

Special Meeting of Central Dudley Area Committee – 29th November, 2011

Report of the Director of Corporate Resources

West Midlands Police proposals regarding the opening hours of Police Stations

Purpose of Report

1. To consider the proposals set out in the attached letter concerning the opening times of front offices at a number of police stations.

Background

2. The Chief Executive received the attached letter dated 14th November, 2011 setting out the proposals of the Chief Constable for reducing the opening times of front offices at a number of police stations. These proposals will be presented to a meeting of the West Midlands Police Authority on Thursday 1st December, 2011 and the Chief Constable asked to receive feedback in time for that meeting. In view of the timescale, the Chief Executive invited all Members of the Council to submit comments to him by e-mail by 4.00 p.m. on Thursday, 24th November, 2011.
3. The Chairman requested that a special meeting of this Committee be convened prior to the Police Authority meeting. This special meeting of the Area Committee has therefore been convened in accordance with the protocols in the Constitution.
4. The revised opening times for Dudley, Halesowen and Stourbridge police stations would be 10.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m. for the reasons set out in the letter. Brierley Hill Police Station is unaffected by these proposals and would continue to be open 24 hours each day. Over the next 12 months the Police are also proposing to cease working from some buildings across the force area, but no details of this are provided in the letter. The Police are also exploring new ways of running the front offices and working with partners to share buildings, reduce costs and make services more joined up.

Finance

5. This report has no direct financial implications to the Council.

Law

6. Under Section 111 of the Local Government Act 1972, the Council is empowered to do anything which is calculated to facilitate, or conducive to, or incidental to the discharge of its functions.

Equality Impact

7. This report has no direct implications on the policies of the Council on Equality and Diversity.
8. Children and young people have not been consulted on the preparation of this report. The proposals affect all members of the community.

Recommendation

9. The Committee's views are requested so that feedback can be given to the West Midlands Police Authority.



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PHILIP TART
DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE RESOURCES

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List of Background Papers

Attached letter