

**TO: ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE –
Tuesday 30th March, 2004**

SUBJECT: CREATING A SAFER ENVIRONMENT

FROM: COMMUNITY SAFETY & SUSTAINABILITY

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To undertake a pre planning discussion on the scrutiny of community safety within Warwick District, lead by the Chairman of the Committee.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 This report was deferred at the March 2nd meeting of this committee, allowing members to attend the community safety element of the Councillor Training Programme on March 11th and March 24th and is amended in 4.1.
- 2.2 This authority has a statutory duty under the Crime & Disorder Act (1998) to work together in partnership to produce an audit of crime and disorder, consult widely on that audit and produce a three year strategy to reduce crime and disorder based on the findings of the audit and the views of local people.
- 2.3 The other responsible authorities are Police, County Council, Police Authority, Fire & Rescue Service and from April 2004 the Primary Care Trust.
- 2.4 The responsible body is the Warwick District Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnership which meets quarterly to monitor progress, evaluate projects and coordinate interventions. This body has representatives of each of the responsible authorities and nominees from each of the four political groups. There are 6 priority action groups each with a lead agency.
- 2.5 This authority leads on the Communities & Fear Of Crime Group which focuses on public reassurance. The actions are based on suggestions made by local people to help them feel safer. Action Groups operate in each of the three areas where people were most concerned about being a victim of crime being the Police Beats covering Brunswick, Leamington Town Centre and Lillington.
- 2.6 Community Safety has been the subject of intensive external and internal scrutiny recently. The joint and internal best value review was warmly received by this committee, change board and Executive. The Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership has just completed a self assessment process based on EFQM principles. In addition to all this all our plans, audits, strategies, projects and spending plans are scrutinized by the Government Office For West Midlands.

3. **POLICY AND BUDGET FRAMEWORK**

For the first time community safety is a stated priority in the Corporate Strategy 2003 -2007 *Creating a safer environment (CO3)*. The budget for 2003/04 was £30,400. of this £13,400 is committed to four jointly funded posts offering exceptional value for money. Of the remainder £4000 was cut as part of the recent savings exercise. The budget for 2004/05 is £30,000.

4. **OUTCOME(S) REQUIRED**

4.1 Recent scrutiny of community safety has highlighted some areas that need further attention. The advice and direction of this committee would be appreciated on issues that include:

- How community safety issues at ward level can be properly communicated and addressed.
- The membership, operation and effectiveness of the Communities & Fear Of Crime Group.
- How we can minimize the risk to elected members and staff as they go about their duties.

Pete Cutts
Head of Community Safety & Sustainability

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Communities & Fear of Crime Summary and Progress Report
Fear Of Crime Summary
Towards a Safer Warwick District – Crime & Disorder Reduction Strategy 2002-2005

Areas in District Affected: All

Executive Portfolio Area and Holder: Environment – Cllr Mrs Margaret Begg

For further information about this report please contact:

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