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## Report of the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development

### Scrutiny Board (Environment and Neighbourhoods)

Date: 14<sup>th</sup> June 2010

### Subject: Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Joint Protocol

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#### Electoral Wards Affected: All

Ward Members consulted  
(referred to in report)

#### Specific Implications For:

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

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## 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 has been 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 recommended that a protocol be 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 protocol between the Scrutiny Board and the local Community Safety Partnership was developed and agreed by the Scrutiny Board and the Safer Leeds Executive in April/May 2010.
- 1.7 This protocol is attached for the information of the Scrutiny Board.

## **2.0 Recommendations**

- 2.1 Members of the Scrutiny Board (Environment and Neighbourhoods) are asked to note the attached joint protocol between the Scrutiny Board and the local Community Safety Partnership.

### 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).