

## **SELECT COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY SAFETY**

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2006, at 6.00 pm  
in Committee Room 3, Council House, Dudley

### **PRESENT:-**

Councillor Blood (Chairman)  
Councillor Cotterill (Vice Chairman)  
Councillors Ms Craigie, Finch, Ms Foster, Harley, Male, Ms. Nicholls,  
Taylor and A Turner.

### **Officers**

Lead Officer to the Committee, Chief Executives Directorate; Director of Law and Property; Assistant Director, Legal and Democratic Services Principal Lawyer, Directorate of Law and Property; Assistant Director, Housing Manager, Directorate of Adult, Community and Housing Services; Local Authority Liaison Inspector (Police); Strategic Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator, Chief Executive's Directorate; Pupil Access Manager, Directorate of Childrens' Services; Assistant Director, Community Education and Development, Directorate of Childrens' Services; Marketing and Communications Officer, PC Gary Hall of Drive Watch and Mrs J Holland, Directorate of Law and Property;

### 30                   **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor Burston, Mrs. Dunn and Mrs. Turner.

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### 31                   **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No Member made a declaration of interest in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct.

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### 32                   **MINUTES**

#### **RESOLVED**

That the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2006, be approved as a correct record and signed, subject to the Assistant Director Housing being deleted from those present and the Assistant Director Childrens' Services being inserted as being present and to Ms A Reeves (West Midlands Fire Service Local Authority Liaison Officer) being recorded as being in attendance as an observer.

## APPOINTMENT OF SUBSTITUTES FOR THIS MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE

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It was reported that Councillor Taylor had been appointed to serve as a substitute for Councillor Burston and Councillor Ms Nicholls had been appointed to serve as a substitute for Councillor Mrs Turner, for this meeting of the Committee only.

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## EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ACTION PLAN 2006/2007

A report of the Director of Law and Property was submitted and presented on the Directorate of Law and Property's Equality and Diversity Annual Report for 2006/07.

### RESOLVED

That the information contained in the report, and Appendix to the report, submitted in respect of the Directorate of Law and Property's Equality and Diversity Annual Report for 2006/05, be noted.

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## PRESENTATION BY DRIVER WATCH

PC G Hall of Driver Watch presented an overview of the aims and aspirations of the Driver Watch scheme, set up to combat the fear of crime and to encourage closer community ties by encouraging local drivers to report to the police any suspicious behaviour or criminal activity witnessed by them during their day to day activity as a professional driver. He reported that business and organisations such as milkmen, delivery drivers, taxi drivers and other organisations had signed up to the scheme and it had been likened to "Neighbourhood Watch on wheels" the "eyes and ears" of the community and the police. It can assist in making the community in which they operate a safer place within which to live.

PC Hall explained to the Committee the guidelines laid down for the operation of the scheme and advised that members were discouraged from becoming personally involved in any criminal or road traffic incidents but that they were encouraged to report them immediately to the police.

PC Hall outlined some reasons for recommending the scheme to Dudley Council, namely that the Council would be leading the way with community issues; working in partnership with other agencies to combat crime and causes of crime; showing the community at large that Dudley Council cares and promoting "Safe and Sound" communities.

Following a short discussion by members, it was

## RESOLVED

That the Cabinet Member for Community Safety be requested to progress the proposal and to discuss with members of the Committee with a view to recommending to Cabinet that Dudley Council join the Drive Watch scheme.

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### EXCLUSIONS REPORT – IMPACT ON COMMUNITY SAFETY

A report of the Director of Childrens' Services was submitted on Data, trends and developments relating to attendance and exclusions in respect of Dudley's schools for the 2004/2005 academic year.

In presenting the report the Assistant Director, Community Education and Development of the Directorate of Childrens' Services, informed Members of the dual issues of nature and purpose of the report concerning crime and disorder as well as in respect of the education functions of the Council.

The Assistant Director reported that exclusion data was now reported to the Department for Education and Skills on a termly basis and that the upward trend in permanent exclusions over the last five years had now levelled off and could be seen to be falling. Truancy sweeps had been carried out within the Borough. Experience has shown from young people questioned during the sweeps concerning as to why they were not at school, that often these people were not Dudley pupils but were from other neighbouring Boroughs.

In response to a question from a Member, the Pupil Access Manager, Directorate of Childrens' Services explained the concept around the Behaviour Improvement Programme that had recently been initiated by the Government, one element of which stated that education provision needed to be available to the pupil from the beginning of his/her exclusion.

In response to a further question, the Pupil Access Manager agreed to circulate the guidance from the government covering the issue of exclusions.

At the conclusion of questions, it was

## RESOLVED

- (1) That the information contained in the report, and Appendix to the report submitted, on school exclusions and attendance, be noted.

- (2) That the Pupil Access Manager be requested to circulate to Members of the Committee the Government guidance on exclusions, in particular the information with regard to the recommended educational provision for children following school exclusion.
- (3) That the Assistant Director, Community Education and Development, Directorate of Childrens' Services be requested to present the figures showing the breakdown of pupils excluded from schools who commit crime whilst excluded.

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MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MEETINGS OF THE WORKING GROUPS OF THE COMMITTEE

A report of the Chairman of the Children and Young People Working Group was submitted outlining proposals recommended at the meeting of the Working Group held on the 20<sup>th</sup> February, 2006, on the publicising of Anti-Social Behaviour Orders.

RESOLVED

That the Cabinet Member for Community Safety be asked to consider and submit the recommendations contained in the report of the Chairman of the Children and Young People Working Group, as now submitted, to the Cabinet, with a view to the recommendations being submitted to a meeting of the Council.

A report was received from the Acting Chairman of the Strategic Working Group meeting on the issues discussed at the meeting of the Strategic Working Group held on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2006, detailing progress on the 2005/2008 Community Safety DAAT Strategy.

The Acting Chairman of the Housing and Neighbourhood Issues Working Group on the issues discussed at the meeting of the Working Group held on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2006 and also requested that members of the Committee be periodically updated on the affect of mediation in resolving neighbourhood disputes.

RESOLVED

That the information as now reported on, arising from meetings of the Strategic and Housing and Neighbourhood Issues Working Groups, be noted.

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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY  
SAFETY

A report of the Chairman of the Committee was submitted on the Annual Report of the Committee for 2005/06 and on a proposal work programme for 2006/07.

The Lead Officer reported on the new corporate template designed to ensure conformity for all Select Committee Annual Reports for submission to Council and on proposed amendments made to the annual report submitted to the meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2006.

RESOLVED

That the content of the Annual Report of the Select Committee on Community Safety 2005/06, as now submitted, be approved for submission to the Council at its meeting to be held on the 10<sup>th</sup> April, 2006, together with the proposed Work Programme for 2006/07 the Lead Officer be authorised to change the format of the report to conform with the newly adopted corporate format.

The meeting ended at 7.55 pm

CHAIRMAN