

		<b>AGENDA ITEM NO.</b>	
<b>Report Cover Sheet</b>			
<b>Name of Meeting:</b>		Executive Committee	
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>		March 25 <sup>th</sup> , 2008	
<b>Report Title:</b>		Proposed Merger .of the Stratford-on-Avon and Warwick District Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnerships	
<b>Summary of report:</b>		Outlines the timetable for the formal consideration of the application to merge.	
<b>For Further Information Please Contact (report author):</b>		Pete Cutts, Community Safety Manager. Tel 456021 <a href="mailto:pete.cutts@warwickdc.gov.uk">pete.cutts@warwickdc.gov.uk</a>	
<b>Would the recommended decision be contrary to the Policy Framework:</b>		No	
<b>Would the recommended decision be contrary to the Budgetary framework:</b>		No	
<b>Wards of the District directly affected by this decision:</b>		All	
<b>Key Decision?</b>		Yes	
<b>Included within the Forward Plan?</b>		Yes	
<b>Is the report Private &amp; Confidential</b>		No.	
<b>Background Papers:</b>		Letter from Government Office for the West Midlands.(GO:WM)	
<b>Consultation Undertaken</b>			
Below is a table of the Council's regular consultees. However not all have to be consulted on every matter and if there was no obligation to consult with a specific consultee they will be marked as n/a.			
<b>Consultees</b>	<b>Yes/ No</b>	<b>Who</b>	
Other Committees	No		
Ward Councillors	Yes		
Portfolio Holders	Yes	Cllr Felicity Bunker	
Other Councillors	No	Cllr Bernard Kirton, Cllr Cliff Harris	
Warwick District Council recognised Trades Unions	No		
Other Warwick District Council Service Areas		Housing, Leisure and Amenities, Environmental Health (Waste Management) Planning and Engineering.	
Project partners	Yes	Warwickshire Police, Warwickshire County Council, Stratford upon Avon District Council, Primary Care Trust, Probation.	
Parish/Town Council	No		

Highways Authority	No	
Residents	No	.
Citizens Panel	No	.
Other consultees		
<b>Officer Approval</b>		
With regard to officer approval all reports must be approved by the report author's relevant director, Finance Services and Legal Services.		
<b>Officer Approval</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Name</b>
Relevant Director(s)	26/02/08	Chief Executive
Chief Executive	same	same
CMT	28/02/08	
Section 151 Officer	25/02/08	Mary Hawkins/Mike Snow
Legal	25/02/08	Simon Best
Finance	25/02/08	Marcus Miskinis
<b>Final Decision?</b>		No
<b>Suggested next steps (if not final decision please set out below)</b>		
A letter will be sent to GO: WM in order to clarify any additional work necessary as a result of the decision to formally submit. To consider a report on the structure and staffing levels to deliver a shared community safety service with Stratford-on-Avon District Council.		

## 1. **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

- 1.1 To note the timetable for the formal consideration of the proposal to merge the Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnerships for Stratford-on-Avon and Warwick Districts.
- 1.2 To receive a report on the structure and staffing levels of a shared community safety service with Stratford-on-Avon District Council.

## 2. **REASON(S) FOR THE RECOMMENDATION(S)**

- 2.1 The letter (Appendix 1) from Government Office for the West Midlands to Cllr Chris Williams, Chair of the South Warwickshire Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnership (designate) informs us that the merger proposal will be formally submitted to the Home Office and the timetable for consideration.
- 2.2 A decision on the merger should be known in May or June which will inform a report on a shared community safety service with Stratford-on-Avon District Council. The two districts have a strong history of community safety partnership working.

## 3. **ALTERNATIVE OPTION(S) CONSIDERED**

- 3.1. We could ask for the application to be withdrawn but the Home Secretary has always had the power to impose a merger.
- 3.2 The decision to operate a shared service is the subject of a future report but is not contingent on the merger.

## 4. **BUDGETARY FRAMEWORK**

- 4.1 The current Crime & Disorder budget is £34,100 (£85,100 in 08/09). A report detailing proposed structures and staffing levels for a shared community safety service will be presented to Executive in the near future.

## 5. **POLICY FRAMEWORK**

- 5.1 To promote *safe, vibrant & sustainable local communities* is a Key priority theme in the developing: corporate strategy (2007-11). The proposed corporate objective is to *make neighbourhoods safer* and the proposed priority indicator is: *percentage increase in success of first intervention in reducing anti-social behaviour*.

## 6 **BACKGROUND**

- 6.1 Community Safety is a generic term for the statutory responsibilities placed on this authority within the Crime and Disorder Act (1998). The duty is to work in partnership with the Police, County Council, Police Authority, Fire & Rescue Service and Primary Care Trust. The duty is joint and equal.
- 6.2 Following a formal review of the Crime & Disorder Act 1998, and the partnership provisions of that Act, the Home Office has recently published a document entitled ***“Delivering Safer Communities: A Guide to Effective Partnership Working”***. This document outlines what is expected of CDRP's in terms of the requirements around National Standards for CDRP's and the new Strategic Assessments.

- 6.3 The Hallmarks of Effective Partnerships are National Standards for CDRP's, each of which contains new statutory elements for partnership working. They are:
- Empowered and effective leadership
  - Visible and constructive accountability
  - Intelligence-led business processes
  - Effective and responsive delivery structures
  - Engaged communities
  - Appropriate skills and knowledge
- 6.4 The section 'Assess' in the publication deals with the requirements for the new Strategic Assessment. It is expected that this is carried out at least annually and is designed to allow partnerships to set strategic priorities, plan for delivery, allocate resources and deliver benefit to their communities.
- 6.5 Community consultation on priorities, an evaluation of the extent to which the current strategy has been implemented, and the identification of those issues to escalate to county level all need to be carried out before a partnership plan, or new strategy to cover 2008-2011, can be published. This strategy will be reviewed annually to allow for changing trends and priorities to be reflected.

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 7.1 Letter from Government Office for the West Midlands (Appendix 1)

## Appendix 1

Cllr Chris Williams  
Chair Strategic Member Board  
South Warwickshire CDRP (Designate)  
Stratford-on-Avon District Council  
Elizabeth House  
Church Street  
Stratford-on-Avon  
Warwickshire CV37 6HX

### Places Directorate

5 St Philip's Place  
Birmingham  
B3 2PW

☎: 0121 352 5471

☎: 0121 352 5188

✉: sharon.shattock@gowm.gsi.gov.uk

Date 31 January 2008

Dear Chris

### **Re: Warwick/Stratford CDRP Merger**

I am writing with regard to the revised merger proposal submitted to the Government Office on Friday 17 August and subsequent correspondence sent in November 2007.

In our letter dated 2 November, we wrote that feedback received from the Home Office indicated, that whilst joint and collaborative working is an important part of any consideration of a merger, we must also take into account the effectiveness of the partnerships' performance against its PSA 1 targets.

You will know that at the time of the revised submission the partnership were not on track to meet its PSA1 targets. The current trajectory is showing however, that performance is now improving and that the joint partnership approach is starting to reap real benefits.

In light of the above the Government Office will be revisiting the merger proposal with a view to resubmitting to the Home Office for approval. I have outlined below draft timescales that we will be working to:

- Early Feb (4-8 February) - GO to review submitted proposal
- Mid Feb (11-15 February) - If there are no issues the GO will prepare submission to HO Regional Director seeking his recommendation;
- Mid Feb - March (18 February – 31 March) - GO will submit proposal and HO Regional Directors recommendation to HO colleagues;
- Late March – Late April - HO to prepare submission, statutory instrument and an explanatory memorandum;
- Late April – Early May - HO Statutory instrument laid before Parliament, when the House returns 21 April (has to be before Parliament for at least 21 days);
- May-June - Decision on merger

As you will appreciate the merger process can be lengthy at times, I will therefore keep you informed of key stages in the process and any issues that emerge.

I have copied this letter for information to Paul Lankester, Chief Executive Stratford-on-Avon District Council and Chris Elliott, Chief Executive Warwick District Council.

Yours sincerely

Sharon Shattock

cc: John Curtis