

## **SELECT COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY SAFETY**

Monday, 24th January, 2005, at 6.00 p.m.  
in Committee Room 2, The Council House, Dudley

### **PRESENT:-**

Councillor Blood (Chairman)  
Councillor Cotterill (Vice Chairman)  
Councillors Burston, Ms Craigie, Mrs Dunn, Ms Foster, Male, Mottram,  
Mrs Turner, A Turner and Vickers

### **Officers**

Assistant Director Legal and Democratic Services - Directorate of Law and Property  
Head of Corporate Policy and Research – Chief Executives Directorate  
Lead Officer to the Committee – Chief Executives Directorate  
Mr R Sims – Assistant Director, Directorate of Housing  
Ms D Channings – Assistant Director, Directorate of Housing  
Mr B Baker – Assistant Director, Directorate of Finance  
Principal Lawyer – Directorate of Law and Property  
Community Safety Manager – Chief Executives Directorate  
Ms E Hayward (Community Safety Team)  
Inspector A Cook – Community Safety Team  
Mrs J Holland (Democratic Services – Directorate of Law and Property)

### **Also In attendance**

Chief Superintendent Green – West Midlands Police  
Councillor L Jones (Cabinet Member for Community Safety)

24

### **MINUTES**

#### **RESOLVED**

That the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 1st November 2004, be approved as a correct record and signed.

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25

### **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Mrs H Turner, declared a Personal Interest, in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct in view of the fact that her grandchild is in receipt of funding for home to school transport..

Councillor Mr A Turner, declared a Personal Interest, in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct in view of the fact that his child is in receipt of funding for home to school transport.

26

CHANGE IN ORDER OF BUSINESS

Pursuant to Council Procedure Rule 13(c), it was

RESOLVED

That agenda item number 10 be considered as the next item of business.

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27

RESOLUTION OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC  
REGENERATION - RETENTION AND ATTRACTION OF BUSINESSES  
TO VANDALISED SITES

A report of the Lead Officer to the Select Committee on Economic Regeneration was submitted, outlining discussion held at a meeting of the Select Committee on Economic Regeneration Working Group held on 5<sup>th</sup> October 2004.

In presenting the report Mr R Sims (the Lead Officer) reported that, arising from the presentations the working group had received in respect of the work of Future Skills Dudley and the Business Support Unit operated by the Directorate of the Urban Environment, a discussion took place and reference was made by the working group to the implications for the retention of business and the attraction of new business to sites where extensive vandalism was being suffered (in particular to Silver End Industrial Estate) and recommended that this issue be referred to this Select Committee.

Following a discussion on the report presented, it was

RESOLVED

That the report be submitted to the next meeting of the Select Committee on Community Safety Strategy Working Group for their consideration and that the Strategy Working Group report on the outcome of their consideration of the report to the Cabinet Member for Community Safety.

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28

PROPOSED REVENUE BUDGET 2005/06

A report of the Chief Executive and the Director of Finance was submitted on the proposed Revenue Budget and Council Tax for 2005/06

Arising from the presentation of the report, Councillor Cotterill extended his thanks for the breakdown of the Community Safety portion of the budget and requested that this be discussed in more detail at the next meeting of the Select Committee.

A breakdown of the numbers of current Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) was tabled by Ms D Hewitt (Community Support Manager) and, in response to questions from Committee Members, Councillor Jones explained the employment status of PCSOs.

Following further discussion, it was

RESOLVED

- (1) That the Government's proposals for Revenue Support Grant and the Cabinet's Budget proposals for 2005/06 be noted.
- (2) That the breakdown of spend on Community Safety tabled at the meeting be discussed at the next meeting of the Select Committee to be held on 21<sup>st</sup> February 2005.

ALCOHOL BANS

Mr P Tart (Assistant Director, Directorate of Law and Property) updated the Committee regarding a proposal put forward by members in respect of a Borough-wide alcohol ban. He stated that the Council were currently in the process of imposing a ban on drinking in Dudley Town Centre and a report would be submitted to Central Dudley Area Committee on 8<sup>th</sup> February 2005, setting out the proposals and would be referred to the Licensing and Safety Committee on 22 February 2005, and to then the Home Office.

There followed a discussion during which the Committee explored the issues of imposing a borough-wide alcohol ban and of under-age drinking. The impact of the new Liquor Licensing legislation was also discussed.

Councillor Jones commented that the Council were actively exploring ways of imposing a Borough-wide alcohol ban.

Mr Tart stated that Dudley had different problems to those of Sandwell, where a Borough wide ban was in place and expressed his concern as to the legality of imposing a Borough-wide ban. He also suggested the need for a further meeting between himself, the Director of Law and Property, Mr M Farooq and West Midlands Police, in order to establish the legality of imposing a borough-wide ban.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the information presented on the current position regarding a Borough-wide alcohol ban be received and that Mr Tart be requested to arrange a further meeting with West Midlands Police, at an early date, in order to explore evidential issues with regard to the imposition of a Borough-wide alcohol ban.
  - (2) That an update on progress in respect of alcohol bans be submitted to the next meeting of the Select Committee to be held on 21<sup>st</sup> February 2005.
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30

#### SCRUTINY PROTOCOL FOR SELECT COMMITTEES

A report of the Director of Law and Property was submitted on a Draft Scrutiny for Select Committees attached to the report at appendix 1.

In presenting the report, Mr P Tart (Assistant Director, Directorate of Law and Property) . He explained the difference between call-in and review and pointed out the contents of paragraph 38 requiring the agreement of two political groups before an item could be called in.

Councillor Cotterill requested that the call-in procedure be made easier than it was at present,

Following further discussion, it was

#### RESOLVED

That the comments made by Members of the Committee, and of the content of the draft Scrutiny Protocol for Select Committee, be noted.

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31

#### PROTOCOL FOR RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN MEMBERS AND OFFICERS OF DUDLEY MBC

A report of the Monitoring Officer was submitted on a draft Protocol for Relationships between Members and Officers of the Council.

#### RESOLVED

That the information contained in the report submitted, in relation to the draft Protocol for Relationship between Members and Officers of the Council, be noted.

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**RECOMMENDATIONS AND MATTERS ARISING FROM THE  
MEETINGS OF THE WORKING GROUPS OF THE COMMITTEE**

A report of the Lead Officer was submitted on Recommendations and matters arising from meetings of the working groups of the Committee.

**RESOLVED**

That the information contained in the report submitted, in relation to recommendations and matters arising from the meetings held by the Committee's Working Groups, be noted.

The meeting ended at 7.40 p.m.

**CHAIRMAN**