

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

COMMUNITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 22 NOVEMBER 2011

COMMUNITY SAFETY – A FOCUSSED REVIEW
TASK AND FINISH GROUP INTERIM REPORT

WARD(S) AFFECTED: ALL

Purpose/Summary of Report

- To inform the Committee of the scope of and progress on the Community Safety review to date.
- To invite the Committee to consider and comment on the early findings of the Task and Finish Group.

RECOMMENDATION FOR COMMUNITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE:	
(A)	That the Committee notes and comments on work undertaken and planned, and;
(B)	that the Committee notes and comments on the early findings of the Task and Finish Group

1.0 Background

1.1 This Task and Finish Group was asked, to produce recommendations about two key issues, which the Community Safety Partnership Board could consider:

- With partnership resources reducing, how should the partnership prioritise the activities it supports? (Including funding CCTV)
- 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?

1.2 Partnership income is now £55,218 compared to approximately £120,000 in 2010 (including an aligned Police 'BCU' grant).

1.3 The grant funding is held by the Local Authority, but it is not owned by them, it is owned by the partnership and it resources a wide range of activity which support identified Community Safety

priorities.

- 1.4 The reduction has meant that the Partnership board has already severely reduced the activities it can support. The current activities and level of support is shown below:

<u>Safer Stronger communities fund allocations</u>	
Grant	£55,218
1 PCSOs	£41,000
2 Diversionary activities	£2,500
3 Life Project	£4,000
4 Taxi Marshals	£5,000
5 JAG (Operational response) pot	£2,718
	<u>£55,218</u>

- 1.5 It is unlikely that the board will be able to sustain the same level of activity next year.

- 1.6 Also the existing structure to pay for CCTV, which is not funded by the grant, is untenable. The Task and Finish group have been asked to identify an equitable solution for CCTV charges to Town Councils.

- 1.7 The second task about reassurance will be the subject of a later report.

2.0 Report

- 2.1 Because of the need to align decisions with budgetary processes, the first task (Resources) has been prioritised.

- 2.2 The Task and Finish Group recommendations are the subject of the attached interim report set out in **Essential Reference paper "B"**.

- 2.3 The second task (Reassurance) will be subject of a later, separate report.

- 2.4 The report lists the projects in an order of priority as a basis for funding withdrawal together with the matters considered. It provides a number of recommendations and summarises this information in a recommended funding strategy template.

- 2.5 The group also examined the topic of the Public Space Surveillance CCTV network charges to Town Councils at length. These are considered inequitable and therefore unsustainable at present.
- 2.6 The group examined a range of funding models and have identified a clear preference which gives cause for optimism.
- 2.7 This matter is unable to proceed without prior Town Council consultation.
- 2.8 The group will report on progress once the appropriate Town Councils have been approached and consulted as to their views.
- 3.0 Implications/Consultations
- 3.1 Information on any corporate issues and consultation associated with this report can be found in **Essential Reference Paper A**.

Background Papers

Essential Reference Paper "B"

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ESSENTIAL REFERENCE PAPER 'A'

<p>Contribution to the Council's Corporate Priorities/ Objectives</p>	<p>Promoting prosperity and well-being; providing access and opportunities <i>Enhance the quality of life, health and wellbeing of individuals, families and communities, particularly those who are vulnerable.</i></p> <p>Fit for purpose, services fit for you <i>Deliver customer focused services by maintaining and developing a well managed and publicly accountable organisation.</i></p> <p>Pride in East Herts <i>Improving standards of the built neighbourhood and environmental management in our towns and villages.</i></p> <p>Shaping now, shaping the future <i>Safeguard and enhance our unique mix of rural and urban communities, ensuring sustainable, economic and social opportunities including the continuation of effective development control and other measures.</i></p> <p>Leading the way, working together <i>Deliver responsible community leadership that engages with our partners and the public.</i></p>
<p>Consultation:</p>	<p>Cross party T&F group, wide community and practitioner consultation – see report</p>
<p>Legal:</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Financial:</p>	<p>Not applicable at this stage</p>
<p>Human Resource:</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Risk Management:</p>	<p>N/A</p>