

## **Review Committee – 3 November 2009**

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Minutes of the meeting of the **Review Committee** held on **3 November 2009** when there were present:-

Chairman: Cllr Mrs J R Lumley  
Vice-Chairman: Cllr M Maddocks

Cllr K A Gibbs  
Cllr T Livings  
Cllr Mrs G A Lucas-Gill

Cllr M J Steptoe  
Cllr J Thomass

### **VISITING MEMBER**

Cllr T G Cutmore

### **OFFICERS PRESENT**

P Warren - Chief Executive  
R Whetton - Corporate Policy and Partnership Manager  
M Yolland - Community Safety Co-ordinator  
C Milton-White - Local Strategic Partnership Officer  
P Gowers - Overview and Scrutiny Officer  
M Power - Committee Administrator

### **ALSO PRESENT**

D Carlin - Chairman of Rochford Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnership

### **274 MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 22 September 2009 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman, subject to being amended to read: 'The Minutes of the meeting held on 8 September were approved'.

### **275 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr Mrs J R Lumley declared a personal interest in item 6 of the Agenda by virtue of being a Trustees of RRAVS, which had received funding for the Chief Officer post from the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP).

### **276 CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION PARTNERSHIP**

The Committee considered the report of the Corporate Policy and Partnership Manager, which provided Members with details of the function of the Rochford Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) and the partnership work that it is engaged in. The Committee welcomed Dan Carlin, the Chairman of the Rochford Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership.

The Committee was advised that there is now a legal requirement for the Review Committee to scrutinise the CDRP on an annual basis. Rochford

CDRP had exceeded their target of a 13.5% reduction in reported crime; a 32.9% reduction over 3 years had been achieved. The 5% target set for 2008/09 had also been exceeded, with an 8.9% reduction achieved. Because the Council funded the employment of Rochford Community Safety officers, the money received from Central Government for community safety was allocated fully to crime reduction.

In response to questions, the following was noted:-

- The process of assessing items to be included as priorities in the Partnership Plan for the forthcoming year starts in the autumn, with consultative events. Many identified priorities, however, would remain the same year on year, with specific additions and the Plan can be flexible where necessary.
- The current challenges in terms of crime were car theft and burglary. One of the biggest problems is that of criminals coming into the area from outside Essex specifically to commit crimes.
- The CDRP is organised within local authority boundaries, which corresponds with the boundaries of actual communities in Essex. Rochford's CDRP is located within the Police's South East Essex Division, which also covers Southend on Sea and Castle Point Borough Council areas.
- Available via the CDRP are Selecta DNA kits, which allow householders to mark their property with a unique code. These have been targeted around households in streets that have had a number of burglaries. Signage is being erected in the streets advising that the area is covered by the system as the importance of publicity is recognised.
- The CDRP gets its funding from the Home Office via Essex County Council, which acts as budget holder, and Safer Essex, which acts as the strategic body for the County and distributes the funding against targets set. The funding is allocated for a three year period. At present a sum of approximately £70,000 per year is allocated to Rochford CDRP. The Home Office sets targets for crime and disorder reduction, which are passed to individual CDRP's via Safer Essex.
- Perception of crime is recognised as a major issue, especially in areas of low crime such as Rochford. It is recognised that reassurance is important in making residents feel secure. A sub-group of the Rochford CDRP has been established to address this issue. The immediate aim of this sub-group is to increase communication with residents regarding the work around crime that is going on in the District. It is also recognised that Neighbourhood Watch schemes could be expanded across the District.

- Crimes that can be said to have increased as a direct result of the current economic recession include domestic violence and theft of motor vehicles. However, the increase in domestic violence may be as a result of an increase in the rate of reporting these crimes.
- Crime statistics are not provided by the CDRP to insurance companies. However, IQuanta, which is the crime analysis tool used by the Police, provides statistics for use by insurance companies when determining risk of crime and disorder in specific areas. The Essex Police and national Police websites also show crime rates for areas across the country.
- The number plate recognition system in operation in key parts of the County seems to have been effective in reducing the number of people coming into Essex to commit crime. However, setting up new camera sites for this costs in the region of £70,000 to establish.
- While there is no drug-related crime specifically showing in the statistics or in the Partnership's identified priorities, it was recognised that many crimes committed were probably drug or alcohol related. Alcohol-related crimes are now becoming more quantifiable due to the availability of some limited data sets and the same needs to be achieved for drug-related crimes. It is anticipated that the availability of data surrounding drug-related crime is likely to increase, which would enable reference to be made in the Action Plan for 2010/11. Funding for issues around drugs particularly is largely based around treatment. The CDRP currently undertakes work around drug and alcohol crime via the Drug and Alcohol Reference Group (DARG). A scheme to develop a better information base and track work around drug-related crime is being piloted.
- The Rochford CDRP is the most successful CDRP in the east of England and the best performing CDRP over the last 3 years. Although domestic burglary had increased during the previous year, statistically, the numbers were still very small.
- The Chairman of the CDRP wished to commend the Council's Community Safety team on their commitment and dedication.

### **277 LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP**

The Committee considered the report of the Corporate Policy & Partnership Manager which provided Members with details of the function of the Rochford Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) and the partnership work that it is engaged in. The Committee welcomed Cllr Terry Cutmore, Chairman of the Rochford LSP.

The Rochford LSP works with Castle Point Council and Essex County Council on various projects, such as the Drugs and Alcohol Reference Group (DARG), which enables economies of scale and savings to be made. There is a very

strong national driver for partnership working. The LSP creates a strategic framework but always there is a focus on delivery.

In response to questions, the following was noted:-

- Funding for the LSP has been via a Performance Reward Grant received via Essex County Council and allocated through the Essex Partnership. The grant is allocated to the LSP's according to need and requirements and focuses on performance. The County Council regards the LSP as a key driver, which enhances both partnership working and localism. The key agencies in a community work together and enjoy the benefits of greater sharing of resources, staffing etc.
- The aim is for all agencies to work in partnership towards joint strategic planning, and a joint approach to delivering services, managing budgets and undertaking larger strategic projects. This joint strategic planning should be capable of picking up gaps in services.
- LSP's across the County also meet at officer level.
- With the aim of increasing performance management within the partnership, a commitment has been made to a structure for on-going review of the Partnership.
- It was appreciated that although Parish/Town Councils were involved in sub-groups of the LSP, the role of these Councils within the Partnership needed to be clearly established in an attempt to increase their knowledge and participation.
- The Government 'total place' initiative on controlling expenditure on public services was being directed around the country. LSP's will play an increasingly major role in public spending, which meant that a role for Rochford District Council in the LSP was vital. Funding will be given to LSP's rather than to individual agencies. It was also recognised that it was important to keep the public apprised of what has been achieved and the aims of the LSP. Residents must feel able to drive the activities of the LSP and be aware of the range of services on offer.
- Members of the Review Committee could be invited to attend LSP and CDRP meetings.

### **278 THE FORWARD PLAN**

The Committee reviewed the Forward Plan and noted its contents.

The meeting closed at 8.54 pm.

Chairman .....

Date .....

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