
**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.

It was agreed at the Scrutiny Meeting held in August when reports were received on the Youth Offending Service Youth Justice Plan 2005/06 and Tackling Anti-Social Behaviour that it would be useful for Members of this Scrutiny Committee to undertake a familiarisation visit to the Community Safety Partnerships offices at Central House, and this visit is to take place on 15th November, 2005.

- (b) **Review Groups** – The final report of the Dogs Review Group has now been finalised by the Group and will be submitted to the meeting of this Scrutiny Committee on 6th December, 2005 for final comments.

On 29th September, 2005 members of the CCTV in Bus Shelters Task and Finish Review Group met with Simon Houldsworth, the Transport Policy Manager to ask some preliminary questions prior to his report being brought to this Scrutiny Committee on 6th December, 2005.

Also, following the next meeting in December a ‘brainstorming exercise’ will be undertaken to compile a list of issues which Members feel need some consideration by this Scrutiny Committee by way of Review Groups or smaller Task and Finish Review Groups.

- (c) **Street Scene Update** – We were advised of the review of Street Scene which is being undertaken as part of the ‘Leading Edge’ agenda, the next stage of this Council’s organisational development. The main focus of the review is to identify and improve the process and processes within each service that contributes towards the management of the external environment. The four key outcomes forming the scope of the Street Scene Review being a clean external environment; a well-maintained external environment; a well-designed external environment; and a safe external environment. We have requested that we be kept fully updated on the progress with Street Scene throughout the review and are keen to view the implementation plan.

- (d) **Public Protection Service Plan 2005/06** – As part of our monitoring role, we received a progress report on the implementation of the 2005/06 service plan for the Public Protection Division of the Development and Environment Department and we were pleased to note that for the first quarter shown, progress on the overall plan was on target.
- (e) **Community Partnership Division Service Plan 2005/06** – As part of our monitoring role, we received a progress report on the Community Partnership's Section Service Plan for 2005/06 for the period April 2005 to September 2005 and we were pleased to note that overall the section were above target to meet their objectives.
- (f) **Environmental Services Service Plan 2005/06** – Again, as part of our monitoring role, we received progress of the Environmental Service's Service Plan for 2005/06 for the period April 2005 to September, 2004, highlighting performance against all of Environmental Services' targets, and again we were pleased to note that overall the section is above target in meeting its objectives.

As with all of the above Service Plans, any areas that were below target or showing concern were discussed with the officers by Members of this Scrutiny Committee.

- (g) **Bank Holiday Working Refuse and Recycling Collection** – Following concerns expressed by Members of this Scrutiny at the suspension of the recycling service over last year's Christmas period, we requested a report to advise us of the proposals for future bank holiday refuse and recycling collection with particular reference to the Christmas collection for 2005. Following discussion we gave our approval to proposals for bank holiday arrangements which will hopefully alleviate any problems in the future.
- (h) **Best Value Review of Regulatory Services** – We received a report to monitor the progress on the Improvement Action Plan resulting from the Best Value Review of Regulatory Services and were pleased to note that adequate progress was being made on the twenty action points detailed in the plan.
- (i) **Tobacco Control in Darlington** – We held a special meeting with the Social Affairs and Health Scrutiny to look at the cross-cutting issue of tobacco control. Members were given an overview of the local health picture, the Regional Tobacco Control Strategy and the local action being taken towards achieving a smoke free Darlington. Members agreed the response to the consultation on the Health Improvement and Protection Bill and have supported the establishment of a Smoke Free Partnership Group to develop a Tobacco Control Strategy for Darlington.

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