

ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY AND PERFORMANCE PANEL

Tuesday 4 January 2011 at 6.00pm

Panel Members Present

Councillor L. Beeley (Chair)
Councillor F. Westley (Vice-Chair)
Councillor D. Anson
Councillor R. Carpenter
Councillor J. Cook
Councillor M. Munir

Officers Present

Jamie Morris -	Executive Director (Neighbourhood Services)
Keith Stone -	Assistant Director (Neighbourhood Services)
Steve Pretty -	Head of Engineering & Transportation
Stuart Everton -	Regeneration Manager – Transport Planning
Craig Goodall -	Constitutional Services Officer

Portfolio Holders present

Councillor T. Ansell – Transport
Councillor A. Harris – Leisure, Culture and Environment

38/10 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Tweddle and Yasin.

39/10 SUBSTITUTIONS

There were no substitutions.

40/10 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND PARTY WHIP

Councillor Westley declared a personal interest in item 5 'Monitoring of progress with implementation of Integrated Transport Working Group recommendations'.

There were no declarations of party whip.

41/10 MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 29 November, 2010, copies having previously been circulated, be approved as a true and accurate record.

42/10 MONITORING OF PROGRESS WITH IMPLEMENTATION OF INTEGRATED TRANSPORT WORKING GROUP RECOMMENDATIONS

The Panel considered a report that provided information on progress made on two work streams which were identified as part of the final report of the Integrated Transport Working Group which reported its findings to the Panel in April 2009.

The Head of Engineering and Transport and Regeneration Manager (Transport Planning) reported the following:

Bradford Place

It was explained that in the short term a Traffic Regulation Condition would be introduced to allow management and regulation of bus operators in the area. In the medium to long term discussions were taking place with Centro to potentially create improved bus facilities in the area.

Town Centre Signage

It was explained that additional signage to the rail and bus stations in the town centre had been agreed as a priority with Centro. However budget constraints meant that the project was currently on hold.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

43/10 TOWN CENTRE PARKING WORKING GROUP

RESOLVED:

That:

- 1. the terms of reference for the Town Centre Parking Working Group be approved;**
- 2. the following Members be appointed to the Town Centre Parking Working Group:**

- a. Councillor L. Beeley**
- b. Councillor D. Anson**
- c. Councillor R. Carpenter**
- d. Councillor J. Cook**

- 3. Councillor L. Beeley be appointed as lead member of the Town Centre Parking Working Group.**

44/10 DOG FOULING WORKING GROUP – FINAL REPORT

The Panel considered the final report and recommendations of the Dog Fouling Working Group that was established by the Panel on 9 June 2010.

The Chair highlighted that the working group had concluded that enforcement action with dog fouling was very difficult. Therefore the working group's recommendations focussed on prevention and education activities.

A Member of the working group spoke in support of the recommendations and reported that a recent survey he had completed in his ward identified that over 70% of respondents

thought dog fouling was a problem.

The Panel recognised that this was a difficult problem to solve and one that was important to local residents. The importance of ensuring dog owners took responsibility for their animals and the problems of associated diseases were also discussed.

The Chair expressed his thanks to the officers who had supported the working group's investigations.

RESOLVED:

THAT:

- 1. press coverage of this issue should be used to raise awareness of the health risks to children from dog fouling.**
- 2. awareness of enforcement activity is raised, not excluding publication of the numbers of people fined, through press coverage and public education.**
- 3. area partnerships are encouraged to provide assistance with funding for signs in their locality where this is an issue.**
- 4. area partnerships are provided with stencils and guidance (as used by the former Local Neighbourhood Partnerships) to allow nominated community representatives to spray the 'no dog fouling' message on footpaths in Walsall.**
- 5. educational materials on dog fouling are displayed in a range of places such as pet shops, supermarkets and vets with hot spot areas targeted.**
- 6. registered social landlords are asked to promote responsible dog ownership through their resident communications and are encouraged to provide signage as appropriate.**
- 7. the service should inform the public that it is an offence to allow dog fouling, this should include shock tactics. Awareness of the law relating to dog fouling and enforcement activity should be raised, not excluding publication of the numbers of people fined, through press coverage and public education – such as attendance at community events, schools, residents groups, Neighbourhood Watch, street champions, area management forums and any other public forum that can spread the message of good dog ownership.**
- 8. educational materials are used to get the message of dog fouling enforcement across, Members suggested that market stalls, the one stop shop bus, and events as part of the 'not in my neighbourhood week' are methods which could be used to get the message of dog fouling enforcement and education across.**
- 9. in consideration of limited resources, areas are prioritised for intensive patrolling through intelligence on hot spots and through area partnerships**
- 10. the public safety reassurance team are approached to work with schools and**

consult the public to educate about dog ownership.

11. the working group recommend that posters using shock tactics are displayed in parks and open spaces used by dog walkers. The working group suggested that the posters displayed should demonstrate the dangers of dog fouling, including toxocara.

12. the recommendations in this report should be reviewed by the Environment Scrutiny and Performance Panel in September 2011.

13. the report is sent to Cabinet, Registered Social Landlords and Area Partnerships.

45/10 WORK PROGRAMME 2010/11 AND FORWARD PLAN

The Panel considered their work programme and a copy of Cabinets Forward Plan of key decisions.

The Panel were advised that it would be beneficial to consider the proposed report on gritting at their meeting on 8 March 2011. This would enable Members to review the current winter maintenance programme along with evidence of its success or otherwise. Any suggestions Members made could then be considered in time for the 2011/12 winter maintenance plan.

The Chair requested that the Panel visit the new Depot and that the visit be available for all Members to attend.

RESOLVED:

THAT:

1. the following items be considered at the Panel meeting on 8 March 2011:

- a. Winter Maintenance Programme, and;**
- b. Flood Risk Assessment.**

and;

2. a visit for the Panel to the New Depot be arranged. All Members to be invited to attend the Panels visit.

46/10 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was noted that the date of the next meeting was 24 January 2011.

The meeting closed at 6.30p.m.

Chair:

Date:

