

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

REPORT

To: NORTH AREA AREA COMMITTEE		Subject: COMMUNITY REGENERATION UNIT WARD VISITS: COMMON ISSUES
From: CHIEF EXECUTIVE		
Date: 9 January 2005	Ref: SM/PN/SC	

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise the Committee of the outcome of the programme of ward visits and proposals for resolving some of the issues identified.

2. Background

- 2.1 As part of the process of developing a Regeneration Strategy for North Lanarkshire, a series of ward visits were arranged throughout the late Summer and early Autumn with local members, the purpose of which was to discuss issues and opportunities affecting their individual wards.
- 2.2 This process is now complete with the information gathered collated on a themed basis, attached as Appendix 1 to the report. The majority of the operational issues raised relate to the quality of the environment, estate management and community safety.
- 2.3 The issues raised require to be dealt with as follows:
- 2.3.1 Resolution of urgent problems, for example, those affecting health and safety, have been dealt with through direct intervention by the Local Regeneration Managers with the relevant Council Department or partner agency.
- 2.3.2 Crosscutting issues to be considered in more depth by the Corporate Management Team or in discussion with partner agencies.
- 2.3.3 Localised service delivery matters will be resolved by the Local Regeneration Manager in liaison with the appropriate member of the Area Team.
- 2.4 The Community Regeneration Unit is in the process of considering how the ward visit information affects policy, procedure and service delivery and how it may be incorporated into the Neighbourhood Improvement Plan process.

3. Proposals/Considerations

- 3.1 It is proposed to progress the list of common issues outlined in Appendix 1 with the appropriate department to explore ways to improve operational performance.
- 3.2 Three main issues have arisen that may have some impact on the policies and procedures of several Departments. Due to the complex nature of these issues, it is proposed that the Community Regeneration Unit facilitate workshop sessions in relation to:
- Estate Management
 - Youth Services
 - Land and Building Ownership

- 3.3 It is intended that the relevant department and partner agencies examine the problems experienced, implications for the Council and partner agencies investigate powers to allow change and develop protocols to influence these issues. A list of appropriate officers is being identified and it is proposed that these workshops will take place late January and February 2006.

4. Corporate Considerations

- 4.1 The issues to be considered involve the activities of several Council Departments. Members should be aware that there may be policy implications affecting North Lanarkshire Council and its Partners.

5. Recommendations

- 5.1 It is recommended that the Committee:

- (i) note the list of common issues identified during the ward visits as detailed in Appendix 1
- (ii) approve the proposal to consider the issues highlighted by the examples in paragraphs 3.2 and;
- (iii) otherwise note the content of this report

G. Whitefield **G.** *Whitefield*

Gavin Whitefield
Chief Executive
9 January 2005

1. Common operational issues arising from ward visits.

Environmental: Open space maintenance; condition of footpaths; street parking; poor condition of equipment and land belonging to public utilities

Estate management: Gardens, both council owned and private dwellings; fencing; services provided by contractors

Community Safety: Antisocial behaviour; graffiti; vandalism; illegal dumping; abandoned vehicles; lighting; selling of alcohol to underage young people; police response times

General: Provision of services to young people

2. Policy/Procedural

- Factoring & maintenance issues within estates, gardens and buildings - private sector
- Development of land for housing and infrastructure development, for example, schools
- Neighbourhood shopping
- Development of land for community use
- Private housing - maintenance responsibilities/ small pockets of ground left un-maintained
- Private housing - capital programme involvement
- Roads and lighting within private estates not of the standard required for adoption by the Council
- Consultation with local people on a number of issues