
**OVERVIEW OF PUBLIC PROTECTION AND COMMUNITY
PARTNERSHIPS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

1. Since the last meeting of the Council, the following are the main areas of work the public Protection and Community Partnerships Scrutiny Committee has undertaken :-
 - (a) **Work Programme** – We are continually updating the Work Programme of this Committee and examining Cabinet’s Forward Plan for particular areas of interest and concern. We are also constantly examining areas for undertaking Task and Finish Review Groups and this Committee’s next major Review and in this regard, at the Scrutiny Meeting on 13th April, 2004 heard a report on arrangements for Emergency Planning in Darlington and the implications of the new Civil Contingencies Bill and have invited Patrick Cunningham, the Chief Emergency Planning Officer to attend a future meeting to outline the services provided by the Emergency Planning Unit. It is also our intention to invite Members of the Environment Scrutiny to attend this meeting.
 - (b) **Review Group** – Cabinet have noted the recommendations of this Scrutiny Committee’s Review Group established to look at the provision of Youth Pods within the Borough and this Scrutiny Committee have requested a progress report at a future meeting.
 - (c) **Adoption of a Taxi Charter** – We supported the proposals for a Customer Charter for Taxis which will be publicised by display in the Offices of Private Hire Operators, the Town Crier and the Council’s website.
 - (d) **2004 Litter Initiative Plan** – We received an update on the work that has been undertaken following the launch of the Litter Initiative in November, 2002 and provided with information on the 2004 Litter Initiative Action Plan and the campaigns contained therein. Particular interest was made to the Fast Food Initiative contained within the Action Plan and the possibility of undertaking a Task and Finish Review Group was discussed.
 - (e) **Early Interventions Update in Relation to Four Tiered Service** – We were given an update on further developments to the Early Intervention Function of the Community Safety Partnership and annual performance for 2003/04. This Scrutiny Committee will continue to receive regular progress reports.
 - (f) **Best Value – Monitoring of Progress on Best Value Review and Improvement Action Plans** – We received details of the progress made in relation to the Improvement Action Plans as an outcome of the Best Value Review of Waste Management and the Best Value Review of Street Safety. With regard to Waste

Management, eleven of the fifteen action points have now been fully completed and with regard to Street Safety, 49 of the 61 action points have now been fully implemented. We will continue to monitor progress on these Action Plans.

- (g) **Working Together Group Progress Report** – A progress report was given on the Working Together Group, a multi-agency task group of Members and organisations working with young people formed following a meeting of the Provision of Youth Pods Review Group on 2nd December, 2003. One of the recommendations of the Review Group was to receive an update on the progress of the Group.
- (h) **Task and Finish Review – Kerbside Recycling Scheme** – The first meeting of the Task and Finish Review Group was held on 25th February, 2004 when the low participation rates in some areas of the scheme was discussed. It was decided to undertake a ‘door knocking’ exercise in certain areas of low participation and can now advise that Councillor Long, Reynolds, Mrs. Swift and myself undertook this exercise on 5th May, 2004.
- (i) **Annual Report 2003/04** – A Special Meeting was held on 5th May, 2004 to give all Members of the Committee to discuss and input into the Annual Report of this Scrutiny for 2003/04 before its presentation to full Council. The Annual Report outlines the key areas of work undertaken by this Committee over the 2003/04 Municipal Year and detailed the Reviews undertaken.

Councillor Mrs. Doris
Chair of Public Protection and Community Partnerships Scrutiny Committee