

AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET

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| Name of Committee | Cabinet |
| Date of Committee | 17 November 2005 |
| Report Title | Member involvement in Community Safety partnership working |
| Summary | The report highlights the fact that elected members of the county and district councils have very limited opportunity for involvement in partnership working on community safety issues. It is proposed that a body is established to oversee the work of the Warwickshire Community Safety Partnership and Drug and Alcohol Action Team. The body would consist of county and district councillors plus governance representatives from partner agencies such as the Police Authority and the PCTs. If the cabinet agrees with the proposal we will need to consult partner agencies. |
| For further information please contact: | Andrew Lawrence Head of Community Safety Tel: 01926 746827 (External) 01926 766827 (Internal) andrewlawrence@warwickshire.gov.uk |
| Would the recommended decision be contrary to the Budget and Policy Framework? | No. |
| Background papers | Reducing crime and disorder - a strategy for Warwickshire County council. |

CONSULTATION ALREADY UNDERTAKEN:-

Details to be specified

| | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Other Committees | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Local Member(s) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None |
| Other Elected Members | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cllrs Haynes ("I fully support the efforts being made to overssee the Quangos that have been set up within the County") and Shilton |
| Cabinet Member | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cllr Hobbs ("I welcome the recommendations set out in the report") |
| Chief Executive | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jim Graham |
| Legal | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> David Carter |

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|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------|
| Finance | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Other Chief Officers | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| District Councils | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Health Authority | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Police | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Other Bodies/Individuals | <input type="checkbox"/> | |

FINAL DECISION NO

SUGGESTED NEXT STEPS:

Details to be specified

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| Further consideration by this Committee | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Partner agencies (e.g. District councils) |
| To Council | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| To Cabinet | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| To an O & S Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| To an Area Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Further Consultation | <input type="checkbox"/> | |

Agenda No

Cabinet - 17 November 2005

Member involvement in Community Safety partnership working

Report of the Assistant Chief Executive and County solicitor

Recommendation

That the cabinet endorse the proposal to establish a countywide members' group to oversee partnership working on Community Safety, subject to the agreement of Community Safety partner agencies (District councils, Police Authority, Police and Primary care Trusts)

1. **Current arrangements for member involvement**
 - 1.1 Statutory responsibility for Crime and Disorder work is through District based partnerships (CDRPs) which are made up of County and District councils, Police, Police Authority, PCTs and Fire service. CDRPs are mainly dominated by officers. Each CDRP is different but most have a small number of County and District councillors and some have members of the Police Authority. Some of our elected members have found this situation frustrating and felt they had little or no influence over the work of the CDRPs. However, improvements have been made in some CDRPs and negotiations are being held to improve the arrangements in the others.
 - 1.2 Countywide partnership working takes place on issues where value can be added by doing things once rather than in five separate CDRPs. This work is managed by the Warwickshire Community Safety partnership and Drug and Alcohol Action Team (WCSPDAAT) which consists of officers from the partnership agencies. There are no elected members, PCT board members or Police Authority members on WCSPDAAT. Elected members can currently only influence this work through the way officers report back into their employing organisation so any member engagement with partners is indirect.
 - 1.3 The Best Value Review of Community Safety in 2003/4 proposed the establishment of a governance or member group to oversee countywide working but WCSPDAAT decided that this could be achieved by holding an annual conference for elected (and other

governance) members of the partner agencies. This does not go anywhere near far enough to satisfy members' wishes to be more fully engaged in this area of work.

- 1.4 Since the Best Value review was carried out new factors have come into play to increase the importance of partnership working at a countywide level. The most significant of these is the move towards Local Area Agreements (by April 2007 in Warks) which will enable a much more strategic use of resources at county level. On the way there we will have a countywide Safer and Stronger Communities fund by April 2006 and (hopefully) a LPSA2. Clearly members should be involved in discussions on how these resources are distributed.

2. **Improving the governance of countywide working**

- 2.1 Member involvement in countywide partnership working would be greatly enhanced by the establishment of a governance group to oversee the work of WCSPDAAT. It would have governance representatives from each of the partner agencies and would act as a sub group of the County Leaders Group responsible for overseeing work on the Community Safety aspects of the County Strategic plan and the Safer and Stronger Communities block of the Local Area Agreement. It would probably need to meet quarterly with its meetings synchronised with those of WCSPDAAT. We would need to address a number of constitutional issues such as how to address political proportionality, whether each agency would have equal status etc.
- 2.2 If the cabinet agrees with this proposal in principle we would need to consult with partner agencies and agree any constitutional issues. There will be an opportunity to discuss the proposal with representatives of partner agencies at a conference, which is being planned for the 2nd of December, to cover a range of Community Safety Partnership and Community engagement issues.

DAVID CARTER
Assistant Chief Executive and
County solicitor

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28 October 2005