

Report to Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Date of meeting: 10 April 2008

Subject: Crime and Disorder Task and Finish Panel, Holding report

Officer contact for further information: John Gilbert

Committee Secretary: Adrian Hendry



Recommendation:

To note the holding report of the Crime and Disorder Task and Finish Panel.

Crime & Disorder Task & Finish Panel

The Panel was established in June 2006 following a review by Government of the operation of the Crime & Disorder Act 1998 and how local authorities were using its powers. The review indicated increased responsibilities for local authorities and scrutiny in particular. The Task & Finish panel was established to consider the government review and in particular the formation of the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships. The panel agreed its terms of reference as:

- “1. To consider the Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) and its effect on Scrutiny in EFDC and how it could be improved;***
- 2. To consider the involvement of Overview & Scrutiny in the new “Scrutiny Plus” arrangements to be conducted with other partner agencies;***
- 3. To consider the proposal for a “Community Call for Action” and its implications for EFDC Scrutiny; and***
- 4. To consider the role of EFDC’s Crime Reduction Team and the resources available to it”***

The Panel met on 5 occasions, the last meeting taking place in April 2007. The Panel over that time period took evidence from the Police, the PCT, the Fire Brigade, the Probation Service and the Essex County Council Youth Offending Team.

There has been considerable change since April 2007, the most important of these being the restructure of the Council’s services and the creation of new Directorates, and the retirement of the former lead officer for the Panel, the Joint Chief Executive, John Scott. As part of the restructure, the Council has adopted the “Safer, Cleaner, Greener” initiative and placed all the key delivery services into the new Environment & Street Scene Directorate.

Given these changes and also key new government requirements such as the production by the CDRPs of annual strategic assessments, it is appropriate that the Council reviews the way in which it is going to monitor the “Safer, Cleaner, Greener” initiative going forward. This is to be considered as part of the review of work programming at tonight’s meeting.