

**Select Committee on Community Safety and Community Services –12<sup>th</sup> March 2009**

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

**Community Renewal Service**

**Pensnett Beat Sweep Operation**

**Purpose of Report**

1. (1) To provide a brief background and summary to the visual presentation to update the Select Committee on the Beat Sweep operation carried out in Pensnett from 27<sup>th</sup> October 2008 – 9<sup>th</sup> November 2008.  
(2) To inform the Select Committee of the benefits of the beat sweep as a method of wider partnership working around issues of reassurance, community safety and community renewal.

**Background**

- 2 Beat sweep is a place based, multi-agency operation designed to tackle high levels of crime and anti social behaviour, whilst also providing the opportunity to address other important local issues such as school truancy, benefit fraud, graffiti, litter and fly tipping etc.

Beat sweep involves the project management and coordination of those activities within a defined target area or neighbourhood over a given time period.

3. The impetus for implementing Beat Sweep came from methodology introduced to the Safe and Sound Joint Activities Group through the community safety team and was organised, project managed and coordinated by the Community Renewal Service within DACHS.
4. The Area Community Renewal Officer was responsible for implementing the Pensnett Beat Sweep. All local elected members were briefed and were part of the process in defining local community concerns and in some cases took part in Beat Sweep activities.
5. The operation was dependant upon police presence and the neighbourhood policing team were a fundamental part of its planning and implementation. Their presence added value to the work of the agencies and vice versa, enabling a whole community approach to be taken.

## 6. **Purpose of Beat Sweep**

Beat Sweep is designed as a high profile operation to reduce crime and promote reassurance. This is achieved by targeting offenders and the removal of all the visible signs of crime and anti social behaviour e.g. graffiti and vandalism, thus reassuring the public and sending a clear message to perpetrators that the local community will not tolerate undesirable activity and that they are supported by the responsible agencies.

7. The Beat Sweep in Pensnett was the second to be held in Dudley following the success of a previous Beat Sweep operation held in Lye and was used as a community renewal tool in addressing some of the “place based “issues around community safety in one of the borough’s most challenging neighbourhoods.

## 8. **Pensnett Beat Sweep**

Pensnett was chosen as the second area because:

- It had well developed neighbourhood partnership arrangements with the local community and services, through which concerns regarding incidents of graffiti, discarded litter and refuse, benefit fraud, school truancy, unlicensed trading were raised.
- According to British Crime Statistics locally, Pensnett has one of the highest recorded incidents of crime and anti social behaviour in the borough.
- We were able to match local intelligence and data analysis together to enable the identification of a defined number of streets within an area to be targeted.

The Beat Sweep provided an opportunity for the local community Pensnett to experience a collective focus from agencies working in partnership to address a range of issues of concern within a time limited period with demonstrable effectiveness

Pensnett Beat Sweep provided such an approach via a series of targeted actions focused within the neighbourhood, where multiple crimes and anti -social behaviour problems existed. The high profile multi agency operation combined intensive targeting of offenders, community reassurance and environmental improvements using a range of techniques which complemented each other.

## 9. **Outcomes**

Outcomes fall into two categories:

- 1) Those which impact directly on the neighbourhood target area.
- 2) Those which impact upon the service and beat sweep processes.

### 1) Neighbourhood target area:

Overall:

- Crime and anti social behaviour in the area has been reduced
- The environment has been improved and appears cleaner
- More local people are now engaged with services.
- All participating agencies reported a positive impact on their area of operation.

### 2.1) Services

To consolidate the achievements gained, detailed service provider engagement is required at the neighbourhood level that will aim to:

- Improve communication, coordination and delivery of services that will provide a quicker response to neighbourhood issues.
- Provide a better understanding of each other requirements and the opportunity to work cooperatively to make better use of resources.
- Help define and strengthen relationships between local service providers.
- Share information and support local working
- Apply lean methodology to all actions i.e. to reduce risk of waste and failure and to maximise outcomes.

It is suggested that this is done by arranging regular meetings amongst service providers who have an interest in the neighbourhood.

### 2.2) Future Beat Sweep Operations

It is suggested that::

- The coordinators role be recognised as crucial to the operation and the time and facilities for this person to complete this task are provided.
- That lean methodology is continually applied to the planning process to reduce risk of waste and failure and to maximise outcomes.

## **Finance**

10. The Local Community Renewal Plans identify work which is being undertaken through mainstream or other budget source and also gaps in provision or need. The Community Renewal Service seeks to maximise the benefit derived by local communities from the investment in all public services in the target areas well as the activity of local community and voluntary sector or the business sector by focusing day to day activities in a different way into a defined area to achieve economies of scale and added value.

The beat sweep was financed from within existing agency resources and relied on the aligning activity of a variety of agencies and partners into a neighbourhood. Community Renewal resources were directed at the beat sweep operation over a period of 9 weeks. Additional resources were levered in through the community and other associated agencies such as probation service community punishment team.

## 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.

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.

The 1998 Crime & Disorder Act places an obligation on local authorities and the police to exercise its functions with due regard to ....the need to do all it reasonably can to prevent crime and disorder in its area.

## Equality Impact

12. 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 Community Renewal intervention or consultation to monitor the inclusivity and difference of various groups and people involved. Where inclusion is an issue Area Community Renewal Officers engage through various community groups of interest groups locally to design appropriate responses to different circumstances

Where children's 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.

## Recommendations

13.

- That member's note from the presentation and report, the work of the participating agencies.
- That members note the benefits of the area partnership approach and the e coordinating and project management role undertaken through the Area Community Renewal Officers in enabling the agencies to meet their targets and also meet the needs of local communities and neighbourhoods
- That the select committee supports the roll out of Beat Sweep to other areas of the borough to be determined in partnership through the Head of Community Renewal and Safe and Sound Board.



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### **Background Papers**

Evaluation report attached, as appendices to this

#### ***Appendix 1 – Operation PACT, Pensnett Beat Sweep Evaluation Report***

A copy of the report extract has previously been circulated to Members. Members may wish to bring that copy with them to the meeting.