

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

COMMUNITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 21 JULY 2009

REPORT BY EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY SAFETY

10. MEMBER INVOLVEMENT WITH COMMUNITY SAFETY CONSULTATION

WARD(S) AFFECTED: All

'D' RECOMMENDATION - that (A) the need to promote greater Member influence in the annual Community Safety Partnership public consultation be supported;

(B) ways of involving Members in individual partner consultation and engagement methods within the remit of community safety be considered; and

(C) Members' skills and knowledge in developing community safety priorities be used.

1.0 Purpose/Summary of Report

1.1 To provide opportunities for members to have a greater involvement in community safety consultation.

1.2 To highlight the importance of public and member consultation in identifying community safety priorities.

2.0 Contribution to the Council's Corporate Priorities/Objectives

2.1 **Promoting prosperity and wellbeing; providing access and opportunities**

Priority: Enhance the quality of life, health and wellbeing of individuals, families and communities, particularly those who are vulnerable.

3.0 Background

3.1 The Community Safety Partnership is a multi- agency partnership comprising of six statutory responsible authorities;

- East Herts Council
 - Hertfordshire Constabulary
 - Hertfordshire County Council
 - Hertfordshire Police Authority
 - Primary Care Trusts
 - Hertfordshire Fire and Rescue
- 3.2 The partnership also comprises of other non-statutory agencies including organisations from the voluntary sector (for example, drug and alcohol agencies, Victim Support, Age Concern etc) and Registered Social Landlords (the two biggest within East Herts are Riversmead and South Anglia).
- 3.3 The work of the Community Safety Partnership is underpinned by the six Hallmarks of effective Partnerships:
- Empowered and Effective Leadership
 - Intelligence-led Business Processes
 - Effective and Responsive Delivery Structures
 - Engaged Communities
 - Visible and Constructive Accountability
 - Appropriate Skills and Knowledge
- 3.4 The Community Safety Plan (2008-11) is the policy document detailing the strategic obligations for the partnership over a three year period. It details how the partnership will address crime and disorder, measure performance and engage with communities on community safety issues.
- 3.5 The Plan is revised annually through strategic assessments which detail the evidenced based partnership priorities which are the focus of the partnership for 12 months.
- 3.6 An action plan is produced as a result of the emerging priorities from each strategic assessment.
- 3.7 A key component of the strategic assessment evidence base is consultation.
- 4.0 Report
- 4.1 Every 12 months the Community Safety Partnership must consult at least once with communities about crime and disorder issues within the district and about what priorities the partnership should tackle.

4.2 The obligation for the partnership to consult on an annual basis must be conducted in addition to any consultation and engagement methods employed by individual partners, such as the regular police locality meetings, the council Community Voice meetings and the Housing Associations Door Step Challenges. However, individual partner consultation and engagement methods are highly valued by the partnership and are reviewed as part of the annual partnership consultation.

4.3 The partnership would like to explore the ways members could have a greater influence in the annual Community Safety Partnership public consultation, review member involvement in individual partner consultation and engagement methods and consider being involved in community safety priority setting.

4.4 This report should bear in mind forthcoming changes to Section 19 of the Police and Justice Act 2006 which require every local authority to have a crime and disorder committee with the power to review or scrutinise partnership decisions taken by the responsible authorities in the discharge of their crime and disorder functions. This also places greater emphasis on the role of members.

4.5 Recommendations

(A) The need to promote greater Member influence in the annual Community Safety Partnership public consultation by:

- Identifying community groups who could participate in partnership consultation
- Identifying key community leaders/stakeholders who could participate in the consultation
- Assisting with promoting new Community Safety Partnership consultation events and opportunities

(B) To consider ways of involving Members in individual partner consultation and engagement methods with the remit of community safety:

- Ensuring that member's skills and knowledge are reflected in existing partner consultations
- Assisting with promoting existing partner consultations

Partner consultations could include relevant police public meetings which set local priorities on a monthly basis, locality meetings and street briefings.

(C) To endeavour to use Member skills and knowledge in developing community safety priorities by:

- Evaluating the draft strategic assessment to contribute to intelligence led priorities
- Suggesting any community groups that may be affected by the priorities identified
- Highlighting ways the community can help in supporting the delivery of the priorities in the partnership plan

5.0 Consultation

5.1 Appendices 'A' (Pages 10.6 - 10.8) and 'B' (Pages 10.9 - 10.20) detail the Community Safety Partnership Consultation carried out in 2008. These are for background purposes only.

6.0 Legal Implications

6.1 The Crime and Disorder Act (1998) made it a statutory duty for local authorities to work with the Police and other partners to reduce and address crime and disorder in their area.

6.2 Legislative changes through the Police Justice Act (2006) placed a legal responsibility on Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRPs) or Community Safety Partnerships (CSP) to produce a plan detailing how they intend to tackle crime and disorder and community safety challenges within their area.

6.3 It is a legal requirement to produce the Community Safety Plan 2008-2011 and comply with the statutory obligations in relation to this.

7.0 Financial Implications

7.1 There are no financial implications.

7.2 Budget for the Community Safety Partnership public consultation is set annually and taken from the Area Based Grant.

8.0 Human Resource Implications

8.1 None

9.0 Risk Management Implications

9.1 As listed in under legal implications 6.1-6.3 there is a statutory obligation to produce a Community Safety Plan 2008-2011, and adhere to the statutory requirements within the relevant legislation. If the council failed to implement a Community Safety Plan and related obligations it could affect service delivery and council and partner reputation. Failure to implement the Community Safety Plan may lead to an unfavourable Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA).

Background Papers

Community Safety Plan (2008-11)

<http://www.eastherts.gov.uk/index.jsp?articleid=6797>

East Herts Community Safety Strategic Assessment 2009-10

<http://www.eastherts.gov.uk/index.jsp?articleid=7372>

Contact Member: Councillor M Alexander, Executive Member for
Community Safety and Protection

Contact Officer: Brian Simmonds, Head of Community Safety
(ext. 1498)

Report Author: Lizzie Clarke, Community Safety Coordinator
(Ext 1596)