

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PERFORMANCE BOARD 17 MARCH 2021

CRIME AND DISORDER WORK PROGRAMME

Summary

1. The Overview and Scrutiny Performance Board (the Board) is asked to consider developing its role in respect of crime and disorder matters.

Background

2. On 31 March 2009, the previous Overview and Scrutiny Steering Committee (OSSC) was designated by the Council as its statutory Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee. On 25 June 2009, Council agreed that this approach could continue. As part of this responsibility, the Board usually meets on an annual basis with Crime and Disorder partners, to discuss issues of mutual interest whilst retaining the right to look into other significant issues as and when they arise.
3. The power to scrutinise crime and disorder is jointly shared with District Councils, in areas where a two-tier system is in operation. It is imperative that the authorities in each tier ensure that work is not duplicated. Community Safety Partnerships (CSP's) operate at a district level with the District Council being the Responsible Authority. There are currently 2 CSPs in Worcestershire with North Worcestershire CSP incorporating the 3 district authority areas of Wyre Forest, Bromsgrove and Redditch Borough, and South Worcestershire CSP incorporating Worcester City, Malvern Hills and Wychavon.
4. As the District Councils already scrutinise community safety issues and have relationships with CSP's and the legislation supports this work, the County Council has focussed its work on county-wide strategic issues to enable the two tiers to complement each other. This arrangement enables the Council to fulfil its minimum statutory function and wherever possible, to add value to other work being done.

Suggested way forward

5. At recent meetings, the Board has briefly discussed how the crime and disorder agenda could be given more prominence and the role developed. Accordingly, a Work Programme for Crime and Disorder matters has been drafted (attached at Appendix 1) for discussion.
6. Meetings of the Board are scheduled on a monthly basis. It is suggested that 4 of those meetings could be designated primarily for the discussion of crime and disorder matters (including one for the Annual meeting).

7. Taking into account the Board's overall Work Programme; February, April, July and October meetings would be most suitable for this.

Purpose of the Meeting

8. In light of its discussion, the Board is asked to consider whether it would wish to develop its role in relation to the scrutiny of crime and disorder matters, noting that the focus should continue to be on county-wide strategic issues, complementing the work of District Councils (and avoiding duplication). If so, Members are asked to:

- consider the draft Crime and Disorder Work Programme and suggest amendments as appropriate;
- confirm whether they are content to meet more frequently (than the current annual obligation) to discuss crime and disorder matters; and if so
- agree whether the February, April, July and October meetings of the Board should be prioritised for discussion of crime and disorder matters.

Supporting Information

Appendix 1: Draft Crime and Disorder Work Programme

Contact Point for the Report

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Background Papers

In the opinion of the proper officer (in this case the Assistant Director of Legal and Governance) there are no papers relating to the subject matter of this report:

[All agendas and minutes are available on the Council's website.](#)