

Scope for Crime Reduction Scrutiny Review

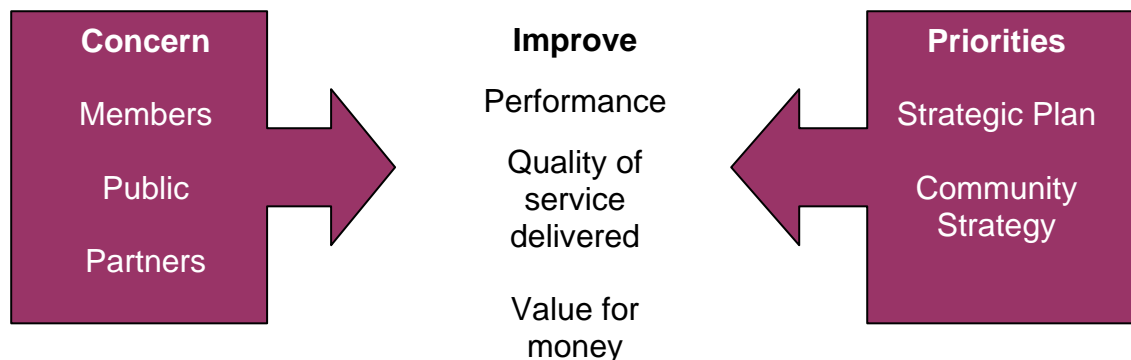
APPENDIX A Scoping Questions –

CRIME REDUCTION SCRUTINY REVIEW

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee are asked to consider the following questions when scoping a Scrutiny review:

Issues for Scrutiny should reflect:

- i. Concern of Members, the Public or Partners
- ii. Strategic Priorities for the delivery of services and
- iii. Clear Outcomes to improve performance, value for money or to change the priorities of the Council.



A. Aims

What are the aims of the scrutiny review (key questions?)

Introduction

Community safety, and work to reduce crime, continues to be one of Nottinghamshire County Council's top priorities. The County Council works with the police, district crime and disorder partnerships and other partners to address the issues.

Aims of review

While this is a wide ranging subject, the following are suggested as key aims for this scrutiny review;

The overall aims are to review the effectiveness of our work in crime reduction, including -

What are the County Council – and our partners – doing in terms of crime reduction , particularly related to the following Best Value indicators?;

BV 126 – Domestic Burglaries per 1000 population
BV 127a – Violent Crimes per 1000 population

BV 127b – Robberies per 1000 population
BV 128 – Vehicle Crime per 1000 population

How does the perception of crime compare to the actual situation as shown by the 4 indicators?

What actions can we take to improve our performance around these indicators, all the while delivering value for money?

How does the review link to priorities?

The County Council's Strategic Plan "All Together Better" presents the Council's commitments for the next four years around five key objectives.

One of the objectives is:

Safer and stronger: A safer place to live with a strong sense of community

The Strategic Plan includes eight commitments for the Safer and Stronger Objective. This includes the commitment to:

"Improve the safety of communities by working with police and partners to strengthen neighbourhood policing in our communities and tackling anti-social behaviour".

The following text is from the County Council's Annual Performance Plan 2006-2007, page 42- 43

"Improving the safety of communities

Community Safety continued to be one of the Council's top priorities in 2005/6. We have worked with the police, district crime and disorder partnerships and other partners to address this issue.

The reduction in the number of burglaries seen over recent years has continued. The target for the reduction in domestic burglaries set in the Local Public Service Agreement (LPSA) has almost been achieved, which represents a significant improvement on the position two years ago. In common with our partners, we were concerned that the stretch target we agreed with the Government in the LPSA was too demanding.

Much of the reduction in burglary rates is a result of a sustained focus on persistent and prolific offenders. The Sherwood Prolific and Priority Offender Project, which involves the police, probation, drug intervention workers and the youth offending service in intensive supervision and supportive interventions, was the overall winner of the Justice Shield at the national Justice Awards in 2005.

However, the results on other crime rates present a mixed picture. The number of violent crimes, vehicle crimes and robberies per 1,000 residents are worse than our target. Nationally the rate of violent crimes has been increasing, but the increase in Nottinghamshire is lower than elsewhere.

Anti-social behaviour arising from the misuse of alcohol continues to be a major source of concern to our communities. The Trading Standards service has worked with the police to target the sale of age restricted products to juveniles.

The performance of the Youth Offending Service has continued to improve. Following the most recent data published by the Youth Justice Board for England and Wales, the service is assessed as being of high quality and the best performing service within the family group of similar local authorities.”

How does the review link to community concern?

MORI DATA

Data from an Ipsos MORI survey shows that “level of crime” is a key issue for Nottinghamshire residents, in terms of being an issue that is most important generally, and as an issue that most needs improving locally.

COMMUNITY STRATEGY

The County wide Community Strategy represents the priorities not just of the County Council but of the whole Nottinghamshire Community. It has the support of the wide range of public, voluntary, community and business organisations involved in the Nottinghamshire Partnership.

The current Strategy reflects a range of consultative activities commenced in 2004 which included a public attitude survey conducted by MORI and a Visioning Conference. The conference involved representatives from a wide range of organisations covering the public services, the voluntary sector, the business community and community groups. In drafting the Countywide Community Strategy, account was also taken of the content in each of the seven district community strategies.

The Community Strategy, also entitled “All Together Better”, was adopted by the Nottinghamshire Partnership in September 2005 and covers the period 2005 to 2009. The Strategy is built around the five objectives that have been taken for the Council's Strategic Plan namely:

Safer and Stronger
Healthier
Learning and Earning
Cleaner and Greener
Travel and Access

Delivery of the Community Strategy will in part be through the Local Area Agreement

However, the breadth of the Strategy means that some of its priorities go beyond the partnership work covered by the Local Area Agreement. For this reason a separate delivery plan has been developed, embracing all the partnership work required to deliver the Community Strategy.

What outcomes are sought?

The scrutiny review will seek to make suggestions for actions which could improve results around the 4 indicators, while ensuring value for money.

These suggestions will also seek to complement our ongoing constructive relationships around crime reduction.

It would be worthwhile to consider Local Area Agreement indicators as well as BVPIs in this review.

Which specific areas will the review examine?

The scrutiny review will concentrate on examining the 4 BV Performance Indicators –

Whether or not we are achieving our targets and, if not, any reasons for this

Whether our targets are challenging

The impact we are having in trying to improve performance relating to these indicators

The architecture of the County Council and other partners in working together to try to improve performance around these indicators.

Whether public perception of performance in these areas matches the reality of the situation, and if not, why this is the case.

The following are some suggested key lines of enquiry general to each scrutiny review undertaken; they can be tailored for each specific scrutiny review. The Committee is invited to consider the key lines of enquiry for this review.

Some suggested key Lines of Enquiry

- Is the service achieving what it set out to achieve?
- What can we improve?
- How do we compare with others?
- Are we delivering value for money?
- How do we know we are delivering value for money?
- What are the community's priorities?
- What are the regional/national/international priorities?
- Are we doing what users / non users / local residents want?
- Are users' needs central to the service?
- What are the strategic and operational risks?
- What intelligence is available to predict future change?
- Is there effective partnership working?
- Why are we doing/providing this?
- Should we still be doing/providing this?
- Who is the most appropriate deliverer of the service?

B. Timetable

When will the review commence

The review will commence in March 2007

When will the review conclude?

The review will conclude by the end of July 2007

C. Information and consultees

What information do Members require to enable them to start work on the review

All relevant performance information relating to these indicators

Ipsos MORI survey information

Are there any key witnesses/visits/documents

Key witnesses should include the portfolio holder for Community Safety and Partnerships - Nottinghamshire County Council, and the GOEM lead officer for Nottinghamshire who can provide an insight into the crime situation in Notts from a government perspective.

It is also suggested that the Select Committee should ask to take evidence from –

The Chief Constable

From at least one District Council in Nottinghamshire

From officers in Nottinghamshire County Council's Communities Department, and from the Policy and Performance Team

How will the review involve the public?

A range of statistical data and information, including views of the public, will be examined during this review

D. Resources

Support of officers from the Communities Department - Community Safety, Regeneration & Protection

Policy and Performance Team – Chief Executive's Department,

and the Scrutiny Team.

E. Departmental View

What does the department responsible say about the review

Officers from the Communities Department and from the Policy and Performance Team, Chief Executive's Department, have been involved in scoping this scrutiny review

Scoping Questions

The Topic Select Committee itself will be asked to consider the following questions when scoping the scrutiny review:

A. Timetable When will the Topic Select Committee meet to consider the review – frequency, location	
B. Information and consulters Who would Members request information from Visits Does the review require any visits Where and with whom	
C. How the Community will be consulted, informed, and involved How will the review involve the public	
D. How the effectiveness of the review will be measured After the review, what will assist Members to look back and examine the lessons learned.	

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee will set the following

A. Aims What are the aims of the review What outcomes are sought How does the review link to priorities How does the review link to community concern Which specific areas will the review examine
B. Timetable When will the review commence When will the review conclude
C. Information and consultees What information do Members require to enable them to start work on the review Are there any key witnesses/visits How could the review involve the public
D. Resources Are there any specific resource implications for the review

Issues for Scrutiny should reflect:

- i. Concern of Members, the Public or Partners
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