



meeting	County Council	
date	16 December 2004	agenda item number

REPORT OF THE DEPUTY LEADER

Purpose of Report

To outline key current themes and issues from the Deputy Leader's portfolio

Community Protection

Emergency Planning

During November the Civil Contingencies Bill completed its passage through Parliament and gained Royal Assent. The Bill, now an Act, sets out a new framework for civil protection work at the local level. The key implications for the County Council relate to new burdens arising from the legislation and the funding of emergency planning. Members of the Emergency Planning Team are working with colleagues from other organisations affected by the new legislation to design and develop local arrangements to fulfil the requirements of the Act. Draft Regulations and accompanying draft guidance are due to be released shortly, by the Cabinet Office, and will be subject to a twelve week period of consultation.

The Emergency Planning Team, in meeting our commitment to community resilience, has been engaged in a wide range of activities. Most notably the team played a leading part in the design and staging of a multi-agency media response exercise "Blowback." The event involved press officers and media representatives, and focused on a supposed major gas pipeline incident.

The team is also involved in the regional health-led initiative to identify and plan for mass vaccination centres for use in disease outbreaks of any kind.

Registration Service

The Registration Service has continued in its programme for implementation of the major changes to the services being brought forward by the government. The Nottinghamshire Civil Registration Review Project Team and subgroups are implementing a Project Plan devised to achieve the objectives recommended by the General Register Office.

In respect of Citizenship Ceremonies, the Registration Services has now staged events that have welcomed more than one hundred new British citizens living in Nottinghamshire.

Trading Standards Service

Alcohol: Anti Social Behaviour

The Trading Standards Service are again participating in the national exercise over Christmas and the New Year to try and curtail under age youngsters from being able to

purchase alcohol. Working in partnership with the Police our efforts are aimed at trader awareness of proof of age cards and market testing at off licenses. A "hot line" is now also in place to allow the public to tell us of premises they suspect are selling to underage youngsters.

Consumer Direct

The East Midlands Co-ordinators Of Trading Standards (EMCOTS) regional provider for Consumer Direct: East Midlands have now contracted with the DTI to develop and manage CD: EM. This event was formally launched by the Secretary of State on 10th December. Trading Standards colleagues across the region are now working hard to assist in the development of the call centre which will be operational by September 2005. The CD: EM call centre will then be the initial telephone contact for our consumers seeking advice on problems with goods and services.

Peer Review

Good progress has been made by officers in Trading Standards in our self assessment for the Trading Standards Peer Review. We will be formally reviewed by a team from EMCOTS and the Improvement and Development Agency (IDeA) in March 2005.

Counterfeit Clothing

We have for a number of years tried to put some of the counterfeit goods we seize to good use. In a new innovation on 7 December I helped "see off" a large number of items of clothing to the Children's Society. The Children's Society are a charitable organisation, and can reprocess the clothes and where possible, remove the offending registered trade marks and apply their own "Subterfuge" Once reprocessed the goods can be sold through their charity shops. The clothing which cannot be reprocessed because the trade mark is inherent throughout the garments is sent to an organisation called International Aid. They sanitise the clothes and remove as many trade names as possible before branding them with the words "this is a counterfeit item; it is for humanitarian aid and is not for sale". International Aid take the clothing abroad and distribute it themselves, this minimises the risk of fraudulent usage.

Festive Enforcement

The Christmas season is a busy period for Trading Standards. This year's activities will cover:

- Consumer Education on buying gifts and presents
- Checking at Sunday Markets
- Checking licensed premises for brand substitution and adulteration of spirits
- Fresh/previously frozen poultry

Regeneration, Learning Skills & Employment

Safer Communities

Anti Social Behaviour

Good progress has been made in the development of a multi agency Nottinghamshire wide Anti Social Behaviour Strategy, the purpose of which is to ensure consistency of approach and service provision across the county. At its meeting in October, the Nottinghamshire Community Safety Board reviewed work so far and agreed to finalise the strategy and an action plan for implementation early in 2005.

In parallel with partnership developments, a County Council Anti Social Behaviour Policy which will clarify and agree roles and responsibilities of each department is being prepared. This will also be brought forward for full Council approval early in 2005.

Home Office Review of Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRPs)

The County Council will be involved in a Home Office review of Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRPs). Announced as part of the Police Reform White Paper in November, the working of CDRPs is to be examined by the end of February 2005. The Review will look at how CDRPs have performed since their establishment in 1996, and look at areas of improvement. Issues that will be considered will include role, accountability, inspection, mainstreaming, engagement, two tier working, membership, funding, data sharing, CDRP mergers, drugs, alcohol and crime, links with other partnerships, and boundaries. The Council will be involved as part of the consultation process and via the working groups that have been established by the Home Office.

Substance Misuse

The series of scrutiny seminars is continuing. The seminars have been designed to provide a range of information on drug related issues. The next two seminars are detailed below.

- 21 January, NICC, 0930-12.30
- Health's role in treating drug users, particularly those with mental health problems
- 14 March, NICC, 0930-1230
- The Voluntary Sector's role in substance misuse in communities

Youth Offending Service

The Youth Offending Service recently funded and piloted a new scheme called On Track for high risk persistent offenders currently subject to ISSP (Intensive Supervision and Surveillance Programme). ISSP provides an intensive 25 hour a week programme which has a range of supervision requirements such as specific sessions to address offending behaviour, use of leisure time and consequences to victims.

The countywide On Track project has been developed in partnership with the Youth Service and is located at the Folkhouse in Mansfield. The concept was developed from an existing project run, in schools, for disaffected young people. The structured group work programme looks at all aspects of a young person's life, such as activities to reduce future offending as well as increasing interpersonal skills.

To date an impressive 65% of users have not re-offended and have gained significant benefits. It is hoped that the programme can be extended to include other partners and become a 'one stop shop' approach

Cllr David Kirkham
Deputy Leader