

# **Bromsgrove District Council**

## **Overview Board**

**31st March 2009**

### **Cabinet Response to the Anti-Social Behaviour and Alcohol Free Zones Task Group Report**

#### Introduction

At the Cabinet meeting on 4th March 2009 consideration was given to the findings and recommendations contained within the overview investigation undertaken by the Anti-Social Behaviour and Alcohol Free Zones Task Group.

The Leader invited the Chairman of the Anti-Social Behaviour and Alcohol Free Zones Task Group, Councillor C. B. Taylor to speak on the report. Councillor Taylor briefly explained the work which the Task Group had carried out and the approach they had taken.

The Cabinet then considered each of the recommendations in detail.

#### Response to recommendations

Please find below responses to the recommendations contained within the scrutiny report:

1. **Enhance lines of communication with partners** (High Priority)  
It is recommended that the District Council work with its partner agencies to enhance lines of communication to inform the local media of events and good news stories with a view to encouraging more good publicity about young people, and thereby reduce the negative judgments placed on younger people in general.

The Cabinet approved this recommendation

2. **Visible policing within the local community** (Medium / High Priority)  
It is recommended that, whilst both the increased number of Police Community Support Officers and the enhanced powers granted of the District Council's Neighbourhood Wardens are to be welcomed, the North Worcestershire Division of the West Mercia Constabulary be urged to present a more visible presence in both the local community and at public events in order to maintain a low level of anti-social behaviour within the District.

The Cabinet approved this recommendation

3. **Tackling anti-social behaviour by way of Fixed Penalty Notices (Medium /High Priority)**

It is recommended that, given the support shown by residents for fixed penalty notices as a means of tackling anti-social behaviour and drinking in an 'alcohol free zone', the Council investigate the feasibility of introducing fixed penalty notices for such disorder.

The Cabinet did not approve this recommendation, due to the fact that since the recommendation had been agreed by the Task Group, the Council had agreed that Fixed Penalty Notices be ranked as a medium term priority and therefore funding was not included as part of the Medium Term Financial Plan.

4. **Maximise use and effectiveness of CCTV (Low / Medium Priority)**

It is recommended that, where lighting around the Council's CCTV cameras is negligible or non-existent, especially within designated 'alcohol free zones', the Council investigate enhancing visibility by either introducing additional lighting and / or additional CCTV cameras and, if this should be feasible, whether funding may also be available from the police.

The Cabinet approved this recommendation in part and tasked officers to carry out a review of the lighting around CCTV to identify if there are any issues and to report back to the Cabinet. The Executive Director – Partnerships and Projects informed the Cabinet that he had received a response from West Mercia Constabulary and unfortunately no funding would be available for additional lighting / CCTV cameras.

Other comments

The Leader expressed his thanks to all Members and officers who had contributed to the Overview and Scrutiny process. In addition, the Leader urged Members to make every effort to attend Task Group meetings that they volunteered for as their contribution and input was crucial for their success. He also requested that Task Groups were supported by the appropriate officers.

Councillor Mrs. J. M. L. A. Griffiths  
**Portfolio Holder for Street Scene and Community Safety**