

**North Dudley Area Committee 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2008**

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

**Community Renewal Working Group**

**Purpose of Report**

1. To report to the North Dudley Area Committee on its activity to develop a Local Community Renewal Plan for the North Dudley area.

**Background**

2. North Dudley Area Committee considered a Report on the Community Renewal Service at its meeting of 25<sup>th</sup> June 2008. This Report up-dated the Area Committee on the decision of the Cabinet to transfer line management of the former Neighbourhood Management service to the Directorate of Adult, Community and Housing Services (DACHS) and the work of a multi-agency Steering Group to establish a Community Renewal Strategy.
3. The Community Renewal Strategy was approved by the Cabinet on 10<sup>th</sup> September. It is based on the approach that community renewal is “everybody’s business” and that Elected Members have a key role as democratically elected community leaders representing their communities. The Strategy covers the way that the Community Renewal service is working with Members to develop Local Community Renewal Plans for all Area Committee areas.
4. To this end, a Draft Plan was included with the report to North Dudley Area Committee of 25<sup>th</sup> June 2008 along with all the other Area Committees. That Report recommended that a Working Group be set up by the Area Committee to consider and develop the draft Plan.
5. The first meeting of the Working Group is scheduled for 4<sup>th</sup> December 2008 where Members will be invited to discuss and consider their strategic priorities for North Dudley within the context of the Strategy for Community Renewal and the priorities of the Council Plan and Borough Community Plan.

**Activity to date**

6. The Area Community Renewal Officer has met with all the ward group within the North Dudley Area Committee Area to establish any additional issues to those contained within the draft plan and an up-dated copy is attached as an Appendix. Some of those issues have been dealt with outside the planning framework as ‘one-off’ service related issues. They include:

7. Environmental issues :
  - Graffiti removal from Telewest cabinets in Coseley and Sedgley in partnership with the Youth Offending Service.
  - Parking problems around Coseley station. Investigations are being carried out by Directorate of the Urban Environment into a possible overflow car park.
8. Community Safety issues
  - Erection of a pole by the Local Authority to allow deployment of the Sherpa camera at Clayton Park, Coseley to monitor activities of anti-social behaviour in the park.
  - Gornal PACT meeting arranged for evening to allow attendance by the wider community.
  - Nuisance and traffic dangers from mini motorbikes being addressed in partnership with the Police including investigating the possibility of developing a supervised club for users.
9. Community Cohesion
  - Following issues raised around clash of lifestyles in Brunel Court a family learning event was held in August to bring together families, young people and elderly residents.

## **Finance**

10. There are no direct financial consequences to this report but the draft Area Committee Community Renewal Plan will be developed in line with the overall Council Plan and the allocation of resources to support it whilst encouraging innovation in the commissioning of activities from a variety of partners which will add value and achieve objectives for their area.

## **Law**

11. 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.
12. 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**

13. The objective of Community Renewal is to promote inclusion and social cohesion. The Community Renewal strategy targets those most in need in terms of deprivation. Information is collected through each Community Renewal 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.
14. 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**

15. That North Dudley Area Committee note the content of this Report ahead of the meeting of the Working Group and give any further direction that they wish at this stage before receiving a summary in their March/April meeting upon conclusion of the work of the Working Party.



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### **List of Background Papers**

*Community Renewal Strategy*  
*North Dudley Area Committee Community Renewal Plan.*