

**Stourbridge Area Committee January 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 made by the Working Group in developing the Stourbridge Area Committee Community Renewal Plan.

**Background**

2. The Community Renewal plan for the Stourbridge area was noted at the meeting in March 2009. The continuing role of the Working Group was approved by that meeting and members nominated.
3. The group met on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2009, with the Area Community Renewal Officer (ACRO).
4. The community renewal plan was presented. Updates were given on a new community newsletter, Healthy town's project, low carbon communities project, Street Pastors, Butterfly Centre and the regeneration of Lye High Street.
5. The members present made suggestions around support for projects that needed extra help. It was agreed that having a speaker at working group was most helpful to members. It was suggested that Climate change be an agenda item for the next working group.
6. The ACRO presented a flow diagram to the working group of how Community Renewal will work across the Stourbridge township. Work streams covered themes and geographical boundaries.
7. The chairman suggested that a member of the Lye and Wollescote partnership be invited to attend working group.
8. The chairman suggested that the district and local centres officer be invited to the next working group meeting and Stourbridge town centre manager be invited to area committee meetings.
9. It was suggested that more work be done with the local mosques as they were accessible and open to local people.

## **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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**Linda Sanders**  
**Director of Adult Community & Housing**

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**List of Background Papers**

*Stourbridge Area Committee Community Renewal Plan.*

*Flow diagram showing the work of community renewal.*