

TO: ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE –
Tuesday 8th June, 2004

SUBJECT: COMMUNITY SAFETY - CREATING A SAFER ENVIRONMENT

FROM: THE WORK GROUPS

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To present a summary of the preliminary findings of the work groups.
- 1.2 To seek approval for recommendations on the next steps in the scrutiny process.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 At the March 30th meeting of this committee it was agreed to scrutinize three important aspects of community safety utilising 3 work groups:
 - 1. How community safety issues at ward level can be properly communicated and addressed.
 - 2. The membership, operation and effectiveness of the Communities & Fear Of Crime Group.
 - 3. How we can minimize the risk to elected members and staff as they go about their duties.
- 2.2 The first two groups have met and it is clear that the work is closely related. It was agreed to undertake a survey before convening the third group to identify when and where councillors and officers are concerned for their safety. The survey has been drafted and is attached.
- 2.3 Councillors understood that this authority is the lead agency in addressing Community and Fear of Crime issues. Councillors on the first two groups brought enthusiasm and a wide range of experience on community safety issues representing very different wards. The timing of this review was well received by key partners and joint meetings with the Police and County Council have facilitated understanding.
- 2.4 Plenty of evidence was available to show that with partners we have achieved excellent performance results in reducing crime and disorder and the fear of crime. Councillors acknowledged excellent working relationships with Police and County Council but quickly identified that there were issues re communication, management of expectations and roles and responsibilities.
- 2.5 A range of groups were recognised where community safety was the single or a significant agenda item including the 3 priority action groups. Whilst it was clear that there was no one-size-fits-all model it was felt that some guidelines and minimum standards were essential if we were to move forward together.

- 2.6 To further clarify the role of the Communities & Fear of Crime Group (Work Group 2) it was essential to first have clear agreement on a way forward at the community action groups. A summary of the findings of the two groups is attached together with a proforma which has circulated to partners for comment.
- 2.7 Councillors were keen to convene an additional meeting of this committee to be carried out in a select committee format and invite key officers and partners in order to properly challenge the service and secure ownership of the developing proposals.

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 2004/05 is £30,200.

4. **OUTCOME(S) REQUIRED**

- 4.1 To note the preliminary findings of the work groups 1 & 2.
- 4.2 To agree to an additional meeting in select committee mode to properly challenge the service.
- 4.3 To approve the Work Group 3 survey form and to receive a further report at the next meeting of the committee.

Work Groups

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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