

By: Mr P M Hill – Cabinet Member for Community Services
Mr P Sass – Head of Democratic Services and Local Leadership

To: Communities Policy Overview Committee - 7 July 2009

Subject: Crime and Disorder Committee

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: This report updates the Committee on the identification of this Committee as the County Council's "Crime and Disorder Committee" and the way forward to establish Protocols for the operation of this part of the Committee's remit.

Background

1. (1) At the meeting of the County Council on 30 April 2009 the Communities Policy Overview Committee was designated as this Council's committee to discharge the functions of scrutiny of crime and disorder strategies in accordance with Section 19 of the Police and Justice Act 2006.

(2) The Crime and Disorder Committee has the power to:-

- Review and scrutinise decisions made, or other action taken, in connection with the discharge by the authorities responsible for Crime and Disorder strategies of their Crime and Disorder functions and make recommendations.
- Consider a Councillor Call for Action relating to crime and disorder matters. (the process for this is set out in the draft Councillor Call for Action protocol)

(3) The responsible authorities for the purposes of the Committee are :-

- The Police Authority
- The Police Force
- The Fire and Rescue Authority
- Primary Care Trusts
- Local Authorities

2. In order that there can be clarity, for both Members and Officers, about the way that the Committee will operate it was agreed at County Council that a draft protocol be produced and considered by the Communities Policy Overview Committee and Policy Overview Co-ordinating Committee. It is suggested that the resulting amended draft be shared with authorities responsible for Crime and Disorder strategies and their comments sought, prior to the protocol being submitted to County Council for approval.

Way forward

3. It is suggested that the Chairman meet with representatives from the responsible authorities to discuss how this committee should exercise its new remit of being a “critical friend” to the Community Safety Partnership. The Cabinet Member will also be invited to attend this meeting.

4. Following this meeting a draft protocol will be produced which will be submitted to the September meeting of this Committee for consideration and amendment prior to being circulated to the responsible authorities as a draft for their comments.

Recommendation

5. The Committee is requested to note the report

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Background documents: Nil