
**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 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. Additions to the Work Programme include an update on Street Scene and the Local Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy.
 - (b) **Review /Task and Finish Groups – Food Safety Review Group** - 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, a Review Group consisting of the same Members will now progress this Review and have finalised terms of reference and who the Group would like to interview during this Review. At their meeting on 15th August the Group met with the Nonnie Crawford, Director of Public Health, the Public Analyst and a representatives from the Newcastle Health Protection Agency and the National Health Protection Agency who all have a role to play in this Council delivering their role in relation to food hygiene and standards. A further meeting was held on 4th September when the Group to discuss with officers points raised by the outside organisations.
 - (c) **Civil Contingencies Act 2004** – We received a presentation from Scott Warr, Chief Emergency Planning Officer and a report on the implementation of the new requirements placed on local authorities as a result of the Civil Contingencies Act 2004.
 - (d) **Anti Social Behaviour Unit** – At the request of Members of this Scrutiny Committee we received a report to update Members on the action taken by the new Anti Social Behaviour Unit and to highlight how the Unit operates in relation to anti-social behaviour and environmental crime. It was agreed that a Task and Finish Review be undertaken of the Warden Service.
 - (e) **Joint Special Meeting with Social Affairs and Health** – Held on 22nd August, 2006 to consider two national consultations by the Department of Health on the underage sale of tobacco and smoke free premises and vehicles and a formal response to the Department of Health.

- (f) **Joint Special Meeting with Resources Scrutiny Committee** – Held on 24th August, 2006 to consider a course of action for developing the Council’s Waste Management Service to achieve an affordable solution to increasing costs

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