

Cabinet Response to the Report of the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Board on the Alvechurch Multi Use Games Area (MUGA)

Introduction

At its meeting on 3rd November 2010 the Cabinet considered the report of the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Board following the Board's Inquiry into reported Crime and Disorder issues around the MUGA at Swanslength, Alvechurch.

The Leader invited the Chairman of the Joint Board Councillor S. R. Colella to introduce the report. Councillor Colella briefly outlined the way in which the Board had undertaken the Inquiry, including interviews with a variety of stakeholders and the detailed information and reports which had been received.

As Portfolio Holder for Community Services I would like to thank the Board for the thorough and detailed investigation of the matter. I was particularly pleased that local children who used the facility had attended some of the meetings and had participated in the democratic process.

Response to recommendations

Please find below responses to the recommendations contained within the scrutiny report:

Recommendation One

That the Alvechurch MUGA be left in situ.

Cabinet Response

This was agreed.

Recommendation Two

That the Community Safety Officers for Alvechurch make periodic house calls to vulnerable residents living in close proximity to the MUGA.

Cabinet Response

That the Community Support Officers be requested to continue to make periodic house calls to vulnerable residents living in close proximity to the MUGA.

Recommendation Three

That the Alvechurch Community Together (ACT) Trust consider extending the opening hours of the Alvechurch Youth Club until the later time of 10pm in the evening for the older teenagers to actively discourage young people from socialising around the MUGA area late in the evening.

Cabinet Response

This was agreed but wording to be amended to relate to “the Lounge” Drop in Centre.

Recommendation Four

That the Alvechurch Youth Club carry out targeted outreach work on the MUGA itself to engage with the young people who use the site as a social meeting point in the evening after dusk.

Cabinet Response

Amend to “that ACT youth workers be requested to carry out targeted outreach work to positively engage young people and encourage them to join the youth club and that youth workers run organised activity sessions at the MUGA.”

Recommendation Five

That the Performance Management Board monitor the levels and types of reported Anti-Social Behaviour at Swanslength over the next 12 months to assess the levels of reported ASB compared to the previous 12 months. This should also be compared to general ASB trends across the district.

Cabinet Response

That the situation be monitored by the relevant Portfolio Holder rather than the Performance Management Board.

Recommendation Six

That Bromsgrove Community Safety Partnership monitor the levels of reported Anti-Social Behaviour around the MUGA to identify emerging issues of ASB and coordinate remedial action in partnership with the local police service and the Bromsgrove District Council Community Safety Team.

Cabinet Response

Amend to read “that Bromsgrove Community Safety Partnership continue to monitor...”

Recommendation Seven

That West Mercia Police allocate a higher level of uniformed presence of the Swanslength area between 9pm and 1am at night.

Cabinet Response

Amend to read “that West Mercia Police be requested to continue monitoring the vicinity of the MUGA after 9pm in the way they did in the summer.”

Recommendation Eight

That the street lighting located near to the MUGA facility be relocated further away from the MUGA site to discourage this area from being a social meeting point for people in the evening.

Cabinet Response

This was agreed.

Recommendation Nine

That the full length of the perimeter wall running alongside Swanslength be removed and the ground re-banked to remove the makeshift seating that the wall provides for people using the MUGA area as a social meeting point in the evenings.

Cabinet Response

This was agreed.

Recommendation Ten

That a programme of landscaping be completed to create an open space recreation ground to increase visibility of the site and reduce the number of ASB acts that are obscured by undergrowth.

Cabinet Response

This was agreed.

Recommendation Eleven

That the seating panels provided as part of the MUGA facility be removed and replaced with blank panels and that the swing frame and seat be removed altogether.

Cabinet Response

This was agreed.

In addition, the Cabinet also resolved that relevant officers work within the planning process to ensure that Statutory Consultees and partners engage effectively with the planning process and that they properly respond in their capacity as Statutory Consultees.

Councillor Mike Webb
Portfolio Holder for Community Services