

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

Thursday 12th June 2008, at 6.00 pm
in Committee Room 3, Council House, Dudley

PRESENT:-

Councillor Vickers (Chairman)
Councillor Cotterill (Vice Chairman)
Councillors Burston, A. Finch, Ms Foster, Jones, Mrs P Martin, Nottingham
and Ryder.

OFFICERS

Assistant Director of Finance (Revenue, Benefits and Management Support) (Lead Officer to the Committee), Director of Law and Property (for item 6 only), Assistant Director Housing Strategy and Private Sector (for item 8 only), Head of Community Renewal, Area Community Renewal Officer (Directorate of Adult, Community and Housing Services), Head of Community Safety, Strategic Anti-Social Behaviour Coordinator (Chief Executive's Directorate), Head of Development (Directorate of Children's Services), Principal Solicitor and Mr J Jablonski (Directorate of Law and Property).

1

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Mrs Martin declared a Personal and Prejudicial Interest, in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct in agenda item number 6 (Directorate of Law and Property – Equality and Diversity Annual Report for 2007/08) in that she was the Cabinet Member for Personnel and Legal and Property during the period covered by the report.

Councillor Vickers declared a Personal Interest, in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct, in agenda item number 8 (Directorate Reporting on Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998) in so far as there were references to the Warehouse Project in that he is a Trustee of that project.

2

MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 13th
March 2008, be approved as a correct record and signed.

3 PUBLIC FORUM

No matters were raised under this agenda item.

4 DIRECTORATE OF LAW AND PROPERTY'S EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2007/08

(Having previously declared a Personal and Prejudicial interest, Councillor Mrs Martin left the meeting whilst this matter was under consideration.)

A report of the Director of Law and Property was submitted on the Directorate of Law and Property's Equality and Diversity Annual Report for 2007/08. A copy of the annual report was attached as an Appendix to the report submitted.

During his presentation of the content of the report and Appendix to the report, submitted, the Director of Law and Property referred in particular to the positive feedback received from the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association in respect of the in-house training course for all currently licensed Hackney Carriage and Private Hire drivers in conveying the disabled and that the Association wished to take part in further training sessions as they were regarded as the best practice available.

Arising from the presentation given, Members made a number of comments, with particular regard to the possibility of the Directorate of Law and Property employing people with learning disabilities and to the use of alternative methods, for example, hatching, to distinguish more clearly the information shown in graph form. The Director of Law and Property undertook to take on board the comments made.

RESOLVED

That the information contained in the report, and Appendix to the report, submitted on the Directorate of Law and Property's Equality and Diversity Annual Report for 2007/08, be noted.

5 SAFE AND SOUND, DUDLEY'S COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

It was noted that consideration of this report would be deferred until the September meeting of the Committee, when the Chief Executive would be in attendance to present the report.

6 SECTION 17 – CRIME AND DISORDER ACT 1998

A report of the Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services was submitted on a review of the work of the Directorate of Adult, Community and Housing Services in contributing towards fulfilling the obligations of Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.

The Assistant Director Housing Strategy and Private Sector, in his presentation of the content of the report, and Appendices to the report, submitted referred to a comment made on a previous agenda item relating to alternative ways to distinguish information presented and in this respect reported that further consideration would also be given to this aspect in respect of the information presented in future reports submitted.

Arising from the presentation made, Members commented in particular on the information in Appendix 1 to the report in respect of the Housing (Public and Private Sector) division, with particular reference to comments made in respect of the Clearance of North Priory and instances of anti-social behaviour on housing estates.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the information contained in the report, and Appendices to the report, submitted on the work undertaken by the Directorate of Adult, Community and Housing Services in response to Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, be noted.
- (2) That the Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services be requested to submit a report to a future meeting of the Committee on crime and disorder on the North Priory Estate, Dudley.
- (3) That the Assistant Director Housing Strategy and Private Sector be requested to arrange for the investigation of the particular cases referred to by members at the meeting and for a copy of the report on the outcome of such investigations to be submitted to all Members of the Committee.
- (4) That a joint report of the Chief Executive and Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services be submitted to a future meeting of this Committee on the joint work being undertaken to deal with issues of anti-social behaviour.

CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION PARTNERSHIP (CDRP) REFORM

A report of the Chief Executive was submitted on the current position regarding the CDRP reform programme following the review of the Crime and Disorder Act 1988.

RESOLVED

That the information contained in the report, on the current position with regard to the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership reform programme following the review of the Crime and Disorder Act 1988, be noted and that a further report be submitted to the Committee following the distribution of the government's response to Sir Ronnie Flannigan's report on the review of policing detailing Safe and Sound's position in meeting the requirements of the community call for action .

8 THE USE OF ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR ORDERS IN DUDLEY AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF ALTERNATIVE MEASURES TO TACKLE ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

A report of the Chief Executive was submitted identifying trends in the use of anti-social behaviour orders within Dudley alongside the development of a preventative agenda both nationally and locally and on a range of preventative actions being undertaken across the Community Safety partnership in response to identifying cases of anti-social behaviour.

Arising from a presentation of the content of the report by the Strategic Anti-Social Behaviour Coordinator, Members made a number of comments with particular emphasis on the possible development of further alternative measures to tackle anti-social behaviour.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the information contained in the report submitted, on trends identified in the use of anti-social behaviour orders within Dudley, alongside the development of a preventative agenda both nationally and locally and on the range of preventative actions being undertaken across the Community Safety partnership in response to identified cases of anti-social behaviour, be noted.
- (2) That the Lead Officer to the Committee be requested to obtain further information on the alternative measure to tackling anti-social behaviour undertaken in Bridlington, as reported on at the meeting, and that, based on an assessment of the effectiveness of such a measure, the possibility of a site visit be considered.

9 QUARTERLY CORPORATE 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 October to December, 2007.

The Lead Officer, in his presentation of the report, and Appendices to the report, submitted informed the Committee that, in respect of the performance of Dudley Council Plus, there have been significant improvements since the information submitted to this meeting of the Committee. Such improvements would be reported on at future meetings of the Committee.

Arising from the presentation given, Members made a number of comments relating, in particular to:-

- (i) BV178, relating to rights of way and the request made that the Council ensure that footpaths were maintained right up to the Council's boundary. The Lead Officer undertook to inform the relevant Officers of this matter with a response back to Councillor Ms Foster in due course; and
- (ii) SSC01.1ciii – number of sanctioned detections for domestic violence crime incidents, the current position on the visual evidence of victims' scheme was queried and in response to this the Head of Community Safety undertook to investigate the matter and inform Members accordingly.

RESOLVED

That, subject to the above comments, the information contained in the report, and Appendices to the report, submitted on the Council's Quarterly Performance for the third quarter of 2007/08, on the activities relating to the Terms of Reference of this Committee, be noted.

10

WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2008/09

A report of the Lead Officer to the Committee was submitted on the proposed work programme of the Committee for the 2008/09 municipal year.

During his presentation of the content of the report submitted, the Lead Officer informed the Committee that work was ongoing to identify the next Directorate to report to this Committee, in March 2009, in respect of Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, and in respect of the Driver Watch item.

Arising from the consideration given to this matter, it was agreed that a report on the Leaps and Bounds Project be included in the work programme for consideration in March,2009.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the work programme of the Committee for 2008/09 be approved as follows:-

Date of Meeting	Item
12.06.2008	<p>Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership Reform</p> <p>Work Programme for 2008/09</p> <p>Quarterly Performance Management Report</p> <p>Directorate of Law and Property – Equality and Diversity Annual Report</p> <p>Alternative measures for anti-social behaviour</p> <p>Annual report of the Committee to Council</p> <p>Lye Beat Sweep</p> <p>Directorate report on S17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 – Directorate of Adult, Community and Housing Services</p>
11.09.2008	<p>Safe and Sound, Dudley’s Community Safety partnership</p> <p>Update on domestic abuse strategy</p> <p>Quarterly Corporate Performance Management Report</p> <p>Update on neighbourhood policing and police and communities together meetings</p> <p>Update on the anti-social behaviour unit development</p> <p>Outline and achievements of the new Community Renewal Strategy and Service.</p>
06.11.2008	<p>New generation LAA Community Safety Initiatives and Targets</p> <p>The Respect Agenda</p> <p>Update on the Council’s Capital Strategy</p> <p>Quarterly Corporate Performance Management Report</p> <p>Adult drug treatment plan, drug intervention programme and children and young persons substance misuse plan</p>

- Annual report of the Head of Contingency and Disaster Management for 2007/08
- 08.01.2009 Quarterly Corporate Performance Management Report
- Proposed revenue budget 2009/10
- Update on the operation of Dudley Council Plus
- Home security initiative
- Community Cohesion/Tension Monitoring – including race hate strategy
- 12.03.2009 Anti-social Behaviour Initiatives for young people
- Directorate reporting on S17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 – Directorate (tbc)
- Outline work programme for 2009/10
- Directorate of Law and Property – Equality and Diversity Action Plan
- Driver Watch – report on outcomes of pilots
- Leaps and Bounds Project

- (2) That no formal Working Groups be appointed in 2008/09 but that should it be considered that a specific issue requires the appointment of a Working Group, then an ad-hoc Working Group be appointed, on a time limited basis, to consider the specific issue and report back to the Committee.

11

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE FOR 2007/08

A report of the Lead Officer to the Committee was submitted on the Annual Report of the Select Committee for 2007/08.

RESOLVED

That the Annual Report of the Select Committee for 2007/08 be received and noted and referred to the Council.

12

COMMUNITY RENEWAL SERVICE – LYE BEAT SWEEP OPERATION

A report of the Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services was submitted updating the Committee on the Beat Sweep Operation carried out in Lye from 21st January to 3rd February, 2008. A copy of the Lye Beat Sweep Evaluation report was attached as Appendix 1 to the report submitted.

Following an introduction by the Head of Community Renewal, the Area Community Renewal Officer gave a visual presentation to the Committee on the Lye Beat Sweep Operation. During the presentation given the positive impact on the area as outlined in paragraph 11 of the report submitted and as indicated in the Evaluation Report was highlighted.

Arising from the presentation given, Members made a number of points regarding the roles of the partners who had participated in the operation and on the effectiveness of the operation. Comments made were responded to and it was noted in particular that there had not been a displacement effect as a result of the operation and that such an operation needed to be undertaken in other areas with a return to such areas so that a re-evaluation of effectiveness could be undertaken. Given the nature of such operations, they were considered to be a long-term project.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the information contained in the report, Appendix 1, to the report, submitted and in the presentation given on the work of the participating agencies in the Beat Sweep Operation carried out in Lye from 21st January to 3rd February, 2008, be noted.
- (2) That the benefits of the area partnership approach and the co-ordinating 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, be noted.
- (3) That the roll out of Beat Sweep to other areas of the borough be supported and that the areas to receive Beat Sweep be determined in partnership through the Community Renewal Steering Group and the Safe and Sound Board.

The meeting ended at 8.15pm

CHAIRMAN