

DUDLEY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH

CENTRAL DUDLEY AREA COMMITTEE

AGENDA ITEM NO. 10

14th March 2006

REPORT OF THE AREA LIAISON OFFICER

CENTRAL DUDLEY AREA LOCAL COMMUNITY PLAN

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 For the Central Dudley Area Committee (CDAC) to consider the draft Local Community Plan (LCP) for the central Dudley area.

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Council Constitution requires Area Committees to “develop and introduce a local community plan for their area, if appropriate.” (B21 Article 10.02 (a).) To this end, the CDAC set up a Working Party in May 2005 to continue its work in developing a Local Community Plan for the central Dudley area and many Members have been able to participate in this activity. A draft is attached as an Appendix to this Report.
- 2.2 The production of this Plan has been Member-led. Over time, Members have been committed to developing a Plan that is “not just a paper exercise,” “meaningful,” “challenging,” “user-friendly,” “innovative,” and a Plan which is the “voice of the Committee” and is not anyone else’s Plan e.g. an Officer’s plan.
- 2.2 An LCP aims to assist Members to create **sustainable communities** in the central Dudley area and Members have developed eight themes to support that aspiration as follows
- Anti-Social Behaviour
 - Care & Health
 - Environment
 - Housing
 - Jobs & Training
 - Education & Leisure
 - Transport & Traffic
 - Regeneration Activities

2.3 Other general principles developed by the Working Party that have informed this process are that the LCP:

- has a clear geographical focus and needs to be at the right 'level,' helping services 'join-up' at the local level link through its LCP into existing activity to help meet its aims e.g. by link to other Plans such as the Dudley Community Partnership Community Strategy, the Council Plan or those of other partners
- provides continued focus for potential national developments about local government and decision-making at neighbourhood level, positioning the Committee to develop any further focus on neighbourhoods through its LCP process as well as maintaining link to the local Neighbourhood Management approach
- be targeted at what Members of the CDAC can do in their role as community leaders. This implies that Members can achieve things in the CDAC area which others cannot do in relation to single issues brought to them by electors but also that more general themes can be established such as those already indicated by the Working Party. This also implies some limit on Members influence e.g. the LCP needs to be consistent with existing plans e.g. the new Dudley Community Strategy, the Council Plan, Directorate Strategies, etc.

2.4 At their meeting of 15th February 2006, the Working Party agreed to refer the draft LCP to the full CDAC for its consideration. Pending the agreement of the Area Committee, this draft can be:

- Shared with relevant agencies e.g. Corporate Board, PCT Board, Police, Dudley College, etc..
- **Published** following advice and production by the Council's Marketing and Communications Service
- **Implemented:** the Working Party recommended that in 2006-07, they meet four times a year to monitor the themes of the Plan through consultation with relevant agencies (Police, Neighbourhood Management, etc.) to discuss Anti-Social Behaviour. In this way, the Plan provides a Work Programme for the Committee.

2.5 **Reviewing the Plan:** it is suggested that the Plan be reviewed and updated on an annual basis so that Members can assess the local priorities and reflect on how they can work through the Committee to ensure that services are joining-up in the CDAC area or developed to meet the needs of local people even better.

- 2.6 Finally, Members will understand that because the idea of planning for the central Dudley area by the Area Committee is a new approach, there is inevitably a degree of “experimentation” in the process and the current draft from which all of us concerned can learn so that we can improve the process over time.

3.0 PROPOSALS

- 3.1 That the CDAC support the LCP as attached as the Appendix to this Report.

4.0 FINANCE

- 4.1 Financial implications of this report are only indirect in that one of the purposes of the LCP is to ensure that services join-up appropriately for people in the CDAC area.

5.0 LAW

- 5.1 The Council may do anything incidental to, conducive to or which facilitates the discharge of its functions under section 111 of the Local Government act 1972 which would include the preparation of a strategic plan being incidental to its welfare function.

6.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

- 6.1 An LCP enables the local community through its elected representatives to address issues of concern which are likely to include matters relating to equal opportunities such as equal access to services.

7.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 It is recommended that the CDAC:
- Approve the draft LCP attached to this Report
 - Require that it be shared with relevant agencies e.g. Corporate Board, PCT Board, Police, Dudley College, etc..
 - Agree that the LCP be published following advice and production by the Council’s Marketing and Communications Service
 - Agree that implementation be done through a meeting of an LCP Working Party four times in 2006-07 to monitor the themes of the Plan through consultation with relevant agencies focussing on two themes of the Plan at each Meeting

- Agree to review the Plan content and process at the final meeting of the Working Party in February 2007 and referring that to the CDAC in its last meeting in 2007.



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