

## COUNCIL – 23RD JUNE 2008

### ITEM 4 TO DEAL WITH QUESTIONS SUBMITTED UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 5(i)

#### A. Councillor Bava – Community Safety

Does the Leader recognise concerns in the community about anti-social behaviour, drugs and criminal damage; will he tell Council what discussions the lead member for Community Safety has had with the Police regarding recently reported anti-social behaviour and criminal damage and what action is proposed with regard to drugs and alcohol related crimes. Will he comment on the measures needed to engage young people in priority neighbourhoods, particularly over the summer period.

*The Leader or his nominee will respond:*

*Reducing criminality and anti-social behaviour are high on the Council's agenda as evidenced in their coverage in the developing corporate plan, which is currently out for consultation. It has been pleasing to see the significant improvement in overall crime figures for the Borough recently, much of which has been achieved through close collaboration with partners through the Community Safety Partnership. The Partnership's Plan for the next three years was adopted in March and its main themes are all about further improving performance on the issues mentioned by Councillor Bava. Delivery of that Plan will build on the close and regular working relationships between Council staff and Police staff at all levels and through established liaison mechanisms such as the Priority Neighbourhoods Sub- Group of Charnwood Together, Police led Joint Action Groups and the Anti-social Behaviour Theme Group of the Partnership.*

*The recent Audit Commission Inspection of Community Safety found, amongst other things:*

*“The Council is proactive in its approach to anti-social behaviour and is targeting resources jointly with partners at hot spot areas to reduce criminal activity. Examples include the following.*

- Youth Zone projects in the Ashby Road area of Loughborough, which have reduced anti-social behaviour in the immediate vicinity by about 40 per cent.*
- Targeting theft from vehicles in the borough's rural car parks and beauty spots which has reduced this category of crime by about 40 per cent.*
- Through educating of students through Fresher week and issuing 'D' locks for university student's pedal cycles reduced theft of cycles by 17 per cent.*
- With partners undertook a number of 'clean up' campaigns.*

*These activities are contributing to improved performance and a reduction in all crime categories across the Borough.”*

*A practical example of this work already going on has been in the Peel Drive area of Loughborough where joint activity by the Council, Charnwood Neighbourhood housing and others has started to bring about improvements in a living environment where anti-social behaviour linked to drugs and alcohol issues have been a long running problem. The introduction of CCTV in this area as part of a package of measures was instigated by the Council in response to resident’s concerns. This provides an approach that will be adapted appropriately to other problem locations as part of our joint approach. Similarly the success of the Youthzone Project in the Ashby Road area is having a beneficial effect and the Council is providing funds and staff time, alongside the Police and other partners to assist that initiative develop further.*

*The Council is currently in the process of finalising the summer holiday programme. The programme runs activities across the Borough including in the Leisure Centres at Loughborough, Mountsorrel and Syston and several activity days in local parks. The play rangers are also running activities over the summer including sessions in Cobden, Thurmaston and Mountsorrel.*

*With regards to our Priority Neighbourhoods, examples of activities include:*

- 1. a programme for Mountsorrel that has been developed through partnership working with Serco, the Parish Council and the local church.*
- 2. For the Cobden area there is a summer programme running with activities for 0-4 which is free and 5-11 year olds for 50p a day.*
- 3. The Council is supporting Youth Zone in the Ashby Road area on a scheme of activity over the summer including dance classes, art and crafts and, if a funding bid is successful, a mobile skate park*

#### PROCEDURE FOR QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Council Procedure Rule 5 applies to questions, which Councillors have given notice that they wish to ask. This rule enables a Councillor who has given the required notice to ask a question of the Leader or the Chair of a committee a question and, if they reserve the right to do so, ask a supplementary question and make a statement.