
**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/Annual Scrutiny Report** – We considered a draft Work Programme for the Municipal Year 2006/07 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. We also approved the Annual Scrutiny Committee Report for 2005/06.
 - (b) **Review /Task and Finish Groups** – Following on from the initial work of the Task and Finish Review Group to investigate food safety in relation to food standards and food hygiene, it was decided at the meeting held on 27th March, 2006 to progress investigations under a full Review for the Municipal Year 2006/07 and this has received support from this Scrutiny Committee and the Monitoring and Coordination Group.
 - (c) **Anti-Social Behaviour** – Following on from the presentation given on the Anti Social Behaviour Team at the Scrutiny Meeting held on 7th February, 2006, Inspector Chris Reeves was invited to attend the Scrutiny Committee Meeting on 4th April, 2006 to advise us of the role of the Police in neighbourhood policing. He gave a very clear and concise presentation which gave Members a good insight into the workings of the Darlington Beat Team in dealing with anti-social behaviour and how they work in partnership with this Council.
 - (d) **Christmas and New Year Recycling** – We received an update on the performance of the Recycling Collection Service over the Christmas period 2005 after this Scrutiny’s intervention following our concerns at the suspension of the Recycling Service in the past and were very pleased to learn that for the same period compared to last year, there was an increase of 115 tonnes of recycling material collected. This was a 27 per cent increase in overall refuse collected and the thanks of this Scrutiny Committee were extended to all the staff who worked over that Christmas and New- Year period to maintain the service with the least disruption to the public.

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