

Report title: Councillor Call for Action (CCfA) Scrutiny Arrangements

Report to: Scrutiny Management Panel on 18 June 2009

Report from: Stewart Agland, Local Democracy Manager

Report by: Anthony Quinn, Senior Local Democracy Officer

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 To set out the proposed roles and responsibilities of the Scrutiny Management Panel (SMP) in relation to responding to Councillor Call for Action.

2. Recommendations

2.1 To recommend that the Scrutiny Management Panel, in line with the Terms of Reference agreed at Full Council on 25 November 2008, accept the responsibility for formally responding to the Councillor Call for Action.

2.2 To recommend that any issues raised under CCfA be allocated to the most appropriate scrutiny panel, which would be overseen by the SMP.

2.3 To recommend that the Traffic, Environment & Community Safety Scrutiny Panel (TECS) accept responsibility for dealing with scrutiny of Crime & Disorder Matters.

3. Background

3.1 The Local Government & Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 (LGPIH) enables all councillors to refer local ward issues or local government matters to the relevant Overview & Scrutiny Committees. Section 119 of the Act became legislation on 1 April 2009 and any reference to "Overview & Scrutiny" in relation to Portsmouth City Council's response to this legislation should be read as, "Scrutiny Management Panel".

3.2 An overview of CCfA and how it is intended to function can be found at **Appendix 1**

4. The role of Scrutiny Management Panel in administering CCfA

4.1 The Scrutiny Management Panel will have the authority for dealing with all Councillor Call for Action with the exception of Crime & Disorder Matters. The purpose of CCfA is to act as a last resort to enable councillors to raise ward issues they have otherwise been unable to

resolve satisfactorily. The exclusions that apply are set out in **Appendix 2**, which also shows a breakdown of the process for dealing with CCfA.

4.2 The SMP will monitor all CCfA to ensure they are being dealt with by the most appropriate panel and will monitor any recommendations made to ensure they are being implemented.

5. Scrutiny of Crime & Disorder Matters

5.1 The Police and Justice Act 2006 provides for scrutiny of Crime & Disorder matters under sections 19 and 20 of the Act. Whilst the legislation suggests that scrutiny of crime and disorder matters be dealt with by a separate scrutiny panel, it does not advocate setting up a new panel, merely that crime and disorder matters be dealt with by the most appropriate scrutiny panel.

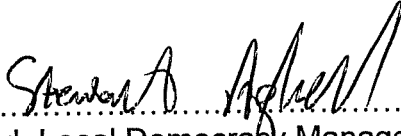
5.2 In the case of Portsmouth City Council, it is the view of the city solicitor that Traffic, Environment & Community Safety Scrutiny Panel (TECS) would be the most appropriate scrutiny panel to deal with crime and disorder matters as they currently work in conjunction with the Safer Portsmouth Partnership and Crime Reduction Partnerships on other community safety issues.

6. Equality Impact Assessment

6.1 An Equalities Impact Assessment is not required for this topic because it summarises new Government legislation.

7. City Solicitors Comments

7.1 The City Solicitor is satisfied that it is within the powers of the Scrutiny Management Panel to delegate Councillor Call for Action to the appropriate themed scrutiny panel to be dealt with and the SMP will monitor and oversee all such requests.

Signed..........Date 10 June 2009
Stewart Agland, Local Democracy Manager, Democratic & Community
Engagement

Background list of documents

Section 119 of the Local Government & Public Involvement in Health Act 2007
Section 19 and 20 of the Police and Justice Act 2006