

## **Meeting of the Council - 16th July, 2012**

### **Annual Report of the Community Safety and Community Services Scrutiny Committee for 2011/12**

#### **Purpose of Report**

1. To submit to the Council the Annual Report of the Community Safety and Community Services Scrutiny Committee for 2011/2012.

#### **Background**

2. Article 6 of the Council's Constitution requires that Scrutiny Committees report annually to the full Council on the work carried out over the previous municipal year making both recommendations for key areas of future work and any amended working methods, if appropriate, for the forthcoming year.
3. As in previous years, the work programme for the year was rooted in the Council's overall objectives in terms of both the key issues but also identifying the timetable for reports back.
4. The Committee, in discharging its overview and scrutiny functions as they relate to crime and disorder functions of the Council under the Crime and Disorder Act, 1998 and other relevant legislation, has a wide and far-reaching remit. It is therefore difficult to single out a number of key issues from Borough-wide community safety issues such as social inclusion and community development which fall within the purview of the Committee.
5. The following matters were considered at meetings of the committee in 2011/12.
  - (a) Recent Developments in Domestic Abuse Policy and Service Provision in the Borough of Dudley.
  - (b) Safe and Sound, Dudley's Community Safety Partnership: The Role of the Responsible Authorities;
  - (c) An Overview of Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) in the Dudley Borough;
  - (d) Dudley Borough Anti Social Behaviour Review;
  - (e) Reporting on Section 17 Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (The Directorate of Adult, Community and Housing Services).

6. The Committee's Work Programme for the 2011/12 municipal year also included the following standard reports and Information Items:

Quarterly Corporate Performance Management Reports;

Revenue Budget Strategy 2012/13;

Update on Council's Capital Strategy;

Police Reform;

Annual Report of the Community Safety and Community Services Scrutiny Committee 2010/11.

### **Recent Developments in Domestic Abuse Policy and Service Provision in the Borough of Dudley.**

7. Detailed consideration was given to the domestic abuse service policy and provision in Dudley together with the details of services and funding. Arising from consideration of this item, it was noted by the Committee that the Domestic Abuse Service Improvement Review would result in a draft report with findings being presented to the Strategic Board to consider and it was expected that following on from this an action plan would be developed. The contributions by the Primary Care Trust, The Lye Project, the Police and the Directorates of Children's Services and Adult, Community and Housing Services in relation to dealing with domestic service were also considered and it was resolved that a further report would be submitted to a future meeting in relation to the findings of the Domestic Abuse Service Improvement Review.

### **Dudley Borough Anti Social Behaviour Review.**

8. A report was submitted and noted updating the Committee on the review of the Council's Anti-Social Behaviour Service and seeking Members views as part of the consultation process.

Consideration was given to the number of staff in post at the Anti Social Behaviour Unit, a training needs analysis, which would be undertaken, response times to urgent and standard cases, that a wider review of the Council's out of hours service was required and to the number of cases referred to the Council's Legal Services. A further report would be submitted to the committee in due course.

### **Reporting on Section 17 – Crime and Disorder Act 1998**

9. Detailed considered of a report of the Directorate of Adult, Community and Housing Services was submitted on the work that the Directorate was involved in that contributed towards fulfilling the obligations of Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.

Consideration was also given to the details and responsibilities and

contributions that each division made within the Directorate in relation to the above, which were appended to the report.

### **An Overview of Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) in the Dudley Borough.**

10. Detailed consideration was given to the Council's CCTV responsibilities within the Borough, with a particular focus on the role of the CCTV Control room in Sedgley.

The Committee noted that the Protection of Freedoms Bill would introduce further regulation of CCTV cameras and the Council would be required to adopt a policy in relation to CCTV following the implementation of that Bill.

Consideration was also given to the number of cameras in situ, the cost of replacing them and the use of the images obtained from the cameras.

It was resolved that a further report would be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee detailing the new and amended requirements arising out of the Protection of Freedoms Bill and the findings from the internal CCTV review.

### **Outline of the Work Programme for 2012/13**

11. A work programme for 2012/13 was considered by the Committee, having within its remit community safety, at its first meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> June, 2012 which included the following matters:-
  - Annual Report of the Safe and Sound Board
  - Annual Report of the Committee to Council
  - The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011
  - Domestic Abuse Service Improvement Review - Update
  - Anti Social Behaviour Service re-design - Update
  - Proposed Revenue Budget
  - New and Amended Requirements arising out of the Protection of Freedoms Bill and the findings of the Internal CCTV Review
  - Reporting on Section 17 – Crime and Disorder Act, 1998 (Directorate of the Urban Environment).
  - Provisional Work Programme for 2013/14

## **Conclusion**

12. Areas forming the bulk of the Committee's work continue to reflect the expressions made by local people, namely, issues concerning community safety with particular emphasis on Domestic Abuse, Anti-Social Behaviour and measures to build safer and strong communities through community-lead programmes to combat crime in the whole or parts of the Borough.
13. Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act, 1998, requires Local Authorities to consider the impact of community safety on each of its decisions.

## **Finance**

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

## **Law**

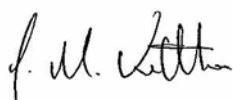
15. The requirement for Scrutiny Committees to submit an annual report to the Council is contained in Article 6 of the Constitution as read with Part II of the Local Government Act, 2000, together with Regulations, Orders and Statutory Guidance issued by the Secretary of State.

## **Equality Impact**

16. Reports that have been and might be submitted to the Committee during 2012/13 could have a direct bearing on children and young people who become involved in anti-social behaviour whilst issues such as social cohesion will also have an impact on them.
17. Bodies representing children and young people will continue to be consulted on issues submitted for consideration by the Committee and might have a direct impact on children and young people. This report complies with the Council's equality policy.

## **Recommendation**

18. That the Annual Report of the Community Safety and Community Services Scrutiny Committee for 2011/12 as set out above, be noted.



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CHAIR OF THE COMMUNITY SAFETY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES  
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE.

