
PUBLIC PROTECTION AND COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – ANNUAL REPORT 2005/06

1. This Scrutiny Committee takes great pleasure in presenting the Annual Report of the Public Protection and Community Partnerships Scrutiny Committee to Council and wish to thank the officers, in particular Bill Westland, Assistant Director Public Protection who is the lead Officer on this Scrutiny Committee and Allison Carling the Democratic Support Officer. The Committee also wish to thank all Members of this Scrutiny Committee and Councillor Steve Harker, the Cabinet Member with the Consumer and Environmental Services portfolio for their continued support.
2. During the last year this Scrutiny Committee has continued to monitor progress on the Improvement Action Plan as an outcome of the Best Value Review of Regulatory Services and are pleased with progress to date. We have also continually been monitoring the outstanding action points in relation to the Best Value Reviews of Waste Management and Street Safety, both undertaken during 2001/02 and are pleased to report that these have now all been actioned.
3. With regard to a Policy Review Group for 2005/06, this Scrutiny Committee undertook its major Review in relation to Dogs and their final report with recommendations was presented to this Scrutiny Committee on 6th December, 2005 and also considered by Cabinet in January, 2006. Task and Finish Review Groups included a Joint Review with Environment Scrutiny to examine gully cleaning; examining revised arrangements for future Christmas and Bank Holiday recycling arrangements; and Closed Circuit Television in Bus Shelters. A further Task and Finish on Food Safety has also just commenced. Further details on the remit and outcome of these Reviews are detailed below.
4. On 6th December, 2005, Members of this Scrutiny Committee undertook a ‘brainstorming exercise’ to discuss areas under the remit of this Scrutiny and examine areas requiring further investigation by way of inclusion in the Work Programme or by way of Review. This exercise proved very useful and a number of areas of concern were addressed and these will be included in the 2006/07 work programme with a view to future Review.
5. It had been the intention of this Scrutiny Committee to undertake a Review during this Municipal Year on the Civil Contingencies Act and the implementation of arrangements however, there have been some delays with this Act, initially with the Regulations being delayed and now a delay in receiving guidelines on the Act. A report will be received at the meeting of this Scrutiny Committee on 4th April, 2006 and it is our intention to investigate what steps this Council has in place to meet the statutory requirements of the Act during the forthcoming Municipal Year 2005/06.

6. As part of our monitoring role we have examined the Service Plans under the control of the Public Protection and Community Partnerships Scrutiny Committee using *Performance Plus* which has enabled us to undertake better performance management. However, for this coming Municipal Year it has been agreed at Monitoring and Co-ordination Group that Service Plans and Consultation documents will now appear on public folders providing a lead officer contact name and number for Members to make any comments thereon.
7. We were pleased to see the re-opening of the newly refurbished Civic Amenity Site in December, 2005, following the successful bid, in the sum of £730,314 to the Department of Environment for Food and Rural Affairs to enlarge and improve the site. The newly named Household Waste Recycling Centre has become the biggest recycling site in the North-East and the refurbishment has doubled the size of the original site to improve access and lighting, provide CCTV and create facilities for recycling green waste, timber, cardboard, metals, bric-a-brac, gas bottles, glass, paper, tyres, soil and rubble.
8. Other areas of work undertaken by this Scrutiny during the Municipal Year 2005/06 are detailed at **Appendix 1**.
9. The Dogs Review Group was established to investigate the problems associated with dogs which included dog fouling and noise nuisance; how the service was operated; and the duties and priorities of the Dog Wardens and the Uniformed Wardens. The Group also looked at the impact of the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Bill proposals on the kennelling arrangements at the Police Station as this will no longer be the responsibility of the Police and will have an impact on this Council. As part of their investigations the Group visited the kennels at the Police Station, undertook site visits to Richmondshire District Council and Hartlepool Borough Council who out-source their Dog Warden Service; Deerness Kennels where the Council's stray dogs are kept. The Group also received a presentation from Animal Wardens, a Private Dog Warden Service. The final report was presented to this Scrutiny Committee on 6th December, 2005 and the recommendations were then noted by Cabinet in January, 2006. It was acknowledged that the recommendations of the Review Group identified issues that could be progressed partly through the 'street scene review' a project undertaken as part of the Council's 'Leading Edge' agenda; and partly through the proposed development of an Environmental Crime Team within Community Services.
10. A Task and Finish Review Group was established and Councillors B. Jones and G. Lee investigated various issue in relation to CCTV in bus shelters prior to a report being presented to this Scrutiny on the same. In 2001, the Council was successful in a bid for Rural Bus Challenge funding to encourage the use of buses in rural areas of the Borough via improvements in the condition of selected bus shelters and the provision of CCTV cameras as required. Members of the Task and Finish Review Group raised various concerns regarding CCTV in bus shelters and these were addressed by officers at the Scrutiny Meeting held on 6th December, 2005.

11. A Joint Task and Finish Review Group was established with Members of the Environment Scrutiny Committee to investigate problems associated with gully cleaning and Councillors D. Jones, Maddison and Mrs. Swift from this Scrutiny Committee, and Councillors Long, Ruck and J. Vasey examined issues surrounding the type of gullies; cleaning and inspection regimes, number of complaints received, priorities and recurring problems with gullies. The final report was presented to this Committee on 16th August, 2005 and to the Environment Scrutiny Committee on 1st September, 2005.
12. This Scrutiny Committee has also just started a Task and Finish Review Group to examine Food Safety with regard to food standards and food hygiene. The first meeting was held on 7th March, 2006 and terms of reference set and it is envisaged that this Review will continue into the next Municipal Year.

**Public Protection and Community Partnerships
Scrutiny Committee**

**PUBLIC PROTECTION AND COMMUNITY PARTNERSHPS SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE - WORK PROGRAMME 2005/06**

| DATE OF MEETING | SUBJECT | LEAD OFFICER |
|---------------------------|---|------------------------------------|
| 14th June, 2005 | Public Protection Service Plan | Keith Atkinson |
| | Best Value Review of Regulatory Services | Keith Atkinson |
| | Environmental Services Service Plan | Ian Thompson |
| | Civil Contingencies Act | Keith Atkinson |
| 16th August, 2005 | Youth Offending Service Plan Volume 2` | Rita Taylor |
| | Uniformed Warden Service | Ian Thompson |
| | Final Report of the Joint Task and Finish Review Group on Gully Cleaning | Allison Carling/Review Group |
| | Review of Conditions and Policies relating to Private Hire/Hackney Carriages | Pam Ross |
| 11th October, 2005 | Best Value Review of Regulatory Services – Progress Report on the Improvement Action Plan | Bill Westland |
| | Community Partnerships Service Plan | Sharon Brown |
| | Public Protection Service Plan | Bill Westland |
| | Environmental Services Service Plan | Ian Thompson |
| | Bank Holiday Working Arrangements – Refuse and Recycling | Ian Thompson |
| 6th December, 2005 | Food Standards Agency Audit Improvement Action Plan | Bill Westland |

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| | <p>Closed Circuit Television in Bus Shelters</p> <p>Closed Circuit Television in Bus Shelters Task and Finish Review Group</p> <p>Review Arrangements under the Licensing Act 2003</p> <p>Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy</p> <p>Final Report of the Dogs Review Group</p> | <p>Simon Houldsworth</p> <p>Allison Carling</p> <p>Pam Ross</p> <p>Sharon Brown</p> <p>Dogs Review Group Members</p> |
| <p>NOTE : Brainstorming Exercise on the rising of this meeting</p> | | |
| <p>7th February, 2006</p> | <p>Civic Amenity Site Update</p> <p>Anti Social Behaviour Team – Report and Presentation</p> <p>Street Scene Implementation Plan</p> <p>Dogs Review Group – Cabinet Response</p> | <p>Bill Westland</p> <p>Ian Thompson/Nicky Rowland</p> <p>Andrew Robinson</p> <p>Allison Carling</p> |
| <p>4th April, 2006</p> | <p>Annual Report of Scrutiny</p> <p>Christmas and New Year Recycling</p> <p>Anti Social Behaviour – Presentation from Inspector Chris Reeves</p> | <p>Allison Carling</p> <p>Ian Thompson</p> |