

## **SELECT COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY SAFETY**

Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2006, at 6.00 pm  
in Committee Room 3, Council House, Dudley

### **PRESENT:-**

Councillor Blood (Chairman)  
Councillor Cotterill (Vice Chairman)  
Councillors Burston, Ms Craigie, Finch, Ms Foster, Harley, Male, Taylor,  
Mrs Turner and A Turner.

### **Officers**

Lead Officer to the Committee, Chief Executives Directorate  
Principal Lawyer, Directorate of Law and Property  
Assistant Director, Directorate of Housing  
Community Safety Manager  
Local Authority Liaison Inspector (Police)  
Strategic Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator, Chief Executive's Directorate  
Senior Assistant Director of Finance  
Mrs J Holland, Directorate of Law and Property

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### **MINUTES**

#### **RESOLVED**

That the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 9<sup>th</sup> November 2005, be approved as a correct record and signed, subject to Councillor Burston's name being included as present at the meeting.

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### **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No Member made a declaration of interest in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct.

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### **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor Mrs J Dunn and the Assistant Director of Housing.

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### **APPOINTMENT OF SUBSTITUTE FOR THIS MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE**

It was reported that Councillor A Taylor had been appointed to serve as a substitute for Councillor Mrs J Dunn, for this meeting of the Committee only.

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CHANGE IN ORDER OF BUSINESS

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

RESOLVED

That agenda item number 9 be considered as the next item of business.

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MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MEETINGS OF THE WORKING GROUPS OF THE COMMITTEE

The Chairman of the Children and Young People Working Group, Councillor Cotterill, reported on the issue of publicising the names of persons within the Borough who had been issued with an Anti Social Behaviour Order (ASBO). He informed the Committee that the issue was ongoing and consultation would take place with young people to ascertain their views.

Councillor Ms Craigie (Acting Chairman for the Housing and Neighbourhood Issues Working Group) reported that the Working Group had considered the issue of mediation to resolve anti-social behaviour and tenant disputes in respect of noise abatement orders. The Working Group had recommended that a training session be arranged and that all Council Members be informed of the services that the Mediation Service could offer. The training session had now taken place.

Members recommended that a brief update on Tenancy Conditions be submitted to the Working Group at the meeting to be held on 24th January, 2006.

Councillor Burston, Chairman of the Strategic Working Group, reported that the Working Group had considered the development of a corporate strategy on anti social behaviour and it had been agreed that further updates on progress would be submitted to the Working Group as and when appropriate.

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PROPOSED REVENUE BUDGET 2006/2007

A joint report of the Chief Executive and the Director of Finance was submitted on the proposed Revenue Budget and Council Tax for 2006/07.

In presenting the report the Senior Assistant Finance Director reported that the Council Tax increase for 2006/07 would be approximately 3%.

Arising from the presentation, Councillor Ms Foster asked whether the Council contribution towards Police Community Support Officers had been included in the report and whether the figures for crimes of robbery were

included. She also requested whether figures relating to crime trends within the Managed Neighbourhoods could be produced and questioned whether resources could be directed towards the Directorate of the Urban Environment.

Councillor Ms Foster also requested clarification on the £177,000 cut in the budget for Neighbourhood Management.

Following a discussion regarding paragraph 16 of the report (Efficiency and Other Savings) the Senior Assistant Director of Finance agreed to arrange for a breakdown of the efficiency and other savings figures to be forwarded to the Members of the Committee.

RESOLVED

That the Cabinet's Budget proposals for 2006/07 be noted

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#### QUARTERLY CORPORATE PERFORMANCE REPORT

A report of the Lead Officer was submitted on the performance of the Council in relation to the activities relating to the terms of reference of this Committee for the second quarter of 2005/06.

In presenting the report the Lead Officer explained that the report contained extracts specifically concerned with Community Safety from the Quarterly Corporate Performance Report to the Cabinet and that a similar report would be submitted to the Committee on a quarterly basis for the Committee's ongoing review and scrutiny.

The Lead Officer stated that it was important to recognise the contribution made by the Community Safety Team, the Police and Partnership members, in achieving the reduction in the crime figures indicated in the report and of the need to recognise that the crime figures illustrated in the report were for the Borough as a whole and not broken down into individual areas.

A Member pointed out that the figures for robbery were not included in the report and asked for these to be extracted, particularly Neighbourhood figures.

Councillor Burston agreed that some categorisation of the figures was needed, particularly the figures for vehicle crime.

Following a further short discussion, it was

RESOLVED

That the information contained in the report and Appendices to the report submitted, be noted and that the Lead Officer, together with the Community Safety Team be requested to clarify the breakdown of the crime figures contained in the report, particularly for fear/perception of crime and burglary and vehicle crime for individual Neighbourhoods and Wards.

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#### ANNUAL SELECT COMMITTEE REPORT TO COUNCIL

A report of the Lead Officer to the Committee was submitted on the Annual Report of the Committee to Council. A draft copy of the report was attached as an appendix to the report submitted for the Committee's comments and approval. A proposed work programme for 2006/07 was also set out in the annual report.

A short discussion ensued, during which a Member informed the Committee of the "Drivewatch" initiative involving taxi drivers and milk deliverymen and, at some future point, could involve Council employees as well as employees from other organisations and it was suggested that an invitation be extended to Drivewatch to make a presentation to the Committee.

Councillor Burston commented that a visit to Sure Start had been suggested for inclusion in the 2006/2007 programme.

#### RESOLVED

That the Annual Report of the Select Committee on Community Safety for 2005/06 attached as an Appendix to the report submitted, be approved for submission at the meeting of the Council to be held on 10 April 2006, together with the proposed Work Programme for 2006/07.

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#### FEEDBACK FROM THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE 'PREVENTING ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR' – 21<sup>ST</sup> NOVEMBER, 2005

A report of the Lead Officer to the Committee was submitted on the attendance of the Chairman, Lead Officer and the Principal Lawyer, to the Local Government Association Conference "Preventing Anti Social Behaviour" on the 21<sup>st</sup> November 2005.

In presenting the report the Chairman stated that he had been surprised to see that Dudley Borough was ahead of other Boroughs with regard to their strategy on anti social behaviour. Dudley had already been seeking local solutions and the Conference was advocating the use of local solutions to tackle the problem. There had also been a debate on the balance required between prevention and enforcement.

It was also reported that a common consensus could not be reached on whether or not to publish the names of persons subject to an Anti Social Behaviour Order (ASBO).

The Committee discussed the time taken to issue an ASBO and the complicated process that had to be pursued, namely, the obtaining of witness diaries; they also discussed the numbers of ASBO's issued against the number of complaints received.

In response the Lead Officer stated that efforts had been made to speed up the process.

The Head of Community Safety also updated the Committee on current issues being explored with partners, including the police, in particular the creation of a dedicated Anti Social Behaviour Unit.

RESOLVED

That the information contained in the report, and as now reported upon, be noted.

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EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED

That under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information, as defined in Schedule 12A to the Act, in particular that paragraph of Part 1 of that Schedule indicated below:

<u>Description of Item</u>	<u>Relevant Paragraph of Schedule 12A</u>
Policing Matters	4

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POLICING MATTERS

A report of the Lead Officer was submitted in respect of two letters one from West Midlands Police Authority and one from West Midlands Police, addressed to the Chairman of the Committee on reorganisation issues and the National Community Safety Plan 2006 respectively.

Following a discussion by the Committee, it was

RESOLVED

That the content of the letters from West Midlands Police Authority and from West Midlands Police, addressed to the Chairman of the Committee, be received and noted.

The meeting ended at 7.45 pm.

CHAIRMAN