

Meeting of the Council – 13th July, 2009

Annual Report of the Select Committee on Community Safety and Community Services for 2008/09

Purpose of Report

1. To submit to the Council the Annual Report of the Select Committee on Community Safety and Community Services for 2008/09.

Background

2. Article 6 of the Council's Constitution requires that Select Committees report annually to the full Council on the work carried out over the previous municipal year making both recommendations for key areas of future work and any amended working methods, if appropriate, for the forthcoming year.
3. As in previous years, the work programme for the year was rooted in the Council's overall objectives in terms of both the key issues but also identifying the timetable for reports back.
4. The Select Committee, in discharging its overview and scrutiny functions as they relate to crime and disorder functions of the Council under the Crime and Disorder Act, 1998 and other relevant legislation, has a wide and far-reaching remit. It is therefore difficult to single out a number of key issues since Borough-wide community safety issues, social inclusion, community development, neighbourhood management and Dudley Council Plus all fall within the purview of the Select Committee.
5. The following matters were considered at meetings of the committee in 2008/09.
 - (a) Crime and Disorder Reduction (CDRP) Reform;
 - (b) Directorate Reports in respect of actions taken to meet the requirements of Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act, 1998;
 - (c) The Adult Drug Treatment Plan, Drug Intervention Programme and Children and Young Persons Substance Misuse Plan;
 - (d) Issues relating to anti-social behaviour and alternative measures to tackle this;
 - (e) Update on the Domestic Abuse Strategy;
 - (f) Review of PACT meetings/The Neighbourhood Police Agenda;

- (g) Dudley Council Plus - Progress Report;
 - (h) Safe and Sound, Dudley's Community Safety Partnership;
6. The Select Committee's Work Programme for the 2008/09 municipal year also included:
- Quarterly Corporate Performance Reports;
 - Capital Strategy and the Council's Revenue Budget;
 - A selection of annual reports such as the Equality and Diversity Report of the Directorate of Law and Property and the Report of the Head of Contingency and Disaster Management;
 - Driver Watch;
 - Community Renewal - an update;
 - Reports on Beat Sweep Operations in Lye and Pensnett;

Neighbourhood Policing and Review of PACT Meetings

7. Detailed consideration was given to these matters arising from presentations given. The current position was noted.

Community Renewal

8. A report on the arrangements for the Community Renewal Service, located in the Directorate of Adult, Community and Housing Services, was considered together with information on some of their current activities. In this regard presentations were also given on Beat Sweep Operatives in the Lye and Pensnett areas. These operations demonstrated the achievements that could be gained from a number of services and agencies working jointly in an area to combat multiple crime and anti-social behaviour problems and were welcomed and endorsed. Further operations would be carried out in due course.

Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act, 1998

9. As part of the Committee's on-going monitoring and scrutiny of arrangements in Directorates to meet the requirements of Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act, 1998 reports in relation to the Directorates of Adult, Community and Housing Services and Urban Environment were circulated. A further Directorate will report in 2009/10 as part of the on-going review process.

Measures in respect of anti-social behaviour

10. The Committee at meetings throughout the year considered various aspects in relation to anti-social behaviour.

11. Detailed consideration, in particular, was given to the development of alternative measures to tackle such behaviour, the development of the Anti-Social Behaviour Unit and on initiatives being undertaken with young people.

Outline of the Work Programme for 2009/10

12. A work programme for 2009/10 was considered by the Select Committee at its first meeting in this municipal year and will include the following matters:-
 - Councillor Call for Action ;
 - Intergenerational Work Projects;
 - Directorate of Law, Property and Human Resources- Equality and Diversity Annual Report;
 - Quarterly Corporate Performance Management Reports;
 - Policing Pledge and its impact on the work of the Council;
 - Annual Report of the Committee to Council;
 - Development of Dudley's Alcohol Strategy;
 - Issues relating to Anti-Social drinking;
 - Next Generation Local Area Agreement, Community Safety Related Targets
 - Issues arising from Area Committee Community Renewal Working Group;
 - Directorate report on Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.

Conclusion

13. Areas forming the bulk of the Committee's work continue to reflect the expressions made by local people, namely, issues concerning community safety with particular emphasis on Domestic Abuse, Anti-Social Behaviour and measures to build safer and stronger communities through community-lead programmes to combat crime in the whole or parts of the Borough as well as the operations of Dudley Council Plus, the Council's public face.

14. In addition, there will be implications for the role of the Committee arising from provisions of the Police and Justice Act, 2006, relating to overview and scrutiny on crime and disorder matters and in respect of the Councillor Call for Action on such matters arising from the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act, 2007, detailed guidance on which is awaited.

Finance

15. There are no direct financial implications arising from this report at this stage.

Law

16. The requirement for the Committee to submit an annual report to the Council is contained in Article 6 of the Constitution as read with Part II of the Local Government Act, 2000, together with Regulations, Orders and Statutory Guidance issued by the Secretary of State.
17. Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act, 1998, requires Local Authorities to consider the impact of community safety on each of its decisions.

Equality Impact

18. Reports that have been and might be submitted to the Committee during 2008/09 could have a direct bearing on children and young people who become involved in anti-social behaviour whilst issues such as social cohesion and community development will also have an impact on them.
19. The Youth Parliament and other bodies representing children and young people will continue to be consulted on issues submitted for consideration by the Committee that might have a direct impact on children and young people. This report complies with the Council's equality and diversity policy.

Recommendations

20. That the Annual Report of the Select Committee on Community Safety and Community Services for 2008/09 as set out above, be noted .



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CHAIRMAN OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY SAFETY AND
COMMUNITY SERVICES