

THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THE SERVICE DELIVERY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
HELD ON MONDAY 3 OCTOBER 2005

Present: Councillor D Raine (Chair)
Councillors S Bishop, A J Holmes,
Mrs E Huntington and C Walker

Also Present: Councillor D Myers – Executive Member for
E-Government and Scrutiny Liaison
Councillor J Goodwin – Executive Member for
Community and Culture

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors H High, R Crute, D Chaytor and D J Taylor-Gooby.

2 THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING held on 12 September 2005, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were confirmed.

3 THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE held on 20 September 2005, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were submitted.

RESOLVED that the information contained within the Minutes, be noted.

4 PUBLIC QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION

There were no members of the public present.

5 WORK PROGRAMME

(i) Regeneration and Partnerships Unit - Quarterly Performance Report

Consideration was given to the report of the Head of Regeneration and Partnerships which gave details of performance of the Regeneration and Partnerships Unit, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member.

Details of the unit's performance from 1 April 2004 to the end of quarter 4 (31 March 2005) was outlined in the Appendix to the report. Not all information was available for quarter 1 of 2005/06 although it was noted as much recent information was included in the report to highlight progress made since 1 April 2005. Progress, achievements and non-achievements were fully detailed in the appendices attached to the report.

The Principal Regeneration Officer explained that a recent £12.893m Neighbourhood Renewal Funding (NRF) allocation had been made to the district and the team were currently establishing processes for its allocation for the 2006-08 period. In addition, the district had also been allocated £1.599m from the Safer Stronger Communities Fund (Neighbourhood Element) to be targeted within a specific community and the worst 3% area of the district in terms of deprivation. This process was also currently being negotiated for the period 2006-2010. The LSP

had considered the community most in need for the funding and North Peterlee had been highlighted as a possible area.

Positive feedback had been received from Government Office North East at the mid year review of the Neighbourhood Management Pathfinder (NMP). The Pathfinder's performance had increased by 27% within 12 months in relation to their scoring system. Such an increase was well in excess of the 10% government target and the partnership had now achieved 'good' status. The Principal Regeneration Officer explained that the sickness rate had increased as two people had been on long term sickness.

A Member referred to the increase in men, materials and manpower and asked if this would have an adverse effect on renewal areas. The Principal Regeneration Officer explained that renewal areas would still need to be prioritised. The LSP had agreed that there were three particular areas most in need, north Peterlee, south Seaham and west of the district.

It was explained that the Safer Stronger Communities Fund was more flexible and could fund a wide range of services. The Neighbourhood Element would allow for a Pathfinder in the deprived area which could run alongside the current Horden and Easington Colliery Pathfinder to deliver better services.

The Chair thanked the Principal Regeneration Officer for his report.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(ii) **Neighbourhood Initiatives – Performance Report**

Consideration was given to the report of the Head of Neighbourhood Initiatives which updated Members on the progress of the Neighbourhood Initiatives Unit, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member.

The report provided an update on progress of the Neighbourhood Initiatives Unit which comprised Community Safety, Youth Strategy, Social Inclusion, Sports Development and Arts.

The Head of Neighbourhood Initiatives explained that with regard to Community Safety, the first quarter performance figures had produced a mixed picture. House burglary, vehicle crime and robberies were on target although violent crime and total recorded crime were above target. The figures had been heavily influenced by changes in recording practices by Durham Constabulary which had resulted in minor incidents which were not previously recorded now being included in the figures. Discussions were being held with Government Office and the Home Office regarding the ability of the Council to meet what were now unrealistic targets because of these changes in recording practices.

Members were advised that an event was to be held in November called 'Its Your Call Initiative' for reporting anti-social behaviour.

Service Delivery Scrutiny Committee – 3 October 2005

It was explained that the Crimdon Dreams had been very successful and it was hoped that a follow up event would be held in 2006 if funding could be obtained.

The report provided details of achievements and non-achievements within the unit. In relation to non-achievements, it was explained that the failure to produce a sport and recreational plan and an arts plan was due to difficulties in identifying resources.

The Head of Neighbourhood Initiatives explained that it had been suggested that a press release be circulated to explain to residents of the county that the changes in recording procedure was the reason why performance indicators were not on target.

A Member referred to anti-social behaviour and commented that he felt the partnership between the Police and the Street Wardens was not working. The Head of Neighbourhood Initiatives explained that there were hot spot areas with particular problems and these were discussed at the Street Safe Board whereby representatives from the police and the District of Easington were in attendance. It was explained that there was a gap between the Criminal Justice Board and what happened at a criminal justice level.

Discussion ensued regarding sports development, activities for children in school holidays and out of school hours and it was explained that the Sports Development Unit did a lot of work with other organisations to offer activities to youngsters.

The Chair thanked the Head of Neighbourhood Initiatives for his report.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.