

+

**APPENDIX A**

**WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**SECTION 17 AUDIT**

**August 2006**

## **WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL**

### **ASSESSING ACHIEVEMENT OF SECTION 17 (Crime and Disorder Act 1998)**

#### **Background – The implications of Section 17**

The 1998 Crime & Disorder Act provided local authorities, the police and a number of other key partners with a new legal framework to reduce crime and disorder. Within this, Section 17 of the Act requires local authorities, police authorities and other agencies to consider the crime reduction potential of all their policies, budgetary and other decisions and service provision.

***Section 17 states: ‘Without prejudice to any other obligation imposed upon it, it shall be the duty of each authority... to exercise its various functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent crime and disorder in its area’***

The Council is therefore obliged to keep an up to date audit of how services provided are taking into account the Section 17 duty.

#### **The positive opportunity of Section 17 for WFDC**

Community safety touches the work of most Divisions and service areas. Through Section 17, it provides the Council with the opportunity to consider how each service can contribute to reducing crime and disorder, addressing the social, community and physical ‘drivers’ of crime and so enhancing quality of life for our local communities.

#### **The legal challenge of Section 17**

The Council should be aware of the legal consequences of not considering Section 17 i.e. the risk that individuals or groups who feel that authorities are in breach of their duty may challenge their actions and decisions in the courts. In the absence of case law, it remains unclear what the courts would consider to be a breach of Section 17. The courts will, however, seek evidence that an authority has done all it reasonably can to prevent crime. Experience of similar duties suggests that, in making this assessment, they will look for evidence that the authority has a coherent plan for complying with Section 17, and that it is being implemented.

#### **Approaches to Section 17**

- **Minimalist** – the minimalist approach involves having mechanisms in place to ensure that crime and disorder implications are considered whenever policy and service developments are approved. This might be achieved, for example, by inserting a section on community safety in all reports going to the Council’s Cabinet for decision.

- **Mid Level** – the mid level approach involves building a commitment to reducing crime and disorder into the routine activities of individual departments and service areas.
- **Corporate** – the corporate approach involves treating crime and disorder reduction as a ‘whole’ organisation activity and supporting this at corporate level, for example by building a commitment to creating safer communities into the Corporate Plan, objectives, information gathering and review processes. The corporate approach has most potential for delivering safer communities, demonstrating Best Value, responding to community concerns and joining up service delivery.

### **Current position statement on WFDC level of approach for Section 17**

The previous Section 17 audit undertaken in 2004 demonstrated that Divisions had various approaches to the Section 17 duty for their services. A mix of the minimalist, mid level and corporate approaches were evident. However, it is acknowledged that all Divisions should be striving to achieve the corporate approach. It is anticipated that this audit will demonstrate that the Council as a ‘whole’ is progressing towards this approach, however it will also enable us to identify what further work needs to be undertaken.

### **Purpose of this Audit**

The purpose of this Audit is to help Divisions assess their service delivery against the Section 17 standards listed and rate themselves in one of four categories:

- **Gap identified;**
- **Working towards;**
- **Some success; and**
- **Doing well.**

Clearly, these categories could be open to a certain amount of interpretation. To ensure consistency in approach to the Audit, the following guidelines should be followed when classifying levels of success:-

**Gap identified:** The Division feels that, at present, it is not achieving the Section 17 standard and this is, therefore, a gap in its’ current practice. Alternatively, only very limited progress has been made towards the Section 17 standard.

**Working towards:** The Section 17 standard listed has been identified as a gap in current practice and the Division has developed responses or actions to address it. Partial achievement of the Section 17 standard has been made, but substantial further work is required.

**Some success:** To classify itself in this category, the Division will have achieved significant achievement against the Section 17 standard and can give robust examples of this.

**Doing Well:** The Division is delivering well on all aspects of the Section 17 standard. Note that some areas of development and refinement could remain, even when they define themselves as Doing Well.

### **EVIDENCE**

To further avoid subjectivity, Divisions are asked to demonstrate what evidence they drew on to categorise their success. The evidence box is not intended to require a written report under each standard. Instead, where available, it should specifically reference work undertaken which identified the level of success indicated.

### **DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

Included on the audit form is additional space for the identification of development goals relevant to each standard. Where a Division has identified a gap in its performance against a particular standard, this box allows them to identify their goals for improving performance. This box will be very helpful in moving on from the audit process to establishing and delivering a development.

NB – Section 17 Standards are listed on a service basis.

<b>STRATEGY &amp; PERFORMANCE UNIT SERVICES</b>						
<b>SECTION 17 STANDARD</b>	<b>Gap identified</b>	<b>Working towards</b>	<b>Some Success</b>	<b>Doing well</b>	<b>Supporting Evidence</b>	<b>Development Goals</b>
1. Enable information sharing and analysis under Section 115 of the Crime and Disorder Act, 1998.				✓	Information sharing protocols established. 1. Worcestershire Joined Up Information Sharing Protocol. 2. Wyre Forest District Council (WFDC) and West Mercia Constabulary Protocol. 3. WFDC and The Community Housing Group Protocol.	Review effectiveness on an annual basis and update and amend as required.
2. Ensure that all relevant agencies participate in the triennial community safety audit and strategy development cycles.				✓	Third audit was undertaken in 2004. All partners of the Wyre Forest Community Safety Partnership (WFCSP) were given a responsibility for supporting the audit process.	Fourth audit to be undertaken during 2007. Ensure all partners of the WFCSP are given a responsibility for supporting the audit process.
3. Ensure that funding is available to meet the cost of implementing community safety.				✓	WFDC fund one full-time Community Safety Officer's post. WFDC is the employer for the WFCSP funded part-time Partnership Support Officer Post. WFDC has a small pump-priming budget for projects.	Divisional Business Planning to ensure that funding for community safety and meeting Section 17 obligations is mainstreamed into budgeting processes.
4. Secure external funding to fill gaps in local funding plans.				✓	WFDC has an External Funding Working Group. The External Funding Strategy was adopted in April 2005. WFCSP is represented on the Working Group and supported the development of the Strategy. WFDC subscribes to an external funding database, which can be accessed by the Community Safety and Partnerships Officer and others to identify funding opportunities.	To promote the Council's funding database to ensure it supports groups and partnerships looking for funding.

<b>STRATEGY &amp; PERFORMANCE UNIT SERVICES ...continued</b>						
<b>SECTION 17 STANDARD</b>	<b>Gap identified</b>	<b>Working towards</b>	<b>Some Success</b>	<b>Doing well</b>	<b>Supporting Evidence</b>	<b>Development Goals</b>
5. Provide grant-aid to community organisations that are delivering community safety outcomes.			✓		Through available <u>external</u> funding streams, monies are allocated by the WFCSP towards District, North Worcestershire or Worcestershire wide projects. The majority of the Council's budget is allocated towards improving the operation and performance management of the Partnership.	Look at what proportion of the Council's Community Safety Budget can be used to pump prime other projects that may not meet the criteria of the available funding streams.
6. Provide support for the community safety partnership.			✓		One full-time WFDC Officer – Community Safety and Partnerships Officer. Support from WFDC Strategy, Partnerships and Communications Manager. One part-time WFCSP Support Officer One part-time WFCSP Analyst funded through Local Area Agreement funding.	To buy in extra capacity as and when needed for specific pieces of work. A large capacity deficit exists at present. As from April 2006 WFCSP has funded a part time analyst to provide performance management support. Plan to bid into the LAA community safety funding for this post to be full time.
7. Provide support and information for those Councillors overseeing community safety implementation.			✓		Up-date meetings with Cabinet Member for Community Safety, items in Members' Information Bulletin, briefing notes on various issues and information provided on a quarterly basis in Member Group rooms.	Information to be provided through the WFCSP website which is to be launched September 2006. To further increase information provision by developing a newsletter.
8. Promote community safety within the Council, for example, incorporate impact assessments into service plans, reviews and committee/Executive papers.			✓		Some Divisions have effectively built the implications of Section 17 into their Business Plan. The Local Plan very clearly identifies the linkages through the various policy statements around community safety. Cabinet report template has specific section for legal implications. An Internal Community Safety Officer Forum has been established.	To monitor Divisional Business Planning process to ensure Section 17 implications are effectively represented. Section 17 needs to be mainstreamed as a core day to day business item.

<b>STRATEGY &amp; PERFORMANCE UNIT SERVICES ...continued</b>						
<b>SECTION 17 STANDARD</b>	<b>Gap identified</b>	<b>Working towards</b>	<b>Some Success</b>	<b>Doing well</b>	<b>Supporting Evidence</b>	<b>Development Goals</b>
9. Integrate and promote joint working of the Community Safety Partnership with relevant national, regional and local bodies, for example, Home Office, Regional Government Offices, Regional Development Agency, local Youth Offending and Drug Action Teams, voluntary and business sectors, local communities.			✓		Good joint working arrangements exist with such bodies and include the Neighbourhood Renewal Unit for the Warden Schemes and the Neighbourhood Management Pathfinder Programme. Both the Youth Offending Team and Substance Misuse Action Team (SMAT) are members of the Partnership. Have a close working relationship with GOWM on a range of community safety initiatives.	Provide more information to voluntary and business groups to support community safety initiatives. Use the Local Strategic Partnership, Wyre Forest Matters, as a vehicle to achieve this.
10. Link community safety to other strategic planning issues, for example, regeneration, town centre management, policy research, media liaison/public relations/marketing, best value, equalities, customer relationship management, human resources and emergency planning.			✓		Links exist in a number of the areas identified including regeneration (Horsefair Triangle), CCTV in Kidderminster Town Centre, Alcohol Restriction Zone in Bewdley Town Centre and Stourport-on-Severn Town Centre, and relevant media publications including Newswyre.	Continue to raise awareness of the Strategic Priorities for Community Safety as outlined in the current District Community Safety Strategy to ensure all Divisions make the appropriate links as necessary. Where required, support this with appropriate training.
11. Support local community safety activities and projects.			✓		WFCSP has implemented Partnership Tasking, which encompasses the community safety targets such as public perception of crime and anti social behaviour. On a monthly basis a number of actions are identified and are intended to involve all sections of the local community. Allotments allocated to support Probation Service in dealing with offenders assigned to Community Service.	Long term we will be looking to mainstream a larger proportion of this operational activity to front line services as the Community Safety and Partnerships Officer's post in SPU should be focused on the corporate and policy aspects of community safety. To consider further allotment sites for Community Service Scheme.

<b>STRATEGY &amp; PERFORMANCE UNIT SERVICES ...continued</b>						
<b>SECTION 17 STANDARD</b>	<b>Gap identified</b>	<b>Working towards</b>	<b>Some Success</b>	<b>Doing well</b>	<b>Supporting Evidence</b>	<b>Development Goals</b>
12. Raise the profile of community safety in local publications and media channels.			✓		Currently utilising any opportunities possible to promote community safety, including through the local newspapers, the Council's newspaper Newswyre, and The Community Housing Group's Better Streets Ahead.	The WFCSP is planning to produce a quarterly newsletter. The partnership's Website is currently being revised with a re-launch due in Autumn 2006. In conjunction with partners, the Kidderminster, Times & Shuttle are running a 6 week summer feature on community safety issues. Have also had a number of partnership features in Newswyre. Looking to continue to develop relationships with media partners to increase press releases and features in the local media.
13. Ensure that local people receive accurate information about the true risk of becoming a victim of crime.			✓		All publications and press releases seek to include the most up to date and relevant information on crime and disorder issues.	Use of the WFCSP's website to publish up to date crime and disorder statistics. These are currently published on Council's Intranet.
14. Challenge stigmatising images of high-crime neighbourhoods.			✓		Much work has been undertaken in such neighbourhoods, namely Oldington and Foley Park and Horsefair and Broadwaters as all Community Safety Strategies produced for the District have identified these areas as having vulnerable communities.	More press coverage of positive neighbourhood action should be a key development goal for the future. The Neighbourhood Management Pathfinder Programme in Oldington and Foley Park Ward will also contribute to increasing community confidence and raising a positive profile for working towards change in the area.



<b>STRATEGY &amp; PERFORMANCE UNIT SERVICES ...continued</b>						
<b>SECTION 17 STANDARD</b>	<b>Gap identified</b>	<b>Working towards</b>	<b>Some Success</b>	<b>Doing well</b>	<b>Supporting Evidence</b>	<b>Development Goals</b>
15. Develop safer, more attractive environments that generate increased tourism, employment and inward investment.			✓		<p>Liveability issues are central to a number of front line service activities. All areas of Wyre Forest now split into zones to achieve greater improvements in BVPI 199. Cleansing staff now working over 7 days to greater improve cleanliness of environment.</p> <p>Broadwaters Park improvements, more public use, application for Green Flag (quality accreditation). Public Art provision - Broadwaters, Brinton Park, QEII Gardens, Bewdley Flood Defence Public Art project.</p> <p>Kidderminster town centre street furniture painted during spring / summer 2006 and new pedestrian signage installed. Stourport Pride public realm improvement project consultation during summer 2006. Bewdley – improvement works completed to Severnside South and town centre including new street furniture.</p>	<p>Ensure that Divisions mainstream liveability issues into their policy planning. Learn from any Best Practice achieved through the Neighbourhood Management Pathfinder programme.</p> <p>Management Plans for Parks. Heritage Lottery Funding potential for Parks. See supporting evidence.</p>

<b>STRATEGY &amp; PERFORMANCE UNIT SERVICES ...continued</b>						
<b>SECTION 17 STANDARD</b>	<b>Gap identified</b>	<b>Working towards</b>	<b>Some Success</b>	<b>Doing well</b>	<b>Supporting Evidence</b>	<b>Development Goals</b>
16. Support emergency and contingency planning, for example, in dealing with floods.			✓		Emergency Plan in place and team of identified officers. This service is managed by the Cultural, Leisure and Commercial Services Division. However the Chief Executive has overall responsibility for Emergency Planning. Excellent links with Countywide Emergency Planning Team, which has added value to dealing with both the Foot and Mouth and Flooding Emergencies.	Keep up to date with any available training on Emergency Situations and ensure all Members and Officers know who the Emergency Planning Team are.
17. Incorporate community safety issues into community consultation and market research.			✓		Community safety issues continually feature in general quality of life surveys and consultation matters.	Continue to feed community safety issues into community consultation.
18. Integrate community safety consultation with Best Value consultation.			✓		Previous Best Value service reviews including cleansing services and planning have incorporated community safety matters into their respective consultation. Cleansing services was very much focused around liveability issues e.g. litter, graffiti etc.	Continue to mainstream community safety questions into relevant consultation exercises.

<b>STRATEGY &amp; PERFORMANCE UNIT SERVICES ...continued</b>						
<b>SECTION 17 STANDARD</b>	<b>Gap identified</b>	<b>Working towards</b>	<b>Some Success</b>	<b>Doing well</b>	<b>Supporting Evidence</b>	<b>Development Goals</b>
19. Identify and achieve communication with vulnerable and hard-to-reach communities.			✓		The Council has many links to communicate with vulnerable and hard to reach communities and in particular is supported through the various forums: Wyre Forest Race Relations Council. Bangladeshi Forum. North Worcestershire Victim Support. Horsefair and Broadwaters Community Neighbourhood Partnership. Oldington & Foley Park Neighbourhood Management Pathfinder. Wyre Forest Older People's Forum. Wyre Forest Matters, the LSP.	To continue to build on the links established.
20. Devise youth-specific consultation and communication arrangements.			✓		The Council continually explores arrangements for engaging young people in community safety consultation e.g. skateboarding provision across the district, Planning for Real in Horsefair / Broadwaters, restoration of Broadwaters Mill, Oldington and Foley Park Piggy Alley art project, to name a few examples. 'Youthink' annual consultation exercise accomplished using electronic gismos.	Continue to look at other innovative methods for engaging young people in youth specific consultation. In relation to this innovative approach the WFCSP has secured funding to employ 2 roving Neighbourhood Wardens with a specific remit to engage with young people. The Partnership will monitor how this progresses.

<b>LEGAL SERVICES</b>						
<b>SECTION 17 STANDARD</b>	<b>Gap identified</b>	<b>Working towards</b>	<b>Some Success</b>	<b>Doing well</b>	<b>Supporting Evidence</b>	<b>Development Goals</b>
21. Support activities to reduce crime, anti-social behaviour, nuisance and harassment.				✓	Legal advice relating to these matters including consideration to all matters relating to crime and anti-social behaviour.	To deliver well in all aspects of S17 and review.
22. Ensure that contracts incorporate appropriate community safety measures where relevant contracts always include the appropriate S17 requirements.				✓	Nuisance and harassment. Working towards supporting evidence. The contracts proforma has been amended to incorporate appropriate clauses if relevant.	To deliver well in all aspects of S17 and review.
<b>HUMAN RESOURCE SERVICES</b>						
23. Implement corporate policies that provide fair access to services by reducing violence, racial and sexual harassment to both personnel and the public.			✓		New role of Diversity Post created within Human Resources. Safeguarding Children Policy adopted corporately June 2005.	The Authority is currently reviewing its approach.
24. Provide appropriate support to personnel who are victims of crime.			✓		Provide counselling and support through Occupational Health Services.	On going monitoring.
25. Implement corporate policies that reduce substance misuse in the workplace.				✓	Health and Safety policy and Occupational Health support.	Ongoing.
26. Incorporate appropriate community safety perspectives into recruitment procedures and performance appraisal.			✓		The Job Applicant's Information Pack which is sent out with the application form contains information on community safety. The Employee Development Review Questionnaire examines employees' understanding of Section 17.	Ongoing.

<b>HUMAN RESOURCE SERVICES ...continued</b>						
SECTION 17 STANDARD	Gap identified	Working	Some Success	Doing well	Supporting Evidence	Development Goals
27. Provide appropriate support to personnel who are working in situations where their safety may be at risk.				✓	<p>Advisory notes: Lone Working. Aggression and Violence. Risk Assessments – all areas.</p> <p>More workers are now using central control, also training is being given on handling potential violent situations.</p>	<p>The Council is constantly reviewing lone working risk assessment.</p> <p>Continue to encourage use of central control and the voice connect system.</p>

<b>FINANCIAL SERVICES</b>						
28. Establish systems that reduce the risk of the Council's exposure to crime, for example, fraud and theft.				✓	Corporate Governance Framework, Council's Constitution including financial regulations. Internal and external audit reports.	Maintain and monitor current procedures making amendments as required.
29. Track the cost of crime, including petty theft, across the Council and implement measures to reduce it.				✓	Council's Constitution including financial regulations.	Maintain and monitor current procedures making amendments as required.
30. Maximise benefit take up within deprived areas and communities.			✓		Publicity in Newsywe, Council Tax information, Department for Work and Pensions Cutting Council Tax, Completion of Department for Work and Pensions Performance Standards – User Focus and Benefit Strategy.	Department for Work and Pensions Performance Standards – User Focus (Enabler 39).
31. Pool all possible information to reduce benefit fraud with other Council departments and other local agencies under an information-sharing protocol.			✓		Working practices in place, including DWP nationally and locally, and HMRC, Completion of Department for Work and Pensions Performance Standards – Security, and Audit commission – National Fraud Initiative. Liaison with RSL's including The Community Housing Group.	Department for Work and Pensions Performance Standards – Security.

<b>HOUSING SERVICES *</b>						
<b>SECTION 17 STANDARD</b>	<b>Gap identified</b>	<b>Working</b>	<b>Some Success</b>	<b>Doing well</b>	<b>Supporting Evidence</b>	<b>Development Goals</b>
32. Ensure that allocation policies are sufficiently sensitive to create balanced communities.			✓		Some local lettings policies in place and work with The Community Housing Group's Anti Social Behaviour Unit where appropriate. Development at Broomy Close with Waterloo Housing Association has resulted in a reduction in anti social behaviour in the area.	Further negotiations with The Community Housing Group on their proposals to introduce a letting plan at Hurcott Road flats, Kidderminster, which is not seen as a balanced and sustainable community. Also an evaluation of Choice Based Lettings this year.
33. Regulate use of houses in multiple occupation.			✓		Licensable HMOs have been identified and all have applied. All except one have been issued with licences. Landlords have been informed of management requirements including duties regarding anti-social behaviour. New Housing Act 2004 powers for property assessment now allow for assessment of property security as a hazard that can be dealt with and landlords required to make security improvements. Housing grants have been replaced with Decent Home Financial Assistance and includes for improving security, not just ensuring basic facilities.	Maintain and monitor licence conditions.

<b>HOUSING SERVICES ... continued</b>						
<b>SECTION 17 STANDARD</b>	<b>Gap identified</b>	<b>Working towards</b>	<b>Some Success</b>	<b>Doing well</b>	<b>Supporting Evidence</b>	<b>Development Goals</b>
34. Increase the safety of vulnerable people's homes by installing better security measures.			✓		The Council has now successfully established the North Worcestershire Care & Repair Agency with Bromsgrove and Redditch Councils to improve service delivery in this area. The Council has agreed to continue to provide financial support for the Lifeline service by The Community Housing Group.	A review of grant assistance is required in conjunction with the WFCSP. A pilot sanctuary scheme is planned with funding from Priority Needs Order monies from the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM).
35. Seek to provide housing for those most at risk of becoming a victim of crime, for example, homeless people, refugees and asylum seekers.			✓		The Council works closely with the Local Women's Refuge and has recently introduced a floating support scheme to assist homeless people and in particular single vulnerable people. The Council is to extend this scheme through funding it has received from the ODPM.	Through the Supporting People 5-year strategy the Council will be looking to develop specialist housing and support schemes for higher risk individuals such as people with offending backgrounds, those with drug or alcohol problems and mental health problems.
<b>PLANNING SERVICES</b>						
36. Develop community safety guidelines for developers, builders, and statutory local plans, to design out crime in new developments and refurbishment.				✓	Local Development Control policies. Design & Quality Supplementary Planning Guidance has been adopted. Changes to layouts and designs are being achieved with the assistance of the police Architectural Liaison Officer.	Annual monitoring of policies required. New PPS1 cancels former circular 5/94 'Planning Out Crime'.
37. Ensure that a crime impact analysis forms part of development control and planning applications.	n/a					This is no longer relevant as it does not form part of the Best Practice Guidance on the Validation of Planning Applications issued by ODPM in 2005.

\* Section 17 criteria for the Council's Housing Services are greatly reduced due to having no Council housing stock. Through the Wyre Forest Community Safety Partnership we will encourage The Community Housing Group (previously Wyre Forest Community Housing) and other Social Housing Landlords to consider Section 17 implications, if not already doing so.

<b>PLANNING SERVICES ... continued</b>						
<b>SECTION 17 STANDARD</b>	<b>Gap identified</b>	<b>Working towards</b>	<b>Some Success</b>	<b>Doing well</b>	<b>Supporting Evidence</b>	<b>Development Goals</b>
38. Consider community consultation feedback on community safety issues.		✓			Statement of Community Involvement adopted by Council.	
39. Apply 'secured by design' schemes and principles to create safer neighbourhoods.				✓	Negotiated improvements to layouts. Supplementary Planning Guidance as above.	Training for all staff.
40. Work with Police architectural liaison and crime prevention officers to prevent crime through better environmental design.			✓		Police Architectural Liaison Officer consulted and views taken into account. Development proposals amended to take account of suggested changes.	Continuing training needed for Development Control Staff.
41. Promote mixed developments of housing, cultural, retailing, business and leisure that support community activity and natural surveillance in local areas both day and night.				✓	Local Development Control policies being delivered through planning applications and planning briefs e.g. KTC3, STC4 sites.	Monitor and Review policy impact.
42. Exploit planning gain and Section 106 opportunities to attract funding from developers for community safety improvements.			✓		1. Local Development Control policies. 2. Development Control Practice Note. 3. E.g. CCTV funding Kidderminster Town Centre, street lighting.	S106 Obligation Supplementary Planning Guidance held in abeyance pending expected ODPM guidance.



CLEANSING AND PARKS SERVICES						
SECTION 17 STANDARD	Gap identified	Working towards	Some Success	Doing well	Supporting Evidence	Development Goals
43. Maintain and clean all public spaces to improve public perception of neighbourhood value.			✓		<p>Zoning system introduced January 2005 whereby street areas are categorised with specific response targets times. Staff training in enforcement procedures completed. Publicity campaign completed in each town. Working with community groups to deal with issues such as graffiti, dog fouling, fly-tipping etc.</p> <p>BVPI 199 inspections on cleanliness and detritus, and now also fly-tipping, graffiti and fly-posting.</p> <p>Hotspot cleansing in high density continues to be a priority. Improvements have been achieved in <b>BV199 over 12 months with overall performance at 17% below Grade B.</b></p>	<p>Proactive approach by staff involving issue of Fixed Penalty Notices.</p> <p>Continuation of Education and Enforcement programme. Working with schools to highlight cleansing issues.</p> <p>Neighbourhood partnerships set up in Kidderminster and Bewdley. Regular litter picking exercises with help of Opportunity Bewdley.</p> <p>Monitoring system in place to evaluate performance in connection with Zoning.</p>

<b>CLEANSING AND PARKS SERVICES ...continued</b>						
<b>SECTION 17 STANDARD</b>	<b>Gap identified</b>	<b>Working towards</b>	<b>Some Success</b>	<b>Doing well</b>	<b>Supporting Evidence</b>	<b>Development Goals</b>
44. Encourage reporting of, and speed up the removal of, graffiti and fly-posting.				✓	<p>Anti litter campaign.</p> <p>Development of Enforcement Protocol and training of key operational staff in the use of Fixed Penalty Notices.</p> <p>Expanding Fixed Penalty Notices to include offences under the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act which will allow local authorities to deal with graffiti and fly-tipping, issuing fixed penalty notices specifically for these offences.</p>	<p>Working to improve reporting culture and better enforcement.</p> <p>Removal of offensive graffiti and also fly-posting within 24hour period.</p> <p>Closer working relationship with Worcestershire County Council regarding respective responsibilities and protocol is in place.</p> <p>Greater use of Fixed Penalty Notices through provisions in the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act.</p> <p>We have spoken to the local Police to obtain support of the Community Support Officers in the issue of fixed penalty notices for these offences.</p>

<b>CLEANSING AND PARKS SERVICES ...continued</b>						
<b>SECTION 17 STANDARD</b>	<b>Gap identified</b>	<b>Working towards</b>	<b>Some Success</b>	<b>Doing well</b>	<b>Supporting Evidence</b>	<b>Development Goals</b>
45. Efficiently collect and fine against rubbish dumping and littering and provide adequate number of litter bins.				✓	<p>Funding for new litter bins secured – bins installed. Littering enforcement/education sessions held. Key operational staff trained ref. Fixed Penalty Notices. In addition to those recently installed at parks, new litter bins installed in the King George V Playing Field at Marlpool.</p> <p>Collection of data and submission to DEFRA site via 'Fly-capture' Database.</p> <p>Liaison with The Community Housing Group to deal with problems at Redstone Marsh area. 30 FPN's issued since September 2005 with a high proportion of them paid at stage one. One prosecution by Environment Agency and WFCH pursuing dumping of rubbish.</p> <p>Internal protocol produced to clarify responsibilities for littering and rubbish dumping.</p>	<p>Continue with enforcement policy actions.</p> <p>To develop a localised and focused agreement between all agencies with responsibilities and improve action on fly-tipping prosecutions.</p>

<b>CLEANSING AND PARKS SERVICES ...continued</b>						
<b>SECTION 17 STANDARD</b>	<b>Gap identified</b>	<b>Working towards</b>	<b>Some Success</b>	<b>Doing well</b>	<b>Supporting Evidence</b>	<b>Development Goals</b>
46. Efficiently collect and fine against dog fouling and provide adequate number of collection bins.				✓	<p>Warning stickers displayed on highway. Dog fouling enforcement/education sessions held. Key operational staff trained re Fixed Penalty Notices.</p> <p>Publicity to advise that all bins can be used for disposal of dog waste.</p> <p>Parks Patrol includes awareness in dog fouling and preventive measures and trained in enforcement to complete Fixed Penalty Notices.</p> <p>Commenced February 2006 - educational walkabouts, publicity campaign and general raising of profile. Fewer problems seem to be reported of late.</p> <p>Over previous 18 months we have installed an additional 80 litter bins in the Wyre Forest District.</p>	Carry out enforcement policy and on the spot fines. Greater use of Fixed Penalty Notices through provisions in the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act.
47. Maintain clean and safe public toilet facilities.			✓		<p>Review of public toilets in 2003. Refurbishment programme over 3 years. Stourport Riverside, Broadwaters Park, Load Street Car Park - toilets completed.</p>	<p>Brinton Park to follow.</p> <p>Proposals to extend toilets at Stourport Riverside involving a project management company to produce plans etc.</p>

<b>CLEANSING AND PARKS SERVICES ...continued</b>						
SECTION 17 STANDARD	Gap identified	Working towards	Some Success	Doing well	Supporting Evidence	Development Goals
48. Clear and dispose of discarded drug and alcohol-related paraphernalia rapidly and safely.				✓	<p>Staff have 'sharps' boxes in their vehicles to deal with any isolated cases they come across. Needle Collection Points now set up at local public areas in collaboration with SMAT. Disposal units installed at Horsefair and at Rifle Range in Kidderminster.</p> <p>Community Forums in place for each Nature Reserve where problems are dealt with.</p> <p>Liaison with SMAT to deal with the problems.</p>	To continue liaison with other agencies in order to deal with the problems as resources allow.
49. Control growth of trees and vegetation to ensure visibility and surveillance levels on streets and in public open spaces.				✓	<p>Good relationship with Highways Partnership Unit.</p> <p>Working with Police to identify potential security risk areas within Baxter Gardens area where problems have involved young people.</p> <p>Ongoing improvements in Brinton Park.</p>	<p>Continue partnership working and action improvements.</p> <p>Cutting back of shrub vegetation to ground level in the problem areas. This work will be completed during the autumn/winter period 2006/07.</p>
50. Provide warden services that cover parks and open spaces.			✓		<p>Two Parks Patrol Officers and three during summer months. These have been effective in reducing Anti Social Behaviour and assisting Police by identifying persistent offenders. Good interaction with The Community Housing Group's wardens and the Community Support Officers from the Police.</p> <p>Police attend Friends Group meetings take place once a month.</p> <p>PACT meetings held involving members of the community, Police and other agencies to identify problems and resolve them.</p>	<p>Continue to provide service.</p> <p>Work closely with Neighbourhood wardens.</p> <p>Continue development with community and neighbourhood groups to liaise on problems and bring forward improvements.</p>

<b>LICENSING SERVICES &amp; NOISE ENFORCEMENT</b>						
<b>SECTION 17 STANDARD</b>	<b>Gap identified</b>	<b>Working towards</b>	<b>Some Success</b>	<b>Doing well</b>	<b>Supporting Evidence</b>	<b>Development Goals</b>
51. Use licensing and regulatory powers to control alcohol-related crime and disorder.				✓	Alcohol Restriction Zone in Bewdley Licensing Policy Statement approved by Council and annual report provided S17 consideration in Premises Licence Application. Joint training undertaken with Police and Members, regarding Licensing Act 2003 and continues. Enforcement of licensing conditions.	Work with SMAT to develop alcohol reduction strategy.
52. Develop registration and training schemes for door staff in licenced premises.				✓	Security Industry Authority (SIA) now responsible, WFDC monitoring and enforcing by written agreement with the SIA.	Continue to monitor that only licenced staff are used.
53. Support and use mediation approaches to resolve neighbour disputes.		✓			Staff act as 'mediators'. Considering Best Practice Plan South Worcs. Mediation Scheme.	Continue to examine all possibilities of providing an independent mediation service.
54. Enforce noise control legislation.				✓	Response times. Local Performance Indicators. Noise policy. Education – schools etc.	Update procedure notes. Review of use of powers available under Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act.

<b>CAR PARKS / ABANDONED VEHICLES</b>						
<b>SECTION 17 STANDARD</b>	<b>Gap identified</b>	<b>Working towards</b>	<b>Some Success</b>	<b>Doing well</b>	<b>Supporting Evidence</b>	<b>Development Goals</b>
55. Increase safety and security in car parks through CCTV surveillance, radio security, regular patrolling by car park attendants and environmental measures.			✓		<p>Design policies in Local Plan.</p> <p>Currently just below national average for vehicle crime, issued by Home Office.</p> <p>CCTV installed in Kidderminster, partially covering car park areas.</p> <p>Membership of 'Park Mark' now in place and Secure Car Parks Status' achieved for Weavers Wharf Car Park.</p> <p>Height of all shrub beds is monitored by Parks Section and dealt with as appropriate during winter period.</p>	<p>Monitor and review.</p> <p>Continue with CCTV for car parks wherever possible.</p> <p>Car Park improvements will be governed by 'Secure by Design' themes.</p> <p>Improve lighting levels on car parks with high levels of crime.</p> <p>Ongoing shrub maintenance.</p>
56. Encourage reporting of and speed up the removal of abandoned vehicles.				✓	<p>100% of vehicles removed within 24 hours. 100% of vehicles removed within statutory removal timescales.</p> <p>Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act allows the use of Fixed Penalty Notices and greater enforcement.</p>	<p>Continue to develop Partnerships with Police.</p> <p>Improve use of Fixed Penalty Notices for nuisance and abandoned vehicles.</p>

<b>COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT / LEISURE / RECREATION SERVICES</b>						
<b>SECTION 17 STANDARD</b>	<b>Gap identified</b>	<b>Working towards</b>	<b>Some Success</b>	<b>Doing well</b>	<b>Supporting Evidence</b>	<b>Development Goals</b>
57. Ensure that services are influenced by community consultation and are available in disadvantaged areas.				✓	<p>Broadwaters Mill project, Oldington and Foley Park Network, Urban Safety Group, Liveability Fund and Friends of Brinton Park, Friends of QEII. Gardens Consultation Groups set up and TeenZone for Spennells. Schools and Police consultation exercises in relation to new play areas and Skate Park.</p> <p>Brinton Park Consultation exercise completed during Summer 2006.</p> <p>Creative Arts Consultation Exercise relating to Seating Scheme for Brinton Park. Consultation in King Charles and Comberton Schools. Youth Club to develop Spennells Youth Shelter.</p> <p>Consultation completed at Easter 2006 within the Walshes area completed by the Oldington and Foley Park Network and WFDC, including target groups of 5-13yrs and 13-19yrs.</p>	<p>Consultation exercise to be completed for the provision of a Skatepark in Stourport. Also for the proposed Multi Activity Play Areas and with local schools for the Baxter Gardens, Northwood Lane in Bewdley and Jerusalem Walk in Kidderminster for proposed play areas.</p> <p>To establish the Environmental Education Project in partnership with Ranger Service and Oldington and Foley Park Network, funded by Children's Fund and Youth Service to meet joint targets.</p>
58. Provide playschemes for younger children.				✓	<p>5 After School Clubs. Holiday Schemes. Concessions available. Working in partnerships. Different settings to appeal to a wider audience. Further refinement of hours for Kids Clubs.</p>	<p>Continue development of playschemes. Action following internal review. Summer staff and induction training.</p>



<b>COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT / LEISURE / RECREATION SERVICES ...continued</b>						
<b>SECTION 17 STANDARD</b>	<b>Gap identified</b>	<b>Working towards</b>	<b>Some Success</b>	<b>Doing well</b>	<b>Supporting Evidence</b>	<b>Development Goals</b>
59. Provide staff training in crime prevention and management of disruptive behaviour.				✓	Staff training in this area has taken place with summer rangers, sports development coaches, play leaders etc. Drugs Awareness training for Community Development. Staff Level 1 achieved, some staff moving on to next level. Safeguarding Children Policy has a Code of Behaviour for Young People and a Code of Conduct for Employees. Summer staff have received comprehensive training package.	To work towards all staff in Community Development undertaking external training where appropriate. Staff Inductions. Training Needs. To pursue training within Parks Section to deal with problems in the community. SARA model identified by the Police as a recommended training exercise.

<b>COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT / LEISURE / RECREATION SERVICES ...continued</b>						
<b>SECTION 17 STANDARD</b>	<b>Gap identified</b>	<b>Working towards</b>	<b>Some Success</b>	<b>Doing well</b>	<b>Supporting Evidence</b>	<b>Development Goals</b>
60. Promote and provide a mix of activities that meet the needs of different groups and ages.				✓	<p>Leisure centre programme. Community Development projects. Leisure events. Skateboarding, youth shelter Young Rangers and Far Out Club, Playschemes, Active Communities Project, Community Sports Coach Scheme, Community Development Projects (Arts and Sports). Liaison with The Community Housing Group, Oldington and Foley Park Network, Children's Fund, The County Sports Partnership to name but a few. Liaison with Connexions for young people identified as within an 'at risk' category. Parties in the Park led by Police and supported by WFDC.</p> <p>Youth shelter opened in Spennells.</p>	<p>Disability scheme funded by Area Health Authority - celebration Sports Day July 2006.</p> <p>Ranger Education project for target wards and young people.</p> <p>MUGA for St. George's Park with floodlighting application to the Football Foundation.</p> <p>Summer Action Squad activities for the 10-14 years category.</p> <p>Approval for skatepark in Stourport.</p> <p>Four Multi Activity Play Areas Planned.</p>
61. Provide accurate, accessible high-quality service information.				✓	<p>Well-honed in-production of Summer Programme. Good quality Publicity produced with Connexions to promote holiday activities. New theme and style adopted for 2006. Summer brochure appearing on internet. Innovative booking system for teenagers (text). Website information. Additional fliers aimed at youth.</p>	<p>Mailing List updated and reviewed regularly. i.e. every holiday period.</p>