

Annex 1

Request by Member for Scrutiny Review



Please complete the form below to request consideration of your issue by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee

<b>Proposers Name:</b>	<b>Date of Request</b>
Simon F FORD	1 <sup>st</sup> March 2006
<b>Supporting Councillors (if any):</b>	
<b>Summary of Issue you wish to be scrutinised:</b>	
<p><b><u>Crime and Disorder Act 1998 – Government Review and Recommendations 2006.</u></b></p> <p>The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 introduced statutory legislation in respect of a partnership approach to tackling crime and disorder. Part of the requirement of the Act required Responsible Authority Groups to produce and publish three yearly crime reduction strategies as a means of informing local communities how the ‘Partnership’ or CDRP intended to tackle crime and disorder. Each strategy was reliant of two factors – a wide reaching crime audit of the District and substantive public consultation exercise.</p> <p>The Act has now been effective for over seven years. EFDC have adhered to its partnership responsibilities exceptionally well – driving forward and leading on strategic crime reduction programmes.</p> <p>The Government recently published a summary of findings following a review of CDRP’s , crime reduction work and accountability. The findings are likely to be given Royal Assent in the Autumn. A number of issues from that report need to be addressed - and will impact on the Council’s community safety activities.</p> <p>In the first instance communities will be able to evoke a ‘Community Call for Action’ when they feel that agencies are not responding to community safety concerns within an area. Ward Councillors will facilitate action – representing the community – and tabling the concerns before Overview and Scrutiny Committees.</p> <p>Overview and Scrutiny Committees will be given more responsibility – and ‘Scrutiny Plus’ Committees will be introduced. They will be able to hold to</p>	

account other 'partnership' agencies such as the Police, and hear out community concerns.

In a balance of accountability, Scrutiny Plus Committees will include other authority membership, such as the local Police Authority.

Furthermore, the review recommends that Community Well-Being Portfolio Holders will be asked to sit on both the Local Strategic Partnership group, and the CDRP – enabling and facilitating cross linked community safety work, and ensuring crime reduction aims are embedded within overall council plans and policy/performance

A summary of the key findings is attached to this report.

### **RESPECT agenda**

The Government recently unveiled its new Respect agenda – aimed at addressing unacceptable behaviour in the community. A detailed action plan has been published - and a range of existing powers have been extended. It is likely that local authorities will play a key role with regard to its implementation, key areas that are being highlighted include:

Parenting (poor parenting skills, weak child/parent relationships, and parental involvement in crime and ASB)

School (truancy and exclusion, and schools where poor behaviour is not challenged)

Community factors (deprived areas where disorder and neglect present, peer involvement in ASB)

Individual factors (drug and alcohol misuse – early involvement in ASB).

These proposals are currently undergoing review and comments. Further information from the Centre at this stage is not forthcoming, but a national network of projects and support is likely to be the driving force around the implementation of the Action Plan.

### **Single Non Emergency Number (SNEN)**

The Government intend to provide the public with a three digit number (101), separate from 999 – for non emergency services from community safety partners: police and local authorities. It has been said that this will improve public access to such services and help police forces and local authorities achieve a more coordinated response. Importantly, it would take the pressure off the 999 service, allowing it to become more responsive and efficient as well.

The Home Office has launched a programme to enable police forces and their local authority partners to put such a service in place. Current plans are for the service to be introduced right across England and Wales in three waves. The first wave is underway, the next two waves will rollout by 2008 – achieving core SNEN national coverage. Core service cover will include:

Vandalism / Graffiti  
Noisy Neighbours

**Intimidation / Harassment  
Abandoned Vehicles  
Rubbish  
Drunkenness  
ASB  
Drug dealing  
Street Lighting.**

**This will naturally impact on Council policy. Furthermore how will this fit in with the Call Centre proposals?**

#### **Local Authority Agreements (LAA)**

**LAA's will start being implemented throughout Essex come April 1<sup>st</sup>. Under the Safer Stronger Block – three key priorities have to be addressed by partnerships and relevant organisations:**

**Priority 8 - Keep vulnerable children and young people safe  
Priority 10 – Reduce Crime and fear of crime  
Priority 11 – Build RESPECT in communities and reduce ASB.**

**Targets have been set in respect of each priority. Performance and progress will be measured by ECC. CDRP funding will be adjusted 06/07 to take heed of the LAA agenda (25% of Home Office fund must be spent on the priorities above).**

**This is will strategically cross both the LSP and CDRP agendas, and again the Portfolio Holder is likely to play a key role with regard to cross linked work.**

#### **Other**

- Last year Cabinet Members agreed to support a joint Police / Council Community Safety Team – based within the District Council Offices. Since that time, due to difficulties around office space, the project has been slow to progress. Is suitable space able to be found in order to house such a team?**
- Secondly, if a joint team does not come to fruition, it is vital that the Council's Crime Reduction Team are moved to suitable accommodation where the risk of sensitive data, and the day to day activities of the team can be conducted in a more secure environment.**
- Graffiti is costing the Council more and more each year. It would be far more cost effective to employ personnel to remove graffiti than to continue to pay the increasing cost of external contractors. A report is due to go before cabinet shortly**
- Resources. If the Council takes part in an active leading role in respect of the forthcoming agendas as tabled in this report, consideration must be given to the current resources and staff available to deliver the proposals.**

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**NOTE: ENTRIES BELOW RELATE TO ISSUE CATEGORIES OF THE PICK PROCESS. PLEASE REFER TO THE EXPLANATORY NOTES TO THIS FORM FOR FURTHER INFORMATION**

<b>Public Interest Justification:</b>
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<b>Impact on the social, economic and environmental well-being of the area:</b>
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**Council Performance in this area (if known: Red, Amber, Green):**

**Keep in Context (are other reviews taking place in this area?)**

**Office Use:**