
**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 and this Committee’s next major Review for the forthcoming Municipal Year 2006/07.
 - (b) **Review /Task and Finish Groups** – It was agreed at the meeting of this Scrutiny Committee held on 7th February, to undertake a Task and Finish Review Group to undertake an initial assessment on the statutory inspection requirements with regard to Trading Standards and Food Safety, which may lead on to a larger scale Review in the new Municipal Year. The first meeting of this Task and Finish Review Group examining Food Safety was held on 7th March and terms of reference for the Group were discussed and agreed.
 - (c) **Anti-Social Behaviour** – We received a report on the implementation of the new Anti Social Behaviour Team comprising of 10 Uniformed Wardens working within the community and two dedicated Anti-Social Behaviour Officers working closely with colleagues, partner agencies and the community. A presentation then followed by the Anti Social Behaviour Manager who expanded on the role of the Team and outlined aims for the team. Particular discussion ensued on the role of the Police in neighbourhood policing and Community Inspector Chris Reeves will now attend the meeting of this Scrutiny scheduled for 4th April, 2006 to discuss further with us.
 - (d) **Street Scene** – We received a summary of the findings of the Street Scene Review undertaken as a pilot project within the Leading Edge Change Programme with the aim of improving street services for residents, generate efficiencies, adopt good practice and modernise services focusing on customer needs. Members of this Scrutiny Committee are pleased with the findings and design proposals for five key changes to service delivery which we feel lead to positive improvements.
 - (e) **Civic Amenity Site Improvements** – We received an update on progress made with the improvement works to the Civic Amenity Site. Works began on the site at the beginning of November, 2005, and following a closure for seven weeks, the

site now renamed the Household Waste Recycling Centre re-opened on 9th December, 2005 and is almost twice the size it was with improved road system, lighting and CCTV and extended hours. The site also has a much wider range of materials collected for recycling. The Council's current waste contract expiry date is undecided but the earliest date for expiry is January 2008 and Members discussed their ideas for what this Council may want from a new contract i.e. options for using recycled materials e.g. fuel pellets. This is an area that Members of this Scrutiny want to remain closely involved with.

- (f) **Special Meeting – Waste Management** - At a special Meeting held on 7th March, 2005 we endorsed the Best Practicable Environmental Options Assessment for Municipal Waste in Darlington and look forward to being consulted further on the Waste Management Strategy.

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