 3 No Dwellings (Access, Layout and Scale to be Considered (Resubmission of Refused Application P11/0338))

Decision: That consideration of this application be deferred pending a site visit to be held prior to the next meeting of the Committee.

- (ii) Plan No P13/0013 – 7 Woodbury Road, Hurst Green Shopping Centre, Halesowen – Change of use of Retail Shop (A1) to Hot Food Takeaway/Delicatessen Facilities (A5/A1) with New Fume Extraction

Decision: Approved, subject to conditions, numbered 1 to 4 (inclusive), as set out in the report submitted.

- (iii) Plan No P13/0041 – 148-152 Hagley Road, Stourbridge – Change of Use from Retail (A1) to Restaurant (A3) with Elevational Changes to Include New Fume Extraction and Creation of a Covered Smoking Area

Decision: Approved, subject to conditions, numbered 1 to 7 (inclusive), as set out in the report submitted.

- (iv) Plan No P13/0173 – 15 Briery Road, Halesowen – Erection of First Floor Extension

Decision: That the application be deferred to enable the Officers to provide correct information and plans for this application to enable the Committee to make an informed decision.

- (v) Plan No P13/0206 – 7 Ketley Road, Kingswinford – Erection of 1 No Dwelling with Associated Car Parking (Resubmission of Refused Planning Application P12/0081)

Decision: Refused, for the reason as set out in the report submitted.

At this juncture the Chair adjourned the meeting at 7.20 pm and reconvened at 7.30 pm

- (vi) Plan No P12/1042 – Land Between Birmingham Street, Hall Street, Dudley Southern Bypass, Claughton Road and Portersfield, Dudley – Redevelopment to Provide Retail Superstore (A1) Further Retail, Service and Leisure Accommodation (A1, A3, D2) Conversion, Redevelopment and Alteration of Premises Along Hall Street to Accommodate A1, A2, A3, A4, A5, B1 Uses, Taxi Rank and Filling Station, Highways and Access Works (Outline) (Access to be Considered) (Amended Proposal)

Decision: Approved, subject to the following:-

- (1) Referral to the Secretary of State for consideration in accordance with Section 77 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.
- (2) The applicant being invited to make an application to the Secretary of State, under Section 247 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 to close, create and improve highways based upon Drawing No 977-104 to enable development authorised by planning permission to take place; the full costs and works to the Local Authorities' satisfaction shall be met by the developer.
- (3) Conditions, numbered 1 and 2, 6 to 13, 15 to 28, 30 to 38, 40 to 42, 44 to 51, 53, 55 to 74 and 76 to 78 (inclusive), as set out in the report submitted, together with amended conditions, numbered 3 to 5, 14, 29, 39, 43, 52, 54 and 75, as follows:-

3. The development shall not commence until a Construction Method Statement for the site has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The approved statement shall then be adhered to throughout the construction period, unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The Statement shall provide for:
 - i. The parking of vehicles of site operatives and visitors
 - ii. Loading and unloading of plant and materials
 - iii. Storage of plant and materials used in constructing the development
 - iv. The erection and maintenance of security hoarding including decorative displays and facilities for public viewing, where appropriate
 - v. Wheel washing facilities
 - vi. Measures to control the emission of dust and dirt during construction and demolition
 - vii. A scheme for recycling/disposing of waste resulting from demolition and construction works
 - viii. The position of the site construction compound.
4. The reserved matters proposals for this site shall be in general accordance with the approved design and access statement (Revision B) and Illustrative Scheme Masterplan Proposal – Drawing No 10167/PA04 Revision D' and Drawing No 977-110A submitted in support of this outline application and the Masterplan to be approved under Condition (A5).
5. Prior to the submission of any Reserved Matters applications, a masterplan and public realm strategy for the development shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The masterplan will identify:
 - i. The location of entrances and exits
 - ii. The street layout including public squares and spaces for which public realm schemes will be provided within reserved matters submissions
 - iii. The public square levels and site general levels
 - iv. The location, scale and nature of public art provision for which public art schemes will be provided within reserved matters submissions
 - v. The location of pedestrian and cycle routes
 - vi. The location of any buildings greater than 2 storeys in height and landmark buildings; and
 - vii. Any phasing of the development or the discharge of conditions.

14. A window display or window providing intervisibility shall be provided at all times within the window(s) forming the frontages of the proposed buildings as annotated by the short blue lines on the periphery of the buildings on the Illustrative Scheme Masterplan Proposal – Drawing No 10167/PA04 Revision D.
29. Prior to their installation, details of any biomass boiler(s) shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. Such details shall include: an air quality assessment addressing the impacts of nitrogen dioxide and PM10 emitted by the boiler on relevant local receptors, and, as necessary, a scheme for protecting local receptors from the effects of such emissions; the height of the chimney serving the boiler, including its scale, materials and any housing. The boiler shall be installed in accordance with the approved details prior to the occupation of the development and shall be retained as such thereafter.
39. No part of the development shall be occupied until details of two interpretation panels to be installed at the site (one at Hall Street and about Hall Street and its environs and one to the public realm frontage adjacent to the Grade II Listed Building St Thomas of Canterbury Church) have been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The details shall include design, size, location, artwork and text. The panels shall thereafter be installed in accordance with the approved details, and in accordance with a timetable to be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The interpretation panels shall thereafter be retained for the life of the development.
43. Notwithstanding the provisions of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended by Section 49 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and the Town and Country Planning (General Procedural) Order 1995 (as amended) no mezzanine floor(s) shall be provided within the store(s) without the express grant of planning permission.
52. All excavations to be undertaken within 6 metres of the stem of existing trees to be retained on site shall be undertaken in accordance with njug publication number 10 'guidelines for the planning, installation and maintenance of utility services in proximity to trees'.

54. No development shall take place until there has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority technical details of any proposed pathway/hard surfacing/driveway/parking area within 3 metres of the outer canopy spread of any existing tree to be retained on or off the site. The details of the vehicular access and parking areas shall include existing and proposed ground levels, materials to be used and the relative time of construction within the whole development and must be in accordance with appropriate guidelines, namely BS 5837:2005 'trees in relation to construction' and arboricultural advisory and information service practice note 'driveways close to trees' (1996). Any parking areas within 3 metres of existing trees to be retained must be constructed using 'no-dig' techniques incorporating appropriate surfaces to avoid damage to trees and to prevent any potential direct or indirect damage caused by trees.
75. A detailed Ecological Delivery Plan (including establishment and ongoing maintenance programme), taking into account appropriate compensation, mitigation and enhancements for nature conservation should be submitted and approved by the Local Planning Authority prior to the commencement of development. The Plan should encompass the recommendations of the Environmental Statement including:
- Wider landscaping using native/wildlife attracting species
 - Use of landscaping techniques and other recommendations to provide compensatory habitats
 - Artificial bat roost provision
 - Development and implementation of a Habitats Management Plan
 - Sensitive outside lighting to avoid impacts on bat roosting, foraging and commuting
 - Delivering native wildflower grassland and native tree planting in public open spaces
 - Methodology for the protection of nesting birds
 - Methodology for the avoidance of demolition/construction dust harming vegetation
 - Methodology for the avoidance of water pollution

All works must be carried out in accordance to the approved plans and programmes and shall be retained as such thereafter.

- (vii) Plan No P12/1043 – Land Between Birmingham Street, Hall Street, Dudley Southern Bypass, Claughton Road and Portersfield, Dudley – Conservation Area Consent for Demolition of Former Public House, Restaurant, Office, Retail and Service Units with Flats Above, Vacant Building, Other Buildings and Structures

Decision: Approved, subject to conditions, numbered 1 to 5 (inclusive), as set out in the report submitted.

- (viii) Plan No P12/1107 – 22-37 King Street, 4-6 Flood Street and Falcon House, The Minorities, Dudley – Demolition of Existing Office and Retail Accommodation. Erection of Food Store (A1) with Associated Petrol Filling Station, Car Parking, Landscaping, Highway Improvements to Flood Street and Oakeywell Street and the Stopping Up of Public Highway Under Section 247 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990

Decision: Approved, subject to the following:-

- (1) The applicant being invited to make an application to the Secretary of State, under Section 247 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 to close, create and improve highways as shown on Drawing No Mouchel 1044480 SK02 120313 or subsequent revised drawing as agreed under delegated powers by the Director of the Urban Environment, to enable development authorised by planning permission to take place. The full costs and works to the Local Authorities' satisfaction shall be met by the developer.
- (2) Conditions, numbered 1 to 39 (inclusive), all as set out in the Pre-Committee noted circulated at the meeting, together with an additional, condition, numbered 40, as follows:
 40. Prior to its installation, details of the CHP boiler(s) shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. Such details shall include: an air quality assessment addressing the impacts of nitrogen dioxide and PM10 emitted by the boiler on relevant local receptors, and, as necessary, a scheme for protecting local receptors from the effects of such emissions; the height of the chimney serving the boiler, including its scale, materials and any housing. The boiler shall be installed in accordance with the approved details prior to the occupation of the development and shall be retained as such thereafter.

- (ix) Plan No P13/0116 – Land to the Rear of 32 Linnet Close, Halesowen – Fell 5 Sycamore Trees, Crown Reduce 1 Sycamore Tree by 25%; Crown Lift 1 Sycamore Tree to 4 Metres; Crown Lift 2 Sycamore Trees to 4 metres and Crown Thin by 20%

Decision: Approved, subject to conditions, numbered 1 and 2, as set out in the report submitted.

- (x) Plan No P13/0168 – 16 Rowan Road, Sedgley, Dudley – Fell 1 Rowan Tree

Decision: Approved, subject to conditions, numbered 1 and 2, as set out in the report submitted.

- (xi) Plan No P13/0231 – Highway Verge of Carters Lane, Lapal, Halesowen – Prior Approval Under Part 24 of the Town and Country Planning (GPDO) for a Telecommunications Development Comprising Installation of 15M High Dual User Street Pole and 2 No Radio Equipment Cabinets

Decision: Approved, subject to the condition, numbered 1, as set out in the report submitted.

- (xii) Plan No P12/1623 – 136 Spies Lane, Halesowen – Single and Two Storey Side Extension (Following Demolition of Existing Garage), Single Storey Rear Extension and New Front Canopy Roof

Decision: Approved, subject to conditions, numbered 1 to 3 (inclusive), as set out in the report submitted.

80

PLANNING SERVICES FEES – 2013/2014

A report of the Director of the Urban Environment was submitted on the setting of the Council's Building Regulation Fee Scales to take effect from 12th April 2013 and non-statutory Development Control Charges and the intention to continue to use the Consumer Prices Index (CPI) for Planning Obligations in accordance with Council Policy.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the inflationary increase of 2% of the existing Building Control Fee Schedule, as outlined in Appendix A to the report submitted, be endorsed.
- (2) That the use of the Consumer Price Index in Planning Obligations costings, as outlined in Appendix B to the report submitted, and in accordance with the adopted SPD "Planning Obligations", be noted.

- (3) That the retention of the existing fee schedule for Development Control Non Statutory Fee Charges, as outlined in Appendix C to the report submitted, be endorsed.
-

81 DEVELOPMENT CONTROL PERFORMANCE

A report of the Director of the Urban Environment was submitted on decisions made on applications determined under 'delegated powers' by the Director of the Urban Environment and decisions on appeals made against the Council's decision on planning applications.

RESOLVED

That the information contained in the report, and Appendices to the report submitted, on the performance of the Development Control Service with regard to decisions made on applications determined under 'delegated powers' by the Director of the Urban Environment and decisions on appeals made against the Council's decision on planning applications, be noted.

The meeting ended at 8.35 pm.

CHAIR

DEVELOPMENT CONTROL COMMITTEE

Monday, 22nd April, 2013 at 6 pm
in Committee Room 2, The Council House, Dudley

PRESENT:-

Councillor Harris (Chair)
Councillor Roberts (Vice-Chair)
Councillors Casey, Perks, S Turner, Mrs. Westwood, C. Wilson and Wright

OFFICERS:-

Mr. J. Butler, Mr. T. Glews, Mrs. H. Martin, Mr P Reed and Mrs S Willetts
(all Directorate of the Urban Environment), Mrs. G. Breakwell and Mr. J.
Jablonski (Directorate of Corporate Resources)

82 APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE

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

83 APPOINTMENT OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBER

It was reported that Councillor Perks had been appointed as a substitute
member for Councillor Herbert for this meeting of the Committee only.

84 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Wright declared non pecuniary interests in the following planning
applications, for the reasons indicated, and left the meeting during their
consideration :-

P13/0316 – Rear of 34 Linnet Close, Halesowen – as the applicant was
personally known to him as a friend.

P13/0260 – 20 Ferndale Park, Pedmore, Stourbridge – as the applicant was
personally known to him as a friend.

85 MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 2nd April, 2013, be approved as a correct record and signed.

86

SITE VISIT

Consideration was given to the following planning application in respect of which a site visit had been made earlier today, 22nd April, 2013, by members of the Committee.

87

PLAN NO. P12/0304 – LAND ADJACENT TO 1 AND 2 FURNACE HILL, HALESOWEN – OUTLINE APPLICATION FOR THE ERECTION OF THREE DWELLINGS (ACCESS, LAYOUT AND SCALE TO BE CONSIDERED) (RE-SUBMISSION OF REFUSED APPLICATION_ P11/0338)

Decision:-

Approved, subject to conditions numbered 1 to 2, 4 to 7 and 9 and 10 together with amended conditions, numbered 3 and 8, as follows:-

- 3 Notwithstanding the provisions of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995 (or any order revoking or re-enacting that order with or without modification) no development referred to in Schedule 2, Part 1, Classes A to H, Part 2, Class A, Part 31 and Part 40, Classes A to I shall be carried out without the express grant of planning permission.
 - 8 Development shall not begin until details of the construction of the access road and public right of way at the site have been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The buildings shall not be first occupied until that access has been constructed in accordance with the approved details and such access shall be retained in perpetuity for the life of the development.
-

88

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 application to which they referred.

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

Plan No. P13/0109 – Mr Hussain – an objector and Mr F Suleman – the applicant.

Plan No. P13/0260 – Mr A Reeves – the applicant.

Plan No. P13/0327 – Mrs S Hickman and Councillor Evans - objectors and Mr S Cove – the applicant.

- i) Plan No. P13/0109 – 20 Albion Street, Brierley Hill – Change of use from office and workshop (B1) to Pharmacy (A1). New proposed access ramp.

Following consideration of the points raised by the objector and applicant on this application concerns were raised by Members with particular regard to the opening hours of the proposed pharmacy. Suggestions were made as to restricting the hours to comply with neighbouring businesses and in the light of the location of the premises so as to reduce inconvenience to nearby residents.

Decision:-

Approved, subject to conditions, numbered 1 and 2, 4 to 7 and 9, as set out in the report submitted together with amended conditions, numbered 3 and 8, as follows:-

- 3 The premises shall be open to the public as set out below:-

Monday – 8.00 a.m. – 7.00 p.m.

Tuesday – 8.00 a.m. – 8.30 p.m.

Wednesday – 8.00 a.m. – 8.30 p.m.

Thursday and Friday - 8.00 a.m. – 7.00 p.m.

Saturday – 9.00 a.m. – 5.30 p.m.

Sunday – either 10.00 a.m. – 4.00 p.m. or 11.00 a.m. – 5.00 p.m. and that the Director of the Urban Environment be authorised to determine which of these times should apply.

- 8 The ground floor of the existing office shall be used for a pharmacy only and for no other purpose, including the sale of food or household convenience goods and any other purpose in Class A1 of the Schedule to the Town & Country Planning (Use Classes) Order 1987 (as amended), or in any provision equivalent to that class in any statutory instrument revoking or re-enacting that Order with or without modification.

- ii) Plan No. P13/0260 – 20 Ferndale Park, Pedmore, Stourbridge – Fell 1 Maple tree.

This application had been recommended for refusal and the applicant set out the reasons why he wished the Maple tree to be felled citing restriction of light to his property, problem with leaves and affect on neighbours indicating also that his neighbours wished the tree to be felled. He also reported that he would be willing to plant a replacement tree. The members of the Committee concurred with comments made.

Decision:-

That, subject to conditions, numbered 1 and 2 below, the application be approved : -

1. The tree works subject of this consent shall be carried out in accordance with British Standard BS3998:2010 “recommendations for tree work”.
2. A replacement tree shall be planted between the beginning of November and the end of March, within one year of felling (and replanted if necessary) and maintained until satisfactorily established. The size, species and location of the replacement tree shall be agreed in writing with Local Planning Authority prior to the felling of the tree to which this application relates.

- iii) Plan No. P13/0327 – 248 Northway, Sedgley – Part A first floor side extension (Re-submission of withdraw application P12/1262) Part B single storey rear extension

Decision:-

That consideration of this application be deferred pending a site visit, to be held on Monday, 13th May, 2013 commencing at 3.00 p.m. from the Council House, Dudley, prior to the next meeting of this Committee.

- iv) Plan No. P12/0619 - Former Stuart Crystal Works, Land off Argyle Close, Wordsley – Erection of 48 2, 3 and 4 Storey Dwellings with associated works

Decision:-

That the application be deferred until the next meeting of the Committee so as to allow further negotiations on the provision of Planning Obligations to be undertaken.

- v) Plan No. P13/0173 – 15 Briery Road, Halesowen –
Erection of first floor extension

Decision:-

Approved, subject to conditions, numbered 1 to 3 (inclusive), as set out in the report submitted.

- vi) Plan No. P13/0263 – Roundabout on Himley Road, Milking Bank, Dudley – Prior approval under Part 24 of the Town and Country Planning (GPDO) for a Telecommunications Development comprising the installation of a 15 metre high pole with 3 shrouded antennae and 2 additional radio equipment cabinets

Decision:-

Prior approval not required.

- vii) Plan No. P13/0275 – Existing Vodaphone Base Station, Wollescote Road, Dudley – Prior approval under Part 24 of the Town and Country Planning (GPDO) for a telecommunication development for the removal of existing telecommunications equipment and 12.5 metre tower and replace with new 15 metre dual user pole, 3 shrouded antennae, 2 radio equipment cabinets and ancillary development thereto

Decision:-

Prior approval not required.

- viii) Plan No. P13/0316 – Rear of 34 Linnet Close, Halesowen – Fell 3 Sycamore trees; reduce and reshape 2 Sycamore trees; reduce 1 Thorn tree

Decision:-

Approved, subject to conditions, numbered 1 and 2, as set out in the report submitted.

DEVELOPMENT CONTROL PERFORMANCE

A report of the Director of the Urban Environment was submitted on decisions made on applications determined under delegated powers by the Director of the Urban Environment including decisions on appeals made against the Council's decision on planning applications as set out in the attached appendices.

RESOLVED

That the information contained in the report, and Appendices to the report, submitted be noted.

The meeting ended at 7.53 p.m.

CHAIR

DEVELOPMENT CONTROL COMMITTEE

Monday 13th May, 2013 at 6.00 pm
in the Council Chamber, The Council House, Dudley

PRESENT:-

Councillor Harris (Chair)
Councillor Roberts (Vice-Chair)
Councillors Casey, J Jones, Perks, S Turner, Mrs Westwood, C Wilson and Zada

OFFICERS:-

Mr J Butler, Mrs H Martin, Mr D Owen, Mr P Reed and Mrs S Willetts (all Directorate of the Urban Environment), Mrs G Breakwell and Mrs M Johal (Directorate of Corporate Resources)

90 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors Herbert and Wright.

91 APPOINTMENT OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

It was reported that Councillors Perks and J Jones had been appointed as substitute members for Councillors Herbert and Wright for this meeting only.

92 MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 22nd April, 2013, be approved as a correct record and signed.

93 SITE VISIT

Consideration was given to the following planning application in respect of which Members of the Committee had undertaken a site visit earlier that day.

Plan No P13/0327 – 248, Northway, Sedgley, Dudley – Part A First Floor Side Extension (Resubmission of Withdrawn Application P12/1262). Part B Single Storey Rear Extension

Decision: That both Part A and Part B of the application be approved subject to the following conditions:-

- (1) The development hereby permitted shall be begun before the expiration of three years from the date of this permission.
- (2) The materials to be used in the approved development shall match in appearance, colour and texture those of the existing building unless otherwise agreed in writing with the Local Planning Authority.

94

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 referred to had indicated that they wished to speak at the meeting and, unless indicated, spoke on the planning applications:-

Plan No P12/0773 – Mr John Barton – an objector and Mr Alex Patrick-Smith – applicant

Plan No P13/0290 – Councillor Branwood (Ward Councillor) - supporter and Mrs Bates – applicant

Plan No P13/0336 – Councillor Alan Taylor (Ward Councillor) – as an objector

Plan No P13/0433 – Ms Debbie Ward and Councillor Wright (Ward Councillor) – objectors and Councillor Branwood – an agent

- (i) Plan No P12/0773 – Ketley Quarry, Dudley Road, Kingswinford – Review of Conditions Attached to Planning Permission 97/50322 for the Extraction of Marl and Subsequent Restoration in Accordance with the Environment Act 1995

Decision: Approved, subject to amended conditions for the Decision Notice under application number: 97/50322 in relation to the periodic review of Mining Sites in accordance with the Environment Act 1995, numbered 1 to 21 (inclusive), as set out in the report submitted.

- (ii) Plan No P13/0290 – Land Adjacent to 28 Flavells Lane, Lower Gornal, Dudley – Erection of 1 No Bungalow
-

Decision: That consideration of this application be deferred pending a site visit to be held prior to the next meeting of the Committee.

- (iii) Plan No P13/0336 – 39 Manor Abbey Road, Halesowen – Part A: Retrospective Application for the Erection of a Two Storey Side/Rear Extension and Single Storey Front and Rear Extensions and Loft Conversion with Side and Rear Dormers. Part B: Retrospective Application for the Erection of a Detached Garage in Garden (Following Demolition of Existing Garage and Shed)
-

Decision:

- (1) That Part A of the retrospective application for the erection of a two storey side/rear extension, single storey front and rear extensions and loft conversion with side and rear dormers, be refused for the reasons as set out in the report submitted.
- (2) That Part B of the retrospective application for the erection of a detached garage in garden (following demolition of existing garage and shed, be approved.
- (3) That the Director of the Urban Environment be authorised to take immediate enforcement action for the removal of the two storey side/rear extension, the single storey front and rear extensions and loft conversion with side and rear dormers, Part A of the application.

- (iv) Plan No P13/0433 – Baggeridge Social Welfare Centre, The Straits, Dudley – Landscaping of the Existing Hardstanding Tennis Courts at the Rear of the Club with a Layer of Topsoil. The Area Would be Levelled and Turfed and used for 2 No Children’s Mini Football Pitches
-

Decision: That the Director of the Urban Environment be authorised to approve the application subject to no adverse comments being received following the expiration of the public consultation period on 18th May, 2013, discussions to be held with the applicant in respect of additional fencing and to conditions, numbered 1, 3 and 4, as set out in the report submitted, together with a revised condition, numbered 2 and additional condition, numbered 5, as follows:-

2. The development hereby permitted shall be carried out in accordance with the following approved plans: The elevation plan showing the 30cm depth of the topsoil, and the revised plan showing the single 9 and 10 year olds mini soccer pitch, the fencing plan and the 1:1250 Site Location Plan.

5. Prior to the first use of the pitch hereby approved, the facility and an appropriate run off area shall be enclosed with fencing and a gate of a type and height of between 2m and 2.4m that shall first have been submitted to and agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The pitch shall thereafter remain secured by the management of the club outside the hours of use permitted by condition 3 of this permission and shall only be opened by the management of the club to permit authorised usage of the pitch by children unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

At this juncture the Chair adjourned the meeting at 7.50 pm and reconvened at 8.00 pm

- (v) Plan No P12/1627 – Land Adjacent to the Old Windmill, Vale Street, Upper Gornal, Dudley – Erection of 14 No Dwellings with New Access to Highway and Diversion of a Public Right of Way

Decision: That the application be deferred to the next meeting to enable officers to consider concerns about highway safety around the site and on possible alternatives.

- (vi) Plan No P13/0149 – Mary Stevens Park, Worcester Street, Stourbridge – Change of use of the Existing Print Room to a Café with Minor Elevational Changes. The Installation of an Underground Silt Trap on the Car Park Located Towards the North East of Swinford Common. Dismantling, Refurbishment and Re-Instatement of Principal Park Gates and Lanterns and Alterations/Amendments to the Existing War Memorial Plinth and Improvements to its Setting

Decision: Approved, subject to conditions, numbered 1 to 9 (inclusive), as set out in the report submitted.

- (vii) Plan No P13/0150 – Mary Stevens Park, Stourbridge – Listed Building Consent for the Dismantling, Refurbishment and Re-Instatement of Principal Park Gates and Lanterns

Decision: Approved, subject to conditions, numbered 1 to 6 (inclusive), as set out in the report submitted.

- (viii) Plan No P13/0151 – Mary Stevens Park, Stourbridge – Listed Building Consent for the Alterations/Amendments to the Existing War Memorial Plinth and Improvements to its Settings

Decision: Approved, subject to conditions, numbered 1 to 6 (inclusive), as set out in the report submitted.

- (ix) Plan No P13/0232 – 99 Bridgnorth Road, Wollaston, Stourbridge – One and Two Storey Rear Extension to Create Additional Flat at First Floor Level (Resubmission of Refused Planning Application P2/1577)
- Decision: Approved, subject to conditions, numbered 1 to 6 (inclusive), as set out in the report submitted.
- (x) Plan No P13/0285 – 35 Ridge Street, Wollaston, Stourbridge – Single Storey Rear Extension (Following Demolition of Existing Rear Extension and Conservatory)
- Decision: Approved, subject to conditions, numbered 1 to 3 (inclusive), as set out in the report submitted.
- (xi) Plan No P13/0317 – 16 Jardine Close, Amblecote, Stourbridge – Fell 5 Sycamore Trees; Prune 1 Conifer Tree
- Decision: Approved, subject to the condition, numbered 1, as set out in the report submitted.
- (xii) Plan No P13/0338 – Land Between Rear of 32 Melrose Avenue and Public Footpath, Stourbridge – Part A: - Fell 1 Oak Tree, Part B: Fell 1 Oak Tree and Prune 2 Oak Trees
- (1) That Part A of the application to fell 1 Oak Tree be refused as it was not deemed appropriate given that the tree was in a reasonable condition with no major defects present.
- (2) That Part B of the application to fell 1 Oak Tree and prune 2 Oak Trees be approved subject to conditions, numbered 1 and 2, as set out in the report submitted.
- (xiii) Plan No P13/0359 – 19 Dingle Close, Dudley – Rear Conservatory (Resubmission of Withdrawn Application P12/1428)
- Decision: Approved, subject to conditions, numbered 1 to 3 (inclusive), as set out in the report submitted.
- (xiv) Plan No P13/0377 – Land Adjacent to Unit 19, North Street, Brierley Hill – Prior Approval Under Part 24 of the Town and Country Planning (GPDO) for a Telecommunications Development Comprising the Removal of Existing 15M High Monopole and 1 No Equipment Cabinet and Replace with 15M Dual User Pole, Radio Base Station and 2 No Additional Radio Equipment Cabinets
- Decision: Prior approval not required.

- (xv) Plan No P13/0385 – 14 Jardine Close Amblecote, Stourbridge – Fell 1 Sycamore Tree; Crown Reduce 1 Silver Birch and 2 Sycamore Trees by 12 Feet in Height and 9 Feet in Spread Including Pruning Works

Decision: Approved, subject to conditions, numbered 1 and 2, as set out in the report submitted.

- (xvi) Plan No P13/0394 – Lister Road Depot (Environmental Management Division, Lister Road, Dudley – Provision of a Canopy to Existing Storage Building to Provide Cover for Horticultural Machinery

Decision: Approved, subject to conditions, numbered 1 to 3 (inclusive), as set out in the report submitted.

- (xvii) Plan No P13/0462 – Hurst Lane, Entrance to Enterprise Trading Estate, Brierley Hill – Prior Approval Under Part 24 of the Town and Country Planning (GPDO) for a Telecommunications Development Comprising the Removal of Existing 15M High Pole and Replace with 15M Jupiter Streetworks Pole, 1 No Equipment Cabinet and 1 No Electrical Meter Cabinet

Decision: Prior approval not required.

95 NATIONAL PLANNING POLICY FRAMEWORK (MARCH 2012) AND THE CONFORMITY OF THE SAVED UNITARY DEVELOPMENT PLAN (OCTOBER 2005), ADOPTED CORE STRATEGY (FEBRUARY 2011) AND ADOPTED BRIERLEY HILL AREA ACTION PLAN (AUGUST 2011)

A report of the Director of the Urban Environment was submitted on the recognition of the conformity of the saved Unitary Development Plan (UDP) policies, Adopted Core Strategy (February 2011) and the Adopted Brierley Hill Area Action Plan (Adopted August 2011) to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

RESOLVED

That the saved Unitary Development Plan policies, Adopted Core Strategy (February 2011) and the Adopted Brierley Hill Area Action Plan (Adopted August 2011) be recognised as conforming to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and that the policies continue to be used as the Development Plan for the Borough given their consistency with the NPPF.

96 DEVELOPMENT CONTROL PERFORMANCE

A report of the Director of the Urban Environment was submitted on decisions made on applications determined under 'delegated powers' by the Director of the Urban Environment and decisions on appeals made against the Council's decision on planning applications.

RESOLVED

That the information contained in the report, and Appendices to the report submitted, on the performance of the Development Control Service with regard to decisions made on applications determined under 'delegated powers' by the Director of the Urban Environment and decisions on appeals made against the Council's decision on planning applications, be noted.

97 REMARKS

This being the last meeting of the municipal year, the Chair thanked Members and Officers for their hard work throughout the municipal year. The Committee also thanked the Chair for the way she had conducted meetings.

The Committee congratulated Mr Owen on his forthcoming marriage and extended their best wishes.

The meeting ended at 9.05 pm.

CHAIR

DEVELOPMENT CONTROL COMMITTEE

Monday, 3rd June, 2013 at 6 pm
in Committee Room 2, The Council House, Dudley

PRESENT:-

Councillor Zada (Chair)
Councillor Casey (Vice-Chair)
Councillors A Ahmed, J Martin, Perks, Roberts, Mrs Westwood, C. Wilson
and Wright

OFFICERS:-

Mr. J. Butler, Mr. T. Glews, Mrs J North, Mr P Reed, Mrs H Martin and Mrs
S Willetts (all Directorate of the Urban Environment), Mrs. G. Breakwell and
Mr. J. Jablonski (Directorate of Corporate Resources)

1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No Member made a declaration of interest in respect of any matter to be
considered at this meeting.

2 MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 13th
May, 2013, be approved as a correct record and signed.

3 CHANGE IN ORDER OF BUSINESS

RESOLVED

That, pursuant to Council Procedure Rule 13c, the remaining
items of business be considered in the following order:-

Agenda Item Numbers 6, 7, 8 and 5.

4 SITE VISIT

Consideration was given to the following planning application in respect of which Members of the Committee had undertaken a site visit earlier this day.

Plan No. P13/0290 – Land adjacent to 28 Flavells Lane, Lower Gornal –
Erection of one bungalow

It was noted that as Councillors A Ahmed, J Martin and Wright had not been in attendance at the previous meeting of the Committee and had not attended the site visit earlier this day they could speak but not vote on this matter.

In considering this matter Members commented that with some adjustments to levels concerns over parking could be overcome and that the land was considered to be an adequate size, the proposal was also considered to be within the character of the surrounding area and would be in accordance with Planning Policy. These factors lead Members to consider that the recommendation to refuse could be overturned.

Decision:-

That approval be given to Planning Application P13/0290 for the erection of one bungalow on land adjacent to 28 Flavells Lane, Lower Gornal and that the Officers be authorised to determine the conditions to be attached to the application.

5

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 reports submitted, notes known as Pre-Committee Notes had also been circulated updating certain of the information given in the report. The content of the notes were taken into account in respect of the applications to which they referred.

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

Plan No. P13/0360 – Mr Billingham – Applicant.

Plan No. P13/0383 – Councillor Marrey (Ward Councillor) – as an objector and Mr J Jowitt – Planning Consultant on behalf of Client.

- (i) Plan No. P13/0360 – Lapal House and Lodge Care Home, Lapal Lane South, Halesowen, West Midlands – demolition of existing garages and erection of new building for short stay respite care, garages and storage
-

Decision:-

Refused, for the reason set out in the report submitted.

- (ii) Plan No. P13/0383 – 33 Worcester Street, Stourbridge – Change of Use and Elevational changes to vacant retail units with living accommodation above to create four apartments and a communal amenity area
-

Decision:-

Approved, subject to conditions, numbered 1 to 10 (inclusive), as set out in the report submitted.

- (iii) Plan No. P12/1418 – Mill Street Business Park, Bridge Street, Halesowen – demolition of existing office block and change of use of land to provide open storage and lorry park (temporary) and erection of fence and gates
-

Decision:-

Approved, subject to:-

1. The Applicant being invited to make an application to the Secretary of State, under Section 247 of the Town and Country Planning Act, 1990, to close highways as shown on Plan 1016-10A received by e-mail on 30th May, 2013, appended to the Pre-Committee Notes, to enable the development authorised by planning permission to take place. The full costs and works to the Local Authority's satisfaction shall be met by the Developer.
2. Conditions numbered 2 and 5 to 12, as set out in the report submitted together with amended conditions numbered 1, 3 and 4 as follows:-
 1. The development hereby permitted shall be begun before the expiration of three years from the date of this permission.

3. The use of the site as a lorry park and storage site shall first commence until the junction with Bridge Street has been improved in accordance with the details shown on Plan 1016-01 and Plan 1016-10Rev.A.
4. Prior to the commencement of first use of site for open storage and as a lorry park the Developer shall provide written notice to the Local Planning Authority of the date from which the usage shall first commence. Thereafter the lorry parking area use shall cease on or before 12 months from the commencement date of the use and the open storage shall cease on or before 12 months from the commencement date.

(iv) Plan No. P12/1627 – Land adjacent to the Old Windmill, Vale Street, Upper Gornal – erection of 14 dwellings with new access to highway and diversion of a public right of way

Further to paragraph 12 of the report on this application Mr Butler read out a statement in relation to the further consideration given to highway safety concerns raised by Members at the last meeting of the Committee. A copy of the statement is available on the Council's Committee Management Information System.

It was also noted that as Councillors A Ahmed, J Martin and Wright had not been present at the last meeting of the Committee they could speak but not vote on this matter.

Decision:-

Approved, subject to:-

1. The developer agreeing to pay the full cost of the Order, an Order be made under Section 257 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1991, to divert that section of public footpath Se66 as shown on Plan D001 to enable development authorised by permission to take place. The Order shall not become operative until the Local Authority are satisfied that the diversion has been constructed to their specification and satisfaction; and
2. Conditions number 1 to 23 (inclusive), as set out in the report submitted.

- (v) Plan No. P13/0156 – Duckworth Trading Estate, Stallings Lane, Kingswinford – demolition of existing units and erection of new retail food store with associated car parking
-

Decision:-

Approved, subject to conditions numbered 1 to 7 and 10 to 29, as set out in the report submitted together with amended conditions, numbered 8 and 9, as follows:-

8. No deliveries or despatches shall be made to or from the site and no delivery or despatch vehicles shall enter or leave the site (whether laden or unladen), before the hours of 0700 nor after 2100 hours Monday to Saturday; before 0900 nor after 1800 hours on Sundays and Bank Holidays.
9. Unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority, for a period not exceeding 12 months from the date of occupation the store shall only be open to the general public within the following hours – Monday to Saturday 0800 to 2100 hours; Sundays 1000 to 1700 hours; public holidays 0800 to 2100 hours. At the end of the twelve month period from the date of occupation, the store shall only be opened to the general public within the following hours – Monday to Saturday 0800 to 2100 hours; Sundays – 1000 to 1700 hours; public holidays 0900 to 2100 hours.

- (vi) Plan No. P13/0174 – 6 and 7 Ednam Road, Dudley – conversion of existing office premises into 10 flats, demolition of existing rear extension and replace with new single storey rear extension
-

Decision:-

Approved, subject to conditions, numbered 1 to 6, and additional conditions, numbered 7 to 12, as follows:-

7. Development shall not commence until full details have been submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority of all the heating appliances, flues, air intake and extraction equipment terminals and soil vent pipes.

8. Development shall not commence until full details have been submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority of the type, texture, colour and bond of all bricks and coping stones to be used in the external elevations and the proposed boundary walls. Such materials shall closely match in type, texture and colour those of the existing building. A sample panel of brickwork measuring 1 metre square 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.
9. Notwithstanding the details shown on the submitted plans, all the non-original uPVC windows located in the rear elevation and identified in the submitted Heritage Statement in Figure 19 shall be replaced with new timber windows which are to be installed in full accordance with Condition 2 and Condition 11 as set out in this Decision Note. Development shall not commence until full details have been submitted to and approved in writing of all the non-original windows to be replaced.
10. Notwithstanding the requirement of Condition 2 above, all the original timber windows identified in the submitted Heritage Statement in Figures 17, 18, 19 and 20 shall be retained and development shall not commence until full details have been submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority of the proposed methodology for addressing condition 2 with the use of appropriate secondary glazing.
11. Development shall not being until details of all new joinery (for the windows, doors 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 of joinery shall be provided at a large scale (1:1, 1:2 or 1:5) typically indicating profiles and sections of heads, cills jambs and glazing bars together with their relationships to masonry apertures.

12. Notwithstanding the details shown on the submitted plans, full details are to be submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority of all proposed fencing including details of its colour and finish.

(vii) Plan No. P13/0178 – 4 – 5 Ednam Road, Dudley – conversion of existing office buildings into 12 flats

Decision:-

Approved, subject to conditions numbered 1 to 4, as set out in the report submitted together with additional conditions, numbered 5 to 9 ,as follows:-

5. Development shall not commence until full details have been submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority of all the heating appliances, flues, air intake and extraction equipment terminals and soil vent pipes.
6. Development shall not commence until full details have been submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning of the type, texture, colour and bond of all bricks and coping stones to be used in the external elevations and the proposed boundary walls. Such materials shall closely match in type, texture and colour those of the existing building. A sample panel of brickwork measuring 1 metre square 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.
7. Notwithstanding the details shown on the submitted plans, all the non-original uPVC windows located in the rear elevation and identified in the submitted Heritage Statement in Figure 18 shall be replaced with new timber windows which are to be installed in full accordance with Condition 2 and Condition 9 as set out in this Decision Note. Development shall not commence until full details have been submitted to and approved in writing of all the non-original windows to be replaced.

8. Notwithstanding the requirement of Condition 2 above, all the original timber windows identified in the submitted Heritage Statement in Figures 16, 17, 18 and 19 shall be retained and development shall not commence until full details have been submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority of the proposed methodology for addressing condition 2 with the use of appropriate secondary glazing.
9. Development shall not being until details of all new joinery (for the windows, doors 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 of joinery shall be provided at a large scale (1:1, 1:2 or 1:5) typically indicating profiles and sections of heads, cills jambs and glazing bars together with their relationships to masonry apertures.

(viii) Plan No. P13/0225 – 50 Swan Street, Pensnett –
Erection of one dwelling with associated carparking

Decision:-

Approved, subject to conditions number 1 to 12 (inclusive) as set out in the report submitted.

(ix) Plan No. P13/0247 – Office, 1A Hallchurch Road,
Dudley – Change of Use of Offices and Storage Unit to
create five flats (following demolition of existing
warehouse) (resubmission of refused application
P12/1621)

Decision:-

Approved, subject to conditions numbered 1 to 4 (inclusive), as set out in the report submitted.

(x) Plan No. P13/0318 – 23 Priory Road, Dudley –
Refurbishment and Change of Use of Former Town
Centre Firestation for use as a bistro and bar within
Use Class A3 and A4 of the Town and Country
Planning Use Classes Order, including first floor rear
extension, conversion and restoration of outbuilding for
use as ground floor store with first floor offices

Decision:-

Approved, subject to conditions numbered 1 to 15 (inclusive), as set out in the report submitted.

- (xi) Plan No. P13/0459 – 19 Thatchers Barn Drive, Halesowen – Fell one oak tree and one ash tree

Decision:-

Approved, subject to the condition set out in the report submitted.

- (xii) Plan No. P13/0563 – Rear of 8 – 14 Bosworth Close, Woodsetton – Reduce thorn trees forming a hedge at rear to 1.5 metres

Decision:-

Approved, subject to conditions 1 and 2, as set out in the report submitted.

6

APPOINTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT CONTROL (SITE VISITS) WORKING PARTY

The Committee considered the reappointment and membership of the Development Control (Site Visits) Working Party for the 2013/14 Municipal Year.

RESOLVED

That the Development Control (Site Visits) Working Party be appointed for the 2013/14 Municipal Year to undertake visits to sites where the Committee has resolved that there should be a site visit and that the Working Party comprise all Members of the Committee.

The meeting ended at 7.38 p.m.

CHAIR

DEVELOPMENT CONTROL COMMITTEE

Monday 24th June, 2013 at 6.00 pm
in Committee Room 2, The Council House, Dudley

PRESENT:-

Councillor Zada (Chair)
Councillors A Ahmed, Cowell, Hale, Perks, Roberts, Mrs Westwood, Taylor and Wright

OFFICERS:-

Mr J Butler, Mr T Glews, Mrs H Martin, Mr D Owen, Mr P Reed and Mrs S Willetts (all Directorate of the Urban Environment), Mrs S Ahmed-Aziz and Mrs M Johal (Directorate of Corporate Resources)

7 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors Casey, J Martin and C Wilson.

8 APPOINTMENT OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

It was reported that Councillors Cowell, Hale and Taylor had been appointed as substitute members for Councillors Casey, J Martin and C Wilson for this meeting only.

9 MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 3rd June, 2013, be approved as a correct record and signed.

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 referred to had indicated that they wished to speak at the meeting and, unless indicated, spoke on the planning applications:-

Plan No P13/0425 – Mr William Brettle – an objector and Mr Steve Hearn – an agent/applicant

Plan No P13/0453 – Mr Colin Knipe – an objector and Mr Green – an agent/applicant

- (i) Plan No P13/0425 – Barlow Mow Public House, High Street, Wollaston, Stourbridge – Elevational Changes, Creation of an Enclosed Courtyard and Erection of Associated Fencing, Bollards and Lighting

Decision: Approved, subject to conditions, numbered 1 to 7 (inclusive), as set out in the report submitted.

- (ii) Plan No P13/0453 – Land at Former Castle High School, Priory Road, Dudley – Construction of Synthetic Grass Football Pitch, Challenge Course and Changing Facilities with Fencing, Floodlighting and Associated Parking and Access

Decision: Approved, subject to conditions, numbered 1 to 4 and 6 to 9 (inclusive), as set out in the report submitted, together with an amended condition, numbered 5, as follows:-

5. The sports pitch hereby approved shall not be used before 0900 hours or after 2130 hours Monday to Friday or before 0900 hours or after 1700 hours on Saturdays. On Sundays and Public Holidays the sports pitch hereby approved shall not be used before 1000 hours or after 1700 hours except for warming up only which may take place between 0900 and 1000 hours.

- (iii) Plan No P12/1347 – Chemviron Carbon, Foxyards, Bean Road, Tipton – Erection of Storage Bunkers, Storage/Maintenance Warehouse, Bulk React Carbon Storage Silo, Bulk Tanker Truck Loading Area and Increase the Height of the Building

Decision: Approved, subject to conditions, numbered 1 to 18 (inclusive), as set out in the report submitted.

- (iv) Plan No P12/0619 – Former Stuart Crystal Works, Land Off Argyle Close, Wordsley, Stourbridge – Erection of 48 No Two, Three and Four Storey Dwellings with Associated Works

Decision: Approved subject to the following:-

- (1) The applicant entering into a Section 106 Legal Agreement for an off-site financial contribution towards Affordable Housing provision, payable prior to occupation of the 25th dwelling on site;
- (2) That the applicant be invited to make an application to the Secretary of State, under Section 247 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 to close, create and improve highways as shown on Drawing No 215/11 Stopping Up Plan to enable development authorised by planning permission to take place. The full costs and works to the Local Authorities' satisfaction shall be met by the developer.
- (3) Conditions numbered 1 to 9, 11 to 13, 17, 21 to 23, 26, 27, 29 to 31 and 33 (inclusive) as set out in the report submitted, the deletion of conditions, numbered 24 and 25, together with amended conditions numbered 10, 14 to 16, 18 to 20, 28 and 32, together with additional conditions, numbered 34 and 35, as follows:-
 10. Prior to the occupation of the apartments on plots 18 to 43 hereby approved, cycle parking spaces shown on plan numbered E911/P/PL01/Rev F should be implemented in accordance with the approved details and maintained for no other purpose for the life of the development.
 14. Prior to occupation, details of nature conservation enhancement works shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The nature conservation enhancement works shall thereafter be provided in accordance with the approved details prior to first occupation of the development and be maintained for the life of the development.
 15. Prior to occupation, details of public realm works shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The public realm works shall thereafter be provided in accordance with the approved details prior to first occupation of the development and be maintained for the life of the development.

16. Prior to occupation, details of works of public art shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The works of public art shall thereafter be provided in accordance with the approved details prior to first occupation of the development and be maintained for the life of the development.
18. Prior to occupation details of the design, size, location, artwork and text for an interpretation panel shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The Interpretation Panel shall thereafter be installed in accordance with the approved details prior to the first occupation of the development and shall be maintained for the life of the development.
19. The Electric Charging point(s) shown on Plan No E911/P/PL01/Rev F shall be provided in accordance with the specification outlined in the Parking Standards SPD, prior to first occupation of the development and be maintained for the life of the development.
20. Biodiversity measures should be implemented in line with those recommended in the Ecological Appraisal dated May 2012.
32. No excavation to enable the installation of utility services of any kind shall be undertaken within the root protection area (as defined in the BS 5837 2012) of any tree to be retained on site or of any tree immediately adjacent to the site without the prior written permission of the Local Planning Authority. Where excavation within the root protection area of a tree to be retained on, or immediately adjacent to the site cannot be avoided, full details of how the excavation will be undertaken in a manner to minimise the impact on the tree, will be agreed in writing with the Local Planning Authority prior to excavation. The excavation will then continue in strict accordance with the agreed details.
34. Notwithstanding the details shown on the submitted plans, 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 all bricks to be used in the external elevations. A sample panel of brickwork measuring 1 metre square shall be erected on site and shall be approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The Panel shall be retained on site for the duration of the development and thereafter new brickwork shall only be constructed in accordance with those approved details.
- b) Details of the windows and doors to be used in the external elevations and their colour and finish have been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. Large scale architectural drawings of joinery and metalwork shall be provided at a large scale (1:1, 1:2 or 1:5) typically indicating profiles and sections of heads, cills, jambs and glazing bars together with their relationships to masonry apertures. Development shall thereafter be carried out in accordance with such approved plans and shall be retained for the life of the development.

35. Notwithstanding the provisions of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995 (or any order revoking and re-enacting that order), no development referred to in Part 1 Class A, B and E of Schedule 2 to that order shall be carried out on Plots 45, 46 and 47.

(v) Plan No P13/0415 – 41 New Street, Dudley – New Shop Front to Tower Street Elevation Providing a New Main Access

Decision: Approved, subject to conditions, numbered 1 and 3, as set out in the report submitted, together with an amended condition, numbered 2, as follows:-

- 2. The development hereby permitted shall be carried out in accordance with the following approved plans:
AMPK222:A003 (received 24/05/2013), A004, A005, A006.

(vi) Plan No P13/0488 – 50 Long Lane, Halesowen – Single Storey Rear Extension to Create Abattoir with Extraction System (Retrospective)

Decision: Approved, subject to conditions, numbered 1 to 4, 6, 8 and 9 (inclusive), as set out in the report submitted, together with amended conditions, numbered 5 and 7 and an additional condition, numbered 10, as follows:-

5. Deliveries of live chickens shall only take place from a vehicle standing in the service yard in the area marked unloading area on Plan 'A' and in no other place for the life of the development.
 7. The extract system hereby approved shall be constructed in strict accordance with the submitted details and technical specifications. The works detailed in the approved scheme shall be installed in their entirety before the use hereby permitted is commenced. The equipment shall thereafter be maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's equipment specifications throughout the life of the development.
 10. Prior to use, the approved building shall be constructed to provide sound attenuation against internally generated noise of not less than 35 dB averaged over the frequency range of 100-3150Hz. The approved works shall be retained for the life of the development unless agreed in writing with the Planning Authority.
- (vii) Plan No P13/0643 – Dudley Market Place and Castle Street, Dudley Town Centre – Refurbishment of Castle Street and Market Place to Include Demolition of Public Toilets, Raise Earl of Dudley Statue with Proposed Lighting and Relocation of Duncan Edwards Statue
- Decision: Approved, subject to conditions, numbered 1 and 2, 4 to 6 (inclusive), as set out in the report submitted, together with an amended condition, numbered 3, as follows:-
3. No closure or demolition of the toilet block shall take place until permanent replacement public toilet facilities and refuse storage within Dudley Town Centre has been provided and is fully operational.
- (viii) Plan No P13/0647 – Shop 222A-223 High Street, Dudley – Listed Building Consent to Install Façade Up Lighting at First Floor Level
- Decision: Approved, subject to no objection or call-in from the Secretary of State as a result of notification and to conditions, numbered 1 to 4 (inclusive), as set out in the report submitted.
- (ix) Plan No P13/0648 – 270-272 Castle Street, Dudley – Listed Building Consent to Replace 'Green Man Head Sculpture' Above Entrance Archway to Green Man Entry
- Decision: Approved, subject to no objection or call-in from the Secretary of State as a result of notification and to conditions, numbered 1 to 5 (inclusive), as set out in the report submitted.

- (x) Plan No P13/0649 – Public Toilets, Market Place, Dudley – Conservation Area Consent for Demolition of Existing Public Toilets in Dudley Market Place

Decision: Approved, subject to no objection or call-in from the Secretary of State as a result of notification and to conditions, numbered 1, 2 and 4 (inclusive), as set out in the report submitted, together with an amended condition, numbered 3, as follows:-

3. The demolition works hereby permitted shall not be undertaken until all contracts and a date of commencement for the carrying out of the works of redevelopment of the site is in place and planning permission has been granted for the redevelopment for which the contract provides. Evidence that a contract is in place (or other such documentation as considered satisfactory by the Local Planning Authority 14 days prior to any demolition works commencing. No closure or demolition of the toilet block shall take place until permanent replacement public toilet facilities and refuse storage within Dudley Town Centre has been provided and is fully operational.

- (xi) Plan No P13/0650 – Earl of Dudley Statue, Castle Street, Castle Hill, Dudley – Listed Building Consent to Lift the Earl of Dudley Statue and to Construct a New Raised Grass Surround and Proposed Lighting

Decision: Approved, subject to no objection or call-in from the Secretary of State as a result of notification and to conditions, numbered 1 to 8 (inclusive), as set out in the report submitted.

11 DEVELOPMENT CONTROL PERFORMANCE

A report of the Director of the Urban Environment was submitted on decisions made on applications determined under 'delegated powers' by the Director of the Urban Environment and decisions on appeals made against the Council's decision on planning applications.

RESOLVED

That the information contained in the report, and Appendices to the report submitted, on the performance of the Development Control Service with regard to decisions made on applications determined under 'delegated powers' by the Director of the Urban Environment and decisions on appeals made against the Council's decision on planning applications, be noted.

The meeting ended at 7.15 pm.

CHAIR

DISCIPLINARY/DISMISSAL/GRADING APPEALS COMMITTEE

Wednesday 3rd April, 2013, at 10.00 a.m.
in Committee Room 3

PRESENT

Councillor J Martin (Chair)
Councillor Hale (Vice-Chair)
Councillors A Aston, Marrey, Ms Nicholls and Mrs Rogers

In attendance on the Committee - Mrs M Worton – HR Advisor to the Committee,
Mr J Bradshaw – Legal advisor to the Committee and Miss K Fellows
(Directorate of Corporate Resources)

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

Mr SD (Appellant)
Mr G Gibbs (Representative of GMBH)
Mr N Carr – Solicitor for the Council
Mr MW - An Assistant Director of the Directorate of the Urban Environment
Mrs T Reilly – Assistant Director Corporate Resources (Human Resources and
Organisational Development)
Ms L Morgan-Danks and Ms V Smart (observers)

No objections were raised to the observers attending the meeting

16. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors
Mrs Martin and Woodall.

17. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No member declared an interest in accordance with the Members' Code of
Conduct, in respect of any matter to be considered at this meeting.

18. MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 6th March,
2013, be approved as a correct record and signed.

DDGA/10

19. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED

That the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part I of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act, 1972, as indicated below, and in all circumstances the public interest in disclosing the information is outweighed by the public interest in maintaining the exception from disclosure:-

<u>Description of Item</u>	<u>Relevant Paragraph of Part I of Schedule 12A</u>
Appeal by Mr SD	1

20. APPEAL BY MR SD

The Committee considered an appeal by Mr SD against his dismissal from the employment of the Council. The Council's procedure was followed.

Prior to the commencement of the meeting Mr Gibbs (GMBH Union representative) advised the panel that the correspondence address for the Appellant was incorrect and he had not received the documentation in relation to the Appeal. However he advised that Mr SD was in a position to proceed with the Appeal as Mr Gibbs had himself received all documentation and discussed the appeal with the appellant and prepared the appeal on his behalf.

Mrs M Worton then outlined the procedure to be followed.

Mr SD was in attendance at the meeting and Mr Gibbs presented the case on his behalf, responding to questions asked, and advising that the allegation of gross misconduct had been admitted and this was not disputed by Mr SD. However the severity of the sanction was.

The Council's Solicitor, Mr N Carr summarised the Council's case and called Mr MW, the Chair of the disciplinary panel, as a witness. Mr MW read his witness statement and responded to questions from the representative for Mr SD, the Council's Solicitor, Committee Members and Mrs Worton.

During questioning by Committee Members an adjournment was requested.

Mr SD responded to questions from the Council's representative and Committee Members.

The Council's representative and the Appellant's representative then summed up their respective cases.

Following the summing up of their cases , the parties left the meeting to allow the Committee to continue its deliberations.

Following detailed consideration given to the written and oral evidence including evidence in mitigation that related to the severity of the sanction it was:-

RESOLVED

- (1) That the Committee unanimously determine that the decision to dismiss Mr SD be upheld due to there being no exceptional mitigation to justify action short of dismissal.
- (2) That the Director of the Urban Environment and the Cabinet Member for Transportation and Community Safety be requested to:-
 - (a) Ensure that all relevant employees are aware of the Vehicle Tracker Device Policy
 - (b) Ensure that job descriptions were not ambiguous.
 - (c) Review the Policy of not returning to the depot at Lister Road following finalisation of work tasks allocated to employees.

The meeting ended at 12.15pm

CHAIR

DDGA/12

LICENSING AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

Thursday, 23rd May, 2013 at 6 pm
in Committee Room 2, The Council House, Dudley

PRESENT: -

Councillor Bills (Chair)
Councillor Russell (Vice Chair)
Councillors Mrs Ameson, Blood, Cowell, K.Finch, Perks, Roberts, Sykes, Taylor, Mrs Turner and J Woodall.

Officer: -

Mr J Jablonski (Directorate of Corporate Resources)

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

2 MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Special Meeting of the Committee held on 7th March, 2013, be approved as a correct record and signed.

3. APPOINTMENT OF SUB COMMITTEES

A report of the Director of Corporate Resources was submitted on the appointment of four Licensing Sub-Committees for the municipal year 2013/14.

Details of the proposed membership of Licensing Sub-Committees for 2013/14 were circulated at the meeting. The Chair informed the Committee of the rationale behind the proposed sub-committee memberships listed in the details circulated.

RESOLVED

- (1) That four Licensing Sub-Committees, numbered 1 to 4, be established to deal with all licensing functions requiring member determination in accordance with the functions allocated to the

Licensing and Safety Committee as set out in the Council's Constitution.

- (2) That the membership of the Sub-Committees for 2013/14, as set out in the details circulated at the meeting, be as follows;-

Sub-Committee 1 –
Councillors Bills *, Blood and Mrs Ameson

Sub-Committee 2 –
Councillors Russell *, Cowell and Taylor

Sub-Committee 3 –
Councillors K.Finch *, Sykes and Mrs Turner

Sub-Committee 4 –
Councillors Roberts *, Perks and Wodall

with those members whose name appears with an asterisk acting as the Chair of the respective Sub-Committee.

- (3) That the substitution arrangements set out in the Council's Procedure rules be noted and be applied to Licensing Sub-Committees subject to an eligibility requirement that any named substitute must be;-
- (a) appointed to the Licensing and Safety Committee;
 - (b) otherwise eligible to serve on any given occasion; and
 - (c) notified to the Director of Corporate Resources prior to the commencement of the meeting in question and that Democratic Services be responsible for arranging substitutes for Sub-Committees.

The meeting ended at 6.12 pm.

CHAIR

LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE 1

Tuesday 16th April, 2013 at 10.00am
in The Council Chamber, The Council House, Dudley

PRESENT:-

Councillor Bills (Chair)
Councillors Blood and Woodall

Officers

Mr R Clark (Legal Advisor), Mrs L Rouse (Licensing Officer) and Mrs K Taylor (Directorate of Corporate Resources).

61. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No Member declared an interest in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct.

62. MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting held on 12th March, 2013, be approved as a correct record and signed.

63. APPLICATION FOR A PREMISES LICENCE – 175, 176 AND 177 HIGH STREET, LYE, STOURBRIDGE

A report of the Director of Corporate Resources was submitted on an application for the grant for a premises licence in respect of 175, 176 and 177 High Street, Lye, Stourbridge.

Mr G Namdar, Applicant, was in attendance at the meeting together with Mr Sarwar, Barrister, Mr Athi, Solicitor, and a member of the press.

Following introductions, Mrs L Rouse, Licensing Officer, Directorate of Corporate Resources, presented the report on behalf of the Council.

It was noted there had been an objection to the application, which had been circulated to all parties prior to the meeting, however the objectors were not present at the meeting.

In responding to a question by the Chair, Mr Sarwar confirmed that the premises was a buffet style restaurant, and that the recorded music would be played as background music only.

In responding to a question by Mr Sarwar, Mr Namdar outlined his understanding of the requirements of the four licensing objectives.

Mr Sarwar referred to the licensing objective, namely, the prevention of crime and disorder and informed the Sub-Committee that a CCTV system had been installed, and that there were four cameras installed outside the premises and twelve cameras inside. Mr Sarwar circulated a number of documents to highlight the installation of CCTV, including, a receipt and a satellite image to identify the location and the positioning of the cameras at the premises.

In responding to concerns raised in regard to the positioning of the cameras outside the premises, Mr Namdar confirmed that the cameras were installed towards the building and to the rear of Church Road, rather than looking towards the High Street.

Mr Sarwar further reported that CCTV footage would be stored securely, and that all staff would be trained to access and download footage immediately, if requested.

Mr Sarwar then submitted an e-mail highlighting the closure times of premises in close proximity to the restaurant.

In responding to a question by the Chair, Mr Namdar confirmed that he had previously operated a restaurant in Birmingham, however the premises closed after five months due to financial losses.

In responding to a question by a member, Mr Namdar confirmed that should Mr Namdar not be present at the premises, there would be members of staff present who also held a Personal Licence.

Mr Sarwar circulated a floor plan of the premises, and informed the Sub-Committee that the main restaurant was positioned at the front of the premises looking onto the High Street, with the kitchens positioned at the rear of the premises, therefore the noise levels should be predominately heard from the High Street, and not in the residential area of Church Road.

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 made for the grant of a premises licence in respect of 175, 176 and 177 High Street, Lye, Stourbridge, be approved, in the following terms: -

Sale of Alcohol

Monday – Saturday	11.00 – 22.00
Sunday	14.00 – 22.00

Recorded Music

Monday – Saturday	11.00 – 23.00
Sunday	14.00 – 22.00

REASON FOR DECISION

This is an application for a premises licence for 175, 176 and 177 High Street, Lye, Stourbridge, West Midlands.

The Sub-Committee has heard the applicant, Mr Ghulam Nabi Namdar, who confirmed that the business was to be a buffet restaurant.

The Sub-Committee has considered the letter of representation from two local residents at one neighbouring property. This letter raises a potential increase in problems in the area if the licence were granted, but does not raise any issues directly related to this premises and the grant of any premises licence. It also raises a planning issue, which is not the business of this Committee.

The Sub-Committee has been impressed with the planning, which has gone into the preparation of the premises and application, and noted that the licence is sought until only 10 pm each evening.

The application is granted.

64. APPLICATION FOR REVIEW OF PREMISES LICENCE – DUDLEY MINI MART, 106 STOURBRIDGE ROAD, DUDLEY

A report of the Director of Corporate Resources was submitted on an application for the review of the premises licence in respect of Dudley Mini Mart, 106 Stourbridge Road, Dudley.

Mr Khalid, Manager of the Premises, was in attendance.

Also in attendance were Mr C King, Principal Trading Standards Officer and Mr G Wintrip, Age Restricted Products Enforcement Officer, both from the Directorate of the Urban Environment, and Ms D McNulty, Dudley Primary Care Trust (PCT).

It was noted that Ms Ramzan, Designated Premises Supervisor, was not in attendance at the meeting due to work commitments.

The Chair requested an adjournment of the meeting, to allow Mr Khalid to contact Ms Ramzan to request Ms Ramzan to attend the hearing; given that she was the Designated Premises Supervisor.

The Sub-Committee agreed to the proposal made.

At the re-commencement of the meeting, it was reported that Ms Ramzan was in a meeting in Birmingham, and would be unable to attend the hearing within a short timescale.

Following a brief discussion it was identified that Mr Khalid was the member of staff who made the sale during the test purchase exercise on 6th February, 2013, therefore the Sub-Committee requested that Mr Khalid attend the re-convened hearing.

RESOLVED

That, in view of the non-attendance of the Designated Premises Supervisor, the application for the review of the premises licence in respect of Dudley Mini Mart, 106 Stourbridge Road, Dudley be adjourned to a future meeting of a Sub-Committee.

65. APPLICATION FOR HOUSE TO HOUSE COLLECTIONS LICENCE – NATIONAL KIDNEY FEDERATION

A report of the Director of Corporate Resources was submitted on an application for a house to house collections licence in respect of Unicare Ltd on behalf of the National Kidney Federation.

It was noted that the applicant was not in attendance.

Following consideration, it was

RESOLVED

- (1) That the application for a House to House Collections licence in respect of Unicare Ltd on behalf of National Kidney Federation be deferred to a future meeting of a Sub-Committee.
 - (2) That the Licensing Clerk, be requested to write to the Applicant, informing them to contact the Licensing Office within fourteen days if they wished to proceed with the application, otherwise the application would then be withdrawn.
-

The meeting ended at 11.00am

CHAIR

LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE 1

Tuesday 28th May, 2013 at 10.00am
in The Council Chamber, The Council House, Dudley

PRESENT:-

Councillor Bills (Chair)
Councillors Blood and Woodall

Officers

Miss N Bangar (Legal Advisor), Mrs L Rouse (Licensing Officer) and Miss L Taylor (Directorate of Corporate Resources).

1. Apology for Absence

An apology for absence was submitted on behalf of Councillor Mrs Ameson.

2. Appointment of Substitute Member

It was noted that Councillor Woodall had been appointed as a substitute member on behalf of Councillor Mrs Ameson for this meeting of the committee only.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No Member declared an interest in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct.

4. MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 16th April, 2013, be approved as a correct record and signed.

5. APPLICATION FOR REVIEW OF PREMISES LICENSE – DUDLEY MINI MART, 106 STOURBRIDGE ROAD, DUDLEY

A report of the Director of Corporate Resources was submitted on an application for the review of the premises licence in respect of Dudley Mini Mart, 106 Stourbridge Road, Dudley.

Ms N Ramzan, Designated Premises Supervisor, and Mr Khalid, Manager of the Premises, were in attendance.

Also in attendance were Mr C King, Principal Trading Standards Officer from the Directorate of the Urban Environment, and Ms D McNulty, Dudley Public Health.

Following introductions, the Chair outlined the procedure to be followed.

Mrs L Rouse, Licensing Officer, Directorate of Corporate Resources, presented the report on behalf of the Council.

Mr King presented the representations of Trading Standards and in doing so highlighted that the grounds for the review had been based on the undermining of the two licensing objectives, namely, the prevention of crime and disorder and the protection of children from harm.

Mr King informed the Sub-Committee that on 6th February, 2013, a sixteen year old child test purchaser had been sold alcohol from the premises by a Mr Khalid, the Manager of the Premises, contrary to section 146(1) and section 153 of the Licensing Act 2003.

On 24th July, 2012, an officer from Trading Standards carried out a visit to the premises and spoke to Ms Nialah Ramzan, who is believed to be the Designated Premises Supervisor. The purpose of the visit was to provide advice about preventing underage sales of age restricted products. Ms Ramzan was given detailed advice including information about acceptable proof of age and the importance of keeping a refusal register. Ms Ramzan was given an advice pack relating to the sale of age restricted products and was asked to ensure that all staff were aware of their obligations under the Licensing Act 2003. The pack contained an advice booklet, a challenge 25 poster, a refusals register, a proof of age poster and a sample PASS (proof of age) card. Ms Ramzan signed ARP form 0633 to acknowledge receipt of the pack.

When questioned about the underage sale that had taken place, Ms Ramzan confirmed that it was Mr Khalid who served the test purchaser, she apologised and explained that identification is usually asked for. Mr Khalid was issued a Fixed Penalty Notice.

In concluding, Mr King stated that should the Sub-Committee be minded not to revoke or suspend the premises licence, they could consider including additional conditions to the licence. A full list of the proposed additional conditions had been circulated to all parties prior to the meeting.

Ms Ramzan presented her case, and in doing so explained that at the time of the test purchase, 6th February 2013, Mr Khalid believed the 16 year old male test purchaser to be 18 years old.

In responding to a question raised by a member, Ms Ramzan confirmed that the shop did not in fact adhere to the principles of Challenge 21 or Challenge 25, but did in fact simply assess whether the employee believed the customer to be the appropriate age.

Concerns were raised in relation to the fact that the refusals register could not be located on the 6th February 2013. Ms Ramzan confirmed that there was a refusals register in place, however it could not be located at the time due to a recent move around of the shop. The refusals register had been found and implemented since.

Ms Ramzan also detailed the training that she had given Mr Khalid.

Representations were made by Ms D McNulty in relation to the effects and dangers of drinking in young people.

In summing up, Ms Ramzan recognized that the incident should not have happened, and acknowledged the importance of a refusals register and adhering to the Challenge 21 procedure.

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

After further discussion it was

RESOLVED

That, subject to the following conditions being applied to the premises licence, no further action to be taken in relation to the review of the premises licence in respect of the Dudley Mini Mart, 106 Stourbridge Road, Dudley.

Conditions

- (1) A written Proof of Age Policy is to be put in force, which all staff to sell alcohol will be trained in and adhere to. Valid proof of identification will only include passport, photographic driving licence or a Proof of Age Standards Scheme (PASS) proof of age card such as Citizen Card. No other form of identification shall be accepted.
- (2) A4 notices to be displayed on the door to the premises and near the point of sale stating that it is an offence to buy alcohol for persons under the age of 18
- (3) A Register of Refusals of Sale of Alcohol which indicates the date, time and reason for refusal will be operated and maintained at the premises. The Premises Licence Holder shall check the book once a week ensuring it is completed and up-to-date. The Premises Licence Holder will sign the book each time it is checked. The book shall be made available for inspection by an officer of any responsible authority on demand.

- (4) CCTV to be in place at the premises to the specifications of the West Midlands Police – Crime Reduction Officer so that the alcohol display area and the point of sale area can be viewed. All images are to be recorded and kept for a minimum of 28 days and made available to any responsible authority immediately upon request.
- (5) The premises' CCTV shall be reviewed on a weekly basis in order to identify persons under the age of 18 who are attempting to buy alcohol, or persons over the age of 18 buying alcohol on their behalf. A record of these checks shall be maintained and be available for inspection upon request by an officer of any responsible authority.
- (6) All persons engaged to sell alcohol must complete a training programme, which includes a written test, to verify their competency, prior to them being authorised to sell alcohol.
- (7) The premises license holder shall ensure that monthly reviews are conducted with any persons authorised to sell alcohol, in order to reinforce training, promote best practice and policy. The monthly review shall be recorded in writing.
- (8) A file shall be maintained at the premises for each person authorised to sell alcohol. The file shall contain all training records for each person along with copies of monthly reviews as stated in point 7. This file shall be available for inspection by an officer of any responsible authority upon request.

Reason for Decision

Following careful consideration of the information contained within the report and as reported at the meeting, the Sub-Committee will modify the conditions of the premises licence in order to prevent the premises further undermining the licensing objectives.

The Sub-Committee is satisfied that implementing the 8 conditions will prevent the premises from undermining the licensing objectives, in particular the prevention of crime and disorder and the protection of children from harm.

The Sub-Committee re-enforces the fact that the Designated Premises Supervisor and the Premises Licence Holder has a very important role in the selling of alcohol and therefore needs to be aware of and fully understand the ramifications of selling to under age children.

6. APPLICATION FOR A LICENCED PREMISES GAMING MACHINE PERMIT – THE BLACK HORSE, MANOR WAY, HALESOWEN

A report of the Director of Corporate Resources was submitted on an application for the grant for a gaming permit in respect of The Black Horse, Manor Way, Halesowen.

Mr Oliver Brookes, Manager and Premises Licence Holder, and Ms Margaret Wilson, Operator for Fruit Machines, were both in attendance.

Following introductions, Mrs L Rouse, Licensing Officer, Directorate of Corporate Resources, presented the report on behalf of the council.

It was noted that there had been no objections. Mr O Brookes represented himself and in doing so he outlined the recent restructuring of the premises and also outlined the requests by patrons of the need for an extra gaming machine.

After a short discussion, it was

RESOLVED

That the application made for the grant of a licensed premises gaming machine permit for three gaming machines in respect of The Black Horse, Manor Way, Halesowen, be granted.

7. APPLICATION FOR HOUSE TO HOUSE COLLECTIONS LICENCE – BRITISH FORCES FOUNDATION (MIDLANDS TEXTILES LIMITED)

A report of the Director of Corporate Resources was submitted to consider an application for the grant of a House to House Collections Licence in respect of Midlands Textiles Limited on behalf of the charity known as British Forces Foundation.

It was noted that the applicant was not in attendance.

Having decided to hear the matter in the applicant's absence it was

RESOLVED

That, in view of the applicant's non-attendance at the meeting, the application for the grant of a House to House Collections Licence in respect of British Forces Foundation be refused.

8. APPLICATION FOR HOUSE TO HOUSE COLLECTIONS LICENCE – CANCER RESEARCH AND GENETICS UK (RECYCLE PROLINE LIMITED)

A report of the Director of Corporate Resources was submitted to consider an application for the grant of a House to House Collections Licence in respect of Cancer Research and Genetics UK (Recycle Proline Limited).

It was noted that the applicant was not in attendance.

Following a short discussion it was

RESOLVED

That, the grant of a House to House Collections Licence in respect of Cancer Research and Genetics UK (Recycle Proline Limited) be deferred to a future meeting of a Sub-Committee when the applicant shall attend the meeting.

The Meeting ended at 11.05am.

CHAIR

LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE 4

Tuesday 18th June, 2013 at 10.20 am
in the Council Chamber, The Council House, Dudley

PRESENT:-

Councillor Roberts (Chair)
Councillors Bills and Russell

Officers: -

Mr R Clark (Legal Advisor), Mrs L Rouse (Licensing Clerk) and Mrs K Taylor – All Directorate of Corporate Resources.

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence from the meeting were received on behalf of Councillors Perks and Woodall.

2 APPOINTMENT OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

It was reported that Councillors Bills and Russell had been appointed as substitute Members for Councillors Perks and Woodall respectively for this meeting of the Sub-Committee only.

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

4 MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of the Sub-Committee held on 26th February, 2013, be approved as a correct record and signed.

5 APPLICATION FOR REVIEW OF PREMISES LICENCE –
CORNER STORES, 36 BROMSGROVE ROAD, HALESOWEN

A report of the Director of Corporate Resources was submitted on an application for the review of the premises licence in respect of Corner Stores, 36 Bromsgrove Road, Halesowen.

Mr T Rehman, Designated Premises Supervisor was in attendance at the meeting together with his Solicitor, Mr Samra.

Also in attendance were Mr C King, Principal Trading Standards Officer and Mr G Wintrip, Age Restricted Products Enforcement Officer, both from the Directorate of the Urban Environment, Ms D McNulty, office of Public Health; and WPC N Lees and a colleague from West Midlands Police.

Following introductions by the Chair, the Licensing Clerk presented the report on behalf of the Council.

It was noted that additional paperwork had been submitted to the Sub-Committee prior to the meeting on behalf of Mr Rehman. Following a discussion, concerns were raised in regard to the timescale of the submission of the paperwork, however all parties agreed to allow Mr Samra, on behalf of Mr Rehman, to summarise the contents.

Mr Samra then proceeded to outline the contents of the additional paperwork and in doing so stated that Mr Rehman was residing at the premises and operated a family run business.

Mr Samra referred to an anomaly within the statement provided by Mr Wintrip that dated the sale as 10th February 2013 and not 10th April 2013. Mr Wintrip confirmed that this was a typing error and should read 10th April, 2013.

Mr Samra further stated that Mr Rehman was agreeable to the conditions submitted by Trading Standards and the West Midlands Police, and that he understood his obligations under the Licensing Objectives. It was further noted that Mr Rehman had implemented measures such as operating a Challenge 25 policy and the posters displayed; the installation of a CCTV system and a refusals register.

Mr King referred to the refusals register that had been implemented and the CCTV system, in particular whether Mr Rehman could validate the entries on the refusals register via the CCTV. Mr Rehman stated that although CCTV had been installed it was not currently recording; however this could be arranged within a week.

Mr King presented the representations of Trading Standards and in doing so highlighted that the grounds for the review had been based on the serious undermining of the two licensing objectives, namely, the prevention of crime and disorder and the protection of children from harm due to the poor management of the premises with respect to the sale of alcohol to children.

Mr King informed the Sub-Committee that on 10th April, 2013, a sixteen year old child test purchaser had been sold alcohol from the premises contrary to section 146(1) of the Licensing Act 2003 and in direct contravention to the licensing objectives.

It was noted that on 1st June, 2011, an alcohol test purchase exercise had been undertaken at the premises which did not result in a sale being made.

On 22nd November, 2012, an officer from Trading Standards carried out a visit to the premises and spoke to Mr Rehman. The purpose of the visit was to provide advice in relation to preventing underage sales of age restricted products, information in respect of acceptable proof of age and the importance of keeping a refusals register. Mr Rehman was provided with an information pack that included an advice booklet, a Challenge 25 poster, a refusals register, which had been signed and dated before handing over, a poster about proof of age and a sample Proof of Age Standards Scheme card. He was also requested to ensure that all staff were aware of their obligations under the Licensing Act 2003, Mr Rehman also signed a form to acknowledge receipt of the information pack during the visit.

Mr King further stated that on 10th April, 2013, Trading Standards together with West Midlands Police, carried out a test purchasing exercise to determine compliance with the law on the sale of alcohol to children. On that occasion, a sixteen year old male test purchaser volunteer purchased a 500ml can of Woodpecker Cider with 3.5% alcohol by volume. The seller made no attempt to ask the age of the volunteer, and did not ask for identification.

Following the sale, and having returned to the premises, it was discovered that the individual who sold the alcohol to the test purchaser had been Mr Rehman.

On inspection of the premises, it was noted that there was a "Valid I.D" poster displayed near to the register but there were no other Age Restricted Products posters displayed. Following a request by officers Mr Rehman stated that he did not have a Refusals Register despite being issued with one during the visit on 22nd November, 2012. Mr Rehman was then issued with a Fixed Penalty Notice.

A full list of proposed additional conditions, which had been suggested by Trading Standards, had been circulated to all parties prior to the meeting.

Mr King further stated that a request had been made prior to the meeting by Mr Samar to look at the picture of the test purchase volunteer given that Mr Rehman considered the volunteer to look eighteen due to the child's significant height (6ft 8in). Mr King stated that this request had been refused in accordance with policy however it would be available to the Sub-Committee if they wished to view the photograph. The Sub-Committee agreed to look at the picture in view of this being an issue presented by Mr Rehman.

Following the representations of Trading Standards, Councillor Bills highlighted the importance of operating a Refusals Register, in particular that it should remain by the register at all times in order to enter any refusals immediately.

Ms McNulty then presented the representations on behalf of Ms V Little, Director of Public Health, which had been circulated to all parties in accordance with the Licensing Act 2003. She made particular reference to the number of well-documented impacts on the health of adolescents as a consequence of alcohol consumption.

It was noted that in the opinion of Ms Little, she considered the sale of alcohol to underage young people to be very serious and supported the recommendation to revoke or suspend the premises licence.

WPC Lees then presented the representations of West Midlands Police and in doing so informed the Sub-Committee that the Police had carried out checks on the police systems and that there were no recent intelligence in relation to underage sales at the premises or any problems with the premises such as anti-social behaviour or incidents of crime.

Mr Samar then presented his case on behalf of Mr Rehman and in doing so stated that although Mr Rehman could not remember receiving the advice booklet on 22nd November, 2013 he did accept that he had signed the acknowledgement form.

Mr Samar further stated that Mr Rehman accepts that the sale had taken place, and referred to the previous test purchase exercise which had taken place on 1st June, 2011 which did not result in a sale being made.

It was noted that Mr Rehman had implemented measures to the premises such as keeping a refusals register, and by informing his wife and daughter, who work at the premises, of the Challenge 25 policy.

Reference was made to the proposed additional conditions that had been submitted by Trading Standards, where Mr Rehman confirmed that he was in agreement with the proposals.

In responding to a question by the Legal Advisor, Mr Samar confirmed that Mr Rehman was operating under Challenge 18 during the time of the sale, and considered the test purchase volunteer to be eighteen considering his height and appearance.

In responding to a question by the Chair, Mr Samar confirmed that Mr Rehman would be attending a training course in August.

Reference was made to Mr Rehman's comments in regard to the test purchase volunteer, Mr King stated that although he was tall, he still looked sixteen, and stated that it is not the intention to trick premises by 'employing' volunteers who appeared older than sixteen.

Concerns were raised in regard to the entries on the refusals register, which had commenced in May, 2013, in particular that the register was not in chronological order.

In responding to a question by the Chair, all parties confirmed that they had a fair hearing.

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, following careful consideration of the information contained in the report submitted, and as reported at the meeting, the premises licence issued to Corner Stores, 36 Bromsgrove Road, Halesowen be suspended for a period of one month.

The following conditions will be applied to the premises licence: -

Conditions

- (1) A written Proof of Age Policy (Challenge 25) is to be put in force, which all staff authorised to sell alcohol will be trained in and adhere to. Valid proof of identification will only include passport, photographic driving licence or a Proof of Age standards Scheme (PASS) proof of age card such as Citizen card. No other form of identification shall be accepted.
- (2) A4 notices to be displayed on the door to the premises and near the point of sale stating that it is an offence to buy alcohol for persons under the age of 18.
- (3) A Register of Refusals of Sale of Alcohol which indicates the date, time and reason for refusal will be operated and maintained at the premises. The Premises Licence Holder shall review the book once a week ensuring it is completed and up-to-date. The Premises Licence Holder will sign the book each time it is checked. This book shall be made available for inspection by an officer of any responsible authority.
- (4) CCTV to be in place at the premises and to be recording at all times when the premises are open for licensable activity, to the specifications of the West Midlands Police Crime Reduction Officer so that the alcohol display area and the point of sale area can be viewed. All images are to be recorded and kept for a minimum of 28 days and made available to any responsible authority upon request immediately, and all staff are to be trained and able to operate and download CCTV. The hard drive is to be locked but readily accessible to staff.
- (5) The Premises' CCTV shall be reviewed on a weekly basis in order to identify persons under the age of 18 who are attempting to buy alcohol or persons over the age of 18 buying on their behalf. A record of these checks shall be maintained and be available for inspection upon request by an officer of any responsible authority.
- (6) All persons engaged to sell alcohol must complete a training programme, which includes a written test to verify the competency of that person prior to them being authorised to sell alcohol.
- (7) The premises licence holder shall ensure that monthly reviews are conducted with any persons authorised to sell alcohol in order to reinforce training, promote best practice and policy. The monthly reviews will be recorded in writing.

- (8) A file shall be maintained at the premises for each person authorised to sell alcohol (with proof of identity which will be a copy of passport and/or driving licence). This file shall contain all training records for each person along with copies of monthly reviews as stated in point 7. This file shall be made available for inspection by any officer from a responsible authority upon request.
- (9) Any person who is suspected of purchasing alcohol for any other person, regardless of age, shall be refused service.

REASONS FOR DECISION

This is a review of a premises licence, brought by Trading Standards, as a result of a failed test purchase on 10th April, 2013. Mr Rehman admits today that he made the sale to a sixteen year old, and has said that he was sorry for his mistake. Mr Rehman states that since the test purchase, he has taken steps to ensure that his family business has adopted the challenge 25 Policy, maintains a refusals register, and other steps in order to meet the conditions proposed by Trading Standards and the Police.

Mr Rehman presented the new refusals register, started on 11th May 2013, as evidence that he is complying with the proposed conditions. The (newly purchased) CCTV however is not recording and so Trading Standards could not confirm the entries in the new register. However, the dates on the register are not in chronological order, despite Mr Rehman stating that entries were made at the point of the attempted purchase. The Sub-Committee does not accept the possible explanations given for this. The Sub-Committee is therefore not satisfied that it can rely on the new register as an accurate record of attempted purchase refusals, and therefore, it is vital that CCTV is recording for twenty-eight days in these premises, to allow Trading Standards and West Midlands Police to monitor and review sales in the premises. This is particularly to ensure that young people are protected.

The Sub-Committee is also not satisfied with the description of the test purchaser, given in evidence today. Regardless of how tall he was and how old he may have appeared, Mr Rehman described him as wearing baggy clothes and as having straggly hair that partially obscured his face. The photograph presented by Trading Standards dated 10th April, 2013, three hours before the test purchase, clearly shows that his clothes were not baggy and his hair was short. Mr Rehman's evidence was therefore not accurate.

Mr Rehman has agreed to accept the conditions proposed. This is to his credit. The Sub-Committee therefore agrees and impose those conditions. However, the Sub-Committee has decided to suspend the premises licence for a period of one month. This decision is taken because the Sub-Committee is not satisfied that Mr Rehman has been totally truthful in his evidence today. Further, the period of one month is to allow Mr Rehman to ensure that his CCTV is recording, that those recordings are available for twenty-eight days, and that Trading Standards or West Midlands Police are able to access them and are satisfied (in accordance with all of the conditions regarding CCTV) that the system is operating to protect young persons from underage sales. The Sub-Committee also takes these steps, having heard evidence from Public Health about the impact of underage drinking.

6 APPLICATION FOR A LICENSED PREMISES GAMING MACHINE PERMIT – THE LUTLEY OAK, 327 STOURBRIDGE ROAD, HALESOWEN

A report of the Director of Corporate Resources was submitted on an application for the grant of a licensed premises gaming machine permit for three machines in respect of the Lutley Oak, 327 Stourbridge Road, Halesowen.

Ms L Bayliss, Account Manager from Gamestec was in attendance at the meeting.

It was noted that the Designated Premises Supervisor was not in attendance and notification had not been received.

Following a further discussion it was

RESOLVED

That, in view of the Designated Premises Supervisor non-attendance, the application received for the grant of a licensed premises gaming machine permit in respect of the Lutley Oak, 327 Stourbridge Road, Halesowen, be deferred to a future meeting of a Sub-Committee.

7 APPLICATION FOR HOUSE TO HOUSE COLLECTIONS LICENCE – FORCES SUPPORT (RECYCLING SOLUTIONS (NORTH WEST) LIMITED)

A report of the Director of Corporate Resources was submitted to consider an application for the grant of a House to House Collections Licence in respect of Recycling Solutions North West Limited on behalf of the charity known as Forces Support.

It was noted that the applicant was not in attendance and notification of the non-attendance was received.

RESOLVED

That, the grant of a House to House Collections Licence in respect of Recycling Solutions North West Limited be deferred to a future meeting of a Sub-Committee when the applicant shall attend the meeting.

The meeting ended at 12.15 pm

CHAIR

TAXIS COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 24th April, 2013 at 5.30 p.m.
In Committee Room 4 at the Council House, Dudley

PRESENT:-

Councillor Body (Chair)
Councillor A Aston (Vice-Chair)
Councillors A Ahmed, Mrs Aston, Cowell, Sykes, Taylor, K Turner and Vickers

Officers:-

Mr T Holder, Ms N Bangar and Mrs M Johal (all Directorate of Corporate Resources).

138

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors Mrs Ameson and Mrs Simms.

139

APPOINTMENT OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

It was reported that Councillors Taylor and Vickers had been appointed as substitute members for Councillors Mrs Ameson and Mrs Simms for this meeting only.

140

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

141

MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 13th March, 2013, be approved as a correct record and signed.

142

EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED

That the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business, on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information, as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the

Local Government Act, 1972, as indicated below and in all the circumstances, the public interest in disclosing the information is outweighed by the public interest in maintaining the exemption from disclosure.

<u>Description of Item</u>	<u>Relevant paragraph of Part I of Schedule 12A</u>
Renewal of Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Driver's Licences – Mr SB	1
Review of Private Hire Driver's Licence – Mr MR	1
Renewal of Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Driver's Licences – Mr RH	1
Grant of Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Driver's Licences – Mr AA	1
Review of Private Hire Driver's Licence – Mr KH	1
Review of Hackney Carriage Driver's Licence – Mr GH	1
Grant of Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Driver's Licences – Mr MF	1

143

CHANGE IN ORDER OF BUSINESS

Pursuant to Council Procedure Rule 13(c) it was:-

RESOLVED

That the remaining items of business be considered in the following order:-

Agenda Item Nos 7, 10, 9, 11, 13, 12 and 8.

144

RENEWAL OF HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE DRIVER'S LICENCES

A report of the Director of Corporate Resources was submitted on the renewal of hackney carriage and private hire driver's licences issued to Mr SB.

Mr SB was in attendance at the meeting, together with his Solicitor, Mrs Paul. Sergeant Hall and Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) Bell, West Midlands Police and Mr Trickett, Licensing Enforcement Officer were also in attendance.

Mrs Paul made representations on behalf of her client and also questioned the Police Officers in attendance about the statements that had been made by them regarding the allegation. In particular reference was made to the statement made by PCSO Bell being made three months after the incident and pointed out that the pocket book used by PCSO Bell on which she had based her statement was not available for inspection.

Mr SB informed the Committee that there were no matters pending that they 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 renewal of the hackney carriage and private hire driver's licences issued to Mr SB and suspended for a period of three months in the light of the incidents referred to in the report submitted.

Mr SB was informed of his right to appeal the decision of the Committee.

145

GRANT OF PRIVATE HIRE AND HACKNEY CARRIAGE DRIVER'S LICENCES

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

Mr AA was in attendance at the meeting, together with his Solicitor, Mrs Paul.

Mrs Paul made representations on behalf of her client and in doing so commented on the circumstances surrounding his conviction and family background.

Mr AA informed the Committee that there were no matters pending that they needed to be made aware of.

RESOLVED

That, approval be given to the grant of private hire and hackney carriage driver's licences to Mr AA for a period of three months, and that any future renewals be dealt with by the Assistant Director of Law and Governance, under delegated powers, provided that Mr AA had no offences or matters pending at the time of renewal.

146

RENEWAL OF PRIVATE HIRE AND HACKNEY CARRIAGE DRIVER'S LICENCES

A report of the Director of Corporate Resources was submitted on an application made for the renewal of private hire and hackney carriage driver's licences in respect of Mr RH.

Mr RH was in attendance at the meeting and informed the Committee that there were no matters pending that they needed to be made aware of.

RESOLVED

That approval be given to the renewal of private hire and hackney carriage driver's licences to Mr RH for a period of six months with effect from 12th March, 2013, and that any future renewals be dealt with by the Assistant Director of Law and Governance, under delegated powers, provided that Mr RH had no offences or matters pending at the time of renewal.

147

REVIEW OF A PRIVATE HIRE DRIVER'S LICENCE

A report of the Director of Corporate Resources was submitted on a review of the private hire driver's licence issued to Mr KH.

Mr KH was in attendance at the meeting and informed the Committee that there were no matters pending that they needed to be made aware of.

RESOLVED

That, following consideration of the information contained in the report submitted, and as reported at the meeting, Mr KH receive a very strong warning as to his future conduct in the light of the offences committed.

148

GRANT OF HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE DRIVER'S LICENCES

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

Mr MF was in attendance at the meeting and informed the Committee that there were no matters pending that they needed to be made aware of.

RESOLVED

That, approval be given to the grant of hackney carriage and private hire driver's licences to Mr MF for a period of twelve months.

149

REVIEW OF HACKNEY CARRIAGE DRIVER'S LICENCE

A report of the Director of Corporate Resources was submitted on a review of the hackney carriage driver's licence issued to Mr GH.

Ms Bangar reported that Mr GH had submitted a letter requesting a deferment, as his representative could not attend.

RESOLVED

That the review of the hackney carriage driver's licence issued to Mr GH be deferred to the next meeting of the Committee.

REVIEW OF PRIVATE HIRE DRIVER'S LICENCE

A report of the Director of Corporate Resources was submitted on a review of the private hire driver's licence issued to Mr MR.

Mr MR was not in attendance at the meeting and a reason for absence had not been received.

Having decided to hear the matter in the absence of Mr MR, it was

RESOLVED

That, following careful consideration of the information contained in the report submitted, the private hire driver's licence issued to Mr MR be suspended for a period of one month in the light of the incident referred to.

The meeting ended at 7.00 p.m.

CHAIR

TAXIS COMMITTEE

Thursday, 9th May, 2013 at 5.30 p.m.
In Committee Room 3 at the Council House, Dudley

PRESENT:-

Councillor Body (Chair)
Councillor A Aston (Vice-Chair)
Councillors A Ahmed, Mrs Ameson, M. Aston, Mrs Simms, Sykes and K Turner

Officers:-

Mr T Holder, Ms N Bangar, Mrs K Taylor and Miss L Taylor (observer) (all Directorate of Corporate Resources).

151 APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE

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

152 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

153 MINUTES

Arising from consideration of this item, Councillor K Turner referred to a question raised at the previous meeting of the Committee, and noted that this had not been included in the minutes. Mr Holder responded that verbatim comments were not recorded in the minutes for this Committee. Councillor Turner made reference to the constitution and stated that he would raise the issue at Full Council.

In response to a further question raised it was noted that consideration would be given to changing the name of the Dudley Council competition 'Taxi Base of the Year'.

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 24th April, 2013, be approved as a correct record and signed.

RESOLVED

That the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business, on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information, as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act, 1972, as indicated below and in all the circumstances, the public interest in disclosing the information is outweighed by the public interest in maintaining the exemption from disclosure.

<u>Description of Item</u>	<u>Relevant paragraph of Part I of Schedule 12A</u>
Review of Hackney Carriage Driver's Licence – Mr AS	1
Grant of Hackney Carriage Driver's Licence – Mr MR	1
Grant of Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Drivers' Licences – Mr NH	1
Grant of Hackney Carriage Driver's Licence – Mr NH	1
Review of Hackney Carriage Driver's Licence – Mr GH	1
Review of Private Hire Driver's Licence – Mr MR	1

REVIEW OF HACKNEY CARRIAGE DRIVER'S LICENCE – MR AS

A report of the Director of Corporate Resources was submitted on a review of the hackney carriage driver's licence issued to Mr AS in the light of a complaint received.

Mr AS, together with a supporter, and Mr B, Complainant, were in attendance at the meeting.

In responding to a question from Mr Holder, Mr B confirmed that he was content with the statement provided and that the group had arrived at the destination at 01.28 hrs.

All parties responded to questions asked by the Committee, and arising from questions asked, concerns were raised in respect of Mr AS failure to operate the meter regardless whether the fare was pre-booked.

Mr AS informed the Committee that there were no matters pending that they 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, the hackney carriage driver's licence issued to Mr AS be suspended for a period of three months in the light of the incident referred to.

Mr AS was informed of his right to appeal the decision of the Committee.

156

CHANGE IN ORDER OF BUSINESS

Pursuant to Council Procedure Rule 13(c) it was:-

RESOLVED

That the remaining items of business be considered in the following order:-

Agenda Item Nos 12, 9, 10, 8 and 11.

157

REVIEW OF PRIVATE HIRE DRIVER'S LICENCE – MR MR

A report of the Director of Corporate Resources was submitted on a review of the private hire driver's licence issued to Mr MR, in the light of a complaint received.

Mr MR was in attendance at the meeting.

It was noted that this matter had been considered by the Committee at the previous meeting in the absence of Mr MR, and that it had been resolved that the private hire driver's licence issued to Mr MR be suspended for a period of one month in the light of the incident referred to. Mr Holder informed the Committee that the letter inviting Mr MR to the Committee had been delivered to his previous address, and therefore he had no knowledge that the matter was being considered at the Committee.

In response to questions asked by the Committee, Mr MR confirmed that he did not contest the suspension agreed by the Committee.

RESOLVED

That, following careful consideration of the information contained in the report submitted and as reported at the meeting, the private hire driver's licence issued to Mr MR be suspended for a period of one month from 9th May, 2013, in the light of the incident referred to.

158 GRANT OF HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE DRIVERS' LICENCES – MR NH

A report of the Director of Corporate Resources was submitted on an application made for the grant of hackney carriage and private hire drivers' licences in the light of the comments made in paragraph 4 of the report submitted.

Mr NH was in attendance at the meeting and informed the Committee that there were no matters pending that they needed to be made aware of.

RESOLVED

That approval be given to the grant of hackney carriage and private hire drivers' licences to Mr NH for a period of twelve months.

159 GRANT OF HACKNEY CARRIAGE DRIVER'S LICENCE – MR NH

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

Mr NH, was in attendance at the meeting, together with his Solicitor, Mr Schiller.

Mr Schiller made representations on behalf of his client in particular commenting on the circumstances surrounding Mr NH's convictions for plying for hire and having no insurance on two occasions.

Mr Schiller responded to questions asked by the Committee, and in doing so informed them that Mr NH did not have any matters pending that they needed to be made aware of.

RESOLVED

That, following consideration of the information contained in the report submitted, and as reported at the meeting, the application for the grant of a hackney carriage driver's licence in respect of Mr NH be refused on the grounds that the Committee did not consider Mr NH to be a fit and proper person in the light of him being convicted of plying for hire on two separate occasions.

Mr NH was informed of his right to appeal the decision of the Committee.

160

GRANT OF HACKNEY CARRIAGE DRIVER'S LICENCE – MR MR

A report of the Director of Corporate Resources was submitted on an application made for the grant of a hackney carriage driver's licence in respect of Mr MR, in the light of his failure to produce a medical certificate on several occasions.

Mr MR was not in attendance at the meeting and a reason for absence had not been received.

Having decided to hear the matter in his absence it was

RESOLVED

That Mr MR be given a further opportunity to submit his medical certificate and that should he fail to do so within one month he be required to re-apply for the grant of a hackney carriage driver's licence.

161

REVIEW OF HACKNEY CARRIAGE DRIVER'S LICENCE – MR GH

A report of the Director of Corporate Resources was submitted on a review of the hackney carriage driver's licence issued to Mr GH, in the light of the offence committed as indicated in paragraph 18 of the report submitted.

Mr GH, was in attendance at the meeting, together with his Solicitor, Mr Schiller.

Mr Schiller made representations on behalf of his client in particular commenting on the circumstances surrounding the offence.

During consideration of this matter, it was noted that Mr GH had attended the Committee in October, 2012 following a complaint received in respect of his driving. Concerns were raised whether Mr GH had reported his pending conviction given this offence would have occurred prior to the Committee in October.

Mr Schiller responded to questions asked by the Committee, and Mr GH informed the Committee that he did not have any matters pending that they 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, the hackney

carriage driver's licence issued to Mr GH be suspended for a period of one month in the light of the offence for which he had been convicted.

Mr GH was informed of his right to appeal the decision of the Committee.

162

COMMENTS OF THE CHAIR

The Chair informed the Committee that he would be meeting with Chairs of other Taxi Committees to discuss a scheme to place on the front doors of taxi vehicles a badge containing the emblem of the Local Authority in which they were registered.

The meeting ended at 7.15 p.m.

CHAIR

TAXIS COMMITTEE

Thursday, 30th May, 2013 at 5.30 p.m.
In Committee Room 3 at the Council House, Dudley

PRESENT:-

Councillor Body (Chair)
Councillor A Aston (Vice-Chair)
Councillors A Ahmed, Mrs Ameson, Cowell, Mrs Simms and K Turner

Officers:-

Assistant Director (Law and Governance), Mr T Holder, Solicitor, and Mrs K Taylor (all Directorate of Corporate Resources).

Also in attendance:-

Mr T. Trickett, Licensing Enforcement Officer in respect of Agenda Item 7 – Review of Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Drivers’ Licences – Mr AQ and Agenda Item 8 – Review of Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Drivers’ Licences – Miss LN.

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors Hemingsley and Taylor.

2 APPOINTMENT OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBER

It was reported that Councillor Mrs Simms had been appointed as substitute member for Councillor Taylor for this meeting only.

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest from Members, in accordance with the Members’ Code of Conduct.

4 MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 9th May, 2013, be approved as a correct record and signed.

EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED

That the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business, on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information, as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act, 1972, as indicated below and in all the circumstances, the public interest in disclosing the information is outweighed by the public interest in maintaining the exemption from disclosure.

<u>Description of Item</u>	<u>Relevant paragraph of Part I of Schedule 12A</u>
Review of Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Drivers' Licences – Mr AQ	1
Review of Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Drivers' Licences – Miss LN	1
Review of Hackney Carriage Driver's Licence – Mr RHS	1
Grant of Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Drivers' Licences – Mr AH	1
Grant of Hackney Carriage Driver's Licence – Mr IH	1
Renewal of Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Drivers' Licences – Mr SA	1
Review of Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Drivers' Licences – Mr SM	1

CHANGE IN ORDER OF BUSINESS

Pursuant to Council Procedure Rule 13(c) it was:-

RESOLVED

That the remaining items of business be considered in the following order:-

Agenda Item Nos 9, 13, 7, 11, 8, 10 and 12

7 REVIEW OF HACKNEY CARRIAGE DRIVER'S LICENCE – MR RHS

A report of the Director of Corporate Resources was submitted on a review of the hackney carriage driver's licence issued to Mr RHS in the light of the offence committed as indicated in paragraph 7 of the report submitted.

Mr RHS was not in attendance at the meeting, and notification had been received by his Solicitor requesting an adjournment, stating that Mr RHS was considering an appeal of the decision of the Crown Court via Judicial Review to the High Court, in relation to his conviction as indicated in paragraph 7 of the report submitted.

It was noted that Mr RHS had previously appealed the conviction to the Crown Court at Wolverhampton.

RESOLVED

That the review of the hackney carriage driver's licence issued to Mr RHS be adjourned until the outcome of his appeal is known.

8 REVIEW OF PRIVATE HIRE AND HACKNEY CARRIAGE DRIVERS' LICENCES – MR SM

A report of the Director of Corporate Resources was submitted on a review of the private hire and hackney carriage drivers' licences issued to Mr SM in the light of the offence committed as indicated in paragraph 3 of the report submitted.

Mr SM was not in attendance at the meeting, and notification had been received requesting an adjournment, stating that Mr SM had an appointment at the time of the Committee.

Having decided to hear the matter in his absence, it was

RESOLVED

That, following careful consideration of the information contained in the report submitted, the private hire and hackney carriage drivers' licences issued to Mr SM be suspended for a period of one month in the light of the offence for which he had been convicted.

Mr SM would be informed of his right to appeal the decision of the

9

REVIEW OF PRIVATE HIRE AND HACKNEY CARRIAGE DRIVERS' LICENCES – MR AQ

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

Mr AQ was in attendance at the meeting, together with his Solicitor, Mrs Paul, Ms Harrison (observing with Mrs Paul), Mr Trickett, Licensing Enforcement Officer, Mr AQ's father and another supporter.

Mrs Paul made representations on behalf of her client and also questioned the lack of evidence regarding the allegation made. In particular reference was made to the statements submitted, and although Mr AQ did not deny that he had been using a mobile telephone, he denied using the phone whilst driving.

All parties responded to questions asked by the Committee, and Mr AQ informed the Committee that there were no matters pending that they 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, the private hire and hackney carriage drivers' licences issued to Mr AQ be suspended for a period of two months in the light of the incident referred to in the report submitted.

Mr AQ was informed of his right to appeal the decision of the Committee.

10

GRANT OF HACKNEY CARRIAGE DRIVER'S LICENCE – MR IH

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

Mr IH was in attendance at the meeting, together with a representative, Mr S Saleem.

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

RESOLVED

That, following consideration of the information contained in the report submitted, and as reported at the meeting, Mr IH be requested to undertake an alcohol test by the Council's Doctor and that the grant of a hackney carriage driver's licence to Mr IH for a period of three months be approved by the Assistant Director of Law and Governance, under delegated powers, provided that the alcohol test was satisfactory, and that any future renewals be dealt with by officers under delegated powers, provided that Mr IH had no offences pending at the time of renewal.

11 REVIEW OF PRIVATE HIRE AND HACKNEY CARRIAGE DRIVERS' LICENCES – MISS LN

A report of the Director of Corporate Resources was submitted on a review of the private hire and hackney carriage drivers' licences issued to Miss LN in light of the information contained in the report submitted.

Miss LN was in attendance at the meeting, together with her Solicitor, Mrs Paul, Ms Harrison (observer with Mrs Paul), Mr Trickett, Licensing Enforcement Officer, Mr AQ, Taxi Base Operator, and another supporter.

Mrs Paul made representations on behalf of her client and in doing so stated that although Miss LN did not deny that she had been using a mobile telephone, she denied using the phone whilst driving.

All parties responded to questions asked by the Committee, and in doing so Miss LN informed the Committee that there were no matters pending that they 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, the private hire and hackney carriage drivers' licences issued to Miss LN be suspended for a period of two months in the light of the incident referred to in the report submitted.

Miss LN was informed of her right to appeal the decision of the Committee.

12 GRANT OF PRIVATE HIRE AND HACKNEY CARRIAGE DRIVERS' LICENCES – MR AH

A report of the Director of Corporate Resources was submitted on an application made for the grant of private hire and hackney carriage drivers' licences in respect of Mr AH, in the light of the medical information attached as Appendices 1 and 2 to the report submitted. Particular reference was made to the information in Appendix 7, which stated that the Consultant

Interventional Cardiologist from the Russells Hall Hospital, Dudley, considered that Mr AH was physically fit to drive private hire and hackney carriage vehicles.

Mr AH, was in attendance at the meeting, together with his representative, Mr Hussain.

During consideration of this matter, it was noted that the Committee had not considered an offence for which Mr AH had been convicted in June, 2012. This was also considered by the Committee in the presence of the applicant and his representative.

Mr AH and his representative responded to questions asked by the Committee, and in doing so Mr AH informed them that there were no matters pending that they needed to be made aware of.

RESOLVED

- (1) 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 private hire and hackney carriage drivers' licence to Mr AH for a period of twelve months.
- (2) That no further action be taken on the private hire and hackney carriage drivers' licences issued to Mr AH in respect of the offence for which he had been convicted in June 2012.

13

RENEWAL OF PRIVATE HIRE AND HACKNEY CARRIAGE DRIVERS' LICENCES – MR SA

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 SA in the light of the offence committed as indicated in paragraph 6 of the report submitted.

Mr SA was not in attendance at the meeting, and information regarding his non-attendance was highlighted in the report submitted.

Having decided to hear the matter in his absence it was

RESOLVED

That, following careful consideration of the information contained in the report submitted, the renewal of the private hire and hackney carriage drivers' licences in respect of Mr SA be refused on the grounds of the offence for which he had been convicted.

The meeting ended at 7.20 p.m.

CHAIR

DUDLEY HEALTH AND WELL-BEING BOARD

Monday, 29th April, 2013 at 3.00 pm
in Committee Room 2 at The Council House, Dudley

PRESENT:-

Councillor Islam (Chair)

Councillor Crumpton (Vice-Chair)

Councillors Miller and Waltho

Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services, Director of Children's Services, Director of Public Health, Assistant Director, Children and Families (Directorate of Children's Services), Assistant Director Planning and Environmental Health (Directorate of the Urban Environment);

Mr. P. Maubach - Dudley Clinical Commissioning Group, Alison Taylor, Local Area Team, NHS Commissioning Board, Mr. A. Gray - Dudley CVS CEO,

Assistant Director, Health Reform Programme Lead (Directorate of Adult, Community and Housing Services), Assistant Director (Quality and Partnership) (Directorate of Children's Services), Mr. N. Bucktin, Head of Partnership Commissioning - Clinical Commissioning Group, Ms. K. Jackson, Consultant in Public Health (Office of Public Health) and Mr. J. Jablonski (Directorate of Corporate Resources)

Also in attendance

Mr. B. Piper, Chairman and Mrs. K. Dowman, Chief Executive of Black Country Partnership NHS Foundation Trust (for Agenda Item No. 8)

together with three members of the public

32. COMMENTS OF THE CHAIR

The Chair welcomed Alison Taylor to this, her first meeting of the Board and also welcomed the Chairman and Chief Executive of the Black Country Partnership NHS Foundation Trust. Following the welcomes made, those present introduced themselves.

33. APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was submitted on behalf of Dr. David Hegarty (Dudley Clinical Commissioning Group).

34. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No member declared an interest in any matter to be considered at this meeting.

35. MINUTES

It was reported that, arising from the preamble to Minute 25, copies of an updated Joint Strategic Needs Assessment Synthesis 2012 and of a Digest of Key Questions for Commissioners referred to at the last meeting, were available for members of the Board to collect at the end of the meeting.

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of the Board held on 21st January, 2013, be approved as a correct record and signed.

36. DATES OF BOARD MEETINGS IN 2013/14

It was noted that the Board would meet on Wednesday, 26th June, 2013, for the holding of a Conference and Event, and that provisionally, the Board would also meet on:-

Monday, 9th September, 2013
Tuesday, 28th January, 2014; and
Monday, 24th March, 2014

It was further noted that, as Monday meetings clashed with meetings of the Dudley Clinical Commissioning Group, it was likely that a day other than a Monday would be used for future meetings of the Board.

37. NEXT STEPS FOR THE HEALTH AND WELL-BEING BOARD INCLUDING WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2013/14

A joint report of officers was submitted on the next steps, including a work programme for 2013/14, for the Health and Well-Being Board following its progression from a shadow body to a statutory Board from 1st April, 2013.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the arrangements regarding the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy and Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, be noted.
- (2) That the content of the Work Programme for 2013/14, as set out in the report submitted, be approved, including the recommended approach for the "Spotlight" sessions and the recommended approach for the meetings in public, including the proposal for a Health and Wellbeing Board Annual Conference.

- (3) That the governance arrangements as set out in Appendix 2 to the report submitted be approved and that the Council at its Annual Meeting on 16th May, 2013, be recommended to agree that no changes be made to current Board voting arrangements.
- (4) That consideration be given to the possibility of varying the location for the meetings held in public.

38. REPORT OF THE MID-STAFFORDSHIRE NHS FOUNDATION TRUST PUBLIC INQUIRY - THE FRANCIS REPORT - IMPLICATIONS FOR DUDLEY

A joint report of officers was submitted on the overall issue relating to quality and safety with regard to the implications for Dudley of the Report of the Mid-Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust Public Inquiry - The Francis Report.

Mr. Maubach, in his presentation of the content of the report emphasised that the purpose of the report was for the Board to consider its role in relation to the issues raised, as set out in paragraph 3 of the report, in particular, specific recommendations in relation to patient, public and local scrutiny.

In this regard, he briefly outlined recommendations 145 to 150 of the Report in respect of the role of healthwatch and scrutiny bodies. The Board needed to be assured that there was sufficient support for scrutiny and sufficient support and advice submitted to the Board. In this connection, elected members referred to the revised arrangements for scrutiny that would be implemented by the Council following the Annual Meeting of Council in May, 2013.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the general themes and the recommendations arising from the Francis Report be noted.
- (2) That local NHS organisations be requested to submit their action plans in response to the Francis Report, with particular reference as to how they were addressing the issue of putting the patient first, for consideration at the meeting of the Board to be held in September, 2013.

39. DUDLEY SAFEGUARDING ADULTS BOARD AND LEARNING DISABILITIES PARTNERSHIP BOARD RESPONSE TO WINTERBOURNE

A joint report of officers was submitted on the implications for both Dudley Safeguarding Adults Board and Learning Disabilities Partnership Board regarding the findings from Winterbourne View.

The report was a progress report on the work that had been done and needed to be done in response to the issues raised by Winterbourne. The role of the Board was to ensure that work was being done and that better outcomes were being delivered to the people concerned.

Arising from consideration of the content of the report and questions raised and responded to, it was

RESOLVED

That the current and proposed measures that the Safeguarding Adults Board and the Learning Disabilities Partnership have made in response to the Winterbourne findings, be noted.

40. PRESENTATION BY BLACK COUNTRY PARTNERSHIP NHS FOUNDATION TRUST

A copy of a presentation by the Black Country Partnership NHS Foundation Trust, a copy of which had been circulated with the papers for this meeting and was available on the Council's Committee Management Information site, was presented by Karen Dowman, Chief Executive of the Trust. The presentation was in two parts, outlining services in relation to children and those for people with learning disabilities.

Arising from the presentation given, a number of questions were asked and responded to with particular reference to the following issues in relation to children:-

- how the Board could be assured that the Trust was meeting specific challenges arising from the changes undergone and Health Visitor responsibilities in relation to safeguarding. Arrangements to meet the specific challenges were outlined by the Chief Executive and the Chairman of the Trust outlined ways in which his Board sought assurance, including the use of Board walk-throughs. It was suggested that when carrying out a walk-through, that Trust members be encouraged to consider how the particular service connected with other services.

- in response to a comment regarding an apparent lack of understanding between the various agencies involved with Children Safeguarding, it was suggested that a diagnostic plan would be useful. The Chief Executive indicated that she would arrange for a structure plan to be produced.
- the Trust acknowledged that it needed to be more creative in the ways in which it engaged with young people and mention was made of a Facebook site that had been in operation for six months and was growing. As a Foundation Trust, it was also seeking to encourage wider membership in young people on its Board of Governors.
- that Children's Services could assist with surveys to be undertaken by the Trust and provide assistance with contacting Head Teachers. Children's Centres were also cited as a good way in which contact could be made with parents.

Regarding services for people with learning difficulties:-

- it was noted that these were provided across the whole of the Black Country and that it was considered that responses had been made arising from Winterbourne View; that a strategy had been presented to the four boroughs and that savings from bed reductions would be used.
- that there was a need for further consideration to be given as to provision, whether it was across the Black Country or in localities and the need to understand what that meant.

At the conclusion of questions, the Chair thanked the Chairman of the Trust and the Chief Executive for their informative presentation.

33. ADULT SOCIAL CARE - LOCAL ACCOUNT 2011/12

A report of the Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services was submitted on the Adult Social Care Local Account, 2011/12. It was noted that a copy of the full document was available on the Council's Committee Management Information System.

RESOLVED

That the information contained in the report submitted, on the Adult Social Care Local Account 2011/2012, be noted.

34. OBESITY STRATEGY

A report of the Director of Public Health was submitted on the refreshed "Tackling Obesity" Strategy for Dudley Borough and the accompanying five year Improvement Plan, 2013 to 2017. A copy of the Strategy was available on the Council's Committee Management Information System.

In presenting the report, Karen Jackson reported that there would be a public facing version of the strategy available for members of the public.

Arising from the presentation given, a number of comments were raised relating, in particular, to the importance of the strategy to other aspects of health and wellbeing, for example, in relation to deprivation and mental health, given the long-term implications of obesity. There was, therefore, considered to be a need to continually check the progress of the strategy. It's impact and relevance on other strategies, for example, strategic planning documents, was also cited.

Mention was also made of interviews given by the Chair of this Board and Karen Jackson on local radio on the Obesity Strategy, which was considered to be a positive contribution to the discussion on this matter.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the Dudley Borough Obesity Strategy and Improvement Plan for 2013 to 2017 be ratified.
- (2) That the Board support and encourage partners to contribute to the Improvement Plan, incorporate the actions into their own organisational/directorate action plans and contribute to the obesity strategy annual report.
- (3) That a yearly Annual Report for this strategy be submitted to the Board.

35. DUDLEY DEMENTIA STRATEGY

A joint report of officers was submitted on national, regional and local developments with regard to dementia in Dudley, including the joint Dementia Strategy, which was available on the Council's Committee Management Information System; consideration of the Prime Minister's Challenge to become dementia friendly partners, committing to how to become dementia friendly and on how the Board wished to be informed of progress in these matters.

During the presentation of this item, tribute was paid to Maggie Venables, a former Assistant Director in the Directorate of Adult, Community and Housing Services, and her colleagues in developing the Dudley Dementia Gateways Project, which had recently been cited at two conferences by Ministers as best practice. It was hoped that the achievement of a recent award would also lead to further national recognition of the project.

Arising from the presentation of the report, various comments were made, including reference to the fact that dementia was not just about what could be done in the community, but also around residential nursing care on which some work needed to be done.

A lot of work was, therefore, currently being undertaken at various levels seeking to prevent, where possible, slow-down progression and ensure specialist dementia provision was available as required. There was also a need to look at what was provided in conjunction with those concerned.

A further comment was made that although much good work had been carried out an apparent weakness could be the below-average rate for diagnosis of dementia and, in this regard, the Dudley Clinical Commissioning Group were doing work to address this.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the developments in Dementia Care at national, regional and local level, as indicated in the report submitted, be noted.
- (2) That the Chair in consultation with appropriate officers, be authorised to further consider the Prime Minister's Challenge to become dementia-friendly partners, committing to how to become dementia friendly and respond accordingly to that Challenge, referred to in Appendix 1 to the report submitted.
- (3) That the Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services be requested to submit an Annual Progress Report on the Dudley Dementia Strategy to the Board and that the Strategy be included as a topic for one of the "Spotlight" sessions to be held throughout the year.

36.

UPDATE ON HEALTHWATCH DUDLEY DEVELOPMENTS

A report of the Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services was submitted updating the Board on Healthwatch Dudley Developments.

It was noted that after an open tender process, the Council procured Dudley Council for Voluntary Services to deliver local Healthwatch for the Borough.

Following a brief introduction by the Assistant Director, Health Reform Programme Lead, Andy Gray, Chief Executive Officer of Dudley Council Voluntary Services commented further on this.

In particular he indicated that it was hoped that a Board Member from Healthwatch would be in attendance at the next meeting of the Board and that although it was only four weeks since the Local Healthwatch Organisation had been established, a website had been produced which was taking shape.

A launch event would be held on 8th May, 2013 between 5 and 8 p.m., which would adopt a non-conference approach, and be held at the Brierley Hill Campus of Dudley College. The event would be open to members of the public and anyone else who wished to attend so as to help shape the Local Healthwatch Organisation. One aspect of this was giving a voice to children and young people and the Board recruitment that was underway would be looking for diversity.

RESOLVED

That the information contained in the report submitted, and as reported at the meeting, updating the Board on Healthwatch Dudley developments, be noted.

The meeting ended at 5.25 p.m.

CHAIRMAN

DUDLEY HEALTH AND WELL-BEING BOARD

Wednesday, 26th June, 2013 at 10.00 am
in Room EV335 at Dudley Evolve, Tower Street, Dudley

PRESENT:-

Councillors Crumpton, Lowe, Miller and S Turner.

A Pope-Smith, Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services, V Little, Director of Public Health, P Sharratt, Assistant Director, Children and Families (Directorate of Children's Services), S Holmyard, Assistant Director, Planning and Environmental Health (Directorate of the Urban Environment); Dr D Hegarty and P Maubach - Dudley GP Clinical Commissioning Group, F Baillie, Local Area Team, NHS Commissioning Board, R Clayton – Chair of Safeguarding Boards, A Gray - Dudley CVS CEO.

N. Bucktin, Head of Partnership Commissioning - Clinical Commissioning Group, K Jackson, Consultant in Public Health (Office of Public Health) and S Griffiths, Democratic Services Manager (Directorate of Corporate Resources)

Also in attendance

Chief Superintendent S Johnson, West Midlands Police
S Ramsay, Sanofi Pasteur MSD

1 ELECTION OF CHAIR

RESOLVED

That Councillor S Turner be elected as Chair of the Board for the 2013/14 municipal year.

2 APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR

RESOLVED

That Councillor Crumpton be appointed as Vice-Chair of the Board for the 2013/14 municipal year.

3 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor Branwood, J Porter, Director of Children's Services, J Emery, Healthwatch and A Taylor, Local Area Team – NHS Commissioning Board – Lead Director for Dudley.

4 SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

It was reported that Councillor Lowe was serving in place of Councillor Branwood and F Baillie was serving in place of A Taylor for this meeting of the Board only.

5 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No member declared an interest in any matter to be considered at this meeting.

6 MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of the Board held on 29th April, 2013, be approved as a correct record and signed.

7 DATES OF BOARD MEETINGS IN 2013/14

RESOLVED

That future meetings of the Board be held at 3pm on:-

Thursday, 26th September, 2013;
Tuesday, 28th January, 2014; and
Wednesday, 26th March, 2014.

8 SUPPORT ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD 2013/14

A joint report of officers was submitted on the support arrangements for the Board during 2013/14. The support arrangements included the transfer of the lead officer functions to the Office of Public Health and the establishment of a Health and Wellbeing Board Development Team with associated key support functions.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the proposed support arrangements for the Dudley Health and Wellbeing Board during 2013/14, as set out in the report now submitted, be approved.

- (2) That the Director of Corporate Resources, in consultation with the Cabinet Members for Health and Wellbeing and Adult and Community Services, be recommended to amend the membership of the Dudley Health and Wellbeing Board to include a representative of West Midlands Police and that subsequently Chief Superintendent S Johnson be appointed to serve on the Board for the 2013/14 municipal year.

The meeting ended at 10.15 a.m.

CHAIR

ERNEST STEVENS TRUSTS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Monday, 22nd April, 2013 at 5.30pm
Committee Room 4, The Council House, Dudley

PRESENT:-

Councillors Cowell, Hanif, Partridge, Mrs Rogers and Sykes

OBSERVER:-

Councillor Elcock

OFFICERS

Assistant Director of Law and Governance, Democratic Services Manager
and Principal Tax Accountant (Directorate of Corporate Resources)

1 SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

The Assistant Director of Law and Governance advised the Committee of the provisions of Council Procedure Rule 5.2. This Rule provided that a substitute member could only be appointed if he/she was otherwise eligible to serve on the Committee.

The Council had established the Committee to include one representative from each of the six wards concerned. A view was taken that a substitute member may only be appointed in place of another Councillor who represented the ward concerned. In these circumstances, Councillor Elcock remained as an observer for the duration of the meeting.

2 ELECTION OF CHAIR

RESOLVED that Councillor Cowell be elected as Chair of the Committee for the remainder of the municipal year.

3 ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR

RESOLVED that Councillor Hanif be elected as Vice-Chair of the Committee for the remainder of the municipal year.

4 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence from the meeting were received on behalf of Councillor C Wilson.

5 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Declarations of interests, in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct, were made by the following Members:

Councillor Mrs Rogers – Non-pecuniary interests as Chair of the Friends Group for Mary Stevens Park and Swinford Common and in relation to her involvement with the Project Implementation Team - Heritage Lottery Bid for Mary Stevens Park.

Councillors Hanif and Partridge – Non-pecuniary interests as attendees at meetings of the Friends of Parks Groups.

6 TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE COMMITTEE

The Committee received a report of the Director of Corporate Resources on the terms of reference approved by the Council on 25th February, 2013 and associated issues.

A Member requested that copies of the deeds of gift and associated Trust documentation be provided to all Members of the Committee. The Chair also asked for clarification of the boundaries of the former Lye and Wollescote Urban District Council. The Assistant Director (Law and Governance) undertook to pursue this in consultation with colleagues in his Division.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

7 STEVENS PARK AND RECREATION GROUND FOUNDATION TRUST – GRANT APPLICATION

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Corporate Resources on a request from Stourbridge and District Scout Council for a grant from the Stevens Park and Recreation Ground Foundation Trust.

The Committee was minded to defer the application to enable further information to be obtained and for the full application form to be circulated to all Members. It was also noted that the Scout Council had recently applied for funding from the Norton, Pedmore and Stourbridge East and Wollaston and Stourbridge Town Community Forum.

Members also referred to the possibility of publicising the availability of funding from the Trust more widely within the area of benefit.

Following a discussion concerning previous funding decisions, it was suggested that a report on the financial strategy be submitted to the next meeting. Reference was also made to income derived from activities associated with the use of the Trust's assets, which was used to offset the maintenance of land and property from the Council's mainstream resources. The Committee requested clarification at a future meeting concerning the role of this Committee in dealing with the income of the Trust and the operational role of the Directorate of the Urban Environment in maintaining land and buildings from mainstream Council resources.

In response to additional questions, the Committee was advised that the Ernest Stevens Trust Management Committee had been established as a Committee of the Council. As such, its meetings were subject to the provisions of the Local Government Act 1972 and the access to information procedure rules contained in the Council's Constitution. The Committee had no obligation to include a 'Public Forum' on the agenda. Members of the public were, however, entitled to attend for the public proceedings and the right of any person to address the Committee was at the discretion of the Chair.

Under the relevant legislation applicable to Council Committee meetings, it was not permissible to include an agenda item for 'Any Other Business'. However, it would be appropriate to include an item for questions to be asked under Council Procedure Rule 11.8 at future meetings.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the request for grant funding submitted by Stourbridge and District Scout Council be deferred for further information.
- (2) That the Committee receive an update at the next meeting on the various issues referred to above.

The meeting ended at 6.23 p.m.

CHAIR

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CABINET

Thursday 25th April, 2013 at 6.30 p.m.
in Committee Room 2 at the Council House, Dudley

PRESENT:-

Councillor Sparks (Leader of the Council) (Chair)
Councillor Ali (Deputy Leader)
Councillors K Ahmed, Crumpton, Foster, Islam, Lowe, Partridge and Wood

together with the following Opposition Group Members appointed to attend meetings of the Cabinet:-

Conservative Group - Councillors Blood, Harley, James, Miller, K Turner, Vickers and Wright

OBSERVER:-

Councillor J Martin

OFFICERS:-

The Chief Executive, Director of Corporate Resources, Director of Children's Services, Director of the Urban Environment, Director of Public Health, Treasurer, Assistant Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services, Assistant Director of the Urban Environment and the Democratic Services Manager, together with other officers

94 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence from the meeting were received on behalf of Councillors Mrs Walker and Waltho.

95 CHANGES IN REPRESENTATION OF OPPOSITION GROUP MEMBERS

It was reported that Councillor Miller had been appointed to serve as an Opposition Group representative in place of Councillor Mrs Walker for this meeting of the Cabinet only.

96 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

REVIEW OF THE COUNCIL'S SCRUTINY ARRANGEMENTS

A report of the Director of Corporate Resources was submitted on a review of the Council's arrangements in advance of the 2013/14 municipal year.

The Leader expressed thanks to the Scrutiny Chairs for the production of the proposals, which would strengthen democratic accountability as part of the ongoing review of the Council's governance arrangements.

In response to a question from a Member, the Director of Corporate Resources advised that additional meetings of Scrutiny Committees would be convened as and when necessary to carry out the workload arising from the Annual Scrutiny Programme to be agreed by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board. It was also clarified that the political proportionality rules would apply to the Board and the Scrutiny Committees.

RESOLVED

That, subject to the inclusion of specific reference to the Office of Public Health in the terms of reference of the Health Scrutiny Committee, the recommendations as set out in paragraphs 12 to 14 of the report, be submitted to the annual meeting of the Council on 16th May, 2013.

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

DUDLEY MARKET PLACE

A report of the Director of the Urban Environment was submitted on matters associated with the delivery of the Dudley Market Place Public Realm Project.

The Cabinet noted that the outcome of the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) bid was awaited. The Cabinet Member for Regeneration indicated that should the funding bid be unsuccessful, a programme of works would be maintained and alternative sources of funding would be investigated.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the positive support arising from the consultation exercise undertaken for the Dudley Market Place proposals be noted.

- (2) That the Council be recommended to include the expenditure of £6.7m on the Dudley Market Place project in the Capital Programme, subject to the approval of the European Regional Development Fund grant.

99

EUROPEAN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND (ERDF) APPLICATIONS

A joint report of the Director of the Urban Environment and the Director of Corporate Resources was submitted seeking approval for the Council to act as Guarantor on European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) applications submitted by third party organisations.

Members welcomed the report and asked that the Equality Impact section of the report be supplemented in future to make reference to the wider benefits, implications and added value of the individual schemes referred to.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the Council act as a Guarantor for the projects outlined in paragraph 3 of the report now submitted, and for any further such projects in the current 2007-13 and future 2014-2020 European Programmes, where there is a realisable chargeable asset to and where a risk assessment has been undertaken that identifies acceptable risk to the Council.
- (2) That the Director of Corporate Resources and the Director of the Urban Environment be authorised to undertake the necessary property valuations and legal work to ensure that the proposed charging of the assets is sufficient to protect the Council's position and the cost of this be met by the relevant third party organisation.
- (3) That the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and the Cabinet Member for Human Resources, Law and Governance, in consultation with the Directors of the Urban Environment and Corporate Resources, be authorised to;
 - (a) Enter into back to back legal agreements with third parties benefiting from ERDF grant where the Council is the Guarantor to ensure grant conditions and liabilities are passed on.

- (b) Ensure that, where appropriate, third parties secure at their own expense independent expertise to confirm compliance with key areas of the ERDF grant process such as procurement and defrayment of expenditure accord with European Union (EU) requirements.

100

EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED

That the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information, as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972, as indicated below and in all the circumstances, the public interest in disclosing the information is outweighed by the public interest in maintaining the exemption from disclosure.

<u>Description of Item</u>	<u>Relevant paragraph of Part 1 of Schedule 12A</u>
Staffing Issues – 2013/14 Budget Savings	1

101

STAFFING ISSUES – 2013/14 BUDGET SAVINGS

A report of the Director of Corporate Resources was submitted seeking approval to terminate the contracts of employment of employees, on the grounds of redundancy, in accordance with the Managing Employees at Risk of Redundancy policy and the Retraining and Redeployment policy.

RESOLVED

That approval be given to terminate the contracts of employment of up to 8 employees referred to in the report now submitted on the grounds of redundancy.

The meeting ended at 6.55pm.

LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

MEETING OF THE CABINET

Thursday, 20th June, 2013 at 6.00 p.m.
in Committee Room 2 at the Council House, Dudley

PRESENT:-

Councillor Sparks (Leader of the Council) (Chair)
Councillor Lowe (Deputy Leader)
Councillors K Ahmed, Branwood, Foster, S Turner, Waltho and Wood

together with the following Opposition Group Members appointed to attend meetings of the Cabinet:-

Conservative Group - Councillors Burston, Harley, James, Miller, K Turner and Vickers

OFFICERS:-

The Chief Executive, Director of Corporate Resources, Director of Children's Services, Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services, Director of Public Health, Treasurer, Assistant Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services, Assistant Director of the Urban Environment, Assistant Director of Corporate Resources (Human Resources and Organisational Development) and the Democratic Services Manager, together with other officers

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence from the meeting were received on behalf of Councillors Crumpton, Partridge, Simms and Wright.

2 CHANGES IN REPRESENTATION OF MINORITY GROUP MEMBERS

It was reported that Councillors Burston and Miller were serving in place of Councillors Wright and Simms, respectively, for this meeting of the Cabinet only.

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

4

MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meetings of the Cabinet held on 20th March and 25th April, 2013, be approved as correct records and signed.

5

REVENUE AND CAPITAL OUT-TURN 2012/13

A report of the Treasurer was submitted on the provisional financial results for the year ended 31st March, 2013.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the information contained in the report be noted in relation to:
 - the draft outturn for 2012/13.
 - the effect of the General Fund Revenue outturn on General Balances at 31st March, 2013.
 - the position on earmarked reserves at 31st March, 2013.
 - the latest forecast General Fund Revenue position for 2013/14.
- (2) That the Chief Executive, the Director of Children's Services and the Treasurer, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Children's Services and Lifelong Learning, the Deputy Leader and the Opposition Spokesperson for Children's Services and Lifelong Learning, monitor the data and costs relating to Looked After Children and submit a further report to the Cabinet in September, 2013.
- (3) That the Council be recommended:-
 - (a) To amend the 2013/14 General Fund revenue budget to reflect:
 - the receipt of £0.511m of Council Tax Support Transitional Grant, as set out in paragraph 4 of the report now submitted;
 - the net saving of £0.170m resulting from economies of scale in the provision of support services to Public Health, as set out in paragraph 16 of the report now submitted.

- (b) To implement a 50% Empty Homes Premium from 1st April, 2014 to properties that have been unoccupied for more than two years.

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

6

REVIEW OF HOUSING FINANCE

A joint report of the Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services and the Treasurer was submitted on proposed revisions to the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) budgets to reflect the latest financial forecasts; proposed revisions to the Public Sector Housing capital programme and seeking approval to the HRA 30 year business plan.

The Cabinet Member for Housing and Community Safety undertook to provide written responses to questions raised by a Member concerning borrowing availability and Right to Buy applications.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the Council be recommended to approve:-
 - (a) the revised Housing Revenue Account (HRA) budget for 2013/14 as referred to in paragraphs 5 to 11 and Appendix 1 to the report now submitted;
 - (b) the revised Public Sector Housing capital programme for 2013/14 to 2017/18 as referred to in paragraphs 12 to 19 and Appendix 2 to the report now submitted.
- (2) That the HRA 30 Year Business Plan, as referred to in paragraphs 20 to 22 and Appendix 3 to the report now submitted, be approved.

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

7

COUNCIL PLAN 2013 - 2016

A report of the Chief Executive was submitted seeking endorsement of the Council Plan in accordance with the Council Plan Policy Framework for 2013-16.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the Council be recommended to approve the Council Plan 2013/16 and to note the alignment of Cabinet priorities to the Council Plan and Directorate Strategic Plans.
- (2) That in connection with the regeneration, skills and employment priorities, a report be submitted to the Cabinet in September, 2013 on sub-regional developments including the Local Enterprise Partnership, City Deal and the transfer of strategic transport functions from the Integrated Transport Authority.

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

8

CAPITAL PROGRAMME MONITORING

A joint report of the Chief Executive and the Treasurer was submitted on progress with the implementation of the Capital Programme and proposing certain amendments to the Programme.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the results of the Post Completion Review of capital projects, as set out in Appendix B of the report now submitted, be noted.
- (2) That the Council be recommended:-
 - (a) That current progress with the 2013/14 Capital Programme, as set out in Appendix A to the report now submitted be noted.
 - (b) That the budget for Disabled Facilities Grants be approved and included in the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 4 of the report now submitted.
 - (c) That the capital schemes to be funded from the disposal of the Gornal Wood Cemetery Lodge be approved and included in the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 5 of the report now submitted.
 - (d) That the additional Integrated Transport Authority capital funding be used to increase the Integrated Transport programme, and that the Capital Programme be amended accordingly, as set out in paragraph 6 of the report now submitted.

- (e) That up to £370,000 (subject to final negotiations on land value) be allocated to support the Cradley Extra Care Housing development and that this expenditure be included in the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 7 of the report now submitted.
- (f) That the construction of permanent changing rooms at Homer Hill Park, Cradley, be approved and included in the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 8 of the report now submitted.
- (g) That the Corbyn Road site be retained for use as a base for a joint Children's Safeguarding Unit and frontline social work teams; that £945,000 of the forecast sale proceeds from the disposal of the Cradley High site be reallocated to contribute to the new Old Park school capital project; and that the cost of refurbishment of the Corbyn Road site of £1,300,000 (to be funded from 14-19/Special Educational Needs capital grant) be approved and included in the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 9 of the report now submitted.
- (h) That the loft conversion at a foster carer's property be approved and included in the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 10 of the report now submitted.

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

9

CORPORATE QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT REPORT

A report of the Chief Executive was submitted on corporate performance for the period 1st January to 31st March, 2013. The Corporate Performance Management, Efficiency and Effectiveness Scrutiny Committee had considered the report on 11th June, 2013.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the corporate quarterly performance management report be approved.
- (2) That the consideration of the report by the Corporate Performance Management, Efficiency and Effectiveness Scrutiny Committee be noted.

DOMESTIC COLLECTIVE FUEL SWITCHING – TACKLING FUEL POVERTY

A joint report of the Chief Executive and the Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services was submitted on the Council's domestic collective fuel switching initiative for residents, including a pilot initiative. Approval was sought to explore options and for the Council to formally enter into a collective fuel switching initiative.

Members welcomed the report and supported the need for further work to promote greater take-up of the initiative to reduce energy costs for local residents.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the report be noted.
 - (2) That the approach set out in the report to explore and appraise the various options (including the Black Country approach) for a collective energy switching scheme for Dudley households (including incorporating any findings from the pilot) be approved.
 - (3) That the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader and the Cabinet Member for Housing and Community Safety, be authorised to enter into a collective energy-switching scheme.
 - (4) That approval be given for the use of up to £10,000 to support this initiative and to undertake a range of promotional activities.
 - (5) That any referral fees (income paid to the Council through the collective fuel energy-switching scheme) be used as follows:
 - (a) 50% towards continued support for tackling fuel poverty initiatives in Dudley including future promotional activity for successive rounds of collective fuel switching.
 - (b) The remaining 50% be considered as additional income for the Council.
-

SAFER ROUTES TO SCHOOL – 20 MPH UPDATE

A report of the Director of the Urban Environment was submitted on the position concerning the introduction of 20mph zones, following consultation with ward councillors and schools, based on agreed criteria, priority ranking and practical feasibility.

Approval was sought to produce a programme of works for 20mph zones or alternative safety measures where appropriate.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the consultation that has taken place be noted.
- (2) That the Cabinet Member for Transport, in consultation with the Opposition Spokesperson for Transport and the Director of the Urban Environment, develop a programme of 20 mph schemes or alternative safety measures based upon the highest ranking priority locations shown in Appendix A to the report now submitted and any schemes shown in Appendix A that are not completed this financial year be carried over to next financial year.
- (3) That the Cabinet endorse the principle that any ward member queries on the priority ranked programme or specific queries on schools in their ward be channelled via the Cabinet Member for Transport to ensure an investigation and an appropriate response.

LOCALISED COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION SCHEME 2014/15

A report of the Director of Corporate Resources was submitted on the timetable for approving the localised Council Tax Reduction Scheme for the 2014/15 financial year. Approval was sought to undertake consultation on the options in advance of a final decision being made by the Council in due course.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the timetable required to develop a revised Council Tax Reduction Scheme for 2014/15, as set out in paragraph 12 of the report now submitted, be noted.
- (2) That approval be given for consultation to commence based on the options set out in paragraph 16 of the report now submitted.

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

13 FOOD SERVICE PLAN 2013/14

A report of the Director of the Urban Environment was submitted on the approval of the Food Service Plan for 2013/14.

RESOLVED

That the Council be recommended to approve the Food Service Plan for 2013/14.

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

14 APPOINTMENT OF COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS

A report of the Director of Corporate Resources was submitted on the appointment of Council representatives to various outside organisations for the 2013/14 municipal year.

RESOLVED

That the Director of Corporate Resources, in consultation with the Leader of the Council and the Opposition Group Leader, as appropriate, be authorised to determine the appointment of representatives to serve on the outside organisations indicated in the Appendix to the report now submitted.

15 FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS

A report of the Director of Corporate Resources was submitted on the Forward Plan of Key Decisions for the four-month period commencing 1st June, 2013.

RESOLVED

That the Forward Plan of Key Decisions be noted.

16 ISSUES ARISING FROM SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

No issues were reported under this item.

17

EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED

That the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information, as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act, 1972, as indicated below and in all the circumstances, the public interest in disclosing the information is outweighed by the public interest in maintaining the exemption from disclosure.

<u>Description of Item</u>	<u>Relevant paragraph of Part 1 of Schedule 12A</u>
Directorate of the Urban Environment – Waste Care Restructuring Proposals	1

18

DIRECTORATE OF THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT – WASTE CARE RESTRUCTURING PROPOSALS

A report of the Director of the Urban Environment was submitted on a proposed restructuring in relation to Waste Care services.

RESOLVED

That the restructuring proposals, as set out in paragraphs 7 and 8 of the report now submitted, in relation to Waste Care services in the Environmental Management Division of the Directorate of the Urban Environment, be approved.

The meeting ended at 6.30pm

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 Housing, Libraries and Adult
In Consultation With Andrea Pope-Smith, Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services
Ward(s) Affected All
Date of Decision 18 April 2013 **Reference** DACHS/006/2013

Allocation Policies

To give additional priority for housing allocations to service personnel with a connection to Dudley, by backdating their application and band start date to their date of enlistment.

To give additional priority for a larger home where needed for approved foster carers/adoptive families, by including them in band 2.

To allow for additional priority for housing allocations to other groups who make a contribution to the community, only where this forms part of a formally approved local lettings plan.

To allow for additional priority for housing allocations where an existing home has become unaffordable, by recognising this as a need within the bandings scheme.

To consider affordability issues in decisions on transfers and exchanges with arrears.

To amend from 18 to 16 the age at which a young person is considered to need their own bedroom within the family home.

To prevent transfers within two years of a tenancy start date unless there are exceptional, unforeseen circumstances, or the move is of benefit to the Council.

2.

Delegated Decision Summary

Exempt
Yes No

Decision Made By Cllr Khurshid Ahmed
Authorised By Cllr Khurshid Ahmed, Cabinet Member for Housing, Libraries and Adult
Cllr. Waltho, Cabinet Member for Adult and Community Services
In Consultation With Andrea Pope-Smith, Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services
Andrea Pope-Smith, Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services
Ward(s) Affected All
Date of Decision 03 May 2013 **Reference** DACHS/007/2013

DACHS Equality Action Plan 2013/14

To approve the Directorate's Equality Action Plan for 2013/14, following scrutiny as an information item at the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee on 27th March 2013.

3.**Delegated Decision Summary****Exempt**

Yes No

 Decision Made By Cllr Tim Crumpton**Authorised By** Cllr Tim Crumpton, Cabinet Member for Integrated Children's Services**In Consultation With** Jane Porter, Director of Children's Services**Ward(s) Affected** All**Date of Decision** 15 April 2013**Reference** DCS/20/2013**Time for Two's – Early Years Single Funding Formula and Family Support allocations**

To provide an hourly rate of £4.50 per hr arrived at by the Early Years Single Funding Formula and the findings of a Private, Voluntary and Independent (PVI) childcare provider consultation to providers of 'Time for Two' places for vulnerable 2yr olds. And to retain an element of this funding from the Time for Two's allocation to ensure Family Support provision continues to enhance the offer available. Each eligible child is entitled to 15hrs of free early years education per week over 38 weeks or 570 hrs per year as a minimum.

4.**Delegated Decision Summary****Exempt**

Yes No

 Decision Made By Cllr Tim Crumpton**Authorised By** Cllr Tim Crumpton, Cabinet Member for Integrated Children's Services**In Consultation With** Jane Porter, Director of Children's Services**Ward(s) Affected** All**Date of Decision** 15 April 2013**Reference** DCS/21/2013**Family Based Short Breaks Extension of Contract**

Approval be given for the extension of a negotiated contract which expires on 31st March 2013 for the delivery of the Family Based Short Breaks for Children with Disabilities Service.

To approve the extension of the Family Based Short Breaks for Children with Disabilities Service contract for a further 2 years from 1st April 2013 to 31st March 2015.

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

Decision Made By Cllr Tim Crumpton

Authorised By Cllr Tim Crumpton, Cabinet Member for Integrated Children's Services

In Consultation With Jane Porter, Director of Children's Services

Ward(s) Affected Castle & Priory
Netherton, Woodside &
St.Andr
Quarry Bank & Dudley Wood
St Thomas's
St James's
Brockmoor & Pensnett
Kingswinford North &
WallHeath
Kingswinford South
Brierley Hill
Wordsley
Coseley East
Gornal
Sedgley
Upper Gornal & Woodsetton

Date of Decision 23 April 2013 **Reference** DCS/22/2013

Dudley Schools Forum School Member Appointments

In respect of Dudley Schools Forum, to approve the appointment of two Governor Members from 1 May 2013.

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

Decision Made By Cllr Tim Crumpton

Authorised By Jane Porter, Director of Children's Services
Cllr Tim Crumpton, Cabinet Member for Integrated Children's Services

In Consultation With Iain Newman, Treasurer
Cllr David Sparks, Cabinet Member for Policy and Leader of the Council

Ward(s) Affected All

Date of Decision 07 May 2013 **Reference** DCS/23/2013

Demographic Growth Capital Fund 2013 – 15

To approve the submission of three separate capital bids for 16 – 19 Demographic Growth Capital Fund 2013 – 15 to comply with DMBC Financial Regulations and the Council's "External Funding Code of Practice".

That to enable timescales associated with the capital bids and the Code of Practice to be complied with, this decision be treated as special urgency under Access to Information Procedure Rule 16 and treated as a matter of urgency under Select Committee Procedure Rules 15(1) and not subject to call in and be implemented with immediate effect.

7.

Delegated Decision Summary

Exempt
Yes No

Decision Made By Cllr Tim Crumpton
Authorised By Cllr Tim Crumpton, Cabinet Member for Integrated Children's Services
Cllr Gaye Partridge, Cabinet Member for Human Resources, Legal and
In Consultation With Jane Porter, Director of Children's Services
Philip Tart, Director of Corporate Resources
Ward(s) Affected Upper Gornal & Woodsetton
Date of Decision 24 May 2013 **Reference** DCS/24/2013

Bramford Primary School- Academy Order

The Secretary of State for Education has issued an Academy Order for Bramford Primary School to open as an Academy on the 1st June 2013 sponsored by Griffin Schools Trust. In order to facilitate this permission is sought to enter into a commercial transfer agreement, enter into a lease for the site and to approve the transfer of staff employment from Dudley MBC to The Bramford Primary School Academy from 1st June 2013 when the school changes its legal status to become an Academy.

That to enable timescales associated with Bramford Primary School converting to Academy status on the 1st June 2013 to be complied with this decision be treated as special urgency under Access to Information Procedure Rule 16 and treated as a matter of urgency under Select Committee Procedure Rules 15(1) and not subject to call in and be implemented with immediate effect.

To approve the signing of the commercial transfer agreement, to approve the signing of the lease for the site and to approve the staff transfer from Dudley MBC to Bramford Primary School (Academy) to facilitate Bramford Primary School converting to an Academy status from 1st June 2013 in accordance with the Academy Order issued by the Secretary of State for Education.

8.

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 Jane Porter, Director of Children's Services
Ward(s) Affected All
Date of Decision 27 May 2013 **Reference** DCS/25/2013

Dudley Schools Forum School Member Appointments

In respect of Dudley Schools Forum, to approve the appointment of one Academy Member from 1 May 2013.

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

Decision Made By Councillor Tim Crumpton

Authorised By Councillor Tim Crumpton, Children's Services and Lifelong Learning
Councillor Gaye Partridge, Cabinet Member for Human Resources, Legal

In Consultation With Jane Porter, Director of Children's Services
Philip Tart, Director of Corporate Resources

Ward(s) Affected All

Date of Decision 29 May 2013 **Reference** DCS/26/2013

Transfer of staff employment from Dudley MBC - The Coseley School & the Specialist College and Halesbury Special School

That to enable timescales associated with Sutton School & Specialist College and Halesbury Special School changing their legal status to become one Foundation Trust on 1st June 2013 and The Coseley School changing its legal status to become a Foundation Cooperative Trust on 1st May 2013 to be complied with this decision be treated as special urgency under Access to Information Procedure Rule 16 and treated as a matter of urgency under Select Committee Procedure Rules 15(1) and not subject to call in and be implemented with immediate effect.

To approve the staff transfer under The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007, from Dudley MBC to Halesbury Special School and Sutton School & Specialist College Foundation Trust, which will be known as The People's Field Trust. The People's Field Trust will be the sole employer of the staff from both schools from 1st June 2013, although both schools will retain their individual identity.

To approve the staff transfer under The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007, from Dudley MBC to The Coseley School Cooperative Learning Trust from 1st May 2013.

To further resolve that access to the Local Government Pension Scheme be offered to appropriate staff in accordance with regulation 127 (i) of the Local Government Pension Scheme (Administration) Regulations 2008.

10.**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 Jane Porter, Director of Children's Services

Ward(s) Affected All

Date of Decision 10 June 2013 **Reference** DCS/27/2013

Dudley Regional Staff College receives £209,630 from National College for Teaching and learning to fund a West Midlands regional succession planning project

To approve that Regional Staff College receives external funding of £209,630 from National College for Teaching and Learning (NCTL) in order to oversee and coordinate wave 7 West Midlands Regional Succession Planning provision in order to improve the number of quality applicants for headships.

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 Jane Porter, Director of Children's Services
Ward(s) Affected Amblecote
Lye and Stourbridge North
Pedmore & Stourbridge East
Norton
Wollaston & Stourbridge
Town
Date of Decision 12 June 2013 **Reference** DCS/28/2013

Academy Order for Redhill Foundation School to open as an Academy from 1st July 2013

The Secretary of State for Education has issued an Academy Order for Redhill Foundation School to open as an Academy from 1st July 2013. In order to facilitate this permission is sought to enter into a Commercial Transfer Agreement.

The Secretary of State for Education has issued an Academy Order for Redhill Foundation School to open as an Academy from 1st July 2013. In order to facilitate this permission is sought to enter into a Commercial Transfer Agreement.

12.**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 Jane Porter, Director of Children's Services
Ward(s) Affected All
Date of Decision 25 June 2013 **Reference** DCS/29/2013

Dudley Schools Forum School Member Appointments

In respect of Dudley Schools Forum, to approve the appointment of one representative of the recognised Unions and Professional Associations. The post is a three year term of office from 1 May 2013 to the 31 April 2016 but will be effective from the date the decision sheet will be published, which is estimated to be 2 July 2013.

13.**Delegated Decision Summary****Exempt**

Yes No

 Decision Made By Cllr Foster**Authorised By** Cllr Foster, Cabinet Member Transportation and Community Safety**In Consultation With** John Millar, Director of the Urban Environment**Ward(s) Affected** St Thomas's**Date of Decision** 09 April 2013**Reference** DUE/18/2013**Allocation of new road name off Constitution Hill, Dudley**

1.1 That the roads identified on plan no. T&T/D/RN/188 are named "Cascade Way" and Wellspring Gardens".

14.**Delegated Decision Summary****Exempt**

Yes No

 Decision Made By Cllr Foster**Authorised By** Cllr Foster, Cabinet Member Transportation and Community Safety**In Consultation With** John Millar, Director of the Urban Environment**Ward(s) Affected** Wollaston & Stourbridge
Town**Date of Decision** 09 April 2013**Reference** DUE/17/2013**Allocation of new road name off Mamble Road, Stourbridge**

1.1 That the road identified on plan no. T&T/D/RN/187 is named 'Melvyn Close'.

15.**Delegated Decision Summary****Exempt**

Yes No

 Decision Made By Cllr Foster**Authorised By** Cllr Foster, Cabinet Member Transportation and Community Safety**In Consultation With** John Millar, Director of the Urban Environment**Ward(s) Affected** Cradley and Wollescote**Date of Decision** 11 April 2013**Reference** DUE/20/2013**Relocation of Disabled Parking Places, Beechcroft Estate**

1.1 That the Borough Council of Dudley (Disabled Residents Parking Places) (Number 1 Type) (Consolidation) (Amendment No 2)(Beechcroft Estate, Halesowen) Order 2012 be implemented.

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

Decision Made By Cllr Foster
Authorised By Cllr Foster, Cabinet Member Transportation and Community Safety
In Consultation With John Millar, Director of the Urban Environment
Ward(s) Affected All
Date of Decision 11 April 2013 **Reference** DUE/21/2013

Local Transport Plan 3 Integrated Transport Block Allocation for 2013/14

1.1 That the Local Transport Plan (LTP3) Integrated Transport (IT) Block Allocation for 2013/14 be approved.

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

Decision Made By Cllr Foster
Authorised By Cllr Foster, Cabinet Member Transportation and Community Safety
In Consultation With John Millar, Director of the Urban Environment
Ward(s) Affected Coseley East
Netherton, Woodside &
St.Andr
Pedmore & Stourbridge East
Date of Decision 11 April 2013 **Reference** DUE/19/2013

Local Safety Scheme and Safer Routes to School Programme 2012/13 – Traffic Regulation Orders

1.1 That the three Traffic Regulation Orders at Legge Lane/Yew Tree Lane, Coseley, Highbridge Road, Netherton and Grange Road, Stourbridge be sealed as advertised.

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

Decision Made By Cllr Foster
Authorised By Cllr Foster, Cabinet Member Transportation and Community Safety
In Consultation With John Millar, Director of the Urban Environment
Ward(s) Affected Netherton, Woodside &
St.Andr
Date of Decision 23 April 2013 **Reference** DUE/23/2013

Allocation of new road name off Northfield Road, Netherton

1.1 That the road identified on plan no. T&T/D/RN/189 is named 'Wharf Mews'.

19.

Delegated Decision Summary

Exempt
Yes No

Decision Made By Cllr Foster
Authorised By Cllr Foster, Cabinet Member Transportation and Community Safety
In Consultation With John Millar, Director of the Urban Environment
Ward(s) Affected Brierley Hill
Brockmoor & Pensnett
Coseley East
Gornal
Sedgley
Upper Gornal & Woodsetton
Date of Decision 23 April 2013 **Reference** DUE/24/2013

Objection to Traffic Regulation Orders for Northern Dudley and Brierley Hill Areas

1.1 Having considered the objections to the Borough of Dudley (Various Roads in Northern Dudley) (No. 5, 6 and 7 Order Types) (Prohibition and Restriction of Waiting and Parking Places) Order 2013:-

- A revised Order be made as shown in the plans in Appendix B.
- The proposals shown in Appendix C be withdrawn, in accordance with the revised Order.

1.2 That the Borough of Dudley (Various Roads in the Northern Dudley Area) (No. 6 and 7 Order Type) (One Way Traffic and Weight Restriction) Order 2013 be withdrawn as shown in Appendix D, as the Order proposals have been revoked following the consultation.

20.

Delegated Decision Summary

Exempt
Yes No

Decision Made By Cllr Foster
Authorised By Cllr Foster, Cabinet Member Transportation and Community Safety
In Consultation With John Millar, Director of the Urban Environment
Ward(s) Affected Castle & Priory
St James's
Date of Decision 23 April 2013 **Reference** DUE/25/2013

Pedestrian crossing - The Broadway, Dudley

1.1 That the provision of a pedestrian crossing shown in drawing HT 3484-1a be approved.

1.2 An agreement under Section 278 Highways Act 1980 be entered into with Dudley College to pay all costs and a future maintenance commuted payment for the provision of the crossing in the approved position.

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

Decision Made By Councillor Judy Foster
Authorised By Councillor Judy Foster, Cabinet Member for Regeneration
In Consultation With John Millar, Director of the Urban Environment
Ward(s) Affected All
Date of Decision 20 June 2013 **Reference** DUE/33/2013

Economic Regeneration Fees and Charges 2013/14

That approval is given for the proposed revision of fees and charges for the services as described in the appendix.

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

Decision Made By Councillor Judy Foster
Authorised By Councillor Judy Foster, Cabinet Member for Regeneration
In Consultation With John Millar, Director of the Urban Environment
Ward(s) Affected Brierley Hill
Date of Decision 20 June 2013 **Reference** DUE/31/2013

Stewardship Cooperation Agreement

1.1 That the Director of the Urban Environment, in consultation with the Director of Corporate Resources, be authorised to enter into a Stewardship Cooperation Agreement with the Homes and Communities Agency and Sandwell, Wolverhampton and Walsall Councils.

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

Decision Made By Councillor Judy Foster
Authorised By Councillor Judy Foster, Cabinet Member for Regeneration
In Consultation With John Millar, Director of the Urban Environment
Ward(s) Affected All
Date of Decision 20 June 2013 **Reference** DUE/32/2013

Approval of List of Professional Urban Design Support

1.1 To approve the List of Professional Urban Design Support.

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

Decision Made By Councillor Judy Foster
Authorised By Councillor Judy Foster, Cabinet Member for Regeneration
In Consultation With John Millar, Director of the Urban Environment
Ward(s) Affected All
Date of Decision 24 June 2013 **Reference** DUE/34/2013

Directorate of the Urban Environment's Equality Action Plan for 2013/14

That the Directorate's Equality Action Plan for 2013/14 be approved.

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

Decision Made By Cllr Peter Lowe
Authorised By Cllr Peter Lowe, Cabinet Member for Finance
In Consultation With Iain Newman, Treasurer
Ward(s) Affected All
Date of Decision 10 April 2013 **Reference** DCR/17/2013

Corporate account with Castle and Crystal Credit Union

That the Council opens a corporate account with the Castle & Crystal Credit Union.

That the Treasurer, or other Council officer that he shall nominate, should act as the Council's corporate representative for the purpose of exercising membership rights of the credit union

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

Decision Made By Councillor Peter Lowe
Authorised By Councillor Peter Lowe, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance
In Consultation With Iain Newman, Treasurer
Ward(s) Affected All
Date of Decision 03 June 2013 **Reference** DCR/24/2013

Approval to waive Standing Order 9.1

Approval to be given to waive standing order 9.1(A contractor shall not be employed by the Council on the basis of a negotiated contract or series of negotiated contracts for more than 3 consecutive years) for the Children's Services contract with Trilby Multimedia Ltd for web hosting of the Offsite Risk management Service.

27.**Delegated Decision Summary****Exempt**

Yes No

 Decision Made By Iain Newman**Authorised By** Iain Newman, Treasurer**In Consultation With** Cllr Peter Lowe, Cabinet Member for Finance**Ward(s) Affected** All**Date of Decision** 19 April 2013**Reference** DCR/19/2013**Approval of the grant to the Citizens Advice Bureaux for 2013/14**

To approve the core grant of £354,000 for the Citizens Advice Bureaux (CAB) for the financial year 2013/14.

28.**Delegated Decision Summary****Exempt**

Yes No

 Decision Made By Cllr Gaye Partridge**Authorised By** Cllr Gaye Partridge, Cabinet Member for Human Resources, Law and**In Consultation With** Teresa Reilly, Assistant Director**Ward(s) Affected** All**Date of Decision** 15 April 2013**Reference** HOPSS/26/2013**Creation of a temporary Parenting Practitioner – Troubled Families**

To establish a temporary Parenting Practitioner post for Troubled Families.

29.**Delegated Decision Summary****Exempt**

Yes No

 Decision Made By Cllr Gaye Partridge**Authorised By** Cllr Gaye Partridge, Cabinet Member for Human Resources, Law and
Cllr Peter Lowe, Cabinet Member for Finance**In Consultation With** Philip Tart, Director of Corporate Resources**Ward(s) Affected** All**Date of Decision** 22 April 2013**Reference** DCR/20/2013**The approval of the Directorate of Corporate Resources Annual Equality Action Plan 2013/14**

That the Directorate of Corporate Resources Annual Equality Action Plan for 2013/14 be approved.

30.**Delegated Decision Summary****Exempt**

Yes No

 Decision Made By Cllr Gaye Partridge**Authorised By** Cllr Gaye Partridge, Cabinet Member for Human Resources, Law and**In Consultation With** Teresa Reilly, Assistant Director**Ward(s) Affected** All**Date of Decision** 26 April 2013**Reference** HOPSS/30/2013**Approval of a new post within the Contract Management Team, Treasurers Division, Corporate Resources.**

To approve the decision to recruit to a new post of Senior Contracts Assistant within the Contracts Management team, Corporate Resources

31.**Delegated Decision Summary****Exempt**

Yes No

 Decision Made By Cllr Gaye Partridge**Authorised By** Cllr Gaye Partridge, Cabinet Member for Human Resources, Law and**In Consultation With** Teresa Reilly, Assistant Director**Ward(s) Affected** All**Date of Decision** 26 April 2013**Reference** HOPSS/27/2013**Creation of new posts within the Business Rates Team, Revenue Services**

To better enable the Council to address the challenges resulting from the local retention of Business Rates with effect from 01/04/2013, restructure the Business Rates Team via the approval to create and appoint,

- 1 new permanent post of Senior Business Rates Officer.
 - 4 new permanent posts of Business Rates Officers with the loss of 3.6 existing posts (1.6 Senior Rating Officers, 1 Inspector and 1 Rating Clerk) and the loss of 0.4 of outsourced work.
-

32.**Delegated Decision Summary****Exempt**

Yes No

 Decision Made By Cllr Gaye Partridge**Authorised By** Cllr Gaye Partridge, Cabinet Member for Human Resources, Law and**In Consultation With** Teresa Reilly, Assistant Director**Ward(s) Affected** All**Date of Decision** 26 April 2013**Reference** HOPSS/28/2013**TUPE Transfer of SNR Admin Assistant post to DMBC from NHS**

To agree the Transfer of the administrator post for the Special Needs Register (SNR) and the transfer of funding from the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) to fund the post with effect from 01.04.13. PCT Banding 2 with effect from 01.04.13 £14,294 - £17,425 pro rata per annum). The post is 30 hours per week.

33.**Delegated Decision Summary****Exempt**

Yes No

 Decision Made By Cllr Gaye Partridge**Authorised By** Cllr Gaye Partridge, Cabinet Member for Human Resources, Law and**In Consultation With** Teresa Reilly, Assistant Director**Ward(s) Affected** All**Date of Decision** 26 April 2013**Reference** HOPSS/29/2013**Create & Appoint New Post of Administrative Assistant (AC2) in Children's Services**

To create and appoint 1 fte Administrative Assistant as part of the restructure of Supervised Contact Service

34.**Delegated Decision Summary****Exempt**

Yes No

 Decision Made By Cllr Gaye Partridge**Authorised By** Cllr Gaye Partridge, Cabinet Member for Human Resources, Legal and**In Consultation With** Teresa Reilly, Assistant Director**Ward(s) Affected** All**Date of Decision** 17 May 2013**Reference** HOPSS/31/2013**Creation of Temporary Housing Fraud Officer**

To create and appoint to the post of Housing Fraud Officer on a 2 year fixed term contract

35.**Delegated Decision Summary****Exempt**

Yes No

 Decision Made By Councillor Gaye Partridge**Authorised By** Councillor Gaye Partridge, Cabinet Member for Human Resources, Legal**In Consultation With** Teresa Reilly, Assistant Director**Ward(s) Affected** All**Date of Decision** 23 May 2013**Reference** HOPSS/32/2013**To create a post of Contact Team Manager**

To create a post of Contact Team Manager as part of the restructured supervised contact service

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

Decision Made By Councillor Gaye Partridge
Authorised By Councillor Gaye Partridge, Cabinet Member for Human Resources, Legal
In Consultation With Teresa Reilly, Assistant Director
Ward(s) Affected All
Date of Decision 05 June 2013 **Reference** HOPSS/33/2013

Contact Workers

To create 5 part time Contact Workers posts as part of the published restructure of Supervised Contact Service

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

Decision Made By Councillor Gaye Partridge
Authorised By Councillor Gaye Partridge, Cabinet Member for Human Resources, Legal
In Consultation With Teresa Reilly, Assistant Director
Ward(s) Affected None
Date of Decision 07 June 2013 **Reference** HOPSS/34/2013

Approval to appoint new temporary posts funded by existing budgets on a temporary basis

Approval to create and appoint to 6 new temporary Benefits Enquiry Clerks funded by existing budgets on a temporary basis

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

Decision Made By Councillor Gaye Partridge
Authorised By Councillor Gaye Partridge, Cabinet Member for Human Resources, Legal
In Consultation With Philip Tart, Director of Corporate Resources
Ward(s) Affected St Thomas's
Date of Decision 14 June 2013 **Reference** DCR/25/2013

Appropriation of land at Buffery Road, Dudley

That the site of the former Estate Office on Buffery Road, Dudley, be appropriated from the purposes of Section 111 of the Local Government Act to the purposes of the Public Open Spaces Act 1906.

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

Decision Made By Councillor Gaye Partridge
Authorised By Councillor Gaye Partridge, Cabinet Member for Human Resources, Legal
In Consultation With Teresa Reilly, Assistant Director
Ward(s) Affected All
Date of Decision 14 June 2013 **Reference** HOPSS/36/2013

Restructuring of Business Support within Children's Resources to support Adoption and Fostering

To restructure business support resources to improve capacity for meeting statutory and inspection requirements in relation to Adoption and Fostering services.

This will involve the deletion of an Admin Officer post and reusing the funding, along with other vacant hours (where staff have voluntarily reduced their working hours), to increase Senior Admin Assistant and Admin Assistant hours.

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

Decision Made By Councillor Gaye Partridge
Authorised By Councillor Gaye Partridge, Cabinet Member for Human Resources, Legal
In Consultation With Teresa Reilly, Assistant Director
Ward(s) Affected All
Date of Decision 14 June 2013 **Reference** HOPSS/35/2013

Create Temporary posts of Family Group Conference Convener – Troubled Families

To create an equivalent Full Time Family Group Conferencing Convener post for the Troubled Families Programme, to be filled by up to 4 sessional workers to work as and when required.

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

Decision Made By Councillor Gaye Partridge
Authorised By Councillor Gaye Partridge, Cabinet Member for Human Resources, Legal
In Consultation With Teresa Reilly, Assistant Director
Ward(s) Affected All
Date of Decision 21 June 2013 **Reference** HOPSS/37/2013

To create an additional Full Time Registration Officer post at the Register Office to provide adequate permanent staffing to meet a growing demand for registrat

To increase the establishment of Registration Officers by 1fte at Dudley Register Office to enable more structured staffing cover to meet growing demands on the service.

Funding for this additional post will be met from the existing Registrars Service budget. The funding exists within the current budget as part of a larger budget used for zero hours staff on an 'as and when' basis.

42.

Delegated Decision Summary

Exempt
Yes No

Decision Made By Cllr David Sparks
Authorised By Cllr David Sparks, Cabinet Member for Policy and Leader of the Council
In Consultation With John Polychronakis, Chief Executive
Ward(s) Affected All
Date of Decision 10 April 2013 **Reference** CE/01/2013

Local Authority Energy Collaboration

That the Council commit to a Local Authority energy collaboration.

43.

Delegated Decision Summary

Exempt
Yes No

Decision Made By Cllr David Sparks
Authorised By Cllr David Sparks, Cabinet Member for Policy and Leader of the Council
Cllr Foster, Cabinet Member Transportation and Community Safety
In Consultation With Iain Newman, Treasurer
John Millar, Director of the Urban Environment
Ward(s) Affected All
Date of Decision 26 April 2013 **Reference** DUE/26/2013

Black Country Cycle City Ambition Grant Bid

1.1 That Dudley MBC support a joint Black Country bid to the Department for Transport's Cycle City Ambition Grant and that the financial case for Dudley MBC's element of the bid be supported by the Council's Section 151 Officer.

1.2 That to enable timescales associated with making the bid to be complied with this decision be treated as a matter of urgency under Scrutiny Committee Procedure Rules 15(1) and not subject to call in and be implemented with immediate effect.

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

Decision Made By Cllr David Sparks
Authorised By Cllr David Sparks, Cabinet Member for Policy and Leader of the Council
Cllr Foster, Cabinet Member Transportation and Community Safety
In Consultation With Iain Newman, Treasurer
John Millar, Director of the Urban Environment
Ward(s) Affected Brockmoor & Pensnett
Date of Decision 16 May 2013 **Reference** DUE/29/2013

A4101 High Street, Pensnett Improvement - Major Scheme Development Costs

1.1 That Dudley MBC support a bid for the A4101 High Street, Pensnett Improvement Scheme to be considered as part of the Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP), Strategic Transport Board (STB) Prioritisation Process and that the financial case for the development of the scheme be supported by the Council's Section 151 Officer.

1.2 That to enable timescales associated with making the bid to be complied with this decision be treated as a matter of urgency under Scrutiny Committee Procedure Rules 15(1) and not subject to call in and be implemented with immediate effect.

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

Decision Made By Cllr David Sparks
Authorised By Cllr David Sparks, Cabinet Member for Policy and Leader of the Council
In Consultation With John Polychronakis, Chief Executive
Ward(s) Affected All
Date of Decision 20 May 2013 **Reference** CE/02/2013

Funding to Dudley Council for Voluntary Service in 2013/14

That funding of £160,500 be provided from the Chief Executive's Directorate's budget to Dudley Council for Voluntary Service in 2013/14 and a service level agreement for 2013/14-2015/16 be entered into with the organisation.

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

Decision Made By Cllr David Sparks
Authorised By Cllr David Sparks, Cabinet Member for Policy and Leader of the Council
In Consultation With John Polychronakis, Chief Executive
Ward(s) Affected All
Date of Decision 20 May 2013 **Reference** CE/03/2013

Funding to the Centre for Equality and Diversity in 2013/14

That funding of £40,400 be provided from the Chief Executive's Directorate's budget to the Centre for Equality and Diversity in 2013/14 and a service level agreement for 2013/14 to 2015/16 be entered into with the organisation.

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

Decision Made By Cllr David Sparks
Authorised By Cllr David Sparks, Cabinet Member for Policy and Leader of the Council
In Consultation With John Polychronakis, Chief Executive
Ward(s) Affected All
Date of Decision 20 May 2013 **Reference** CE/04/2013

Chief Executive's Directorate's equality action plan for 2013/14

That the Chief Executive's Directorate's equality action plan for 2013/14 be approved.

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

Decision Made By Councillor David Sparks
Authorised By Councillor David Sparks, Cabinet Member for Policy and Leader of the Council
In Consultation With John Polychronakis, Chief Executive
Ward(s) Affected All
Date of Decision 27 June 2013 **Reference** CE/05/2013

Chief Executive's Directorate's strategic plan for 2013/14

That the Chief Executive's Directorate's strategic plan for 2013/14 be approved.

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

Decision Made By Philip Tart
Authorised By Philip Tart, Director of Corporate Resources
In Consultation With Cllr Peter Lowe, Cabinet Member for Finance
Ward(s) Affected All
Date of Decision 18 April 2013 **Reference** DCR/18/2013

The approval of a revised Discretionary Housing Payments Policy.

To approve a revised Discretionary Housing Payments (DHPs) Policy from April 2013.

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

Decision Made By Philip Tart
Authorised By Philip Tart, Director of Corporate Resources
In Consultation With Cllr Peter Lowe, Cabinet Member for Finance
Ward(s) Affected All
Date of Decision 03 May 2013 **Reference** DCR/21/2013

The extension of a contract (1295)

To extend the contract for the supply of Cleaning Materials and Washroom Paper Products for the period 1st May 2013 to 30th April 2014, (Contract Management Ref no. 1295).

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

Decision Made By Philip Tart
Authorised By Philip Tart, Director of Corporate Resources
In Consultation With Cllr Peter Lowe, Cabinet Member for Finance
Ward(s) Affected All
Date of Decision 17 May 2013

Reference DCR/22/2013**The acceptance of a Tender following a Competitive Tendering Exercise (1296)**

That, following a Tender exercise, to award the Contract for the Supply of Luminaires and Gear on behalf of Dudley MBC. (Contract Management Ref no. 1296).

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

Decision Made By Philip Tart
Authorised By Philip Tart, Director of Corporate Resources
In Consultation With Cllr Peter Lowe, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance
Ward(s) Affected All
Date of Decision 24 May 2013

Reference DCR/23/2013**The Exercise of Delegated Authority by the Director of Corporate Resources in relation to:
The extension of a contract.**

To extend the contract for the Supply of Electrical Accessories, Lamps & Cable for the period 1st June 2013 to 31st May 2014, (Contract Management Ref no. 1298).

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

Decision Made By Philip Tart
Authorised By Philip Tart, Director of Corporate Resources
In Consultation With Councillor Peter Lowe, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance
Ward(s) Affected All
Date of Decision 17 June 2013

Reference DCR/26/2013**The extension of a contract (1299)**

To extend the contract for the supply of Corporate Uniforms and Protective Clothing for the period 1st July 2013 to 30th June 2014, (Contract Management Ref no. 1299).

54.**Delegated Decision Summary****Exempt**
Yes No
 Decision Made By Cllr Wood**Authorised By** Cllr Wood, Cabinet Member for Environment and Culture**In Consultation With** John Millar, Director of the Urban Environment**Ward(s) Affected** All**Date of Decision** 12 April 2013**Reference** DUE/22/2013**Environmental Health & Trading Standards Fees and Charges 2013/14**

That approval is given for the proposed revision of fees and charges for the services as described in the appendix attached.

55.**Delegated Decision Summary****Exempt**
Yes No
 Decision Made By Cllr Wood**Authorised By** Cllr Wood, Cabinet Member for Environment and Culture**In Consultation With** John Millar, Director of the Urban Environment**Ward(s) Affected** All**Date of Decision** 26 April 2013**Reference** DUE/27/2013**To amend The Catering Policy Covering Public Halls**

To seek approval to amend the catering policy covering Public Halls

56.**Delegated Decision Summary****Exempt**
Yes No
 Decision Made By Cllr Wood**Authorised By** Cllr Wood, Cabinet Member for Environment and Culture**In Consultation With** John Millar, Director of the Urban Environment**Ward(s) Affected** All**Date of Decision** 26 April 2013**Reference** DUE/28/2013**Options+ Leisure Card Armed Forces Category**

That eligibility for the Options+ Leisure Card be extended to all serving members of the Armed Forces in support of the Council's Covenant with the Armed Forces.

57.

Delegated Decision Summary

Exempt

Yes No

Decision Made By Cllr Wood

Authorised By Cllr Wood, Cabinet Member for Environment and Culture

In Consultation With John Millar, Director of the Urban Environment

Ward(s) Affected All

Date of Decision 17 May 2013

Reference DUE/30/2013

WASTE STRATEGY - 2013-2020

To approve the Dudley Waste Strategy 2013 - 2020.

58.**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** Jane Porter, Director of Children's Services**Ward(s) Affected** All**Date of Decision** 08 July 2013**Reference** DCS/30/2013**POST 16 TRANSPORT POLICY FOR 2013/14**

To publish an updated home to School/College Post 16 Transport Policy for the academic year 2013/14.

59.**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** Jane Porter, Director of Children's Services**Ward(s) Affected** Sedgley**Date of Decision** 08 July 2013**Reference** DCS/31/2013**New Instrument of Government for Alder Coppice Primary School**

To approve the sealing of a new Instrument of Government for Alder Coppice Primary School

60.**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** Jane Porter, Director of Children's Services**Ward(s) Affected** Kingswinford South
Kingswinford North &
WallHeath**Date of Decision** 08 July 2013**Reference** DCS/32/2013**New Instrument of Government for Fairhaven Primary School**

To approve the sealing of a new Instrument of Government for Fairhaven Primary School

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

Decision Made By Councillor Judy Foster
Authorised By Councillor Judy Foster, Cabinet Member for Regeneration
In Consultation With John Millar, Director of the Urban Environment
Ward(s) Affected Castle & Priory
Date of Decision 05 July 2013 **Reference** DUE/35/2013

Article 4 Direction – The King Arthur, Priory Road, Dudley

1.1 To request that the Council's Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration approves the making of a Direction under Article 4(1) of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995 so that the demolition of the Locally Listed Heritage Asset, The King Arthur at Priory Road, Dudley (HBSMR 12899; identified in Figure 1 appended to this report) requires the benefit of planning consent.

1.2 To serve notice of the Direction in accordance with Article 5.

1.3 To submit a copy of the Direction to the Secretary of State in accordance with Article 6(2).

1.4 Delegated authority to the Director of the Urban Environment to confirm the order within the required 6 month period post service.

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

Decision Made By Councillor Peter Lowe
Authorised By Councillor Peter Lowe, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance
In Consultation With Iain Newman, Treasurer
Ward(s) Affected All
Date of Decision 05 July 2013 **Reference** DCR/27/2013

The exercise of delegated authority in relation to the approval to waive Standing Order No.**26.4**

Approval be given to waive standing order 26.4 in respect of the acquisition of McAfee Active Virus Scan Licenses.

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

Decision Made By Councillor Gaye Partridge
Authorised By Councillor Gaye Partridge, Cabinet Member for Human Resources, Legal
In Consultation With Teresa Reilly, Assistant Director
Ward(s) Affected All
Date of Decision 02 July 2013 **Reference** HOPSS/38/2013

To create 4 temporary Intern positions within the Council's Museum Service

To create a maximum of 4 Temporary Intern Positions within the Museum Service, based within Culture & Leisure Division of DUE