

REPORT TO: POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE - 23 JUNE 2008
REPORT ON: DUNDEE PARTNERSHIP SOCIAL SURVEY 2008
REPORT BY: ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE (COMMUNITY PLANNING)
REPORT NO: 329-2008

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report summarises the main findings from the Dundee Partnership's Social Survey 2008 and explains their use.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Committee:

- i) notes the results contained in the report and agree that the issues raised should inform the Single Outcome Agreement for Dundee and the Fairer Scotland Fund programme
- ii) authorises officers to publish the report on the Dundee Partnership website and distribute copies to partner organisations and representative bodies to report on progress in achieving regeneration in the city

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None.

4. INTRODUCTION

- 4.1 In 2005, the Dundee Partnership adopted a 3 year Regeneration Outcome Agreement (ROA) as the basis for its programme of activities to be supported through the then Scottish Executive's Community Regeneration Fund 2005-8. To set a starting point for the agreed ROA targets, a baseline social survey was undertaken in 2005 to establish the circumstances, behaviours and attitudes of community regeneration areas in relation to health, community safety, employment, education and neighbourhood facilities and services.
- 4.2 The Dundee Partnership Social Survey 2008 measures the progress which has been made against the ROA targets to March 2008. It also compares the community regeneration areas in Dundee with the rest of the city to assess whether the Regeneration Outcome Agreement has helped to 'close the gap' in relation to deprivation.
- 4.3 The survey was conducted by an independent market research company, Ashbrook Research & Consultancy. The survey was based on a sample of 1,250 citizens with 200 in each of the community regeneration areas and a further 250 from other parts of the city. Respondents were interviewed in their homes during February and March 2008.
- 4.4 Key results from the survey are summarised below. A full copy of the research report will be sent to each Group Secretary and made available in the members' lounge.

5. KEY RESULTS

5.1 Results are presented based on key questions within thematic priorities.

5.2 Neighbourhood and Services

- Over 90% of respondents noted their satisfaction with the quality and/or access to community centres, local libraries, local health clinics, local community groups, schools, public transport, local day centres, local shops and local youth facilities
- Over 4 out of 5 of those interviewed in community regeneration areas stated that they were satisfied with the quality of life in their neighbourhood. There was a notable increase in the proportion of respondents in these areas stating that they were very satisfied
- Respondents within the community regeneration areas expressed a belief that they have some influence over decisions which affect their neighbourhood at levels higher than those living elsewhere in Dundee

5.3 Health

- All respondents in community regeneration areas stated that they were registered with a GP or health centre
- Around two thirds of those interviewed in the community regeneration areas stated their belief that their overall health was good
- Levels of physical activity remained consistent with the results from 2005
- 2 out of 5 of those interviewed in the community regeneration areas in 2008 stated that were 'current smokers' representing a slight fall since 2005
- a majority of those interviewed in the community regeneration areas stated they would like to change their lifestyle to become more healthy

5.4 Education

- The proportion of respondents in the community regeneration areas who stated that they had no qualifications reduced from 49% to 29%
- Two thirds of those in the community regeneration areas who had undertaken a course in the last year expressed confidence that their course would improve their employment prospects, although this represented a slight fall since 2005

5.5 Employment

- 43% of respondents from the community regeneration areas in 2008 were in employment compared to 35% in 2005
- Economically active respondents identified a wide range of barriers to finding a job in Dundee including 'lack of job opportunities in the City', 'people not looking for work' and 'lack of skills in general'. However, many barriers were seen as being of less significance in 2008 than had been the case in 2005

5.6 Community Safety

- Around a third of those interviewed in the community regeneration areas in 2008 stated that in the past year they had felt fearful about becoming a victim of crime. This represents a slight fall since 2005 but is higher than the figure for those living elsewhere in Dundee
- Amongst those stating that they had felt fearful about becoming a victim of crime in the past year, this was most likely to have been on '1-3 occasions' with a decrease between 2005 and 2008 in the extent to which respondents had felt fearful '20 times or more'
- Between 2005 and 2008 there was a slight decrease in the 'extent of fearfulness' amongst those who felt fearful about becoming a victim of crime in the previous year
- As in 2005, around 1 in 5 of those interviewed in 2008 across the city stated that, in the last year, either themselves or a member of their household had been a victim of crime (with this figure being higher in the community regeneration areas i.e. 1 in 5 compared to 1 in 6 for those living elsewhere in Dundee)

6 **CLOSING THE GAP**

6.1 A change in the sample sizes make it impossible to provide definitive comparisons between the 2005 and 2008 surveys in relation to 'closing the gap' between community regeneration areas and the rest of the city. However, the researchers have judged that "...on the basis of notable improvements within the ROA areas, it can be concluded that there is likely to have been a degree of convergence".

6.2 Appendix 1 lists those areas where gaps have reduced and those for which gaps continue to be significant.

7 **CONCLUSIONS**

7.1 The results of the Dundee Partnership Social Survey 2008 show that progress is being made in dealing with the challenges of continuing deprivation in significant areas of the city. While there are to be areas where the deprivation gap is being closed, there remains a degree of inequality which will continue to be the focus of the Dundee Partnership activity.

7.2 The results of this survey have informed the first Single Outcome Agreement for Dundee which highlights the ongoing impact of poverty and deprivation on the city and its ongoing impact of poverty and deprivation on the city and its people. Indicators which continue to capture this information at a Dundee level will be included in the next

iteration of the Single Outcome Agreement which will be developed by partners through the rest of 2008/9.

8. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 This report has been screened for any policy implications in respect of Sustainability, Strategic Environmental Assessment, Anti-Poverty, Equality Impact Assessment and Risk Management.
- 8.2 The results of this survey will inform the Dundee Partnership's planning and address numerous anti-poverty priorities.

9 CONSULTATIONS

The Chief Executive, Depute Chief Executives and Head of Finance have been consulted on this report.

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

The following background paper was relied upon in the preparation of this report:

Social Survey 2008 - report prepared for the Dundee Partnership by Ashbrook Research and Consultancy Ltd - May 2008

Chris Ward
Assistant Chief Executive (Community Planning)..... 17/06/2008

Dundee Partnership : Social Survey 2008

'Closing the Gap' Conclusion

A Reductions in 'Gaps'

- The greater extent to which those living in the ROA areas believe that their neighbourhood had changed 'for the better' over the past five years (in comparison to those living elsewhere in Dundee)
- The increasing extent to which those living within the ROA areas are 'very satisfied' with their house or home
- The increasing extent to which those living within the ROA areas noted satisfaction with local community groups and local youth facilities within their neighbourhood
- The increasing extent to which those living within the ROA areas noted satisfaction with a number of aspects of their neighbourhood, including shopping facilities, the quality/maintenance of open spaces, the condition of roads, pavements and street lighting, cleanliness of streets and the cleanliness of the area around their home
- The increasing extent to which those within the ROA areas believe their overall health to be 'good'
- The decline in the proportion of 'current smokers' in the ROA areas
- The increasing extent to which those living within the ROA areas noted a desire to change their lifestyle in relation to, for example, improving diet, taking more exercise, losing weight, giving up smoking and drinking less alcohol
- The increasing extent to which those interviewed in the ROA areas are in employment
- Increasing awareness of Job Centre Plus amongst those in the ROA areas, and increasing use of this source of help regarding employment, together with Further Education and local learning/neighbourhood centres and libraries
- The increasing extent to which those living ROA areas have benefited from Further Education and local learning/neighbourhood centres and libraries
- The reduction in the extent to which those living within the ROA areas are dependent upon income support
- The increasing extent to which those fearful about becoming a victim of crime in the ROA areas in the last year had been fearful infrequently

B Continuing Significant 'Gaps'

- The greater extent to which those living outwith the ROA areas perceive their neighbourhood to be 'quiet and peaceful'

- The lesser extent to which those living outwith the ROA areas perceive 'drugs and alcohol problems' as a worsening aspect of their neighbourhood
- The greater levels of satisfaction expressed by those living outwith the ROA areas with their home or house
- The greater extent to which those living outwith the ROA areas would like to remain within their existing accommodation for the next two years
- The greater levels of satisfaction with a number of aspects of neighbourhood services expressed by those living outwith the ROA areas, including local dentists, local childcare facilities, social facilities and local youth facilities
- The greater extent to which those living outwith the ROA areas noted their belief that it was easy to access two key aspects of their local neighbourhood services, namely local childcare facilities and arts, sports or leisure facilities
- The greater level of satisfaction expressed by those outwith the ROA areas with the quality of life in their neighbourhood
- The greater extent to which those living outwith the ROA areas were registered with a dentist
- The lesser extent to which those living outwith the ROA areas were current smokers
- The greater extent to which those interviewed outwith the ROA areas were in employment (and, in particular, in full time employment), and the lesser extent to which such respondents were unemployed
- The greater extent to which those interviewed outwith the ROA areas were in the ABC1 social classification groupings
- The greater extent to which those living outwith the ROA areas were aware of a range of sources to help regarding employment, including Further Education, local learning/neighbourhood centres and libraries, Government Schemes, Business Start-up Advice and Adult Guidance Service
- The greater extent to which those outwith the ROA areas had benefited from Further Education
- The lesser extent to which those living outwith the ROA areas had felt fearful about becoming a victim of crime in the past year, allied to the greater extent to which such residents had felt fearful on a relatively infrequent basis
- The lesser extent to which those living outwith the ROA areas had experienced crime, allied to a lower experience of vandalism, assault and robbery and theft of a vehicle
- The greater extent to which those living outwith the ROA areas possessed insurance for the contents of their home