

WARDS: ALL

AGENDA ITEM NO.

**DUDLEY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**SELECT COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY SAFETY – 24<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2005**

**REPORT OF THE LEAD OFFICER**

**RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE WORKING GROUPS**

**1.0 PURPOSE**

1.1 To consider recommendations from the Working Groups.

**2.0 BACKGROUND**

2.1 Select Committee on Community Safety (Strategy) Working Group

The Working Group met on the 7<sup>th</sup> December 2004, and considered the following reports:

Prioritising Community Safety Targets

A report of the Community Safety/DAAT Manger was submitted informing the Working Group on the prioritisation of Community Safety targets from 2005 to 2008.

In presenting the report Ms D Hewitt (Community Safety Manager) outlined the priorities that had emerged following the initial consultation, including two key factors that impact across all other priorities, namely: Young People and Prolific and Priority Offenders. The following was resolved:

Recommendations

That a report on the progress of the Strategy be submitted to the meeting of the Working Group on the 9<sup>th</sup> February 2005 and on a regular basis thereafter, particularly in reference to local targets.

Culture Strategy and Community Safety:

Mr Duncan Lowndes made a presentation to the Working Group on the Local Government Association (LGA) and the government's agreement of a set of 7 shared priorities on which to deliver tangible improvements over the next 3 years. The following was resolved:

## Recommendations

1. That the Draft Strategy be submitted to the Select Committee on Community safety Strategy Working Group in June/July 2005.
2. That Mr Duncan Lowndes should submit specific details and targets to the meeting of the Working Group on the 9<sup>th</sup> February 2005 and the Working Group to give consideration to a specific area for scrutiny (i.e. Health, Social Services and YOT).
3. That employees of Government Office be invited to attend a future meeting of the Select Committee for Community Safety in order that Members may put questions to them on the Cultural Strategy.
4. That the Working Group recommend that the Select Committee note the duties contained in Section 17 and request that Directorates provide further information on their activities under the duty.

## Premises used by Sellers of Illegal Substances

In response to a request from Members for a fuller explanation on the legal position with regard to powers to close premises known to be used by sellers of illegal drugs, Mr M Farooq circulated a short briefing paper and responded to questions put to him by Members. The following was resolved:

## Recommendations

1. That the Working Group recommends that the Select Committee notes the importance of the new power in view of their impact in the area of community safety.
2. That Mr Farooq be thanked for submitting an informative and interesting briefing paper.

## 2.2 Select Committee on Community Safety (Housing and Neighbourhood Nuisance) Working Group

The Working Group met on the 9<sup>th</sup> December 2004, and considered the following reports:

### Landlord's Statement of Policy

Ms S Adams tabled a report to the Working Group that explained the consultation process in compiling the Landlord's Statement of Policy that would consist of a Statement of Policy and a Statement of Procedures stating that Dudley Federation of Tenants and Residents Associations (DFTRA) had discussed the issue at a Conference and a Focus Group had been set up. An explanation was given of the formal steps that the Council as Landlord would need to take after receiving a complaint regarding Anti Social Behaviour.

Following further short discussion Members were advised that there would be a review process linked to the current review of the Tenancy Conditions and it was resolved:

#### Recommendations

1. That Ms Adams to draw up a new work programme, a quarterly report would be submitted to the DFTRA and the Housing Working Group and Focus Group to be updated on a regular basis.
2. That Ms Channings to forward a copy of the 'choice based' letting letter to all members of the Working Group.
3. The Working Group endorsed the report submitted and recommended to the main Committee that the report be implemented.

#### Review of Tenancy Conditions

Ms D Channings explained that a review of the Tenancy Conditions was in progress and tabled the conditions that related specifically to community responsibilities. This section covered anti social behaviour and nuisance. Ms Channings stated the Tenancy Conditions may need formal approval from the Cabinet. The following was resolved:

#### Recommendations

1. That the Working Group agree the recommendations contained in the report submitted and that regular updates be submitted to future meetings of the Working Group.
2. That the Select Committee be recommended to note and agree the recommendations contained in the report submitted to the Working Group

### 2.3 Select Committee on Community Safety Children and Young People Working Group

The Working Group met on the 14<sup>th</sup> December 2004 and considered the following report.

#### Data, Trends and Developments relating to Exclusions, Attendance, Admissions and Children in Public Care for 2003-04 Academic Year

A report of the Director of Education and Lifelong Learning was submitted. In presenting the report, Ms Cindy Peek stated that the report had been submitted to both the Select Committee on Lifelong Learning and to the Select Committee on Community Safety Children and Young Peoples' Working Group and information was also presented by Mr A Hudson and Mr J McCabe. It was reported that data on exclusions was available to establish and trends,

protocols had been introduced and improvements in school attendance had been achieved.

### Recommendations

1. That the report and the improvements detailed in the report be noted.
2. That the report be submitted to the March meeting of the Select Committee for their consideration.

## **3.0 PROPOSALS**

- 3.1 That Members consider the recommendations of the Working Groups as detailed in the report.

## **4.0 FINANCE**

- 4.1 There are no specific direct financial implications arising from this report at this state.

## **5.0 LAW**

- 5.1 Under Section 111 of the Local Government Act 1972, the Council is empowered to do anything which is calculated to, or is conducive to, or incidental to the discharge of its functions.

## **6.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES**

- 6.1 The report complies with the Council's equality and diversity policy.

## **7.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 7.1 That the proposals set out in paragraph 3 above be approved.

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**LEAD OFFICER**

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## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Minutes of the Select Committee on Community Safety – Working Groups