

DUDLEY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH

CENTRAL DUDLEY AREA COMMITTEE

AGENDA ITEM NO 9

31st March 2005

REPORT OF THE AREA LIAISON OFFICER

CENTRAL DUDLEY AREA LOCAL COMMUNITY PLAN

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 For the Central Dudley Area Committee (CDAC) to consider a draft Local Community Plan (LCP) for the central Dudley area.

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Council Constitution requires Area Committees to “develop and introduce a local community plan for their area.” (B21 Article 10.02 (a).) The production of a Plan is a Member-led activity and any Plan produced needs to be consistent with existing plans e.g. the Dudley Borough Community Plan, the Council Plan, Directorate Strategies, etc..
- 2.2 CDAC opened the process of considering how to develop a Local Community Plan in November 2001. In the activity so far, the CDAC have stated that they want a Plan which is “organic,” and “not just a paper exercise.” This aspiration reflects the need for prudent development in community planning in line with good practice. In this way, planning can be, as was noted at a CDAC Working Party, “meaningful.” In addition, Members are also committed to a Plan which is “challenging” and “innovative.”
- 2.3 A Working Party has met regularly (INSERT DATES) during the 2004-05 Municipal Year and a draft Plan is attached as the Appendix to this Report.
- 2.4 In producing this Plan, the Working Party have developed over-arching themes which can be seen as applying across the whole of the central Dudley area which provides an overall framework through which to approach activity to improve the central Dudley Area. Some action points have been included under these themes which indicate some of the work which Members are doing. Members will wish to note, however, that such over-arching Plans may not cover every potential activity. Nevertheless, they provide a framework for action such as those mentioned in the Action Plan.
- 2.5 Overall, the Working Party have been aware that whilst it may be the case that the Area Committee cannot achieve the aims in the Plan on their own, they may do so acting as partners and linking their Plan to

the plans of others. Some aims, for instance, are reliant on the decisions of others over whom the Committee has no direct control e.g. decision about access to European funding.

- 2.6 Once the Area Committee are satisfied with a final draft Plan, it is proposed that it be shared for consultation with the Council and other contributing agencies. To meet the Working Party's direction that their Local Community Plan be "user-friendly," it is proposed that when a final plan is agreed, the assistance of the Council's Marketing & Communications team be sought.

3.0 PROPOSALS

- 3.1 That the Area Committee comment on the attached draft Local community Plan for the central Dudley area.
- 3.2 That, subject to the agreement of the Committee, the current draft be shared with those agencies mentioned in the Plan for their comment by mid- April 2005.
- 3.3 That the Working Party consider a final draft incorporating any changes made in the light of consultation and that final approval of the Committee be sought at the first meeting thereafter.
- 3.4 That the Local Community Plan be launched at a date to be agreed as soon as possible thereafter following the production of a "user-friendly" version.

4.0 FINANCE

- 4.1 There are no direct financial implications of this Report although there are many Projects currently underway in the central Dudley area under the auspices of a variety of agencies which have significant funding attached to them e.g. the Dudley Town Centre initiative.

5.0 LAW

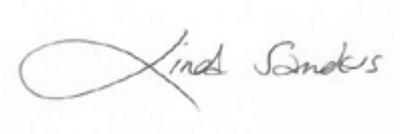
- 5.1 The Council may do anything incidental to, conducive to or which facilitates the discharge of its functions under section 111 of the Local Government act 1972 which would include the preparation of a strategic plan being incidental to its welfare function.

6.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

- 6.1 A community planning process enables the local community through its elected representatives to address issues of concern which are likely to include matters relating to equal opportunities such as equal access to services.

7.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 That the CDAC agree to the proposals set out in para. 3.0.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Linda Sanders". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large loop at the beginning of the word "Linda".

Linda Sanders
Area Liaison Officer

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