

## **SELECT COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY SAFETY**

Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> September 2005, at 6.00 p.m.  
in The Board Room at Dudley Council Plus, Dudley

### **PRESENT:-**

Councillor Blood (Chairman)  
Councillor Cotterill (Vice Chairman)  
Councillors Ms Craigie, Ms Foster, Harley, Male, 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  
Head of Service (Youth Offending Service)  
Mrs J Holland, Directorate of Law and Property

## 8. **MINUTES**

### **RESOLVED**

That the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 4<sup>th</sup> July 2005, be approved as a correct record and signed.

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## 9. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

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## 10. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Burston, Mrs Dunn and Finch, Ms C Peek (Assistant Director, Directorate of Education and Lifelong Learning) and Mr G Thomas (Head Of Policy Chief Executive's Directorate)

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## 11. **CAPITAL STRATEGY UPDATE**

A report of the Director of Finance was submitted on an update of the Council's Capital Strategy.

In presenting the report on behalf of the Director of Finance, the Lead Officer referred to Inspector Cook's role in representing one of the Community Safety partner organisations on the Committee.

Following a short discussion, during which Councillor Cotterill called for the provision of traffic calming measures in the vicinity of the Dunns Bank area of Quarry Bank, it was

RESOLVED

That the update of the Council's Capital Strategy, attached as an appendix to the report submitted, be received and noted in so far as this Committee is concerned.

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12. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE WORKING GROUPS

A report of the Lead Officer to the Committee was submitted setting out the recommendations made by the three working groups of the Committee, at meetings held on 7th, 13th and 15th September 2005 arising from considerations of the recommendations, it was noted:-

- (a) In respect of the Housing and Neighbourhood Issues Working Group (7th September), Councillor Craigie informed the Committee that the working group had recommended that overview/training be offered to all Council Members with regard to the new Mediation Service.
- (b) In respect of the Children and Young People Working Group (13th September) that the issue of publicising both by name and photograph of those people (including young people) issued with an ASBO (Anti Social Behaviour Order) had been raised.

A discussion ensued on the options available to achieve the publication of names and photographs, and in particular, inserting names and photographs in newspapers.

In response Mr A Winning (Strategic Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator) stated that he was in touch with other local authorities that had already embarked on such a strategy and a report would be submitted to the meeting of the Group to be held on the 1st December 2005.

Councillor Cotterill raised concerns about the ‘perceived rewarding’ of young people for their involvement in anti social behaviour by being allowed to participate in a fun day out (that was recently reported in the local Press) and questioned who had organised the event and raised the funds to pay for the outing; Mr Winning responded that, although the outing had been a combined effort by schools youth centres and the police, the police had applied for the funding through the Coseley Community Education Network (a registered charity composed of local community groups and statutory and voluntary bodies). Most of the young people who participated were young people who had been nominated by their community, school, or youth centre for their good work and contribution. Some of the places had been allocated to young people at risk of becoming involved in anti social behaviour and ten young people had been nominated from their school, ten from local youth clubs and ten had been nominated by the police.

Mr Winning and Inspector Cook explained the aspirations regarding outcomes of the initiative undertaken and stated that it had been organised to attract young people who had already become involved in anti social behaviour and who were on the “fringes” of crime, with a view to encouraging them to form peer group friendships with young people already working positively and contributing towards the safety and well being of their local community. Early indications were that the initiative had been a success.

Mr Galikowski (Youth Offending Team) supported the comments made by Inspector Cook and Mr Winning, and stated that young people who had offended should not be isolated but receive help to sort out how they can productively spend their time and learn to behave more responsibly.

After reading a copy of the press report, the Chairman expressed concern that the article had distorted the facts surrounding the outing. It was suggested that a letter of repudiation be written to the newspaper for printing on their “letters” page. He expressed the hope that journalists would, in future, liaise closely with Mr Winning and Inspector Cook, before publishing articles.

Following a further short discussion, during which Inspector Cook explained the role of “reassurance officers” currently being employed by some local police forces, Ms Channings reminded the Committee that tenants’ groups needed to become involved in initiatives to curb anti social behaviour.

- (c) In respect of the Strategy Working Group (15th September)

Mr D Lowndes would be submitting a further report with regard to the employment of park wardens and the provision of lighting in parks, to the working group meeting to be held on 24th January 2006.

It was reported that Dawn Hewitt and the Community Safety Team (Chief Executive's) would be working with the group on preparation for the Community Safety Strategy and team actions using the CPA Key Lines of Enquiry and the fact that the Working Group had agreed to act as "critical friends" to assist the Community Safety Team to achieve Level 3, was reported on.

#### RESOLVED

1. That the recommendations of the three Working Groups of this Committee from their meetings held on 7th, 13th and 15th September 2005, be received and endorsed in particular the following recommendations:-
  - (a) That a training session to inform all Members of the Council of the services provided by the Mediation Service be agreed for 22nd November 2005.
  - (b) That a report on publicity in respect of anti-social behaviour orders would be submitted to the meeting of the Children and Young People Working Group to be held on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2005 and then to the meeting of this Committee to be held on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2006, for consideration.
2. That the Strategic Anti-Social Behaviour Co-Ordinator liaises with DMBC Marcoms and the police, as to how best to repudiate the allegedly distorted facts contained in the local press.

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The meeting ended at 7.30 pm.

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CHAIRMAN