

**SELECT COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY SAFETY
AND COMMUNITY SERVICES**

Thursday, 10th June, 2010 at 6.00 p.m.
in Committee Room 2, The Council House, Dudley

PRESENT:-

Councillor C. Wilson (Chairman)
Councillor Cotterill (Vice-Chairman)
Councillors Attwood, Caunt, J R Davies, Foster, Mrs D Harley, Ms Wood,
Ryder and Wright.

OFFICERS

Assistant Director Policy, Performance and Resources, (Directorate of Adult, Community and Housing Services), (As Acting Lead Officer to the Committee), The Chief Executive and Performance and Commissioning Manager, (Chief Executive's Directorate), Director of Corporate Resources, Support Services Manager, Principal Solicitor and Miss K Fellows, (All Directorate of Law, Property and Human Resources).

1. **COMMENTS OF THE CHAIRMAN**

This being the first meeting of the municipal year, the Chairman welcomed Councillor Ms Wood to the Committee.

2. **APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE**

An apology for absence from the meeting was submitted on behalf of Councillor Mrs P Martin.

3. **SUBSTITUTE MEMBER**

It was reported that Councillor Wright had been appointed as a substitute member for Councillor Mrs P Martin.

4. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No Member made a declaration of interest in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct in respect of any matter to be considered at the meeting.

5. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on the 18th March, 2010, be approved as a correct record and signed.

6. PUBLIC FORUM

No matters were raised under this Agenda item.

7. DIRECTORATE OF LAW, PROPERTY AND HUMAN RESOURCES
EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ANNUAL REPORT 2009/10.

A report of the Director of Corporate Resources was submitted on the Directorate of Law, Property and Human Resources Equality and Diversity Annual Report for 2009/10. A copy of the annual report was attached as an Appendix to the report submitted.

In presenting the report, the Director of Corporate Resources made particular reference to the review of the action plans that would take place once the new Directorate of Corporate Resources was formed; the achievements referred to in the report which would produce improvements and efficiency savings; the successful ongoing NVQ training which had to be undertaken by all taxi drivers as a condition of their licence, which had been well received; the implementation of new approaches to training to employees which would be more cost effective and far reaching and the enthusiasm to involve Members in equality and diversity training.

In responding to questions from Members the Director of Corporate Resources confirmed that the vetting and barring scheme was well advanced through all Directorates and he undertook to brief Councillor J R Davies on this.

- (i) He also confirmed that in relation to the list of achievements referred to on the third page of the Appendix, the retained LEXCEL accreditation had been obtained with no areas of non compliance identified.
- (ii) A report was prepared annually for the Select Committee on Regeneration, Culture and Adult Education providing full data about employment across the Council.

Concerns were also raised and noted with regard to the appropriateness of Equality and Diversity reports being scrutinised by the Committee.

In addressing comments of Members relating to the report, the Chief Executive reported that it was important that each Directorate was accountable and the most appropriate forum for scrutiny was the Select Committees in order that continuing inter Directorate progress could be made in relation to Equality and Diversity issues.

Arising from the questions and comments made and responses given, it was

RESOLVED

That the information contained in the report, and Appendix to the report, submitted on the Directorate of Law, Property and Human Resources Equality and Diversity Annual Report for 2009/10, be noted.

8. SAFE AND SOUND COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP – ANNUAL REPORT.

A report of the Chief Executive was submitted summarising the performance of the Safe and Sound Partnership for the year 1st April, 2009 to 31st March, 2010, setting out the partnerships priorities for 2010/11 in the context of the existing three year plan (2008-2011).

In presenting the report the Chief Executive made particular reference to the encouraging figures advising that the priorities of the board had been set following public consultation events.

In relation to the number of sanctioned detections for Domestic Abuse it was reported that the target had been imposed upon the Council by the Government Office and was unrealistically high as this had been based on the assumption that the victims of domestic violence would normally cooperate with investigations which was not always the case. However, despite this difficulty the Police and the Council were working hard to meet the target.

The Chairman expressed support and praise for the performance of the Safe and Sound Partnership.

RESOLVED

That the information contained in the report submitted, on the performance of the Safe and Sound Partnership for the year 1st April, 2009 to 31st March, 2010 setting out the partnerships priorities for 2010/11 in the context of the three year plan (2008-2011), be noted.

9. DOMESTIC ABUSE REPORTING

A report of the Chief Executive was submitted on the reasons for the inclusion of domestic abuse performance targets within the Quarterly Corporate Performance Management report.

Resulting from the presentation of the report, Members suggested that this would be an area where positive quality scrutiny could be undertaken and that a review of the Work Programme should be undertaken to include this.

It was also suggested that reasons for victims of domestic violence failing to cooperate with investigations should be addressed and comparisons with others Countrywide should be reported upon.

RESOLVED

That the information contained in report, submitted on the reasons for the inclusion of domestic abuse performance targets within the Quarterly Corporate Performance Management Report, be noted.

10. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY SAFETY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES.

A report of the Lead Officer to the Committee was submitted on the Annual Report of the Select Committee for 2009/2010.

Following consideration of the Annual Report it was

RESOLVED

That the Annual Report of the Select Committee for 2009/10 be received and noted and referred to Council subject to possible changes to the Work Programme.

11. WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2010/11

A report of the Lead Officer to the Committee was submitted on the proposed work programme for 2010/11 municipal year.

Following consideration of the Work Programme it was

RESOLVED

- (1) That, subject to resolution (2) below the Work Programme of the Committee for 2010/11 as updated be approved as follows:-

| Date of Meeting | Item |
|------------------------|---|
| 10/06/10 | Work Programme for 2010/11 |
| | Annual Report of the Safe and Sound Board |
| | Domestic Abuse Reporting |
| | Directorate of Law, Property and Human Resources – Equality and Diversity Annual Report |
| | Annual Report of the Committee to Council |

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|----------|---|
| | Any questions/issues to be raised with a Member of the Safe and Sound Board (to be included on all agendas) |
| 02/09/10 | <p>Quarterly Corporate Performance Management Report</p> <p>Dudley's response to Anti Social Behaviour Minimum Standards</p> <p>Overview of Partnership Responsibility Groups</p> <p>Progress Report arising from Area Committee Community Renewal Working Groups</p> <p>Anti Social Behaviour Parking and Parking Enforcement.</p> <p>Hate Crime</p> |
| 04/11/10 | <p>Update on the Council's Capital Strategy</p> <p>Quarterly Corporate Performance Management Report</p> <p>Annual Report of the Head of Contingency and Disaster Management for 2009/10</p> <p>Domestic Violence</p> |
| 20/01/11 | <p>Quarterly Corporate Performance Management Report</p> <p>Proposed Revenue Budget 2011/12</p> <p>Progress report on Operation Paragon</p> <p>Corporate Review of Anti Social Behaviour</p> |
| 17/03/11 | <p>Quarterly Corporate Performance Management Report</p> <p>Directorate Reporting on Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 – Directorate of Corporate Resources</p> <p>Outline Work Programme for 2011/12</p> |

Directorate of Corporate Resources –
Equality and Diversity Action Plan

National Support Framework for
Crime and Disorder Reduction
Partnership.

Corporate Review of Domestic Abuse
Service Provision

- (2) Further consideration of the Work Programme be given by the Lead Officer to the Committee, the Chairman, and any other relevant persons, and that a further report be submitted to the next meeting of the Committee.
- (3) That no formal working groups be appointed in 2010/11 but should it be considered that a specific issue requires the appointment of a working group, then an ad hoc working group be appointed, on a time limited basis, to consider the specific issue and report back to the Committee.

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11. TO CONSIDER WHETHER TO REQUEST THE ATTENDANCE OF ANY SAFE AND SOUND BOARD MEMBER OR THE PROVISION OF ANY INFORMATION AT A FUTURE MEETING IN RELATION TO THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY SAFETY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES WORK PROGRAMME.

Following discussion on this issue it was:

RESOLVED

That Democratic Services request the attendance of the following Safe and Sound Board Members to attend the next meeting and provide the following information

- (a) The Council's Hate Crime Officer to report on their work and the resulting achievements;
- (b) A member of West Midlands Police to report on the anti social behaviour aspect of illegal parking and parking enforcement.

The meeting ended at 7 p.m.

CHAIRMAN