

### Community Scrutiny report - Community Safety Review

The portfolio holder has asked for a review to be conducted into community safety. This review will be overseen by the Community Scrutiny Committee via a Task and Finish group. The review will conclude with a report and recommendations for the Community Safety Partnership Board to consider.

#### Scope

The review will focus on two key issues:

1. With partnership resources reducing, how should the partnership prioritise the activities it supports?
2. Despite East Herts having low crime levels and ranking so highly in independent quality of life surveys, why do residents appear more fearful of crime than the actual incidents of crime suggest?

This will be achieved by

- Examining and making recommendations about the allocation of resources to ensure that the CSP priority – keeping crime levels low and improve public confidence through reassurance and crime prevention measures – can be delivered.
- Highlighting activity that effectively contributes to delivering the CSP priority
- Identifying high, medium and low risks

#### Outcomes

- Develop a proposal to put to the CSP board about future funding strategy & priorities
- Produce a partnership risk template
- Produce a delivery plan to mainstream Community Safety within the council and partner organisations

#### Methodology

The Community Safety review, in line with the scope above, will use a two stage approach:

#### **1. With partnership resources reducing, how should the partnership prioritise the activities it supports?**

The first element would look at whether the current projects CCTV, PCSOs, the LIFE project, Taxi Marshals, Diversionary activities and the Joint Action Group (JAG) allocations provide value for money. It will also make recommendations for any future funding strategy. A preliminary report is intended to be presented to the Community Scrutiny meeting on 22nd November 2011 and used to inform the second stage.

#### **2. Despite East Herts having low crime levels and ranking so highly in independent quality of life surveys, why do residents appear more fearful of crime than the actual incidents of crime suggest?**

The second element of the review would report to the subsequent Community Scrutiny meeting on 28th February 2012 and would inform the future direction of the CSP. This would involve officers preparing evidence for Scrutiny to review: public consultation, identifying public concerns and priorities, roles of members and mainstreaming of activity (environmental crime and antisocial behaviour). The work on current and previous Strategic Assessments would inform the process.

The work from the earlier value for money Task and Finish group would also inform this Scrutiny Committee helping to advise the future priorities for the Community Safety Partnership.

### **A number of activities will be taking place**

#### Conversation Café

A Conversation Café has been set up in Hertford Theatre on the 11<sup>th</sup> October 2011 between 5pm and 6pm. This is timed to precede the council Executive meeting to help assist attendance. It will feature a number of facilitated information tables where Members will be able to find out more about each subject and ask questions of the presenters. Each of the following activities will be showcased:-

- The Fire and Rescue LIFE project
- CCTV
- Council supported PCSOs
- Youth Diversion projects
- Taxi marshals
- The Joint Action Group grant allocations

#### Member delivered questionnaire

Every EHDC Member will be provided with a Community Safety information pack and 10 Community Safety survey forms. Their task is to complete the forms by interviewing their own residents /constituents and returning the responses to officers for analysis. This forms the public consultation and should generate 500 responses.

#### Engaging the Town councils

Five Town Councils have been approached and have been asked to discuss the review. Their feedback, via a template, will be invaluable in shaping the outcome of the review. This will also provide important feedback for the future funding of CCTV, PCSO's and taxi marshals in the district.

#### Rural Conference

The Head of Community Safety will be conducting a presentation at the Rural Parish Conference. The public will, have an opportunity to feedback via the survey forms.

#### CCTV

Members will be able to undertake tours of the Stevenage CCTV control room on 13 & 14 October 2011. This is open to all town and Parish council members as well as district members.

#### Strategic assessment

The annual Community Safety assessment will provide the context against which suggestions made to the review can be considered.

#### General

Council officers will endeavour to engage partners and interested parties offering the opportunity for feedback. Suggested parties include:

- CSP partners
- RSLs
- Town council Clerks and Mayors and Leaders (visit to CCTV)
- Possible peer overview
- Project leads ie street pastors
- Scrutiny – paying for CCTV
- Owner of Bradsec Ltd (taxi marshals)
- Licensed Victuallers association
- Taxi drivers reps
- Neighbourhood Watch feedback required
- The EHDC consultation group

## ESSENTIAL REFERENCE PAPER “B”

### Relevant milestones

Portfolio holder agrees scope	Agreed
Chair and CSP board agree scope	Agreed
Task and Finish group established	in progress
Data collation	Commenced
Strategic assessment	(draft by Nov/Dec 2011)
Partner and public engagement	to be commenced
Data assessment	Ongoing
Town council meetings	Commenced
CSP board meeting update	7th September 2011
Rural Conference presentation	15 <sup>th</sup> September 2011
Town centre visit to CCTV control room	13th & 14th October 2011
Preliminary funding report to Community Scrutiny (in line with budget setting timetable)	22nd November 2011
CSP board meeting update café, Hertford Theatre (preceding Executive)	7th December 2011 Conversation 11 <sup>th</sup> October 2011
EHDC Budget setting	17 <sup>th</sup> January 2012
Report to Community Scrutiny (for the end of civic year)	28th February 2012 Executive 6 <sup>th</sup> March 2012
Council	16 <sup>th</sup> May 2012
CSP Board meeting - Final report approval	March 2012
Strategic Assessment recommendations adopted	March 2012

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