

minutes



Meeting CRIME REDUCTION SELECT COMMITTEE

Date Monday, 18 June 2007 (commencing at 10.30 am)

Membership

Persons absent are marked with `A`

COUNCILLORS

Councillor John Knight (Chair)
Councillor Joe Lonergan MBE (Vice-Chair)

John Carter
Jen Cole
Alan Davison
Stan Heptinstall MBE

Pat Lally
Bruce Laughton
Mark Spencer

MINUTES

The minutes of the last meeting of the Select Committee held on 21st May 2007 having been circulated were confirmed by the Chair.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Bruce Laughton declared a personal interest in the following item as his wife had recently become an employee of Police Authority.

CONSIDERATION OF EVIDENCE PRESENTED TO THE SELECT COMMITTEE

Councillor Knight explained to the Select Committee that the report before them gave a summary of the evidence which they had received during the course of the review. Prior to discussion on the report, he reported that Anne Halliday from GOEM was unable to attend the meeting.

The Chair requested that Richard Hodge, Service Director, Community Safety, Regeneration and Protection summarise for the Select Committee the main issues arising so far in the scrutiny review. Richard Hodge suggested that members may wish to review the 4 best value indicators, and current position considering that there are 3 divisional commanders in the County each with different priorities and different approaches to tasking and co-ordination. He drew their attention to a proposed Home Office review that was to take place in Nottinghamshire by the Police and Partnerships Standards Board. The review would take place over the coming months. Its findings would help shape the Crime and Disorder Act for two tier authorities and set the framework to improve agency involvement. Mr Hodge commented that although agencies liaised with each other they tended to talk at

each other rather than listen. Their engagement in the review would be important for it to work. He also pointed out the challenge posed by the City Council as a unitary authority. This would be central to the review.

The Select Committee discussed the issues highlighted by their review in terms of communication and co-ordination between agencies involved in community safety issues. They felt that a central hub of officers organised by the County Council would help to bring together all aspects of the County Council's work on community safety. Mr Hodge said that the Home Office review would show how the County Council worked externally and assist in putting community safety issues at the centre of what it does in line with the Local Area Agreement. Members recognised it was also recognised that the officers would need to have the power to operate and act quickly when it was required.

Following discussion the Select Committee felt that more should be done to engage members and keep them informed. In particular if they were provided with information from the CDRP meetings and provide them the opportunity to raise any local issues. They suggested local members be invited to CDRP meetings, local area commanders or divisional officers be invited to attend Members Forums and there be a wider circulation of minutes of these meetings.

It was agreed that a draft final report be prepared for presentation at the next meeting of the Select Committee on the basis of the information presented and comments made and that recommendations should include:

1. A meeting at the end of December/January to receive findings of the Home Office Review.
2. Crime statistics be circulated to members of the Select Committee on a quarterly basis.

The meeting closed at 11.15am

CHAIR

Ref: crime reduction/m_18 june07