

Southend-on-Sea Borough Council

Agenda
Item No.

Report of Corporate Director for Corporate Services

to
Cabinet

23rd June 2015

Report prepared by:
Fiona Abbott

**In depth scrutiny report –
The Council's community leadership role in promoting safer communities
A Part 1 Agenda Item**

1. Purpose of Report

To present the final report of the in depth scrutiny project - 'The Council's community leadership role in promoting safer communities'.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That Cabinet approves the report and recommendations from the in depth scrutiny project attached at **Appendix 1**.
- 2.2 To note that approval of any recommendations with budget implications will require consideration as part of future years' budget processes prior to implementation.

3. Background

- 3.1 The Policy & Resources Scrutiny Committee selected this topic at the meeting on 16th July 2014 (Minute 134 refers).
- 3.2 The project plan was agreed by the Project Team and then the Scrutiny Committee on 16th October 2014 (Minute 302 refers) with the following objectives:
 - the role of the Council in promoting safer communities;
 - the role the Community Safety Partnership and partner bodies play in this agenda;
 - the changing landscape with the Essex wide Police & Crime Commissioner; types of crime / performance;
 - the existing / changing arrangements for engaging with local communities; and
 - review the impact of partnership activity with aim to provide reassurance there is effective engagement with local communities.
- 3.3 The Member Project Team, which was Chaired by Councillor Habermel, met on 3 occasions and held a full day of evidence gathering with invited witnesses in February 2015. The focus of the event was on the following:-
 - the 'big issues' of (a) violent crime and (b) prolific offender management; and
 - the 'local issues' / concerns around cycling on pavement.
- 3.4 These areas were identified as they reflect some of the current issues that both Southend Borough Council and Southend Community Safety Partnership (CSP) are addressing or potentially, require further support or work to address.

3.5 The draft scrutiny report was considered by the Member Project Team and agreed at the Policy & Resources Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 16th April 2015 (Minute 822 refers). The report has been shared with the witnesses and the comments received have been positive.

4 Recommendations

4.1 In accordance with Scrutiny Procedure Rule 10 (Part 4 (e) of the Constitution), the in depth scrutiny report is now attached at **Appendix 1** for approval by Cabinet. It should be noted that approval of any recommendations with budget implications will require consideration as part of future years' budget processes prior to implementation. The recommendations are as follows:

- (a) That the Cabinet consider the in depth scrutiny report on the Councils community leadership role in promoting safer communities and agree the conclusions from the study.
- (b) That the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) develop an action plan of delivery, detailing specific actions to take forward the [key conclusions from the review](#) for agreement and for implementation.
- (c) That the CSP to monitor the Action Plan outcomes and provide feedback on progress and report back to scrutiny in 12 months.

5. Other Options

Not applicable.

6. Corporate Implications

6.1 Contribution to Council's Vision and Critical Priorities – Becoming an excellent and high performing organisation.

6.2 Financial Implications - there are financial implications to some recommendations but as yet they are unquantifiable. However, any recommendations progressing with associated financial implications will need to go through the annual budgetary process before implementation, as currently no revenue or capital budgets exist for the proposals.

6.3 Legal Implications – none.

6.4 People Implications – none.

6.5 Property Implications – none.

6.6 Consultation – as described in report.

6.7 Equalities Impact Assessment – none.

6.8 Risk Assessment – none.

7. Background Papers

- Project team meeting notes – meetings held on 2nd October 2014, 13th November 2014 and 9th April 2015.
- Agreed notes from witness session held 2nd February 2015.
- Update to Scrutiny Committee – 29th January 2015 (Minute 619 refers).
- Other evidence as described in the report.

8. Appendices

Appendix 1 – in depth scrutiny project final report