



Meeting	<b>County Council</b>	
Date	<b>28 June 2007</b>	agenda item number

**REPORT OF THE CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY SAFETY AND PARTNERSHIPS**

**Purpose of the Report**

- 1 The County Council meeting gives me another opportunity to share with you issues, events and activities ongoing in the Community Safety and Partnerships portfolio. I hope all Councillors find the report of interest and will be very happy to provide further information on any subject it covers.

**COMMUNITY SAFETY**

**Safer Communities**

**Mobile Rural Contact Point**

- 2 I was very pleased to host the launch of the new Rural Mobile Contact Point on 22 May. This new, state of the art vehicle will visit more than 80 villages every month across the districts of Bassetlaw and Newark and Sherwood, offering information and access to services to remote communities and individuals who would otherwise struggle to get this contact. The Rural Mobile Contact Point is an extremely effective way for our rural communities to find out about services from all agencies under one roof – something that our customers tell us they really appreciate. The Rural Mobile Contact point is an excellent example of partnership working between Nottinghamshire County Council, Notts Police and the district councils of Bassetlaw and Newark and Sherwood and is staffed by a Police Constable and Nottinghamshire County Council Contact Advisor. It has wheelchair access, purpose built satellite equipment and a private interview room.

**Junction 27**

- 3 I am very pleased that our work on obtaining an injunction to stop car cruisers achieved a successful outcome in the County Court on 14 June. The countywide injunction will help to not only curtail racing at the current hotspot around Junction 27 but will also stop the matter being displaced to elsewhere in the County. The injunction prevents five or more motor vehicles from congregating together; driving in convoy or racing each other on the highway and making excessive noise; causing danger to road users or risk injury or risk damage to property. We will be running a high profile media campaign to publicise the injunction, making it very clear that

breaches could result in imprisonment. Ironically, part of this media campaign will utilise the web-based Car Cruising notice boards to highlight the injunction.

### **Community Cohesion**

- 4 We have recently appointed a Community Cohesion Project Manager to take the lead on our work on community cohesion, delivering the countywide community cohesion strategy and the community cohesion elements of the Local Area Agreement. I am keen that the post will support our relationships with diverse communities across the county, including the voluntary and community sectors. I am especially pleased that this post will help us demonstrate our engagement with all the diverse groups that make up our communities and highlight our pro-active approach to community cohesion. I am sure that this work will have long term benefits for Nottinghamshire by developing greater self reliance in communities, reducing the call on our resources and ultimately in reducing crime and anti-social behaviour.

### **Domestic Violence**

- 5 I am pleased to report that we have recently made a contribution of £16,000 to Nottinghamshire Domestic Violence Forum towards providing 21 multi-agency domestic violence awareness training sessions to all relevant workers across Nottinghamshire. This training will equip managers and frontline workers with the knowledge and skills needed to respond appropriately and safely to domestic violence disclosures made by adults, children and young people. In addition we have awarded £33,500 to the Women's Aid Advice Centre towards the continuation of the Independent Domestic Violence Advisor post for two years to enable the provision of support to approximately 15 women sufferers per quarter (60 women per year). These areas of work are crucial to our ongoing commitment to the reduction of domestic violence across Nottinghamshire

### **Sutton Lawns: Anti-Social Behaviour**

- 6 We are making significant progress in our partnership approach to tackling anti-social behaviour (ASB) issues on and around Sutton Lawns in Sutton in Ashfield. Ashfield District Council has now been commissioned to begin the work to improve the perimeter fencing on the north east side of the Lawns, improving natural surveillance and taking out a wall which has been the focus for ASB. A number of the entrances/exits on the west side are also being altered to make it more difficult for illegal bike and mini-moto riders to escape from Police enforcement action. The Police Off Road Bike team has already spent time at the Lawns and this has led to one "chase" and subsequent arrest, not only for an unlicensed bike but also for a possession of drugs offence. This activity is going a long way to reassuring the local residents of the area

## **PARTNERSHIPS**

### **Relationships with Parish Councils**

- 7 In response to the Strong and Prosperous Communities White Paper, the County Council recently held two liaison meetings with local Quality Parish Councils. The meetings were well attended and all the representatives welcomed the County's initiative to work more closely with them. As a starting point the parishes have requested that there is improved communication and meaningful consultation between the two partners, followed by a menu of "street scene" services that could be delivered by the local councils. This will have a significant impact on the way the County Council delivers some of its services at a local level and pose challenges for us to better apportion and manage our budgets. Further work has been commissioned on the aforementioned aspects and we plan to hold another round of consultation meetings with the Quality Parish Councils in the autumn.

### **Strengthening the role of Rural Councillors**

- 8 The consultation conducted on behalf of the Commission for Rural Communities has been completed. A total of 36 questionnaires were sent to county councillors whose constituency is rural or part rural, 12 replies were received and the overall quality of response was excellent. A full copy of our response will be sent to all those who were sent a questionnaire. This research will contribute to the wider work on the role of the frontline councillor. A key message emerging from the research is that members would like to see closer working between officers and members, and for officers to be more aware of the role that councillors can play in helping shape and improve delivery of our services.

## **EMERGENCY PLANNING**

- 9 The Emergency Planning Team have continued to disseminate our good practice in emergency planning following the County Council's successful joint Beacon Scheme application with Newark & Sherwood. Recent presentations include a conference in Scotland, at the invitation of the Scottish Executive. Cllr Yvonne Davison and I will join officers at the Emergency Planning Society Annual Conference in Torquay, where we will be co-presenting a number of workshop sessions in collaboration with the other Beacon authorities.

## **REGISTRATION SERVICE**

- 10 Staff continue to operate a manual system for the registration of births and deaths due to the continuing difficulties arising from the new national Registration On-Line system. The General Register Office has engaged specialist advisers to resolve the problems, but warn that full resolution may take several months.
- 11 Registration Service managers and staff are meeting in local areas to map out the detailed arrangements for the transfer of registrars to full local government employment. This process will include a staff conference later this year. Trade Union representatives have been kept in touch with this work which arises from the government's intended change to the employment status of registrars. Provisions to regularise the employment position of registration officers

have been included in the Statistics and Registration Service Bill currently before Parliament. with Royal Assent possible before the summer recess.

## **TRADING STANDARDS**

### **3 9s Challenge**

- 12 On Thursday 31st May 2007 I was pleased to attend the 3 9s graduation ceremony at Holme Pierrepont. The Three 9's challenge is a Police lead multi agency, sustainable, youth intervention strategy. It involves young people aged 11 - 16yrs who have been identified for a variety of reasons to either be at risk of offending or are vulnerable. Referrals to the project come from multi agency sources including schools, the Youth Offending Team, youth services, schools, Police Officers, Connexions and agency partners. The project is broken into four individual challenge modules that take place over each of the school holiday periods through the school year - each one is designed to challenge, develop and test new skills as both individuals and as team members. At each of the first 3 stages, the children learn some first aid towards a certificate.
- 13 51 young people from both the City and the County graduated on the 31<sup>st</sup> May. In the morning, they took part in some water sports. After some lunch, they received their graduation certificates, which included a Young Lifesaver Award Scheme part 1 certificate from St John Ambulance. It was clear to me from attending the event that those youngsters involved had enjoyed the experience. I am sure that they will have gained skills that they will draw upon throughout their lives. None of this would have been possible without the efforts of the partner organisations involved and my thanks go out to the Trading Standards and Road Safety Teams from Nottinghamshire, Nottingham City, St Johns Ambulance, the Police, Fire & Rescue, Sporting Chance, School Nurses/Health Visitors and Bassetlaw District Council Sports Development Team.

### **Consumer Direct East Midlands Management Board**

- 14 On 7<sup>th</sup> June I attended the Consumer Direct (CD) East Midlands Management Board at Lincoln. Consumer Direct is the National Helpline and online service providing everyone in Great Britain with clear, practical consumer advice. The Board ensures that all Local Authority Trading Standards Services in the region have real influence over the delivery of Consumer Direct East Midlands. The Team of 30 advisors is the first point of call for consumers looking for help before and after buying goods or services. It now responds to an average 2,000 calls and 70 emails per week. All complaint information collected by the advisors is logged on a national database. This provides a valuable source of intelligence for Trading Standards and a range of consumer organisations.
- 15 The day highlighted the real benefits of the service. Consumers are assured a consistent level of first tier advice, which in turn frees up resources within Trading Standards Services to concentrate on more complex consumer advice and intelligence lead enforcement and advice activities. As well as offering advice to consumers CD will link in with Trading Standards initiatives throughout the East

Midlands. It will provide Nottinghamshire consumers with the details of local approved traders for those who cannot access the website of the soon to be launched Nottinghamshire Buy with Confidence scheme. Trader tracking of all scheme approved traders on the CD database will highlight any complaints for our Trading Standards Service to investigate.

### **Trading Standards Prosecutions**

- 16 On 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2006 a Lincolnshire goods vehicle driver exceeded the 7.5T weight restriction in Cropwell Bishop. During May he was fined £120, and ordered to pay £80 costs.
- 17 A car trader from Sutton in Ashfield appeared before Mansfield Magistrates following the investigation of a consumer complaint which revealed that a Nissan vehicle he had sold had been supplied with a false Service/Warranty record. The record indicated that the vehicle had been serviced at regular 6000 mile intervals between 2001 and 2005 when this was not so. He was fined £650 and ordered to pay £410 costs.
- 18 A Stapleford car trader was fined a total of £420 and ordered to pay £200 costs following the investigation of two consumer complaints. He had advertised and sold a Ford Puma with 79,800 miles whereas the vehicle had travelled in excess of 142,000 and a Vauxhall Zafira with 86,000 but which had travelled in excess of 150,000.
- 19 An individual from Mansfield appeared before Mansfield Magistrates for selling counterfeit DVDs and clothing. During August 2005 he was apprehended at Ravenshead Car boot Sale with 89 DVDs and 30 items of clothing and also at Clipstone with 68 items of clothing. Following several attempts to secure his appearance at court an arrest warrant was issued. On 13th March 2007 he was arrested at Manchester Airport. On the same day Trading Standards officers searched the individual's home and discovered in excess of 500 counterfeit items, again a mixture of DVDs, CDs and clothing. He was fined £100 in relation to a charge under the Trade Marks Act for the counterfeit items and a further £100 for possession for purposes of supply of unclassified video works. He was also ordered to pay costs of £571.00

### **Alcohol Test Purchasing**

- 20 A Worksop trader is currently the subject of an appeal following an Alcohol Licensing Committees decision to suspend his licence for a period of 28 days. The original hearing was held following a Trading Standards test purchasing exercise where two 14 year old volunteers were sold alcohol on four occasions on the same day. This represents a new approach to tackling the sale of alcohol to under 18's and I am sure that it will serve as a warning to Nottinghamshire traders.

### **Healthier Communities**

- 21 I am pleased to inform colleagues that as from the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2007, the Health Inequalities Team, with my support, changed their name to The Healthier Communities Service. This is to reflect the teams developing remit both with its work

across our own county council departments and their growing partnerships with the county's Primary Care Trusts, including the new joint public health function alongside a raft of other partners such as the voluntary and community sector to improve health and wellbeing across Nottinghamshire communities. The Team have continued to work closely and build strong relationships with our public health colleagues with the aim of tackling key areas that focus on narrowing the health gap between disadvantaged groups and communities across Nottinghamshire. These areas include tobacco control, tackling obesity, addressing avoidable injury, tackling alcohol misuse and the consequences of poor life choices and the impact these have on our communities health and wellbeing.

- 22 As from the 1<sup>st</sup> July, 2007 virtually all enclosed public places and workplaces in England will become smoke free and by doing so will help to ensure a healthier environment for all to enjoy. The legislation will impact on all members of the community including young people and as from October 2007 it will become illegal for young people under the age of 18 to purchase any tobacco products. As part of the run up to this, the County Council, in partnership with key agencies is supporting an event on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 'Kick the Habit'. The event is aimed at raising awareness among young people on the new smoke free regulations, the health risks associated with smoking including the harmful effects of second hand smoke. The event will provide advice and information on the health implications of smoking and how young people can be supported to make healthy lifestyle choices which contribute to improving their health and wellbeing.
- 23 Nottinghamshire Avoidable Injury Group is a multi agency partnership to reduce the burden of accidents to both the people who encounter them and the services who are involved in the aftermath. Partners include Nottinghamshire County Council, Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service, East Midlands Ambulance Service and the NHS as a whole, though specifically public health which has a major role to play. A workshop, commissioned by the group, held in May brought together a range of partners to look at developing a plan of action to tackle reducing accidents among children. Falls Awareness Day on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2007 is an annual event facilitated by Help the Aged and supported across the County by key partners is this year focusing on the theme of getting out and about. Activities being organised across the county include the provision of information on the availability of exercise classes and physical activities for older people.

**Councillor Glynn Gilfoyle**  
**CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY SAFETY AND PARTNERSHIPS**