

COMMUNITY SAFETY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Thursday 14th March 2013 at 6 pm
In Committee Room 2, The Council House, Dudley

PRESENT:-

Councillor Kettle (Chair)
Councillor Branwood (Vice Chair)
Councillors Burston, Caunt, Cotterill, K Finch, Harley, J Martin, Ms
Nicholls, Perks and Russell

OFFICERS

Assistant Director of Corporate Resources (Customer Services)
(Directorate of Corporate Resources) (Lead Officer to the Committee), the
Drugs and Alcohol Action Team Manager, (Chief Executive's Directorate),
Assistant Director of Culture and Leisure (Directorate of the Urban
Environment), Head of Service, Youth Offending Service, (Directorate of
Children's Services), and Miss K Fellows, (Directorate of Corporate
Resources)

32 **APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE**

An apology for absence was submitted on behalf of Councillor Burston

33 **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
the meeting.

34 **MINUTES**

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on the 17th
January, 2013, be approved as a correct record and signed.

35 **PUBLIC FORUM**

No matters were raised under this Agenda item.

SECTION 17 – CRIME AND DISORDER ACT, 1998

A report of the Director of the Urban Environment was submitted on the work that the Directorate of the Urban Environment was involved in that contributes towards fulfilling the obligations of Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.

Arising from the presentation of the report submitted Members asked questions and made comments and the Assistant Director of Culture and Leisure responded as follows:-

- In relation to Culture and Leisure Services, that the holiday activity programmes would be unaffected by the budget and full programmes would continue at all leisure centres and parks.
- That a review was being undertaken in relation to park rangers as the Department of Health grants that funded 50% of these posts would expire at the end of 2013/2014 and discussions and options were being investigated with Public Health in relation to retaining park rangers.
- That the bike ability cycle training to pupils who attend primary and secondary schools within the borough would continue.
- In relation to the street and green care budgetary cuts and how these cuts would impact upon the services provided, the Assistant Director of Leisure and Culture undertook to provide members with a written response in relation to this question.
- The Assistant Director of Culture and Leisure undertook to provide a written response to members in relation to the fly tipping incidents and fixed penalty notices issued for those incidents which occurred in 2011/12, as it appeared that although these incidents had risen to 1500, the number of flytipping incidents actioned and the total number of enforcement actions had reduced when compared to previous years.
- That a written response would be provided in relation to the 3500 items of counterfeit goods with a market value in excess of £1.1 million as it appeared that each of the goods seized would have had a market value of £300. This appeared to the questioner to be a high value should the majority of the goods seized have been fake items.
- In relation to the Council's Trading Standards services and whether this was to be amalgamated with both Sandwell and Walsall Councils, a written response would be provided to Members as to whether this proposal was to take place.
- Members raised concerns in relation to the possible amalgamation of

the Council's Trading Standard services with Sandwell and Walsall Councils and the fact that this may impact upon service standards and dilute the services provided currently.

- A written response would be provided to members in relation to the performance of street lighting to include outage and whether there was a seasonal demand for this.
- In responding to a question regarding highway maintenance and the turn around time for repairing pot holes, the Assistant Director of Culture and Leisure advised that risk assessments would be carried out in relation to pot holes which would be repaired upon the basis of where they were situated and the danger posed to road users.
- In relation to the healthy hubs sites and the success that these had had and the improvements that they had made in relation to anti-social behaviour in the five areas targeted, the Assistant Director of Culture and Leisure advised that the hubs were placed in very different areas with differing starting points in terms of problems within those areas. He referred to the work that had been conducted with the Police and the Coffee in the Dark project which had helped reduce anti-social behaviour and he also outlined the success at Jubilee Park in Coseley in terms of reducing anti-social behaviour there.
- The Assistant Director of Culture and Leisure undertook to provide members with the evaluation that had been prepared by Worcestershire University in relation to the impact that the Healthy Towns Programme had had on anti social behaviour.
- Members raised concerns that the report outlined the activities of the whole of the Directorate of the Urban Environment and that one officer was in attendance to respond to questions and this had resulted in questions having to be answered by written response rather than on the evening of the meeting. Members agreed that not all officers or senior officers of the Directorate would be expected to attend a meeting in the future, however further officer representation would be required in order that the report could be scrutinised affectively.

Following further discussion it was

RESOLVED

- (1) That the Assistant Director of Culture and Leisure be requested to provide members written responses to the questions outlined above.
- (2) That the information contained in the report and appendices to the report, submitted on the work that the Directorate of the Urban Environment is involved in that contributed to fulfilling the obligations of Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, be noted.

- (3) That in view of the concerns raised further consideration of the Section 17 – Crime and Disorder Act 1998 report be deferred to a future meeting of the Committee in order to be affectively scrutinised.

The meeting ended at 6.40 pm

CHAIR