

**Halesowen Area Committee 11<sup>th</sup> March 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 Halesowen Area Committee Community Renewal Plan.

**Background**

2. At their meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> January the Working Group approved amendments made to the Plan resulting from previous meetings, and requested that the Area Community Renewal Officer make other minor amendments and additions including further explanations and inclusion of additional partners. Bearing in mind the current economic climate the Area Community Renewal Officer was also asked to explore ways of assisting people being made redundant, or under threat of redundancy, as well as the jobless.
3. The Plan, with the suggested amendments included, was then forwarded to a selection of prospective partner representatives, and their comments sought for the next meeting. As youth issues was regarded a priority the Group decided to invite Dominic Tipping, Youth Service Team Leader for Halesowen, and Inspector Harvi Khatkar, Police Sector Inspector for Halesowen, to the meeting.
4. This meeting took place on 11<sup>th</sup> February, and feedback received was relayed to Members. This included those from Dominic Tipping who was unable to attend. Inspector Khatkar was present to give feedback from the Police. Outcome of the discussion was that all recognised that our parks was the right place for our young people to be, but agencies needed to work together on enforcement and on diversionary activities to address anti social behaviour. A multi-agency group will look to adopt a flexible approach in tackling problem areas, and will link in to the Social Responsibility Scheme. A co-ordinated programme of activities will also be developed for the school summer holidays.
5. The final plan is now attached for consideration. Pages 1 to 4 are the Halesowen Plan, and pages 5 and 6 are extracts from the Stourbridge Plan which relate to Wollescote, and are included for the benefit of the Cradley & Foxcote Ward Members.

## **Finance**

6. 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**

7. 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.

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**

8. 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 exclusivity 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**

9. That Committee Members note the report and accept the Plan as a working document for the year ahead, and with the Community Renewal Service reporting progress to the Committee through the Working Group.



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**Linda Sanders**  
**Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services**

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## **List of Background Papers**

Community Renewal Strategy

*Halesowen Area Committee Community Renewal Plan.*