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Gary Ridley Acting Chief Executive

22nd December 2008

Dear Councillor,

I hereby give you notice that a meeting of the **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (EXTERNAL)** will be held in the **FOURTH FLOOR COMMITTEE ROOM, CIVIC CENTRE, CROOK** on **THURSDAY 8TH JANUARY 2009** at **5:00 PM**.

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. To agree the minutes of meetings held on 24th September 2008, 1st October 2008, 22nd October 2008, 5th November 2008, 13th November 2008, 19th November 2008
3. To consider the response of the CDRP to the recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (External)

Yours faithfully

Acting Chief Executive

Members of this Committee: Councillors Anderson, Bowser, Buckham, Mrs. Jopling, Mrs. Seabury, V Shuttleworth, Ward and Mr. John Raw (co-optee)

Chair: Councillor Anderson

Deputy Chair: Councillor Bowser

TO: All other Members of the Council for information
Management Team

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (EXTERNAL)

24TH SEPTEMBER 2008

PRESENT	Councillor Anderson (Chair)
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APOLOGIES

ADVISERS	R. Bowman, Scrutiny Manager and J. Hodgson, Scrutiny Support Officer
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**29. CDRP REVIEW – INTERVIEW WITH MR. PAUL SHADFORTH,
A.C.E.COORDINATOR FOR WEAR VALLEY**

The meeting was inquorate.

CHAIR

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (EXTERNAL)

1st OCTOBER 2008

PRESENT	Councillor Anderson (Chair) Councillors Mrs. Jopling and V. Shuttleworth. Mr. John Raw (co-optee)
APOLOGIES	Councillors Bowser and Buckham
ADVISERS	R. Bowman, Scrutiny Manager and J. Hodgson, Scrutiny Support Officer

**30. TO DISCUSS THE DRAFT INTERIM REPORT AND INTERIM
RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CDRP REVIEW**

Members discussed the draft report and agreed that it should proceed to the October meeting of full council.

CHAIR

The meeting concluded at 17:30

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (EXTERNAL)

22ND OCTOBER 2008

PRESENT	Councillor Anderson (Chair) Councillors Bowser and Mrs. Jopling
APOLOGIES	Cllr. Buckham and Mr. John Raw (co-optee)
ADVISERS	R. Bowman, Scrutiny Manager and J. Hodgson, Scrutiny Support Officer

**31. CDRP REVIEW – INTERVIEW WITH THE ACTING CHIEF EXECUTIVE
OF WEAR VALLEY DISTRICT COUNCIL**

The Acting Chief Executive was unable to attend the meeting. The Scrutiny Manager informed members that an alternative date for the interview was to be arranged.

**32. CDRP REVIEW – TO AGREE AN EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF THE
INTERIM REPORT**

Copies of the executive summary were circulated to the Members for their approval. Members were happy with the format of the document and believed that it would make it more attractive to Community Safety Partnership partners. Members instructed the Scrutiny Manager to send several hard copies of the report to the partnership.

The Scrutiny Support Officer circulated a document which had been produced by Scrutiny Support. The document indexed the Home Office guidance document for CDRPs.

CHAIR

The meeting concluded at 6pm.

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (EXTERNAL)

5TH NOVEMBER 2008

PRESENT	Councillor Anderson (Chair) Councillors Bowser, Mrs. Jopling, V. Shuttleworth and Mr. John Raw (co-optee)
APOLOGIES	Cllr. Mrs. Lee
ADVISERS	R. Bowman, Scrutiny Manager, J. Hodgson, Scrutiny Support Officer and G. Ridley, Acting Chief Executive

33. CDRP REVIEW – INTERVIEW WITH THE ACTING CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF WEAR VALLEY DISTRICT COUNCIL

The Chair welcomed the Acting Chief Executive to the meeting and thanked him for his attendance. The Chair led the questioning.

What is Wear Valley District Council's role in the CSP?

As a one of the 'responsible authorities' Wear Valley District Council has a statutory role in the CSP. The Council must participate in the partnership and contribute to the achievement of its objectives. The Council's corporate objectives are relevant to the work of the partnership; therefore the engagement of the authority represents a wise use of resources. By joining with other organisations in the pursuit of community safety resources are better deployed, as all the organisations involved are then pulling in the same direction. The council's contributions to the work of the partnership can be highly varied and include on the front line the work of the Street Wardens and licensing. This was not an immediately obvious contribution but it nevertheless played a big role in ensuring the safety of the community, especially in relation to the night-time economy. Further examples of the Council's work to improve community safety included other things that wouldn't have an immediately obvious impact, such as keeping area clean and tidy. These contributed to the overall well-being of the area, improved people's perceptions and had a positive impact on community safety. ***Is the role fulfilled successfully?*** Surveys have shown that more and more people are happy with Council services such as rubbish collections and Street Wardens; however, there is always scope for improvement. Members questioned how we know how effective the Street Wardens are. The Acting Chief Executive stated that there are two ways of looking at the performance of the service. The first is the negative view which draws upon complaints received, etc. numbers of which are very low. The positive view draws on people's opinions voiced in surveys.

How does Wear Valley District Council contribute to the CSP?

The council contributes in more explicit ways including demolitions of old or derelict accommodation or other buildings and the involvement of Council staff such as the Community Safety Manager. There is the visible contribution of things such as CCTV cameras. There is also a less explicit way via the Council influencing the work of the CSP through sharing data and attending meetings. Members questioned which services could be involved more. The Acting Chief Executive stated that the identification of priorities was important because of resource limitations.

Are there any aspects of the Council's contribution to the CSP that could be improved?

Data sharing has in the past been limited by legislation. The Council needs a better understanding of what can be shared. The Acting Chief Executive stated that he was not convinced that data was being shared in a timely manner; there was a trade-off between speed and accuracy. The Acting Chief Executive could not remember the last time that Council managers got together to discuss what the CSP is and what it does. The Acting Chief Executive stated that the average Council manager probably doesn't understand what the CSP is. Members questioned whether, overall, the partnership was working. Certain levels of crime had fallen and the Acting Chief Executive didn't believe that it was just through the efforts of the police alone; instead he attributed the fall to the activities of the partnership.

The Chair thanked the Acting Chief Executive for his contribution.

CHAIR

The meeting concluded at 2:30pm.

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (EXTERNAL)

13TH NOVEMBER 2008

PRESENT	Councillor Anderson (Chair) Councillors Mrs. Jopling, Lethbridge, Murphy, V. Shuttleworth; Mrs. J. Cowing and Mr. J. Raw (co-optee)
APOLOGIES	Cllr. Bowser
ADVISERS	R. Bowman, Scrutiny Manager, J. Hodgson, Scrutiny Support Officer and D. Milburn, Acting Strategic Director for the Community

34. **TO AGREE THE MINUTES OF MEETINGS HELD 18TH FEBRUARY 2008; 20TH MARCH 2008; 17TH APRIL 2008; 15TH MAY 2008; 22ND MAY 2008; 4TH JUNE 2008; 26TH JUNE 2008; 3RD JULY 2008; 10TH JULY 2008; 14TH AUGUST 2008; 10TH SEPTEMBER 2008; 18TH SEPTEMBER 2008**

The minutes were agreed as a true and accurate record.

35. **CDRP REVIEW – INTERVIEW WITH THE ACTING STRATEGIC DIRECTOR FOR THE COMMUNITY**

The Scrutiny Manager informed Members that this was the last interview of the CDRP review. The Chair welcomed the Acting Strategic Director to the meeting and thanked him for his attendance. The Chair led the questioning.

Can you describe the involvement of WVDC in the Community Safety Partnership?

The Acting Strategic Director (ASD) stated that the council was one of the responsible authorities described in the Crime and Disorder Act (1998). In this capacity the Council attended meetings of the Executive and Tasking and Coordinating groups of the partnership. The ASD's first meeting of the partnership was in April 2008 where he observed that the Council played a major role. In the view of the ASD the partnership was heavily police led, which the ASD encouraged. The Community Safety Manager was praised by the ASD for her role in making the partnership a success. The ASD went on to identify specific examples of how the Council was contributing to the partnership. This included the use of the Police Liaison Officer (PLO) in the consideration of certain capital programmes. The PLO had an input regarding crime and disorder considerations. The most important contribution of the Council was the introduction of the domestic violence service. Domestic violence was a serious issue which had a relatively low

visibility. It was the role of the Council to provide the service to tackle this problem.

What is your assessment of the council's involvement in the partnership to date?

In the view of the ASD there was buy-in from Council managers and Members at the senior level by way of attendance at Executive Group meetings. The Council's involvement fell down at middle manager level, where there was great need for improvement in terms of involvement in the Tasking and Coordinating group. The police had been very helpful in providing data to the Council, especially in relation to crime hotspots in the district. In one example referred to the ASD used three police reports detailing when crime was occurring, where it was occurring and offender profiles. The ASD then instructed the District Services Manager to use the information to deploy the Street Wardens. The aim of the Council was to alter services in light of data received from the partnership. These data need to be fed down to the frontline via middle and senior managers. The ASD was uncertain whether the information was being fed down effectively. Shared learning was another good outcome that could be realised through partnership working. For example, the Street Wardens had recently been attending the Community Physical Activity Coordinator (CPACs) programme to see how diversionary activities for young people were being delivered. Members questioned whether the Council was working with social services and education departments of the County Council. The ASD replied that currently the Council did not.

What is your assessment of council middle manager involvement in the partnership? The ASD responded that the Community Safety Manager has been central to the success of the partnership but needed a higher level of support from the Council. Tasking and Coordinating group meetings were not well attended by Council middle managers, which he found disappointing. Things were happening at the strategic level involving the Council, but this needed to translate at an operational level for the Council's involvement to be truly effective. From the Council's perspective the Tasking and Coordinating group should not just be link between the police and the Street Wardens as there are range of different services that the Council could contribute. ***Generally speaking, do council managers understand the partnership and how they can contribute to its work?***

In the view of the ASD middle managers generally did not understand the partnership. Although certain managers were becoming more aware there was a need to increase understanding more widely. ***Is the council sharing data effectively with the partnership?*** The ASD did not believe that the Council was providing data effectively to the partnership. The partnership has been excellent in providing data to the Council but the Council has not been good at reciprocating.

Are there any improvements that could be made in relation to the council's involvement in the partnership?

The ASD stated that the main improvements that could be made in relation to the Council's involvement would be creating better links between the partnership and other council departments. Services such as street

cleaning, licensing and tenancy enforcement could be involved to a greater extent. The Chair questioned how the ASD would describe the Council's overall involvement in the partnership. The ASD stated that from an initially low starting point improvements had been made, although there was still work to be done. Councillor Lethbridge wished to congratulate and thank the ASD for his frank discussion on the Council's role in the partnership.

The Chair thanks the ASD for his contribution. The ASD left the meeting at 4:45pm.

The Chair reminded Members that Local Area Forums were to be held in November and December. It was felt that attendance at the forums would provide an invaluable insight for the review. The Scrutiny Manager stated that a letter had circulated to Members of the Committee containing details of the forums.

CHAIR

The meeting concluded at 4:50pm.

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (EXTERNAL)

19TH NOVEMBER 2008

PRESENT	Councillor Anderson (Chair) Councillors Bowser and V. Shuttleworth
APOLOGIES	Cllr. Mrs. Jopling
ADVISERS	R. Bowman, Scrutiny Manager and J. Hodgson, Scrutiny Support Officer

36. CDRP REVIEW DRAFT FINAL REPORT

Member discussed the draft report of the review and agreed that it should proceed to the next meeting of full council.

CHAIR

The meeting concluded at 5:45pm