
DUDLEY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

MEETING OF THE COUNCIL ON 10th APRIL 2006

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE COMMUNITY SAFETY

1. **Purpose of Report**

To submit to Council, the Annual Report of the Select Committee on Community Safety for the 2005/2006 review year and to submit a draft work programme for 2006/2007.

2. **Background**

Article 6 of the Council's Constitution requires that Select Committees report annually to the full Council and make recommendations for future work programmes and amended working methods, if appropriate, for the forthcoming year.

The Council's attention is drawn to the attachments at appendices 1, 2 and 3, that indicate the items included in the work programme for review during the 2005/2006 year.

There were no 'call-ins' of decisions relating to the remit of the Committee through the Decision Sheet Process during the year.

3. **Analysis of the Work Programme for 2005/2006**

The Committee continued to consider the wider issues and activities of the Council and its impact on Community Safety within the Borough, with reference to scrutiny and the terms of reference of reviewing aspects of Crime and Disorder and Anti Social Behaviour, and the Council's Corporate Strategy.

The Committee and its Working Groups recognised the importance of strategic partnership working across the Council's services and the partnerships within the area.

The Select Committee operated throughout the year with three Working Groups; the Strategy Working Group, the Housing Issues Working Group and the Children and Young People Working Group. In addition the Select Committee continued to be informed on Section 17 – Crime and Disorder Act 1988, in relation to community safety issues. The Committee were also updated on the impact of the new Liquor Licensing legislation, the

recommendations of the Working Groups, and received feedback from Members and Officers on issues appertaining to community safety and commented generally on statutory policy and financial reports submitted to the Committee by Officers of the Council.

4. **Key Issues Arising**

The major concerns of the Committee continued to reflect the expressions made by local people, namely

- Issues concerning anti social behaviour and the publicising of the names of perpetrators with an Anti Social Behaviour Order (ASBO), and
- The implementation of the Community Safety Strategy and other issues as outlined in the appendices to this report.

5. **Recommendations made by the Working Groups and Outcomes**

The recommendations and outcomes following the consideration of items set out in the Work Programme for 2005/2006 are set out in appendices 1, 2 and 3 attached.

6. **Impact of the Committee's Recommendations**

Housing Working Group

During the 2005/2006 municipal year the Committee received a presentation and an update from members of the Mediation Service based within the Directorate of Housing that resulted in training for all Councillors on how to work with the Mediation Service, particularly with regard to finding solutions to neighbourhood nuisance disputes.

In 2004/2005 the Working Group scrutinised the new Tenancy Conditions prior to their publication in 2006. During 2005/2006 the Working Group received an update on the Tenancy Conditions prior to publication that resulted in the suggestions put forward by the Working Group being included in the Strategy.

Strategy Working Group

During 2005/2006 the Working Group were informed on the compilation of a local cultural strategy with specific reference to community safety issues. A recommendation of the Working Group ensured that young people would be consulted on the issue of lighting in public parks.

Children and Young People Working Group

During 2005/2006 the Working Group sought the views of young people on how they envisaged their local community developing in the future.

The Working Group also sought the views of young people with regard to the publicising of anti social behaviour orders, considered by the Working Group on 20th February 2006, following which it was recommended that Councillor Cotterill submit a paper to the Select Committee outlining proposals for the publicising of anti social behaviour orders.

7. **Areas and Opportunities for Improvement**

A report of the Lead Officer to the Committee was submitted to the Select Committee on 17th January 2006 reporting on the attendance of the Chairman, Lead Officer and the Principal Lawyer, to the Local Government Association Conference "Preventing Anti Social Behaviour" on the 21st November 2005.

In presenting the feedback the Chairman reported that he had been surprised to see that Dudley was ahead of other Boroughs with regard to the strategy on anti social behaviour, particularly as Dudley had already been seeking local solutions (the Conference had advocated the use of local solutions) to tackle anti social behaviour.

The Chairman reported on other topics covered at the Conference, common to all local authorities, namely, that a common consensus could not be reached on whether or not to publicise persons with an Anti Social Behaviour Order.

Other areas of opportunity, including members' fact finding visits to other local authorities and further training opportunities for Members of the Committee, will continue to be explored.

The Select Committee continued to explore ways of improving the scrutiny function and the processes of the Committee and its Working Groups.

8. **Areas of Focus and Draft Programme for 2006/2007**

It is anticipated that the following items be included in the Programme for consideration by the appointed Working Groups and by the full Committee:

- Recommendations and findings from the Select Committee's Working Groups.
- Quarterly Performance Monitoring of Community Safety Performance Indicators and Progress within Council Plan Targets.
- Regular updates and progress on the introduction of measures concerned with alcohol and substance misuse.
- The activities and decisions of Council Services in relation to the duty placed on them by Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act.
- The Community Safety Strategy Implementation.

- The consideration of the initiatives taken in conjunction with partner agencies, namely Dudley Community Safety Partnership – Safe and Sound - and the impact on crime and disorder within the Borough, including feedback reports from members representing the Council on the Partnership and to include a visit by Members of the Committee to Sure Start.
- Any other items referred to the Committee or its Working Groups.

A detailed work programme for 2006/2007 will be submitted to the first meeting of the Committee for approval.

9. **Finance**

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report at this stage.

10. **Law**

- (i) The requirement for Select Committees to make an annual report to the Council is contained in Article 6 of the Constitution.
- (ii) The relevant statutory provisions regarding the Council's Constitution are contained in Part 11 of the Local Government Act 2000 together with regulations, orders and statutory guidance issued by the Secretary of State.
- (ii) Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act, 1998, requests Local Authorities to consider the impact of community safety on each of its decisions.

11. **Equality Impact**

The annual report sets out the draft programme for the Committee for 2006/2007.

Reports that might be submitted to the Committee or its Working Groups during 2006/2007 could have a direct bearing on children and young people who become involved in anti social behaviour.

Children and young people will continue to be consulted on issues submitted for consideration by the Committee that might have a direct impact on children and young people.

This report complies with the Council's policies on equal opportunities and diversity.

12. **Recommendations**

That the Council notes the contents of the report in relation to the work undertaken in the 2005/2006 Municipal Year by the Select Committee on Community Safety and in relation to the draft work programme for 2006/2007.

13. **Background Papers**

The 2005/2006 agenda and papers of the Select Committee and its Working Groups were used in the compilation of this report.



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Chairman of the Select Committee on Community Safety

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<u>ITEM</u>	<u>DATE SUBMITTED TO THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLES WORKING GROUP</u>	<u>RECOMMENDATIONS/OUTCOMES</u>
<u>Survey of Young Peoples' Attitudes to Community Safety</u>	13 th September 2005	<p>Ms K Lafferty of the Youth Offending Team (YOT) attended the Working Group, together with a member of Dudley Youth Council who gave feedback from young people following their "Have a Say Day" initiative. Young peoples' priorities with regard to community safety were discussed and it was reported that a "visioning" exercise had been conducted as to how young people envisioned their community in 2012.</p> <p><u>Outcomes</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Members requested that further information on young peoples' attitudes to community safety, gathered at the "Have a Say Day", be submitted to the Working Group on 2 November 2005.2. That a report be presented to a future meeting on the approach being taken by other local authorities with regard to the publicising of information on people with an Anti Social Behaviour Order.3. That young people be invited to attend a future meeting.

Youth Council
Feedback
on Young Peoples'
Attitudes to
Community Safety

2nd November 2005

A member of the Youth Council attended the Working Group to report on the advent of School Councils and on presentations made by Youth Council Members to the Dudley Beacon and Castle Primary Care Trust with regard to young peoples' attitudes to the health care offered in the Borough.

The issue of publicising people with Anti Social Behaviour Orders was discussed.

Outcome

That the Active Citizenship Programme Manager (Directorate of Childrens' Services) together with young people, would canvas young people on their views regarding the publication of information in respect of persons the subject of Anti Social Behaviour Orders and would attend future meetings of the Working Group.

Publicising Anti
Social Behaviour
Orders

1st December 2005

The Working Group considered a report of the Strategic Anti Social Behaviour Coordinator on ways of publicising information in respect of persons with an Anti Social Behaviour Order and a discussion was held as to how other local authorities had approached the issue. Members were advised that a formal written procedure and protocol needed to be drawn up, funding identified, and clear guidelines issued and that these issues needed to be addressed during the decision making process.

Outcome

That the Strategic Anti Social Behaviour Coordinator to submit a further report to the Working Group.

Youth Council
Feedback from a
Canvas of people
regarding the
publicising of Anti
Social Behaviour
Orders

20th February 2006

The Active Citizenship Programme Manager (Directorate of Childrens' Services) reported on the feedback on a canvas of young people on their opinions with regard to the publicising of people with Anti Social Behaviour Orders.

Options on Anti
Social Behaviour
Orders Publicity

20th February 2006

The Strategic Anti Social Behaviour Coordinator submitted a report on Options for Publicising Anti Social Behaviour Orders for the Working Group's consideration.

Outcome

It was resolved that Councillor Cotterill would submit a report to the Select Committee to be held on 7th March 2006, recommending that the Committee recommend to Cabinet that the proposals be submitted to Council .

Update on the
Establishment of a
Childrens'
Safeguarding
Board

2nd November 2005

A report of the Director of Childrens' services was submitted to the Working Group regarding the establishment of a Childrens' Sdafeguarding Board.

Outcome

Members noted the initiatives being undertaken to raise the awareness of children regarding the dangers they might encounter when using the Internet.

Information and
Developments
relating to
Exclusions,
Attendance and
Admissions and
Children in Public
Care

1st December 2005

This item was deferred by the \working Group but was submitted to the Select Committee on 17th January 2006.

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>DATE ITEM WAS CONSIDERED BY THE HOUSING WORKING GROUP</u>	<u>RECOMMENDATIONS/OUTCOMES</u>
<u>Update on the developments regarding the use of mediation to resolve anti social behaviour and on ways the Housing Department have explored to accelerate the eviction of tenants in breach of noise abatement orders</u>	7 September 2005 and 2 February 2006	<p><u>07.09.05</u></p> <p>Following a presentation by the Mediation Service, it was recommended that a Mediation training session be organised and all Councillors invited.</p> <p><u>Outcome</u></p> <p>The Training session took place in November 2005, to which all Councillors were invited.</p> <p><u>02.02.06</u></p> <p>Members received an update on developments regarding the use of mediation.</p> <p><u>Outcome</u></p> <p>Members praised the progress being made by the Mediation team and requested that a copy of the</p>

Service's Annual Report be circulated to Members when available.

Update on Dealing with Tenants in Breach of Noise Abatement Orders

7 September 2005

The Working Group were informed on progress made in respect of issues with regard to noise nuisance and actions to be taken by the out-of-hours team in response to complaints.

The Working Group were also informed of the number of notices that had been served under the Environmental Protection Act during the previous year, breaches of Orders and the number of cases that had led to prosecution in the Courts.

Outcome

Members expressed their support for the work being undertaken by the out-of-hours team.

Review of Tenancy Conditions

2ND February 2006

The Working Group received a verbal update on the Review of Tenancy Conditions which was noted.

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>DATE ITEM WAS CONSIDERED BY THE STRATEGY WORKING GROUP</u>	<u>RECOMMENDATIONS/OUTCOMES</u>
<u>The Alignment of Local and National Priorities</u>	15 TH September 2005	<p><u>15.09.05</u></p> <p>Members of the Working Group were advised on the alignment of local and national priorities and developing issues and links that impact on community safety and it was highlighted that a key issue was the outcome of the Comprehensive Performance Assessment.</p> <p>Key Lines of Enquiry were also discussed in regard to the focus on inspection and the Council's compliance with the requirements of Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.</p> <p><u>Outcome</u></p> <p>The Working Group resolved that the CPA Evidence be submitted to the Working Group and that Members be informed of the KLOE (Key Lines of Enquiry) questioning.</p> <p><u>26.10.05</u></p> <p>Members were advised on the alignment of local and National Priorities and on current performance in relation to national and local targets and</p>

the Key Lines of Enquiry. They were also informed of progress with regard to the Comprehensive Performance Assessment, the inspection focus and the identification of main questions that will need to be evidenced, including compliance with the requirements of Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act.

Outcome

Noted.

Cultural Strategy

15TH September 2005

A report of the Director of the Urban Environment was submitted. Members were advised on the current position regarding the production of a local cultural strategy with specific reference to community safety issues.

Outcome

Members resolved that young people be consulted on the issue of lighting in public parks and that the Draft Strategy be included in the agenda for discussion at a further meeting of the Working Group.

The Development of
a Corporate
Strategy on Anti
Social Behaviour
(Community
Safety/DAAT
Strategy)

26th October 2005

Members were informed that the Draft Strategy had been completed and the need for coordination and the streamlining of groups was highlighted.

Outcome

That young people be consulted on park lighting and that the Draft Strategy be discussed at the Working Group meeting in January 2006.

26TH January 2006

Members were updated on progress being made against targets and objectives set out in the 2005/2008 Community Safety/DAAT Strategy.

Outcome

The Working Group agreed that a summary of the Draft Strategy be submitted to the Working Group following submission to the Executive and that a periodic item be included to the Work Programme for 2006/2007..