

AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET

Name of Committee Rugby Area Committee

Date of Committee 8th March 2006

Report Title **Governance of the Rugby Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership**

Summary This report summarises the current position regarding membership of the Rugby CDRP Board, and asks for members' comments so these can be incorporated into a review of the governance structures of CDRPs.

For further information please contact:

Steve Hussey
Area Community Safety Officer
Tel:
stevehussey@warwickshire.gov.uk

Nick Darwen
Rugby Area Manager
Tel: 01788 533570
nickdarwen@warwickshire.gov.uk

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) Cllr Vereker
- Other Elected Members
- Cabinet Member
- Chief Executive
- Legal
- Finance
- Other Chief Officers
- District Councils
- Health Authority
- Police

Other Bodies/Individuals

FINAL DECISION NO

SUGGESTED NEXT STEPS:

Details to be specified

Further consideration by this Committee consideration as part of WCC's review into the governance of CDRPs.

To Council

To Cabinet

To an O & S Committee

To an Area Committee

Further Consultation

Agenda No

Rugby Area Committee - 8th March 2006.

Governance of the Rugby Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership

Joint Report of the Strategic Director of Performance and Development and the Strategic Director of Community Protection

Recommendation

That members note this report and provide comments as they see fit to guide the County Council's review of the governance structures of CDRPs.

1.0 Background

1.1 A number of members of the Rugby Area Committee have recently raised queries around the structure and governance of the Rugby Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP), with particular regard to the involvement of elected members.

1.2 Elected Members have never sat on the Rugby CDRP Board. Elected Members form part of the CDRPs in all other Boroughs and Districts in Warwickshire, and indeed in most CDRPs elsewhere in the country.

1.3 In keeping with general practice among 2-tier local authorities, the Borough Council takes the lead role in the Rugby CDRP and acts as Chair of the Board. It was the decision of the Chair of the Rugby CDRP that Elected Members are not represented on the Board.

1.4 Rugby Borough and Warwickshire County Council Elected Members are included on the Rugby Policing Manifesto Scrutiny and Accountability Panel, through which the CDRP as well as the Police are held accountable.

1.5 Rugby Borough and Warwickshire County Council Elected Members are included on the Management Board of the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) to which the CDRP is accountable as a theme group. The LSP's constitution (which is due to be substantially reviewed) prevents elected members sitting on theme groups.

1.6 The CDRP reports occasionally to the County Council's Area Committee, and the CDRP strategy was considered by Area Committee in September.

1.7 The County Council's Head of Community Safety designate, Kate Nash, is currently leading a review of the governance structures of community safety bodies across Warwickshire. While it is recognised that current practice is inconsistent, members may wish to await the outcome of this review and discussions with partners before agreeing any changes.

2.0 Current Situation

2.1 The performance of the Rugby CDRP is concerning, ranking at 12th out of its Family of 15 CDRPs. Levels of recorded crimes are roughly 15% higher per 1000 residents than the Family average, and are well above target. This situation is not general across the County, where the CDRPs are performing in line with their Family.

2.2 There is a genuine fear among the public of Rugby about these levels of crime and disorder, and Warwickshire County Council Elected Members are increasingly being asked about crime and disorder matters by their constituents. Members are frustrated at their inability to address these concerns, due to their lack of involvement in the CDRP.

2.3 The County Council's commitment of resources to its 7 crime and disorder priorities of prolific offenders, alcohol related violence, high crime areas, young people, drug related crime, liveability of areas and fear of crime, means that County Council Members are in a position to make a significant contribution to reducing crime and disorder.

2.4 While membership of the Policing Scrutiny and Accountability Panel and the Local Strategic Partnership gives some provision for holding the CDRP to account, it does not give Members involvement in action or decision-making.

2.5 Section 7 of the Rugby Borough Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy relating to Community Engagement, which states that local councillors 'have a special role in supporting their communities and providing the CDRP with an insight into the particular needs of their communities', but it is not clear through what mechanism this is to be achieved.

2.6 The membership of the Rugby Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership Board is currently as follows:

- Chief Executive (Rugby Borough Council) - Chair
- Dave Gormal (Rugby Borough Council) – Vice-Chair and currently Acting Chair
- Chief Inspector (Warwickshire Police)
- Ian Francis (Warwickshire Police Authority)
- Steve Hussey (Warwickshire County Council Area Community Safety Officer)
- Nina Noon (Probation)
- Kit Leck (Warwickshire County Council Drug Action Team)
- Paul Thompson (Warwickshire County Council Positive About Young People)
- Dave Vazquez (Warwickshire County Council Fire and Rescue)
- Lalitha Webb (Rugby Primary Care Trust)

DAVID CARTER
Strategic Director of

WILLIAM BROWN
Strategic Director of

Performance and
Development

Community Protection

Shire Hall, Warwick

22 February 2006