

SELECT COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY SAFETY

Monday, 4th July, 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, Harley, Male,
Mrs Turner and A Turner.

Officers

Lead Officer to the Committee, Chief Executives Directorate
Director of Law and Property
Assistant Director Legal and Democratic Services, Directorate of Law and
Property
Assistant Director, Directorate of Education and Lifelong Learning
Assistant Director, Directorate of Housing
Assistant Director, Directorate of Social Services
Strategic Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator, Chief Executive's Directorate
Mrs J Holland, Democratic Services – Directorate of Law and Property

Also In attendance

Ms Julia Sherfield (National Management Trainee)

1

MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 21st
February 2005, be approved as a correct record and signed.

2

EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2004/2005

A report of the Director of Law and Property was submitted and presented
on the Directorate of Law and Property's Equality and Diversity Annual
Report for 2004/05.

RESOLVED

That the information contained in the report submitted, in relation
to the Directorate of Law and Property's Equality and Diversity
Annual Report for 2004/05, be noted.

3 CHANGE IN ORDER OF BUSINESS

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

RESOLVED

That agenda item number 6 be considered (after agenda item number 8).

4 TERMS OF REFERENCE AND RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE COMMITTEE

A report of the Lead Officer to the Committee was submitted setting out the Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure of the Committee.

RESOLVED

That article 6 of the Constitution, the Select Committee Procedure Rules and the Scrutiny Protocol for Select Committees, as set out in the report, and appendices to the report, now submitted, be received and noted.

5 WORK PROGRAMME AND TIMETABLE FOR 2005/06

A report of the Lead Officer to the Committee was submitted on the work carried out by the Committee in 2004/05; on a proposed work programme for 2005/06, and on the appointment of Members to sit on the Young Peoples' Working Group, Strategy Working Group and Housing Issues sub-committees of the Committee for the 2005/2006 municipal year.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the following Working Groups be re-appointed with the Members indicated:-
 - (a) That the Young Peoples' Working Group comprise Councillor Cotterill, as Chairman and Councillors Male, Mrs H Turner and Ms Foster.
 - (b) That the Strategy Working Group, comprise Councillor Burston, as Chairman, and Councillor Dunn and A Turner.
 - (c) That the Housing Issues Working Group, comprise Councillor Harley, as Chairman and Councillors Mrs Craigie and Finch.

- (2) That approval be given to the proposed work programme and timetables of the Working Groups as set out in appendices 1, 2 and 3 attached to the report submitted.
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SECTION 17 – CRIME AND DISORDER ACT 1998

A report of the Director of Education and Lifelong Learning was submitted, outlining the requirements of Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act, 1998, for local authority departments to “exercise its various functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can, to prevent crime and disorder in our area”. The report also reviewed the work of the Directorate of Education and Lifelong Learning in relation to community safety.

In presenting the report Ms Peek highlighted some of the points contained therein.

In response to a question from Councillor Cotterill regarding the allocation of resources and funding Ms Peek stated that it was difficult to allocate resources equitably and that funding was aimed at reaching the most deprived areas of the borough and would discuss the issue of provision in the Quarry Bank and Dudley Wood areas with the Area Team Leaders.

In response to a question from Councillor Cotterill regarding exclusion of pupils and provision of education for excluded pupils during the two week “cooling off” period, Ms Peek stated that work continued with headteachers with regard to the education of excluded pupils but that the difficulties of the situation should not be underestimated and that she would submit a report to a future meeting of the Young People and Childrens’ Working Group.

It was agreed that Ms Peek would submit her report to the first meeting of the Working Group in the 2005/2006 municipal year.

The Lead Officer stated that issues on pupil access and exclusions protocol affecting both the Select Committee on Community Safety and the Select Committee on Lifelong Learning should be discussed jointly by both Select Committees on an “as and when” basis.

In response to a question from Councillor Ms Craigie, Ms Peek agreed to seek further information regarding the anger management trial being carried out in schools in partnership with the Education Action Zone and other agencies and report back orally to the Committee.

In response to a suggestion from Councillor Burston, the Chairman agreed that a representative from Sure Start be invited to a future meeting in order to update the Committee on their activities.

Following a short discussion on safety issues with regard to lone working of employees, Councillor Blood stated that he would request that an item be put on the Select Committee Chairmen agenda for discussion at a future meeting.

RESOLVED

That the information contained in the report submitted, on the Section 17 – Crime and Disorder Act 1988, in relation to the Directorate of Education and Lifelong Learning be noted.

7

LIQUOR LICENSING LEGISLATION UPDATE

The Assistant Director, Legal and Democratic Services, Mr P Tart, gave a presentation to the Committee regarding the current position on the new Liquor Licensing legislation. He also reported on the numbers of applications received for Licensing premises, stating that only 10% of the applications had been received to date.

The Chairman reminded the Committee that liquor licence applications needed to be submitted to the Licensing Office by 6th August 2005.

In response to a question from Councillor Turner, regarding the provision of “drinking up time”, Mr Tart explained that public houses could remain open as long as they wished to do so; however, if the liquor licence ended at 11.00 pm only non alcoholic drinks could be served after 11.00 pm.

The Committee discussed issues in respect of the even dispersal of licences to off-licences and outlets selling alcohol.

Mr Tart also reported that post November 2005 the Sub-Licensing Committees had the power to review licences where there was evidence that premises were abusing the conditions of the license granted to them.

Following a further short discussion, during which Councillors Ms Craigie and Burston expressed their concern with regard to nationally extended licensing hours, it was

RESOLVED

- (1) That a further report, updating the Committee on the impact of the Liquor Licensing legislation, be submitted to the Committee early in 2006.
- (2) That the Committee’s thanks be extended to Mr Tart for a helpful and informative presentation.

The meeting ended at 7.40 pm.

CHAIRMAN