

Report to: Cabinet **Agenda Item**

Date: 11 July 2006

By: Director of Policy Management and Communications

Title of report: Response to recommendations made by Scrutiny review of actions being taken to reduce the public's perception of the fear of crime

Purpose of report: To provide an opportunity for the Cabinet to comment on the report of the Scrutiny Committee review of the actions being taken to reduce the public's perception of the fear of crime

Recommendations

The Cabinet is recommended to:

1. note and welcome the report of the Scrutiny Committee; and
 2. advise the County Council that in considering the report of the Scrutiny Committee, the Council be recommended to welcome the recommendations set out in the report and to approve the response of the Director of Policy Management and Communications to the recommendations and their implementation.
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1. Financial Appraisal

1.1 There are no specific financial recommendations arising from this report, however a number of the recommendations have resource implications that will need to be considered as part of the Reconciling Policy and Resources process.

2. Introduction

2.1 In September 2005, the Community Services Scrutiny Committee agreed to carry out a review on the public's perception of the fear of crime. This linked in with the continuing work by the Police and other partners to reduce public place violent crime - especially low level anti-social behaviour.

2.2 As a result of the evidence brought before the Board it concluded that there are a number of improvements and developments that it would like to see in order to address some of the drivers which affect the public's fear of crime.

2.3 The Board recognized the effective work already being undertaken by the County Council and its partners. It sought to bring to the fore a number of developments which should be extended to enhance the work already being carried out.

2.4 Nine recommendations were made by the Board; recommendations 3 and 4 were for the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRPs). Each CDRP has received a copy of the review and has had the appropriate recommendations highlighted for response. The CDRPs generally meet quarterly and no responses have yet been received. Recommendation 9 is for the Board itself.

3. County Council Response

3.1 The timing of this review and the recommendations must be set within the context of the significantly changing landscape for community safety, in the light of the priorities identified within the Local Area Agreement (LAA) including mandatory targets and indicators required by Government; and the changes suggested by the Crime and Disorder Act Review.

3.2 Although both the County Council and its partners has a strong commitment to providing community reassurance, the limited financial resources available through the Safer and Stronger Communities Fund to Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRPs) are necessarily largely targeted at meeting the mandatory crime reduction targets, consequently the resources required to deliver fear of crime rely on competing for mainstream budgets of the County Council and partners. The identification of additional resources would enable some projects to be piloted and evaluated. The value to be gained from diverting resources will be considered through the Reconciling Policy and Resources process for 2007/08.

4. Recommendations

4.1 Cabinet is asked to approve the response to the recommendations relevant to the County Council as detailed in Appendix 1.

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