
**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 considered the Work Programme for the Municipal Year 2005/06 and examined Cabinet’s Forward Plan for particular areas of interest and concern and are examining further areas for undertaking Task and Finish Review Groups during 2005/06 as this Committee’s next major Review.
- (b) **Review Groups** – Since my last report, I can advise that investigations continue with regard to the Dogs Review Group and on 10th May, 2005 undertook a site visit to Deerness Kennels, Langley Moor where the Council’s stray dogs are housed and to two neighbouring authorities of Richmondshire District Council and Hartlepool Borough Council to discuss with their officers the arrangements they have for contracting out the Dog Warden Service. The site visit proved very interesting and we established that both authorities had outsourced their service to Animal Wardens Limited. This had resulted in significant cost savings and officers felt that there had been improvements in both the level of service and enforcement.

With regard to the Joint Task and Finish Review Group on Gully Cleaning, two meetings of this Group have now been held and following the terms of reference being set, investigations are progressing well. The Group most recently met with the Gully Cleaning Team and the Street Activities Officer to discuss the rolling programme of works and the general problems encountered on the ground with the gully cleaning.

The Waste Management Helpline Number Task and Finish Review Group presented their final report and concluded that the number operating to their satisfaction and no further action is required at this present time.

- (c) **Climate Change** – We endorsed the Climate Change Strategy for Darlington, developed by the Darlington Local Strategic Partnerships and the development of a Tees Valley Strategy and will continually monitor progress thereon.
- (d) **Community Partnerships Service Plan** – We approved the Community Partnership Division’s Service Plan for 2005/06 and agreed to continually monitor progress against the targets in the plan.
- (e) **Crime, Disorder and Substance Misuse Reduction Strategy 2005-2008** – We considered the Community Safety Partnerships third Crime, Disorder and Substance Misuse Reduction Strategy and also considered the progress being

made to address anti-social behaviour which includes every Crime and Disorder Partnership within England and Wales now having to include anti-social behaviour within their three-year Crime and Disorder Strategies and we agreed to monitor progress on implementation of the action plan. We were also very pleased to be advised that this is a top priority for the Community Safety Partnership and with the introduction of the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment bill, there will be new powers made available to tackle graffiti, litter, abandoned cars, waste, noise and dog fouling.

- (f) **Best Value – Street Safety – Monitoring of Progress on the Improvement Action Plan** – We gave further consideration to the Best Value of Street Safety Improvement Plan and are very pleased to report that out of the total sixty-three recommendations contained within the action plan, fifty-six have been fully implemented/finalised and only seven require further action.

Councillor Doris Jones
Chair of Public Protection and Community Partnerships Scrutiny Committee