

AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET

Name of Committee Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date of Committee 27th September 2005

Report Title Warwickshire Police Road Safety Education Scheme 'ASTRA'

Summary This report prepared jointly with Warwickshire Police explains the changes which have taken place in the ASTRA scheme (Active Strategy To Reduce Accidents).

For further information please contact

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

Background Papers None

CONSULTATION ALREADY UNDERTAKEN:- *Details to be specified*

Other Committees Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee
9th June 2005

Local Member(s)
(With brief comments, if appropriate)

Other Elected Members Councillor C K N Browne }
Councillor Mrs E M Goode } for information
Councillor Mrs J Lea }

Cabinet Member Councillor M L M Heatley – for information
(Reports to The Cabinet, to be cleared with appropriate Cabinet Member)

Chief Executive

Legal I Marriott - agreed

- Finance
- Other Chief Officers
- District Councils
- Health Authority
- Police
- Other Bodies/Individuals

FINAL DECISION **YES/NO** *(If 'No' complete Suggested Next Steps)*

SUGGESTED NEXT STEPS :

Details to be specified

- Further consideration by this Committee
- To Council
- To Cabinet
- To an O & S Committee
- To an Area Committee
- Further Consultation

**Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee
27th September 2005**

**Warwickshire Police Road Safety Education Scheme
'ASTRA'**

**Joint Report of the Director of Planning, Transport and
Economic Strategy and Warwickshire Police**

Recommendation

That the Committee endorses the report.

1. Introduction – The History of The ASTRA Scheme

- 1.1 At its June 2005 meeting the Committee asked for a joint report with the Police on the future of the ASTRA programme.
- 1.2 The ASTRA project was launched by Warwickshire Police in 1999, in acknowledgement of the clear statistical evidence that young people in the 16 to 19 year age group are at particularly high risk of being involved in a road traffic collision and the National Policing Objective to respond to this challenge by means of targeted education.
- 1.3 ASTRA was launched as an educational package aimed at school years 11 and 12 (the immediately pre-driving age group). The package was delivered free of charge, by three Police Officers, in the form of a series of seven self contained one hour modules, each focusing on a distinct aspect of driver behaviour. The modules were interactive, demanding and designed to challenge the students attitudes and perceptions of road safety and other driving issues. Classroom presentations incorporating video and computer technology are interspersed with practical demonstrations and role playing exercises.
- 1.4 The ASTRA programme won the Prince Michael International Road Safety Award in 2000.

2. Changes to The Scheme

- 2.1 In 2003 as part of a re-organisation and re-prioritisation of the deployment of police resources the staff delivering ASTRA were transferred from the Operations (traffic) Police team to Positive about Young People (PaYP). The intention was that these officers would become youth inclusion officers and

support PaYP business. The aim was to have one youth inclusion officer per Council District.

- 2.2 In 2004 in the light of further pressures on Warwickshire Police e.g. the expansion of Coventry Airport and a need to increase policing, a further review and re-prioritisation of Police resources took place. As a consequence the number of Police Staff supporting PaYP was reduced to four and one of these posts was civilianised. This re-organisation resulted in only one Police Officer being available to deliver the ASTRA programme. This officer did not have the capacity to deliver ASTRA to all of Warwickshire schools as had historically been the case. Therefore the officer's workload was prioritised to deliver ASTRA to the 12 schools that fell into the catchment areas where the highest incidents of killed and seriously injured casualties for under 15 years of age were located.
- 2.3 To enable the remaining 31 schools to still have the opportunity of receiving the ASTRA scheme they were advised of the potential of buying in the inputs by a retired Police Officer experienced in delivering ASTRA.

3. Future of The ASTRA Scheme

- 3.1 Since the Committee's June 2005 meeting there have been further discussions between PTES and the Police and the Police have suggested that a possible way forward is to submit an application to fund the scheme from Speed Awareness Workshop (SAW) surpluses.
- 3.2 SAW surplus funding is allocated by the Warwickshire Casualty Reduction Partnership Board (on which the Police and the County Council are represented) who consider applications for work to reduce road casualties. The ASTRA scheme meets this criteria.
- 3.3 The Police do not feel able to allocate any additional uniformed officers to the scheme and therefore propose that civilian instructors who have received suitable training should be employed to deliver it.
- 3.4 Discussions on the proposal are continuing.

JOHN DEEGAN
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Warwick

CHIEF INSPECTOR MIKE SLATER
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Leek Wootton

8th September 2005