

**BLACKWOOD TOWN CENTRE MANAGEMENT GROUP –  
28TH APRIL 2005**

**SUBJECT: TOWN CENTRE IMPROVEMENT GROUP**

**REPORT BY: ANDREW HIGHWAY**

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**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 Blackwood Town Council have requested that matters be reported and the attached provides information on the Town Centre Improvement Group.

**2. SUMMARY**

- 2.1 The Town Centre Improvement Group was established, as an officer lead group to ensure that there is a coordinated approach to Town Centre Management in the three principle towns within the County Borough. A cabinet report was submitted in November 2004 proposing the setting up of this group and was subsequently agreed.

**3. THE REPORT**

- 3.1 The Town Centre Improvement Group is intended to complement the three Town Centre Management Groups, which exist in Blackwood, Bargoed and Caerphilly. Essentially the group is seen as a way to address issues which arise from the individual Town Centre Management Groups and provides a forum to ensure that there is a coordinated response from senior officers within Caerphilly County Borough Council.
- 3.2 It is vital to the success of all town centres that they are well maintained, and project a positive image. Areas that are uncared for can appear dangerous or dirty; this will deter visitors and stifle private investment. Frequent areas of concern are excess litter, graffiti; fly posting, broken and cracked paving slabs, defective street lamps and anti-social behaviour.
- 3.3 Therefore when matters are raised in the individual Town Centre Management Groups, it is considered that follow up action needs to be better coordinated and focused through the new Town Centre Development Manager. This would involve an ongoing process of Environmental Audit, which could monitor action and keep outstanding matters under review.
- 3.4 It was agreed that the remit of the Town Centre Improvement Group would be to
- Improve the environment within the three town centres for all users;
  - Benchmark the performance of CCBC services in the three town centres;
  - Demonstrate the commitment of CCBC as an authority to the environmental improvement of the three town centres;
  - Provide an internal forum for CCBC to address issues that blight town centres, such as graffiti, fly posting, anti-social behaviour, retail theft and auto crime.

It is important that the Group should be seen as complementary to the existing Town Centre Management Groups and be the means to ensure that environmental matters that are the responsibility of CCBC are addressed in an expeditious manner.

Since the inception of the Town Centre Management Group it has been agreed that the chair of the three Town Centre Management Groups will attend so as to feedback any outcomes.

#### **4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 There are no direct financial consequences as the prime purpose of the group is monitoring and coordinating work indirectly, however when action is required within the town centres this will impact on individual service area budgets.

#### **5. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 The administrative backup for the group will be provided by the Town Centre Development Manager.

Author: Andrew Highway, Towns Centre Development Manager.