

The External Refurbishment of Housing Stock Short, Sharp Review Group: Response to the Group's Final Report presented to the Executive Committee Wednesday 12th January 2010

Members approved the majority of the Group's recommendations. Only recommendations that were approved are listed in this table together with any actions that have been taken.

APPROVED RECOMMENDATIONS

RECOMMENDATION	GENERAL COMMENTS	Action taken
Recommendation 1: We recommend that light colour paints be utilised to decorate garage doors to improve their visual appearance.	It was noted during the meeting that the application of the new paints will take place as and when required as part of the ongoing maintenance programme.	At the site visit with Members paint colours were discussed and an agreement was made to use the cream and brown paints as demonstrated on the trial block which was completed earlier in the year.
Recommendation 3: We recommend that the retaining wall to the rear of 1-12 Martley Close be redecorated as part of a Council arts project.	Members were keen to ensure that the community were involved in delivering this arts project.	No progress has been made regarding this piece of work during the 2011/12 financial year. Plans are in place to look at new 2012/2013 budgets and partnership working with Community Safety to address this project during 2012/2013. The project will be completed before the end of the forthcoming financial year.

<p>Recommendation 5: We recommend that the Council ensure that, when replacing diseased and dead plants, different types of plants are introduced to ensure there is a variety of leaf colours and foliage in any given area.</p>		<p>Where possible the Council aims to create diversification in plant species across the Borough. We do, however, also take in to account the location/environment in which the new/replacement planting is required in terms of its overall suitability, likelihood of successful establishment and future maintenance requirements.</p>
<p>Recommendation 6: We recommend that the remaining Section 106 money available for use on capital landscaping work in the Greenlands Open Spaces be allocated to soft landscaping work in the courtyard area located in Wishaw Close.</p>		<p>This work, which included the removal of hard standing and replacement with grass as well as other vegetative pruning/removal, has been successfully completed.</p>
<p>Recommendation 7: We recommend that in order to minimise the level of disruption experienced by local residents, a holistic approach to the delivery of frontline services be adopted.</p>	<p>Members and Officers did discuss concerns about the feasibility of delivering front line services holistically. However, in principle there was support for working holistically wherever possible over the delivery of frontline services and the recommendation was therefore approved.</p>	<p>Housing and Environmental Services are going through transformation of their services. The work currently being carried out will address this recommendation over the next 12 months.</p>

<p>Recommendation 8: We recommend that representatives of local schools be invited to participate in estate walkabouts.</p>		<p>As part of their transformation Housing is looking at a “Locality” intervention which will involve schools, health service, police, probation etc. This is currently underway.</p>
<p>Recommendation 9: We recommend that representatives of the local GP’s Consortium be invited to participate in the estate walkabouts once the consortia have been introduced in 2012/13.</p>		<p>For implementation from 2012/13 onwards.</p> <p>This will also be picked up.</p> <p>As part of their transformation Housing is looking at a “Locality” intervention which will involve schools, health service, police, probation etc. This is currently underway.</p>
<p>Recommendation 11: We recommend that Worcestershire County Council Highways Officers be contacted to require them to repair the road surface entrance to Rushock Close</p>	<p>Relevant Officers from the WCC Highways Department were notified of this request on 25th November 2010. However, the Chair of the Group, Graham Vickery visited the site in early January 2011 and reported that the problem had not been resolved.</p>	<p>A request for the resurfacing works to be undertaken in Rushock Close was made. A number of pot holes were subsequently filled in 2011.</p>
<p>Recommendation 12: We recommend that the Portfolio Holder for Housing, the Local Environment and Health be urged to consider the abolition of the garages in Wishaw Close as a priority case due to their bad state of repair.</p>	<p>Councillor Brandon Clayton is aware of the recommendation and the implications for the ongoing review of the potential demolition of some Council garages and car parking arrangements.</p>	<p>The garages have been demolished.</p>