

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

Thursday 8th November 2007 at 6.00 pm
in Committee Room 3, Council House, Dudley

PRESENT:-

Councillor A. Turner (Chairman)
Councillor Cotterill (Vice Chairman)
Councillors Ahmed, Mrs Collins, A. Finch, Ms Foster, Harley, Nottingham
and Woodall.

OFFICERS

Assistant Director for Partnership and Children's Trust (as Lead Officer to the Committee), Assistant Director (Legal and Democratic Services), Head of Policy (Chief Executive's Directorate), Head of Service (Dudley Council Plus), Drug and Alcohol Action Team Manager (Community Safety Team), Technical Accountant (Corporate Finance), Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator (Community Safety Team), Contingency and Disaster Management Officer and Messrs Jablonski and Furidze (Directorate of Law and Property).

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APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors Burston, Jones, Ryder, the Head of Contingency and Disaster Management and the Head of Community Safety.

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SUBSTITUTE MEMBER

It was reported that Councillor Woodall had been appointed to serve as substitute member for Councillor Burston, for this meeting of the Committee only.

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DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No Member made a declaration of interest in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct.

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MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 8th October 2007, be approved as a correct record and signed.

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PUBLIC FORUM

No matters were raised under this agenda item.

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UPDATE OF THE COUNCIL'S CAPITAL STRATEGY

A report of the Chief Executive was submitted on the update of the Council's draft Capital Strategy for 2008 – 2013. A copy of the strategy was attached as appendix 1 to the report submitted.

In presenting the report the Technical Accountant (Corporate Finance) highlighted those matters within the terms of reference of this Committee.

Arising from the presentation given, a Member requested information with respect to the item Housing priority. The Technical Accountant undertook to respond to the Member's questions which were,

- How much was the current budget?
- Would the budget be maintained in cash or real terms?
- What was the budget actually spent on?

RESOLVED

- (1) That the information contained in the report and the appendix to the report, submitted on the update of the draft Council's Capital Strategy for 2008 – 2013 be noted and that the Cabinet be informed that there are no issues that it wishes to be taken into account when the strategy is considered in full Council.
 - (2) That the Technical Accountant (Corporate Finance) be requested to arrange for responses to the questions raised and for Councillor Ms Foster to be provided with a written response.
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A report of the Chief Executive was submitted on the updated position following the review of the Crime and Disorder Act 1988.

In presenting the report the Head of Policy (Chief Executive's Directorate) informed the Committee that the final guidance, *Delivering Safer Communities: A guide to effective partnership working* had now been published. The Head of Policy reported that the guidance was structured around four key aspects of partnership, namely, Lead and Guides, Assess, Plan and Deliver. The key aspects were designed to provide guidance to responsible local authorities to lead as well as guide the partnership working through setting up effective governance and meeting processes, carrying out strategic assessments and consulting the community, putting in place a clear, reviewable and performance measurable three year plan to tackle crime and disorder and lastly, implementing the plan in tandem with communities within the partnership's area of responsibility.

The Head of Policy informed the meeting that the local Dudley Community Safety Partnership had held a partnership development event focussing on the themes in the guidance document and identified current practise alongside areas for improvement. The outcomes of the event would form the subject of a future report to the Committee.

In response to concerns raised by Members it was noted that the issue of the chairmanship of the Partnership would be considered further with the Chief Executive. An analysis would be undertaken of PACT meetings and the outcomes be available from March 2008 onwards and so could be made available to a future meeting of the Committee as part of the regular update on the CDRP reform. It was also reported that information supplied to the Partnership meetings would be considered on the lines of how it could be made more useful for Members to consider.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the information contained in the report submitted, updating the Committee on developments following the review of the Crime and Disorder Act 1988, and comments and responses given, be noted.
 - (2) That a further report, on further developments relating to the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership Reform, be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee.
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ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR UNIT

A report of the Chief Executive was submitted on the current structure and work programme of the Anti-Social Behaviour Unit (ASBU) and on the Unit's future structure and work programme.

Arising from the presentation of the report a view was expressed that the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Community Safety should have been in attendance at the meeting to respond to questions raised. The Chairman indicated that he would speak to the Cabinet Member about this. Reference was also made to the procedure for dealing with anti-social behaviour with particular reference to the use of diary sheets and the role of Legal Housing Officers. The Assistant Director (Legal and Democratic Services) would look into any training issues that might be required arising from the comments made.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the information contained in the report submitted, on the current and potential future structure and work programme of the Anti-Social Behaviour Unit, be noted.
- (2) That a further report be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee when the Safe and Sound Board had reflected upon the work programme and resourcing of the ASBU in its current form.

DUDLEY COUNCIL PLUS OVERVIEW REPORT

A report of the Chief Executive was submitted describing the performance patterns for key aspects of Dudley Council Plus during 2006 – 07.

Arising from the presentation given of the report submitted, it was noted that service volume data could also be displayed down to ward level instead of by postcode, that wait times were consistently better than target and that the staff utilisation had also improved.

RESOLVED

That the information contained in the report on performance patterns for key aspects of Dudley Council Plus during 2006 – 07 and the performance improvements achieved, be noted.

2006/07 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE HEAD OF CONTINGENCY AND DISASTER MANAGEMENT

A report of the Chief Executive was submitted on the state of preparedness within the Council to respond to those major incidents, whether natural, man-made disasters or acts of terrorism, which could befall the community of Dudley Borough.

Arising from the presentation given concern was expressed about the operation of the Black Country Preventing Violent Extremism (PVE) initiative. The Head of Policy undertook to discuss issues raised with Members. Members were also invited to attend any of the Council's training workshops and seminars on contingency and disaster management.

RESOLVED

That the information contained in the report submitted on the state of preparedness within the Council to respond to those major incidents, whether natural, man-made disasters or acts of terrorism, which could befall the community of Dudley Borough, be noted.

ADULT DRUG TREATMENT PLAN, DRUG INTERVENTION PROGRAMME AND CHILDREN AND YOUNG PERSONS SUBSTANCE MISUSE PLAN

A report of the Chief Executive was submitted in respect of the Adult Drug Treatment Plan, the Drug Intervention Programme and the Children and Young Persons Substance Misuse Plan for the first quarter of 2007/08.

In presenting the report the Drug and Alcohol Action Team Manager highlighted the role of the National Treatment Agency (NTA) in overseeing the drug and alcohol intervention agenda in the Borough. A traffic light system showed the Borough performing well (shown as green) in the Drug Treatment System Management and Financial Management categories and performing adequately (shown as amber) in the areas of Delivering the Drug Treatment System and the Drug Intervention Programme.

Nationally and locally Key Performance Indicator (KPI) 2 relating to adults who tested positive for drugs and been assessed as requiring to attend and remain within a treatment programme. KPI 3 relating to adults assessed as needing further intervention and be taken onto the caseload, better results were expected following a commitment from the Treatment Provider to look at ways of increasing performance against this KPI. The Chairman requested that, the actual numbers involved in KPI 3 as opposed to percentages, be passed on to him.

A number of successes had been recorded in the areas of healthy schools, youth offenders and the Zone. Members would be provided with actual performance figures as required once the data had been collated and analysed. It was also reported that for a success to be recorded, a person had to be discharged and not be readmitted to a drug treatment programme.

RESOLVED

That the information contained in the report submitted on performance in respect of the Adult Drug Treatment Plan, the Drug Intervention Programme and the Children and Young Persons Substance Misuse Plan, be noted.

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QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT REPORT

A report of the Lead Officer to the Committee was submitted on the performance of the Council in relation to the activities relating to the terms of reference of this Committee for the period April to June 2007.

RESOLVED

That the information contained in the report on the Council's quarterly performance for the first quarter of 2007/08, on the activities relating to the terms of reference of this Committee, be noted.

The meeting ended at 7.55 pm.

CHAIRMAN