

Stourbridge Area Committee 9th March 2009

Report of the Director of Adult, Community, and Housing Services

Community Renewal Working Group

Purpose of Report

1. To update the Committee on the progress made by the Working Group in developing the Stourbridge Area Committee Community Renewal Plan.

Background

2. The draft Community Renewal plan was included with the Community Renewal report to your 3rd September 2008 meeting, and the establishment of the Working Group was approved by that meeting.
3. The first meeting of the Group took place on 11th December 2008, and the Head of Community Renewal presented members with a report and outline of the Area Community Renewal Officer's (ACRO) role. Members were also provided with:-
 - A draft of "A strategy for Community Renewal in Dudley"
 - Community Profiles of localities within their Wards.
 - A framework for thinking matrix to assist members in considering and prioritising issues.
 - Member Issue log's.
4. Appointment of Substitute Members – Members questioned the substitution clause and it was agreed substitution was covered in clause 2.1 of the working group terms of reference stating the need for all wards to be represented.
5. The terms of reference for the working group, as set out in the report, were agreed.
6. The working group agreed that a representative from professional and/or partnership organisations will be invited to attend as necessary.
7. The working group agreed that as many local groups as possible be contacted by the ACRO, particularly faith groups, to establish and coordinate work as detailed in the Community Renewal plan.
8. It was agreed that Ward Members will advise the ACRO of any areas and/or organisations which need contacting or adding to the plan.

9. It was agreed that the ACRO meet with all Ward Members at their ward meetings to discuss issues relevant to their respective wards.
10. It was acknowledged that the Community Localities boundaries be noted. Where there is cross boundary working, the Stourbridge ACRO will work with the Halesowen ACRO to resolve issues with the respective ward members of the areas affected.
11. Members present commented on the good quality of the neighbourhood report and presentation of deprivation statistics given by the ACRO. It was agreed to update the report for the next working group meeting.
12. The working group agreed that activity matrix forms and the member issue logs are to be completed by members and returned to the ACRO for attention and consideration.

Finance

13. In line with the draft local community plan, Area Committees plan in line with the overall Council Plan and priorities whilst encouraging innovation in the commissioning of activities from a variety of partners which will add value and achieve objectives for their area.

Law

14. The Local Government Act 2000 placed a duty on local authorities to establish a Local Strategic Partnership to address collaborative working and develop a community strategy and local neighbourhood renewal strategy. Community Renewal is part of that approach.
15. Section 2 of the Local Government Act 1980 enables the Council to do anything which is likely to achieve the promotion or improvement of the economic, social and environmental well being of the area.

Equality Impact

16. The objective of Community renewal is to promote inclusion and social cohesion. Community renewal plans target those most in need in terms of deprivation. Information is collected through each CR intervention or consultation to monitor the inclusivity and difference made for various groups and people involved. Where inclusion is an issue ACROs engage through various community or interest groups locally to design appropriate responses to different circumstances

Where children and young people are involved they are directly consulted and frequently design the response to local issues - such as youth PACT, Junior rangers, Breakfast clubs, Dance groups, football league, homework mates, places to play , young consultants, intergenerational work

Recommendation

17. That Committee Members note the report and continue to support the work of the Community Renewal team in community localities.



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List of Background Papers

Community Renewal Strategy
Stourbridge Area Committee Community Renewal Plan.