

**POLICY & RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE  
IN-DEPTH STUDY 2014/15**

**TOPIC: 'THE COUNCIL'S COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP ROLE IN PROMOTING SAFER COMMUNITIES'**

**FRAMEWORK FOR SCRUTINY / SCOPE OF PROJECT:**

Issues for consideration:

1. To understand the role of the Council in promoting safer communities (regulatory powers etc)
2. The Role of the Community Safety Partnership including the representation of other organisations / bodies on this Board.
3. Changing landscape with the Essex wide Police & Crime Commissioner & the PCC Office and understand the context of wider Essex.
4. Types of crimes – and general performance including emerging trends.
5. How do we measure the perception of crime?
6. What are the existing - and changing - arrangements for engaging with local communities – NAP's; Residents Associations; Neighbourhood watch, Ward Councillors; community champions; volunteering etc.
7. Review the impact of partnership activity - to assure itself and that there is effective engagement with communities.

**MEMBERSHIP:**

Councillor Habermel (Chairman), Councillor Evans, J Garston, Stafford, Ayling, Robinson, Wexham and Waterworth.

**Officer / partner support** – Dipti Patel, Simon Ford (Technical Support) and Fiona Abbott (project coordinator).

**SOURCES OF EVIDENCE**

The evidence base will be:

- (a) Data, profiles, trends and patterns
- (b) Performance information / key issues
- (c) Strategic plan
- (d) Community Safety Plan
- (e) Information from neighbouring authorities and partners
- (f) Information provided by Chief Superintendent at Policy & Resources Scrutiny Cttee on 16<sup>th</sup> October 2014 re the crime performance indicators and performance
- (g) Stakeholders meeting – early 2015

**METHOD / PROCESS:**

The project will be run along the following lines:

- (a) 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2014 – project team meeting - draft project plan considered and agreed.
- (b) 16<sup>th</sup> October 2014 – project plan to be considered by main cttee.
- (c) November – project team meeting to finalise format of review; agree who want to meet and parameters of questions for witnesses.
- (d) Early 2015 – a full day of evidence gathering, finish with 'panel' meeting to collate and triangulate key findings and agree recommendations;
- (e) Project team meeting to consider draft scrutiny report and recommendations (drafted in consultation with Chairman & officers).
- (f) Final meeting of project team to agree report before submission to full cttee and then Cabinet.

*Project coordinator to update full Cttee on the progress of the project at relevant stages.*

**Target date:** April 2015

**POTENTIAL WITNESSES:**

- (a) Chair Community Safety Partnership or nominee
- (b) Southend Police Representative
- (c) PCC or nominee
- (d) National Probation Service and Essex Community Rehabilitation Company (ECRC)
- (e) Southend CCG
- (f) SBC - Head of Procurement, Commissioning and Housing
- (g) Public Health
- (h) SMAART representative
- (i) Business Representative ( BID or licensees Group)
- (j) Voluntary sector - SAVS
- (k) Residents Associations

*Scrutiny process is structured to add value and is supportive of the challenges already set to be delivered, but has limited resources, which need to be focused on providing the front line service and the priority outcomes for the Council.*

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

To make appropriate recommendations to the Council & partners

This review links to the Council's Corporate Priority 1 – continue to reduce crime, disorder and anti social behaviour.