



Report of the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development

Scrutiny Board (Environment and Neighbourhoods)

Date: 19th April 2010

Subject: Crime and Disorder Scrutiny – Draft protocol

Electoral Wards Affected: All

Ward Members consulted
(referred to in report)

Specific Implications For:

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 In recent years, the role and responsibilities of overview and scrutiny have expanded significantly, with the function now responsible for investigating the delivery of services provided by a wide range of public, private and third-sector partners.
- 1.2 Provisions in the Police and Justice Act 2006, namely Section 19, 20 and 21, further extend the remit of local authorities to scrutinise crime and disorder functions and as from April 2009, the Council is required to designate a Scrutiny Board to act as the Council's 'Crime and Disorder Committee'. The Environment and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Board has been assigned to fulfil this role.
- 1.3 In its capacity as a 'Crime and Disorder Committee', the Environment and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Board has powers to review or scrutinise decisions made (or action taken), in connection with the discharge by the 'responsible authorities' of their crime and disorder functions. These are the authorities responsible for crime and disorder strategies, as detailed in the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, and include the Local Authority, the Police Force, the Police Authority, the Fire and Rescue Authority and the Primary Care Trust. As from April 2010, the Probation Service also becomes the sixth responsible authority.
- 1.4 The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 also introduced Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (now referred to as Community Safety Partnerships) to develop and implement such strategies. In Leeds, *Safer Leeds* is the city's Community Safety Partnership.

- 1.5 Home Office guidance recommends that a protocol is developed jointly between the local Scrutiny function and Community Safety Partnership to help provide guidance and a common understanding of how crime and disorder scrutiny will operate in practice. Separate protocols already exist for the scrutiny of health services and other statutory public sector partners in Leeds and have been well received.
- 1.6 In view of this, a draft protocol between the Scrutiny Board and the local Community Safety Partnership has been developed and is attached for the Board's consideration and agreement.
- 1.7 Following today's meeting, formal agreement of the protocol will also be sought from the Safer Leeds Partnership Executive.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 Members of the Scrutiny Board (Environment and Neighbourhoods) are asked to consider and agree the attached protocol.

Background Papers

National Support Framework. Delivering Safer and Confident Communities. Guidance for the Scrutiny of Crime and Disorder Matters – England. Implementing Sections 19 and 20 of the Police and Justice Act 2006. Home Office (May 2009).