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**OVERVIEW OF COMMUNITY PROTECTION PORTFOLIO**

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1. Since the last meeting of Council, the following are the main areas of work undertaken under my Community Protection Portfolio :-
  - (a) **Annual CCTV Inspectors Report** – We gave consideration to and accepted the first annual report from the Independent Inspectors of Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) which was very positive and supportive of the service, and agreed that as the pilot exercise had been very successful, the Independent Inspection Team become a permanent feature of the Closed Circuit Television evaluation.
  - (b) **Best Value Review of Regulatory Services** – Stage 2 (review of performance of the service and examination of procurement options) is now complete. Officers are working on Stage 3, the option appraisal and improvement plan. The review is expected to be complete in September 2004.
  - (c) **Recycling** - A successful bid has been made to WRAP in conjunction with other local authorities in Durham for resources to assist in recycling. The grant will enable eight temporary staff to be appointed and Darlington will be able to deploy these for a six-week period and can concentrate on raising the recycling rate.
  - (d) **Leading Aspect Award** - This prestigious award has been won by Whinfield Junior School in conjunction with the Community Services Department and the Development & Environment Department for their combined work on litter and recycling.
  - (e) **Litter Initiative** - Implementation of the Action Plan continues with work being carried out in the following areas:
    - Enforcement of hot spots including schools
    - Development of a zonal cleaning service
    - Targeting businesses who litter
    - Presenting Caring for your Environment Awards
    - Continuing to work with schools and ENCAMS
  - (f) **Fireworks** - New requirements came into force recently requiring retailers to determine 'proof of age' before sale (sales prohibited to under 18s). The Council has responded positively to a consultation by the Government to further control the anti social aspects of fireworks. It is expected that new legislation will be in place before the next 5 November and will include a 'curfew' – no fireworks to be let off after 11 pm.
  - (g) **Noise Action Day – 6 June 2004** - Environmental Health staff took part in this event organised by the National Society for Clean Air and publicised the nuisance from

barking dogs.

- (h) **Anti Social Behaviour** – A joint working party has been set up by the Police and the Council to tackle the issues identified by the community at the recent Darlington Assembly.
- (i) **Zonal Cleaning Pilot** – A pilot Zonal Cleaning service has been launched in the Bank Top Ward. The new service will provide a visible and flexible approach to street cleaning that will result in a safer, cleaner and greener environment. All residents in the Bank Top Ward have received information regarding the pilot service, which will operate for 4 weeks. If successful, a Borough-wide Zonal Cleaning service will be introduced later this year.
- (j) **Community Safety Partnership** – Officers have made presentations in Manchester and Cardiff as part of our Beacon Status award. The presentations have provided information on our partnership arrangements detailing the impact of our work in providing a safer environment. The presentations were very well received and several partnerships from throughout the UK have made arrangements to visit Darlington to learn from what we have achieved.

2. I have attended the following meeting in respect of my Community Protection Portfolio :-

Darlington Environmental Forum – I Chaired the Darlington Environmental Forum held on 28th June, 2004.

**Councillor Chris McEwan**  
**Community Protection Portfolio**