
OVERVIEW OF NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

1. Since the last meeting of the Council, the following are the main areas of work the Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Committee has undertaken :-
 - (a) **Work Programme** – The Committee considered the Work Programme for the 2008/09 Municipal Year and will continue to update and add to our Work Programme throughout the year. 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 Groups.
 - (b) **Review /Task and Finish Groups** – The Review Group Members have now set and agreed the terms of reference for the Review on Street Scene which will be carried out during the next Municipal Year.
 - (c) **Community Safety – Presentation** – Committee Members received a presentation from David Turnbull, Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service to provide an update on the actions implemented by the Service in relation to Community Safety and the effective implementation of a new Community Safety Strategy.
 - (d) **Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership Performance and Community Safety Plan 2008-2011** – Members gave consideration to the progress being made on the implementation of Darlington’s Crime, Disorder and Substance Misuse Strategy and we received an overview of the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership’s Community Safety Plan 2008-2011. Members expressed their views in respect of the reliability of the crime statistics presented, public perceptions and attitudes towards crime, the use of intelligence led approach in targeting anti-social behaviour and gang activity and the Action Weeks which took place last year aimed at community engagement, prevention and enforcement activities.
 - (e) **Choice Based Lettings** – Members considered the progress made towards the introduction of a Sub-Regional Choice Based Lettings Scheme, which is a requirement for all local authorities to have a scheme in place by 2010.

Chair of Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Committee