

**Central Dudley Area Committee - 20<sup>th</sup> January, 2009**

**Community Renewal Working Group**

**Report of the Area Liaison Officer**

**Purpose**

1. To report the outcome from meetings of the Community Renewal Working Group held on the 16<sup>th</sup> December, 2008 and 14<sup>th</sup> January, 2009.
2. To consider the terms of reference of the Working Group

**Background**

3. The initial meeting of the Community Renewal Working Group was held on the 16<sup>th</sup> December, 2008 and a second meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> January, 2009.
4. The detailed Terms of Reference of the Group were considered at the December meeting and the Working Group resolved to recommend the Central Dudley Area Committee that the Terms of Reference attached be adopted.
5. At the first meeting, consideration was given to a report of the Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services giving an introduction to the broad issues for the Group. The report asked for consideration to be given to the following:-
  - The role of elected members and the Group in relation to Community Renewal Strategy objectives.
  - Issues emerging from a statistical analysis presented to the meeting and current activities to address them.
  - The views of Members on current plans, with a view to determining how, as elected Members, they can make community renewal happen more effectively in their areas.
  - How an Area Committee can influence the drawing in of resources from public, private, voluntary and community agencies in order to deliver the plans; and
  - Ways in which to enable the Area Committee to have an overall view of the processes of community renewal locally to enable deprivation to be

addressed through working with the community and in partnership with local service providers.

- 6 The report set out a proposed local approach, which aimed for community renewal, which would involve local people in making outcomes sustainable, increase social capital, and evolve service delivery in a way which meets the needs of the community. The manner in which it was envisaged the approach would operate involved the use of Community Locality Plans, which would replace the old Neighbourhood Action Plans, and an Area Committee Renewal Plan. The report incorporated as appendices a document containing a strategic overview and the principles involved regarding a strategy for community renewal in Dudley, a draft Community Renewal Plan for the Central Dudley Area Committee Area and a matrix to assist in the consideration of issues for inclusion in the Community Renewal Plan. Copies of the report and/or any of the individual appendices are available on request to Democratic Services (FAO: Richard Sanders) on (01384) 815236 or e-mail [richard.sanders@dudley.gov.uk](mailto:richard.sanders@dudley.gov.uk).
- 7 The Working Group agreed that it would not be possible to complete this work within the current municipal year and determined, therefore, that a final Area Committee Community Renewal Plan be submitted to the Committee for approval within the course of the 2009/10 municipal year.
- 8 The Working Group also considered that, rather than establishing a wish list of issues that would be unlikely to be proceeded with, given the current level of resources, the Community Renewal Plan should concentrate on a small number of achievable issues, which could be developed realistically and implemented within existing resources provided by the Council, its partners, or both.
- 9 It was agreed that another meeting of the Group be held within a short period of time and, accordingly, a subsequent meeting has been arranged for the 14<sup>th</sup> January, 2009. In preparation for the meeting, the Head of Community Renewal was asked to circulate relevant information, including logs relating to current activity on community renewal.
- 10 A supplementary report will be submitted indicating the work undertaken and progress made at the meeting of the Working Group to be held on the 14<sup>th</sup> January.

### **Finance**

- 11 The financial implications of the Community Renewal Plan are as set out in paragraphs 21 and 22 of the report to the meeting of the Working Group held on the 16<sup>th</sup> December, 2008, a copy of which is available to members on request.

### **Law**

- 12 The duty placed on Local Authorities by the Local Government Act, 2000 to establish a local strategic partnership to address collaborative working and to develop a community strategy and local neighbourhood renewal strategy, of which neighbourhood management is a part, is explained in paragraph 23 of the report to the meeting of the Working Group held on the 16<sup>th</sup> December, 2008, a copy of which is available to members on request.

## **Equality Impact**

- 13 The objective of community renewal is to promote inclusion and social cohesion. The manner in which this will be achieved is as set out in paragraph 24 of the report to the meeting of the Working Group held on the 16<sup>th</sup> December, 2008, a copy of which is available to Members on request.

## **Recommendations**

- 14 That the Terms of Reference of the Community Renewal Working Group of the Committee, as attached hereto, be adopted.
- 15 That the progress report on the meetings of the Working Group, as set out above and in the supplementary paper to be circulated, be noted.



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**LINDA SANDERS**  
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**(AS AREA LIAISON OFFICER)**

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## **List of Background Papers**

Report to Central Dudley Area Committee - Update on Neighbourhood Management Review June, 2008

Draft Community Renewal Strategy

Minutes of meeting of the Central Dudley Area Committee (Community Renewal) Working Group held on 16<sup>th</sup> December, 2008