
**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) **Review /Task and Finish Groups** – We have nominated Members to serve on our main Review for this Municipal Year on Community Partnerships and the first meeting thereof will be arranged to set the terms of reference for the Group.

It was also agreed by the Members to establish a Task and Finish Review Group to examine flooding and the first meeting of the Group was held on 2nd July, 2007 when the Group met with officers and agreed the terms of reference for the Group to investigate the causes of flooding, how cases of flooding are handled, procedures in place, public perceptions and future plans.
 - (c) **Community Safety** – We received a report on the progress being made with regard to the implementation of Darlington’s Crime, Disorder and Substance Misuse Reduction Strategy for 2006/07 and examined the statistics compared to 2005/06 which showed an increase of three per cent in Public Service Agreement 1 (PSA1) crimes. These crimes include vehicle crime, violent crime, theft, criminal damage and house burglary. However, the Members were pleased to note that we are on target to hit the Home Office targets of a reduction by six per cent of PSA1 crimes by September, 2007. Following discussion Members agreed that it would be appropriate for this Scrutiny Committee to receive quarterly updates on progress
 - (d) **Trading Standards** – We received an overview of services provided by the Trading Standards Section, including how the regulatory services are delivered, demands and performance and the benefits to the community of such a service.

- (e) **Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy** – The Chief Executive of Darlington Partnership attended the meeting to update this Scrutiny on the progress of the Darlington Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy which covers the eleven most deprived wards in the Borough and focuses on areas of health, crime, education, economy, environment and housing within those areas. .

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