

Organisation and Resources Select Committee

24 March 2011

Response to Partnership Task Group Final Report

The Chair of the Wiltshire Community Safety Partnership and the Cabinet Member for Community Safety would both like to thank the Task Group for their hard work in producing the report and for the opportunity to respond to the recommendations contained within it.

In response to the specific recommendations the following responses should be noted:

Recommendations:

The Committee is requested to endorse the following Task Group recommendations, the majority of which will then be sent to the Community Safety Partnership's Chairman and Cabinet Member for consideration:

- a) To approve the continuation of the Task Group to scrutinise further partnership working;

For Committee consideration

- b) To recommend to the Community Safety Partnership that they produce a tool-kit directed towards elected Members, which provides them with important contact information and a summary of the powers available to promote and enforce the ambitions of the Partnership;

The Community Safety Partnership is happy to develop such a tool-kit which will build on and consolidate training already provided for Members such as Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) awareness workshops.

- c) To ask the Partnership to provide elected Members with a regular update on their achievements, to include any legislative reforms such as changes to tool-kits (e.g anti-dispersal order) using the council's Members' briefing system or Elected Wire;

The Partnership already produces an e-newsletter in conjunction with the Criminal Justice Board to update Members and partners regarding strategic community safety issues. It is accepted however that Members may require more information regarding operational tools and is happy to explore the possibility of providing regular updates through Members briefing notes or Elected Wire particularly with regard to process and procedure. Indeed this will become critical over the next twelve months as the Government clarifies its new

suite of tools to tackle ASB currently subject to consultation. The Partnership welcomes views on how these can be implemented at local level within communities.

- d) To recommend that the Cabinet Members with responsibility for Community Safety and Area Boards discuss how the Area Boards can be used to empower communities with the Task Group highlighting the potential of single item meetings to tackle Community Safety issues specific to that community;

The Service Director for Public Protection would be happy to facilitate a meeting between the Cabinet Members for Community Safety and Area Boards and the Task Group so that this can be taken forward. Members of the Committee should be aware that the principle of a single item agenda has already been established with a meeting held for the Wootton Bassett and Cricklade Area Board just prior to Christmas 2010. This event was attended by the Chair of the Partnership and other partners. Staff within the Public Protection Service are always happy to facilitate similar events and have a number of 'packages' that can be adapted to suit the specific needs of any Area Board.

The Partnership would also welcome this opportunity to inform the Committee of other initiatives currently being implemented to improve engagement with Community Areas. This includes work around Restorative Justice/Local Resolution; a Partnership task group specifically set up to consider how better to promote local engagement comprising of Members and local community safety partnerships and more targeted use of information through the Joint Strategic Assessment pertaining to community safety issues. The latter will enable better, more targeted use of resources to tackle identified community issues.

- e) To request an update from the Community Safety Partnership in 6 months time.

The Partnership will be happy to provide an update on activity following its Executive meeting in September. Please note that Members of the task group are welcome to attend the Partnership executive meetings at any time.

Ceri Williams

Senior Scrutiny Officer

Contact details: 01225 713079

ceri.williams@wiltshire.gov.uk