
**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** – We continue to receive updates on the progress of this Review which is still ongoing.

Uniformed Warden Service Task and Finish Review – We received a report on the the initial findings of the Task and Finish Review Group established to examine the Uniformed Warden Service.

CCTV in Bus Shelters Task and Finish – The Group will continue to monitor the situation and make their final report to the meeting scheduled for 28th November, 2006.

(c) **Community Strategy and the Corporate Plan** – We received an overview of the next stage of the organisation’s development ‘Leading Edge’ and are now looking at what impact we as Scrutiny Members, have had on the delivery of the Corporate Strategy. We will also be looking at the performance indicators that we have taken particular interest in and how we have scrutinised and had an input into the relevant Service Plans relating to our Scrutiny. With this in mind, a small group of Members have agreed to work separately with Lorraine O’Donnell to undertake a ‘self audit’.

(d) **Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy Performance Update** – We received a report from the Chief Executive, Darlington Partnership Board to enable us to continually monitor the progress of the Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy during the period April 2005 to March 2006 in relation to actions for Community Safety. It was highlighted that there were ongoing difficulties in measuring some indicators on a ward basis and although the Partnership Board are liaising with Tees Valley Joint Strategy Unit and other partners on this, we as a Scrutiny agreed to lend our support by writing to the John Lowther at the JSU to express our concerns at the lack of ward by ward data. If we are tasked with scrutinising this Strategy it is important to ensure that ward based and other area initiatives are being developed to meet the priorities of Darlington and that decision are being taken from a strong evidence base.

- (e) **CCTV in Bus Shelters** – Following a Task and Finish Review undertaken in September, 2005, we received a report to update this Scrutiny on the CCTV at Bus Stops Initiative following a bid being awarded to this Council to illuminating, upgrading and improving security and passenger facilities at all rural bus shelters in the Borough. The majority of the specified works have now been completed, but the CCTV element remains outstanding and officers advised us of the problems causing the delays. However, we are now pleased to report that the CCTV system is in place at a number of selected bus stops, however there has been difficulties installing at other locations due to vandalism to the equipment cabinet locks. These are currently being replaced before installation of the CCTV equipment can commence.

- (f) **Household Waste Recycling Centre** – We continue to monitor the performance of the Household Waste Recycling Centre since its redesign against the objectives of improving performance; reducing dependence on landfill and landfill tax liability through increased recycling; improving user satisfaction; and assisting in meeting landfill diversion requirements through the increased recycling of biodegradable waste. We are very pleased to note that the recycling performance has greatly improved and the site is performing at the same level as the best sites in the region and the country. Phil Towers from Premier Waste also attended the meeting and informed us on the processes that are undertaken with the recyclable materials once it has been collected at the Site and its ‘life cycle’ journey which we found of great interest. This Scrutiny will continue to monitor the Household Waste Recycling Centre and see what further improvements can be made.

- (g) **Climate Change** – We received a report on the current status of the Darlington Climate Change Strategy and the wider action being taken within the Tees Valley to develop a Tees Valley Climate Change Strategy to which this Council and the Darlington Partnership are giving their full support.

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