

Transport, Environment and Community Safety Scrutiny Panel

Scoping Document

Review how the city council, police and fire services could work together more efficiently and effectively to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour in the city

Background

Given the continuing pressure on all public sector budgets there is a strong argument for agencies to work more closely together to identify and deliver more efficient and new ways of working that could improve public confidence in services and delivery whilst at the same time providing savings.

The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 places a requirement on the local authority, police, fire, health and probation services to work together to improve community safety.

In the last year recorded crime has risen by 9% compared to a 3% rise nationally, though overall since 2007/08 crime levels in the city have fallen by 27%.

As all public sector organisations are putting in place plans to reduce their budgets further, it is imperative that they continue to work together to ensure that they are able to meet the needs of residents.

Following an overview of the city's priorities for community safety, one priority area will be identified for scrutiny in order to:

- Identify ways that services could work more effectively together
- Identify how partners could work together to reduce demand for (community safety) services
- Identify how residents can be encouraged to 'self-help' rather than ask for statutory services to intervene
- Review the priorities for the city and partners (strategic assessment and community safety plan)

Potential witnesses

Strategy and Partnerships Manager - Lisa Wills (priorities overview)

Further to be identified once the review focus is agreed but may include:

Hampshire Constabulary - Supt Schofield

Hampshire Fire and Rescue - Group Manager Dave Smith

Portsmouth Neighbourhood Watch - Paul Barker