

Stourbridge Area Committee 2nd September 2009

Report of the Director of Adult, Community, and Housing Services

Community Renewal Working Group

Purpose of Report

1. To update the Committee on the progress made by the Working Group in developing the Stourbridge Area Committee Community Renewal Plan.

Background

2. The Community Renewal plan for the Stourbridge area was noted at the meeting in March 2009. The continuing role of the Working Group was approved by that meeting and members nominated.
3. The group met on 22nd July 2009, with the Head of Community Renewal and the Area Community Renewal Officer (ACRO).
4. The terms of reference for the working group, as set out in the report, were agreed. ACRO to circulate agreed Terms of Reference to members.
5. The Head of Community Renewal presented a plan to the working group of how Community Renewal will work across the Stourbridge township. Work streams covered themes and geographical boundaries.
6. The working group agreed that a representative from the Police will be invited to attend as necessary.
7. Members expressed a wish to meet with housing managers to discuss the recent structure changes. ACRO to arrange for members to meet with housing staff.
8. It was reported that the ACRO had received no further issue logs from Ward Members. ACRO to re-circulate the issue logs to members to ensure they have been received.
9. Where there is cross boundary working, the Stourbridge ACRO will work with the Halesowen ACRO to resolve issues with the respective ward members of the areas affected. Work is currently taking place on addressing ASB in the Wollescote and Lye areas. Community Renewal is working with the ASBU, Police

and youth service to address issues.

10. The Head of Community Renewal advised that Mary Stevens Park had been chosen for the 'Health Hub' in Stourbridge. The ACRO advised that an information sharing event would be held before the end of August with residents, members and stakeholders. A request was made that the plan for MSP be sent to members of the working group. A full presentation of the Healthy Town Initiative will be delivered to the September meeting of Stourbridge Area Committee.
11. Members present commented on the amount of work and the quality in the neighbourhood report given by the ACRO. It was agreed to update the report for the next working group meeting.

Finance

13. In line with the draft local community plan, Area Committees plan in line with the overall Council Plan and priorities whilst encouraging innovation in the commissioning of activities from a variety of partners which will add value and achieve objectives for their area.

Law

14. The Local Government Act 2000 placed a duty on local authorities to establish a Local Strategic Partnership to address collaborative working and develop a community strategy and local neighbourhood renewal strategy. Community Renewal is part of that approach.
15. Section 2 of the Local Government Act 1980 enables the Council to do anything which is likely to achieve the promotion or improvement of the economic, social and environmental well being of the area.

Equality Impact

16. The objective of Community renewal is to promote inclusion and social cohesion. Community renewal plans target those most in need in terms of deprivation. Information is collected through each CR intervention or consultation to monitor the inclusivity and difference made for various groups and people involved. Where inclusion is an issue ACROs engage through various community or interest groups locally to design appropriate responses to different circumstances

Where children and young people are involved they are directly consulted and frequently design the response to local issues - such as youth PACT, Junior rangers, Breakfast clubs, Dance groups, football league, homework mates, places to play , young consultants, intergenerational work

Recommendation

17. That Committee Members note the report and continue to support the work of the Community Renewal team in community localities.



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Linda Sanders
Director of Adult Community & Housing

Contact Officer: Tremaine Herbert
Telephone: 01384 812357
Email: Tremaine.herbert@dudley.gov.uk

List of Background Papers

Community Renewal Strategy
Stourbridge Area Committee Community Renewal Plan.