

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

Thursday 11th January 2007 at 6.00 pm
in Committee Room 3, Council House, Dudley

PRESENT:-

Councillor Blood (Chairman)
Councillor Cotterill (Vice Chairman)
Councillors Burston, Mrs Collins, Mrs Dunn, Finch, Ms Foster, Harley,
Male, C Wilson and Wright.

OFFICERS

Head of Customer Services and Programme Leader, Chief Executive's Directorate (as Lead Officer to the Committee)
Assistant Director (Legal and Democratic Services), Principal Lawyer (Legal and Democratic Services), Head of Service (Dudley Youth Offending Service), Head of Community Safety, Strategic Anti Social Behaviour Coordinator (Community Safety Team), Project Manager (Community Safety Team), Police Liaison Officer, Senior Assistant Director (Finance), Assistant Director for Children's Specialist Services, Assistant Youth Offending Services Manager (Directorate of Children's Services), Head of Policy (Chief Executives Department), Licensing Officer (Directorate of Law and Property), Senior Engineer (Directorate of the Urban Environment), Marketing and Communications Officer (Chief Executives Directorate) and Mrs Holland (Directorate of Law and Property).

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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 9th November 2006, 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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PROPOSED REVENUE BUDGET 2007/08

A report of the Chief Executive, Director of Finance and Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services, was submitted for consultation on the proposed Revenue Budget and Council Tax for 2007/2008 and the Revenue Budget Strategy for 2007/2008 and later years.

In presenting the report the Senior Assistant Director of Finance reported that the Cabinet had approved the proposals at their meeting held on 9th January 2007.

In response to questions from Members the Senior Assistant Director of Finance stated that at present the Council did not qualify for “deprived area” status and therefore did not receive funding earmarked for categorised areas.

The Head of Policy also reported on funding arising from the LPSA and explained that approximately £4m had been received by the Council with a further £1.2m made available to the Dudley Community Partnership.

The Senior Assistant Director of Finance also stated that the report indicated a number of spending increases and indicated significant areas, namely Children's Services, Adult Services and the Environment where Government legislative requirements would need to be met.

RESOLVED

That the information contained in the report submitted on the proposed Revenue Budget and Council Tax for 2007/2008 be noted and that should Members wish to make any further comments they be submitted direct, in writing, to the Senior Assistant Director of Finance.

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IMPACT OF THE LICENSING ACT 2003 FOLLOWING ITS IMPLEMENTATION IN NOVEMBER 2005

A report of the Director of Law and Property was submitted on the impact of the Licensing Act 2003 following its implementation in November 2005.

In presenting the report the Assistant Director (Legal and Democratic Services) informed the Committee that under the Act the Council had been given full responsibility for the issuing of personal and premises licences, where the sale of alcohol is carried out together with the provision of regulated entertainment and late night refreshment.

The Assistant Director (Legal and Democratic Services) then commented on the content of the report and also informed the Committee of the new Gambling Act, due to come into force in 2007 and advised the Committee that the Gambling Act would be handled by local Councils in much the same way as the Licensing Act had been.

In response to questions by Members, the Assistant Director (Legal and Democratic Services) explained that a heavy enforcement presence had been put in place in Stourbridge town centre and that Taxi Marshalls had been deployed to operate in Stourbridge town centre. He commented that the measures appeared to be working well and that only one or two incidents had been reported.

He also confirmed that the Licensing Act required statutory blue notices of the application to be displayed in a prominent window position of the premises, together with a published notification of the application details in the Local Newspaper.

RESOLVED

That the information contained in the report submitted on the impact of the Licensing Act 2003, following its implementation in November, 2005, and comments and responses given, be noted.

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PROGRESS ON THE COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH PUBLICISING OF ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR ORDERS

A report of the Chief Executive was submitted and presented by the Marketing and Communications Officer on the progress made on costs associated with the alternative means of publicising of Anti Social Behaviour Orders.

The Marketing and Communications Officer explained the revised costs involved in producing and delivering the publicity material and advised on the method being considered for delivery of the leaflet. Upon questioning by the Chairman, the Marketing Officer advised that leaflets would not necessarily be delivered separately from the newspaper associated with the delivery of these leaflets. The Chairman requested that Marketing ascertain the costs being applied to the delivery of Green Care and Waste literature and as to whether this delivery service could be used for the Anti Social Behaviour leaflets.

Following further discussion, during which the Marketing Officer confirmed that a stipulation could be made for the leaflet to be delivered only between Sunday and Wednesday, it was

RESOLVED

- (1) That the information contained in the report submitted, and as given at the meeting, in respect of any additional costs for alternative means of publicising Anti Social Behaviour Orders, be noted, and that the Marketing Officer be requested to advise the Chairman and Lead Officer to the Committee of the costs.
- (2) That, in order to expedite the issue, the Marketing Officer be requested to advise the Chairman as soon as discussions had taken place and an outcome was known.

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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 July to September, 2006.

In presenting the report the Lead Officer explained that the report had previously been circulated to members following its submission to Cabinet and was available on the Intranet. Members had been asked to peruse the document prior to the meeting and to comment on the extracts contained in the report specifically concerned with Community Safety and Community Services.

The Committee reiterated that they considered viewing the document online prior to attending the meeting was preferable to being circulated with a bulky document.

RESOLVED

That the information contained in the report, on the activities relating to the terms of reference of this Committee, be noted.

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REPORT OF THE CHAIRMEN OF THE WORKING GROUPS

A report of the Lead Officer to the Committee on a decision made at the meeting of the Customer Service and Public Information Working Group held on 2nd November 2006, was submitted.

RESOLVED

That the information contained in the report submitted, on a recommendation of the Customer Service and Public Information Working Group made at a meeting held on 2nd November 2006, be noted.

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EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED

That the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 as indicated below; and in all the circumstances, the public interest in disclosing the information is outweighed by the public interest in maintaining the exemption from disclosure.

Description of Item

Relevant
Paragraph of Part
1 of Schedule 12A

Traffic Issues – Traffic Wardens

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TRAFFIC ISSUES - TRAFFIC WARDENS

A report of the Director of the Urban Environment was submitted on traffic issues and traffic wardens.

RESOLVED

That the information contained in the report submitted, on traffic issues and traffic wardens, be noted.

The meeting ended at 7.30 pm

CHAIRMAN