

Stourbridge Area Committee 27th September 2010

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 to date of the Working Group and monitoring of the Stourbridge Area Committee Community Renewal Plan.

Background

2. The continued development of the Stourbridge Area Committee Community Renewal Working Group was approved by Stourbridge Area Committee held Monday 28th June 2010
3. The Working Group has met during the year 2000/2010 to discuss, further develop and monitor the Area Community Renewal plan for the Stourbridge Township. A copy of the Plan is attached as an Appendix.

Report from Working Group

4. The Working Group met on 6th September 2010 to discuss current and future work plan activities based on the Plan.
5. A secondment opportunity for the previous area Community Renewal Officer, Tremaine Herbert, was agreed and it was agreed that a replacement Officer – Angela Walsh - would take up the post after the central and local elections. Angela was introduced to the Stourbridge Area Committee in June.

CURRENT AND PLANNED ACTIVITY

6. Office relocation for the Area Community Renewal Officer to the Stourbridge Township has been sought and approved for use of the Stourbridge Children & Family Centre, Forge Road, Stourbridge. A 'satellite' provision of for working at Hob Green Children's Centre has also been agreed.
- 6.1 A succession of contact with service providers and partners and partnerships in the township has commenced to continue good practice and identify joint working opportunities. An audit of work activity identified in the existing Community Renewal Working Plan has commenced.

- 6.2 Area Profiles and Localities documentation has been collated and is currently under review to identify Ward based service provision gaps with the intention to develop individual ward based area action plans to underpin the Stourbridge Area Committee Plan.
- 6.3 Ward based information identifying benefit claimant and benefit type has been collated, maps identifying claimants to street level has been produced in preparation for the development of employment and skills partnerships in the township to address issues of economic deprivation.
- 6.4 The current version of the Area Community Renewal plan for the Stourbridge Township is attached and is the basis for further work as directed by the Area Committee and the Working Group.

7. **Law**

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.

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.

8. **Finance**

The Area Committee Community Renewal Plan is developed in adherence to the 'golden thread' – Community Plan, Council Plan, Directorate Plan and Team Plan ensuring innovation in the commissioning of resources from a broad spectrum of partners, including community groups and voluntary agencies, adding value not duplication to the township.

9. **Equality Impact**

One of the objectives of Community Renewal is to promote inclusion and social cohesion. The Community Renewal strategy addresses those in areas which suffer from inequality in terms of social and economic outcomes.

Information is collected through each Community Renewal intervention or consultation to monitor the inclusivity and difference made for various groups and people involved. Where inclusion is an issue Area Community Renewal Officers 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 involved in designing solutions.

10. **Recommendation**

That Committee Members note the report and continue to support the work of community renewal in the Stourbridge locality.



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