

---

**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 our draft Work Programme and discussed review topics for the Municipal Year 2007/08. We also examined Cabinet’s Forward Plan for particular areas of interest and concern to be included within our Work Programme and also further areas for undertaking Task and Finish Review Group.
  - (b) **Annual Report of Scrutiny 2006/07** – We considered the draft Annual Report of Scrutiny outlining the work we have undertaken during the Municipal Year 2006/07. and approved its submission to full Council on 19th April, 2007.
  - (c) **Licensing Act 2003** – We received a report and schedule of all the licences and certificates granted up to 31st January, 2007 since the introduction of the new arrangements under the Licensing Act 2003 which transferred the responsibility for the licensing of the sale and supply of alcohol from the Magistrates Courts to Local Authorities.
  - (d) **West Cemetery** – Following a presentation to Scrutiny, Members were keen to undertake a visit to West Cemetery, with particular interest in headstone safety, pollution arising from the operation of the Crematorium and the provision of future burial space. The visit took place on 19th February, 2007 and Members were satisfied with present arrangements at the Cemetery.
  - (e) **Review /Task and Finish Groups – Service Planning Task and Finish Review** – We received a progress report on the Service Planning Task and Finish Review Group when Members of this Scrutiny Committee considered methods of increasing Scrutiny involvement in Service Planning and the ongoing monitoring of Service Plans in preparation for the Comprehensive Performance Assessment in March 2008.  
  
**Food Safety Review** – We received the final report of the Food Safety Review Group giving details of the methods of investigations, liaison with other organisations and conclusions of the Group and also detailing a number of recommendations we will forward to Cabinet. This Review Group was established to examine food safety in relation to food standards and food hygiene and the Group feel that their recommendations will combine to improve communication with the trade, improve public awareness of food safety issues, especially within schools and provide a Food Hygiene Award to help promote good food hygiene in Darlington.

**CCTV in Bus Shelters Task and Finish** – We received the final report of the CCTV Task and Finish Review Group at the meeting held on 27th March, 2007. This Review Group was established to investigate various issues around the provision of CCTV in bus shelters following a successful bid by this Council in February 2002 in the sum of £118,887, to encourage the use of buses in rural areas. Over the past months the Task and Finish Review Group have met with officers, monitored the introduction of cameras into rural bus shelters including examining the quality of the pictures taken and as a Scrutiny we have receive a number of progress reports resulting in the Group making their final recommendations. We will continue to monitor the situation with the CCTV cameras and receive an update report in six months time.

- (f) **Best Value Review of Regulatory Services Progress Report** – Following the completion of the Best Value of Regulatory Services in October 2004, we have continued to monitor the implementation of the twenty step changes identified in the Improvement Action Plan following the Review. We are pleased to note that generally the Action Plan is progressing well, and the number of actions that have fallen behind schedule we are confident will be dealt with over the coming months.

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