

AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET

Name of Committee **Community Protection Overview And Scrutiny Committee**

Date of Committee **26th February 2008**

Report Title **Annual Report of the Community Protection Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

Summary The Annual Report of the Community Protection Overview and Scrutiny Committee presents the work undertaken by the Committee during 2007 and outlines the priorities for the Committee during 2008.

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Would the recommended decision be contrary to the Budget and Policy Framework? No.

Background papers None

CONSULTATION ALREADY UNDERTAKEN:- Details to be specified

- Other Committees
- Local Member(s)
- Other Elected Members Cllr Chattaway, Cllr Collett, Cllr Davis
- Cabinet Member Cllr Hobbs "Report noted"
- Chief Executive
- Legal Ian Marriott
- Finance
- Other Chief Officers David Carter - Strategic Director for Performance and Development, William Brown - Strategic Director for Community Protection and County Fire Officer

District Councils

Health Authority

Police

Other Bodies/Individuals Mark Ryder - Head of Trading Standards and Healthier Communities

FINAL DECISION NO

SUGGESTED NEXT STEPS:

Details to be specified

Further consideration by this Committee

To Council *18th March 2008*

To Cabinet

To an O & S Committee

To an Area Committee

Further Consultation

Agenda No

Community Protection Overview and Scrutiny Committee - 26th February 2008.

Annual Report of the Community Protection Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Report of the Chair of the Community Protection Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Recommendation

The Committee is recommended to agree the contents of the Annual Report to be presented to County Council at its meeting on 18th March 2008.

All Overview and Scrutiny Committees are required to present an Annual Report to the County Council, on a rolling programme. The Community Protection Overview and Scrutiny Committee is scheduled to present its Annual Report to the County Council on 18th March 2008. Attached is the draft version of the Committee's Annual Report for 2008. It outlines the work we undertook during 2007 and details the priority issues for the Committee during 2008.

CLLR RICHARD
CHATTAWAY
Chair of the Community
Protection Overview and
Scrutiny Committee

Shire Hall
Warwick

29 January 2008

THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COMMUNITY PROTECTION OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 2007/08

Foreword by Cllr Richard Chattaway Chair of the Community Protection Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Welcome to the 2007/08 Annual Report of the Community Protection Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The Committee have undertaken a number of work streams over the last 12 months and this report aims to provide a brief outline of these.

One of the most significant pieces of work undertaken by the Committee was the review into Older Peoples Safety, which was successfully completed after a single issue meeting in February 2007 which attracted a number of members of the public, service users and key stakeholders. All the recommendations from the review were accepted by Cabinet and the Committee will be reviewing progress against these during 2008.

In addition to this review a significant proportion of the Committee's time has been spent scrutinising action plans attached to strategies and scrutinising strategies themselves, these have included the Integrated Risk Management Plan, the Domestic Violence Strategy and the Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy.

In some instances the Committee has adopted alternative ways of working to undertake the role of scrutinising the progress of action plans. For example, the Committee scrutinised Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service's Operational Assessment of Service Delivery action plan via email.

The Committee has also scrutinised the performance made against the targets within the LAA and has expressed concern regarding the variable achievement of these; the loss of reward grant is a particular concern of the Committee. During 2008 the Committee will overview the development of the new LAA and will continue to scrutinise progress made against the targets. The Committee is strongly of the view that elected members need to be fully engaged in the process, to ensure the LAA adds value to public service delivery and leads to real and substantial improvements for people in Warwickshire.

This report provides an insight into the work the Committee will be undertaking during 2008. The next 12 months will provide a new challenge for the Committee and we will continue to hold the Cabinet to account and receive regular performance updates and where necessary make recommendations for improvement. Particular focus will be given to the scrutiny of Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships, the effectiveness of alcohol test purchasing, the Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy, the Community Safety Strategy and scrutinising the action plan emerging from the Fire and Rescue Service CPA. The Committee has established working groups to ensure the Committee takes an active role in over-viewing the development and implementation of a revised Domestic Abuse Strategy and Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy for Warwickshire.

It is important to acknowledge that it would not be possible for the Committee to do its job effectively without support. Therefore I would like to use this opportunity to say "thank you" to the many Officers and Members of the Council that have worked for and supported the Committee during 2007. I would also like to place on record our thanks to authorities and organisations that have helped with information and advice. We look forward to working with you again throughout 2008.

REMIT AND MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE

The remit of the Community Protection Overview and Scrutiny Committee is:

“To review and or scrutinise the provision of public services in Warwickshire relating to community safety including Fire and Rescue, Trading Standards, Emergency Planning, crime and disorder reduction, drug and alcohol misuse and policing and criminal justice.”

Membership of the Committee from 15th May 2007 is as follows:



Cllr Appleton



Cllr Hicks



Cllr Perry



Cllr Booth



Cllr Davis,
Liberal Democrat Spokes



Cllr Timms



Cllr
Chattaway
Chair + Labour Spokeperson



Cllr Kirton



Cllr Vereker



Cllr Collett
Conservative Spokes



Cllr Longden



Cllr Wells
Vice Chair

SUMMARY OF WORK 2007

We have considered and advised on a number of issues throughout the year.

PERFORMANCE MONITORING

- Fire and Rescue Service CPA Performance Reports – Community Protection and Trading Standards
- Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships Quarterly Performance
- Local Area Agreement Performance Targets.

POLICY

- Domestic Violence Strategy
- Integrated Risk Management Plan
- Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy

IN-DEPTH SCRUTINY

Older Peoples Safety – The Committee undertook a review into Older Peoples Safety. The review focused on whether mechanisms are in place in Warwickshire to ensure the risks of an older person who lives independently coming to harm are reduced. The Committee established a working group to scope the review. The working group carried out some initial research and consultation activities which fed into a single issue meeting on 21st February 2007. This single issue meeting involved presentations from Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service, Adult and Community Services, Community Protection and Trading Standards. The meeting was well attended by members of the public, service users and key stakeholders, and also attracted attention from the local media. From this meeting and the initial research and consultation undertaken by the working group, the Committee were able to conclude that mechanisms are in place to minimise the risk of harm to an older person who lives independently in Warwickshire. The Committee recognises and welcomes the vast amount of work that is currently being undertaken by a number of services to ensure the safety of older people who live independently. However, the Committee identified 4 key priorities for services to address:

1. The need to get safety messages out to all older people
2. The need to ensure that the most vulnerable and isolated older people are prioritised by targeted preventative strategies
3. The need to ensure safety messages are consistent and reinforced to address complacency where it occurs
4. The need to encourage agencies to share information and build intelligence to enable more targeted preventative initiatives.

The recommendations contained within the Committee's final report, sort to address these 4 key priorities. The Cabinet accepted all the Committee's recommendations at their meeting on 19th July 2007. The Committee will be reviewing the progress of implementing the recommendations during 2008.

Anti-Social Behaviour – The Committee continued to review the progress made against the recommendations made by the Committee in the Anti-Social Behaviour Review completed in February 2006. The Committee has also scrutinised the draft Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy.

Regional Fire Control Centre – The Committee has scrutinised the progress made in relation to the relocation of the five Fire and Rescue Services that make up the West Midlands Regions, which includes Warwickshire's Fire and Rescue Service. The Committee will continue to scrutinise the move to the Regional Control Centre to ensure the quality of service is not affected.

Operational Assessment of Service Delivery action plan – (Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service) – The Committee scrutinised monthly updates of the Operation Assessment of Service Delivery action plan via email.

Domestic Violence - Over the last 12 months the Committee have received several reports relating to Domestic Violence Strategy and Action Plan.

Alcohol Test Purchasing – The Committee received a report from Trading Standards regarding the process and regulations surrounding test purchasing of alcohol. The Committee have requested that consideration is given to pooling resources with other Local Authorities to set up joint specialist teams in relation to test purchasing. The Committee will continue to scrutinise the effectiveness of alcohol test purchasing in conjunction with the Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy 2006-2009 during 2008.

Safer Neighbourhood Policing – Chief Superintendent David Whitehouse and Chief Inspector Tim Bailey attended a meeting of the Committee to provide an update on the progress of Safer Neighbourhood Policing. The Committee will continue to scrutinise the effectiveness of community engagement in Safer Neighbourhood Policing, specifically there is a need to ensure PACT meetings sustain interest and contribute to real and sustainable improvements for local communities.

FUTURE WORK PROGRAMME 2008

Issues which are likely to be a high priority for the Committee during 2008 include: Alcohol Test Purchasing, Fire and Rescue CPA and Safer Neighbourhood Policing. In addition, the Committee has established working groups to scrutinise the development and implementation of the Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy and the Domestic Abuse Strategy.

The Committee will be eagerly awaiting news regarding the implementation of the Police and Justice Act 2006, which gave Local Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committees new powers and responsibilities. The key elements of the Act which will impact upon the work of the Community Protection Overview and Scrutiny Committee are:

- A new duty for all Local Authorities to establish a Crime and Disorder related scrutiny committee to scrutinise Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRP)
- Reform of CDRP's by summer 2007
- A Community Call for Action in relation to crime and disorder issues

The implementation of the Act has been delayed until the Home Office has completed its Review of Policing, which is now expected to be completed early 2008. Consequently, there is currently no confirmed date regarding the implementation of the Act. If the Act is implemented, CDRP's will be required to consider and respond to the work of Overview and Scrutiny in relation to crime and disorder issues, provide information and attend meetings as requested. However, it is not clear at the moment how this will work in two tier areas.

The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 amended the Police and Justice Act 2006 to align the Home Office version of Community Call for Action with the Department for Communities and Local Government's version, outlined in the Strong and Prosperous Communities – Local Government White Paper. Consequently, Community Call for Action has been renamed Councillor Call for Action and has been extended to allow County Councillors to call to action crime and disorder issues. However, the implementation of the Councillor Call for Action has also been delayed to await the findings of the Review of Policing.

If these elements of the Act are implemented during 2008, they will provide a significant a new direction for the Committee.