

**REPORT OF THE  
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY  
SERVICES PANEL**

**RURAL POLICING**

**MARCH 2008**



## **Foreword: Overview and Scrutiny**

Scrutiny is one of the most challenging and exciting aspects of the new democratic agenda and it offers a new dimension to decision-making in local government. Under the provisions within the Local Government Act, 2000, all local authorities were required to set up Overview and Scrutiny Committees with the role of:

- reviewing policy and assisting in policy development
- scrutinising decisions and decision-making for any council function *except* regulatory functions such as planning or licensing
- investigating other matters of local concern
- Ensuring that the council fulfils its duties in respect of best value performance
- Ensuring procedures are in place for councillors to feed in community views to policy development and decision making.

Scrutiny, therefore, has a vital role in helping to achieve some of the key aims of the enabling legislation: greater efficiency, transparency, accountability, consistency, public involvement and responsiveness to the public. The Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) process has further emphasised the importance of Overview and Scrutiny. Research for the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) (now the Communities and Local Government), by the Evaluating Local Government Team indicates that there is a correlation between excellent authorities and a strong scrutiny function. It is therefore appropriate that Teesdale District Council exercises the powers of scrutiny effectively and to the benefit of the whole community.

**Councillor Newton Wood**

**Chairman, Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

## 1.0 SUMMARY

- 1.1 At a meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in March 2007, concerns were raised relating to the environment, social conditions and an increase in vandalism in the Wards of Evenwood, Ramshaw and Lands. It was considered that some of these concerns related to the way that the area was policed. Other Members of the Committee felt that the problems may not be confined to the Wards referred to above. It was agreed that rural policing ought to be the subject of a report by the Overview and Scrutiny Services Panel.

## 2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 It is recommended that:

- That the findings of the report be endorsed
- That the report be considered at a future meeting of the Parish Councils' Forum
- That a joint Press Release be made with the Police.
- That the Report be submitted to the Executive Committee for consideration.

## 3.0 LINK TO CORPORATE OBJECTIVES/KEY PRIORITIES

- 3.1 **Objective/Ambition:** This scrutiny review into Rural Policing was linked to the Council's priorities – To Improve the Health and Well Being of our Residents and Develop Safer Communities – in particular to reduce nuisance behaviour in our communities.

- 3.2 **Outcome:** It is apparent that the concerns originally raised are neither as widespread or evidenced as had first been thought. Nevertheless, the Police are keen to work with the community and have listened to the feedback provided by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Work has already started to enable the community to influence local neighbourhood services and this will be continued via the Parish Councils' Forum. This collective approach by agencies will ensure Teesdale remains a safe place and that its residents and visitors feel safe.

## 4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Following the District Elections in May 2007, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee discussed and agreed its work programme for each of the four Panels for 2007/08. Members agreed that the issue of rural policing should be widened from the initial areas of concern to include the whole of Teesdale. Accordingly, the Overview and Scrutiny Services Panel agreed to look at a number of issues around local policing. It is acknowledged that the Council has a duty to address crime and disorder and under the "Place Shaping" agenda we are a principal organisation in addressing anti-social behaviour.
- 4.2 A small core group consisting of Councillors Paul Ryman, Vice Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Services Panel, and Co-opted member, Parish

Councillor David Kinch agreed to undertake this review. They were supported by the Scrutiny Officer.

4.3 A scoping exercise took place in June 2007 and key issues were identified in order for the review to commence. Members considered and agreed the methodology that would be used to gather evidence in respect of the following issues:

- police presence in some areas;
- anti social behaviour in villages;
- police response times to incidents
- the new control centre at Bishop Auckland.

## **5.0 AIM**

5.1 The aim of undertaking this review was to gather evidence from representatives in all parts of the District and to assess whether there was a need for greater police presence in the District's towns and villages with a view to reducing the incidents of anti-social behaviour.

5.2 It is acknowledged that Barnard Castle statistically is the safest place to live in County Durham but concerns are that the fear of crime could be higher.

5.3 Police coverage of Teesdale is split between Barnard Castle and Bishop Auckland, the following areas are policed from Bishop Auckland:-

- Hamsterley,
- Toft Hill,
- Etherley,
- Ramshaw
- Evenwood

The remaining areas are policed from Barnard Castle.

## **6.0 METHODOLOGY AND EVIDENCE COLLECTING**

6.1 In October 2007, members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee designed a questionnaire that was sent out to 40 Parish Councils and Meetings in Teesdale. It is acknowledged that with so few people questioned this cannot be regarded as 'statistically significant' for the whole of Teesdale. Nor was the questionnaire designed by professionals in the field. Hence the responses cannot be regarded as more than indicative of the feelings of some people in the areas who responded.

6.2 22 responses (55%) have been received and an analysis of the results has been undertaken. The main positive findings for the majority of respondents are as follows:

- There is not a problem with anti-social behaviour in their area
- The Police are effective in dealing with anti-social behaviour
- They are not worried about leaving their home at night
- They are satisfied with the Police response to reported incidents
- They received post-incident updates from the Police

- They do not have difficulty convincing the public to report incidents to the Police
- They do not think Police personnel are moved around too much

6.3 The main neutral responses relate to the following:

- Value for money from Durham Constabulary
- Parish Councillors having direct telephone contact numbers for Beat Police Officers

6.4 The main areas where improvements are highlighted from the majority of respondents relate to:

- The adequacy of the Police presence in their area
- The 0845 6060365 telephone contact centre
- Today's Police service compared to the past
- The visibility of Police on foot patrols
- The use of PCSOs as opposed to Beat Officers
- The amount of liaison between the Police and Parish Councils

## **7.0 POLICE RESPONSE**

7.1 There has been a very positive response from the Police when the findings have been discussed with them. The following information has been provided.

7.2 The Southern Area Commander has stated that Durham Constabulary is committed to working with the communities and partners within Teesdale to ensure the area continues to be a safe place in which to live work and visit. The Police welcome feedback on performance and any areas where partnership working can be further developed.

7.3 Teesdale is situated in the South Area Basic Command Unit of Durham Constabulary. It is policed mainly by staff from Barnard Castle but the villages of Hamsterley, Etherley, Toft Hill, Ramshaw and Evenwood are covered by officers and Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) based at Bishop Auckland Police Office. This is due to the locality of those villages being nearer Bishop Auckland main police station than Barnard Castle and enables a quicker police response time to emergency incidents.

7.4 The Police do not intend to comment on the findings of the survey, because of the statistical concerns that have been acknowledged above however, they have however provided an overview of how the Dales are policed which will assist the reader of the report to form a balanced view of what makes Teesdale a safe place.

7.5 The resources available to police the Teesdale area consist of one Inspector, six Sergeants, twenty Response Police Officers, three Neighbourhood Police Officers, five Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs), and two Detective Constables based at Barnard Castle. When mirrored against the level of reported incidents the area is well resourced.

- 7.6 A further two dedicated Neighbourhood Police Officers and two PCSOs are responsible for policing the villages covered by Bishop Auckland as well as other resources including Response Police Officers and staff from Bishop Auckland Police Office. The policing of Teesdale is also complimented by other resources from specialist units such as Road policing, Crime Scene Investigators, Dog Section, Licensing Unit etc.
- 7.7 It is important to recognise that these specialist resources can be called upon whenever the need arises. An example of this was a concern raised by a local Councillor that there was a drugs problem in licensed premises in Barnard Castle. A passive drugs dog was utilised in December 2007 around the local licensed premises, as a result three people were arrested in possession of drugs. This clarified that although a minority of individuals may choose to take drugs the problem in Barnard Castle was not as severe as initially thought.
- 7.8 Teesdale is a safe place to live. Between April 2006 and January 2007 there were 901 crimes reported to the police. Between April 2007 and January 2008 there were 763 crimes recorded. This is 15.3% reduction in total recorded crime. The detection rate is 35% in comparison to 31.6% in 2006/07. **(These figures cover the whole of Teesdale including those villages covered by Bishop Auckland policing area.)**
- 7.9 During the period April 2006 to January 2007 there were 1423 incidents of anti-social behaviour reported. Between April 2007 and January 2008 there were 1023 incidents recorded. This is a reduction of 27.5% in recorded anti-social behaviour incidents. **(These figures cover the whole of Teesdale including the villages covered by Bishop Auckland policing area.)**
- 7.10 Citizen focus and neighbourhood policing is at the centre of our work. We recognise that community engagement and community involvement is critical for our success factors.
- 7.11 The Police are committed to working with the community as it is important that they have ownership of issues affecting community safety and are able to influence how agencies deal with these issues. A recent introduction is the setting of local priorities by the communities. The priorities are set at the Parish forum where representatives from Parish councils and Parish meetings attend. The media and members of the public can also attend.
- 7.12 Youth disorder on Red Houses, High Etherley was identified as a local priority at this meeting. It was raised by a Toft Hill Parish Councillor following a public confidence survey on the estate. The NPT Inspector for the area responded by calling a multi-agency planning meeting to address the issue. The Police, Parish Council, Community Association and Groundworks attended the meeting and agreed a tactical plan. Following a 'StreetSafe' walkabout, signal crimes have been addressed by refurbishing local toilets and bus shelters and funding obtained to target harden the community centre with improvements to the CCTV system. Groundwork has started an 18 month programme of youth work initiatives and a Multi-Use Games Area is to be built close to the estate. Youths identified as ring leaders have been referred to the Anti-Social Behaviour Panel for consideration of an ASBO and the local PCSO has targeted the area with high visibility patrols. Future initiatives include reassurance presentations to the Women's Institute and elderly persons groups at the community centre. To date there have been no reports of youth rowdy behaviour on the estate this year. The involvement of local people in

the identification, planning and delivery processes has significantly contributed to the success of the initiative.

- 7.13 Identified by the community and the Police was the issue of 63 items of graffiti in and around Barnard Castle, many affecting tourist locations and attractions. At the Forum Teesdale District Council took ownership of the problem and has embarked on a project to remove the offending slogans. Arrests and media management was used to deter further offences.
- 7.14 Anti-social behaviour in Front Street, Cockfield was also highlighted as one of the three priorities. In addition to over 220 proactive patrols and five arrests a problem solving approach has been taken. The beat officer has worked with the Co-op, at the centre of the gathering to improve security, CCTV and prevent the sale of fireworks. The Co-op has provided funding for the village youth club at the request of the police who have also successfully secured cash to fund youth diversion in the village. The local bus company was asked to ensure the buses in the village had on board CCTV and off road police motorcycles are being used to tackle a nuisance problem caused by mini moto's. Currently the Police are trying to progress another large youth funding bid, we are looking at trying to design out the forecourt at the Co-op and the Neighbourhood Inspector has the support of the Parish Council to try and to progress the concept of a new youth shelter which would influence groups of young people congregating in the area. There is also a plan to establish a "police" room in the Co-op building.
- 7.15 As identified in the priority setting above many of the concerns raised by communities relate to anti-social behaviour. To ensure we understand the impact of this and other issues affecting the communities of County Durham and Darlington, Durham Constabulary now carries out a public confidence survey. The first one was completed in November 2007 and will be repeated on a quarterly basis. It is intended that this survey will assist the police in shaping our services to meet the needs of the community.
- 7.16 Although this is a force wide survey the results can be broken down into Policing districts, the caveat being the reduced numbers of respondents (90) in Teesdale, as the survey continues the reliability of the data will become more significant in respect of localities.
- 7.17 The survey does start to give an indication of some of the specific concerns around anti-social behaviour and people's perception of policing in the area. These statistics relate only to the areas covered by the Barnard Castle Policing District and excludes those covered by Bishop Auckland Police officers:
- 20.0% of the respondents living within the Barnard Castle policing sector perceive that they suffer from ASB in their local community. This can be compared to 36.3% for the entire force area. Barnard Castle is the sector with the lowest number of respondents perceiving that they suffer from ASB when compared to the other 11 sectors.
  - 44.6% of the respondents living within the Barnard Castle policing sector perceive that ASB has an impact on their quality of life. This can be compared to 59.8% for the entire force area. Barnard Castle is the sector with the lowest number of respondents perceiving that ASB has an impact on their quality of life when compared to the other 11 sectors.

- 49.5% of the respondents living within the Barnard Castle policing sector state they are satisfied with the level of action taken to tackle ASB. This can be compared to 43.0% for the entire force. Barnard Castle is the sector with the highest level of satisfaction in relation to the level of action taken to address ASB when compared to the other 11 sectors.
  - 96.6% of the respondents living within the Barnard Castle policing sector state they feel safe in their local community. This can be compared to 84.7% for the entire force. Barnard Castle is the sector with the highest number of respondents stating that they feel safe in their local community when compared to the other 11 sectors.
  - 80% of respondents were satisfied with the quality of service received.
  - 100% of respondents were satisfied with the response of the police to an incident.
  - 100% of respondents were satisfied with the professionalism and courtesy of the police.
- 7.18 The main issues identified from the survey affecting people living in the area were teenagers hanging around the streets and rubbish and litter lying around.
- 7.19 Over the last three years on behalf of local youth groups the local police have successfully bid for funding from the Wear Valley and Teesdale Community Safety Partnership (CSP), Police Authority Grant Scheme and private sources including the North Eastern Co-operative and its insurance wing.
- 7.20 In the last two years the police have secured £6000 for the start up of the YMCA project, £5000 for Cockfield Youth Club launch, £2000 for the set up of Staindrop Youth Club. And a further £5000 spread between 10 groups engaging hundreds of young people in sports and diversion activities.
- 7.21 The Neighbourhood Inspector has recently secured £14,000 from the Police BCU budget to launch a new youth venture at Gainford and add further support to nine groups across the whole of the dale. The local police champion this work realising that Teesdale attracts little external funding due to its recorded safety levels and low crime rates.
- 7.22 £4,000 was secured to provide a CCTV system for the Toft Hill community centre. The centre is staffed by local volunteers and hence the funding, in providing a more protected working environment, supported local people providing services for their community and contributing to community cohesion.
- 7.23 Policing a rural area can be complex, against a back drop of competing and conflicting demands. The requirement for police visibility in such a vast geographical area can pull resources away from meeting the expectations of the community for a quick response to incidents. There is a fine balance to be found in addressing these expectations.
- 7.24 To address the issue of a visible police presence Police Community Support Officers have been working in the Dales since March 2007. The role of the PCSO is to contribute to the policing of neighbourhoods, primarily through highly visible patrol with the purpose of reassuring the public, increasing orderliness in public places and being accessible to communities and other agencies working at local level.

- 7.25 PCSO's are meeting a need identified by communities. People are reassured when they see an officer patrolling on foot and it contributes to a feeling of safety and security in their community. The fact that they are visible and accessible and regularly engaged with the public in a specific area is having a widespread and very positive effect on public perceptions of the police and their willingness to deal with issues. Indeed, familiarity, accessibility and visibility have been described as the most effective elements in promoting feelings of safety, with uniformed foot patrol the most effective.
- 7.26 As previously mentioned there are 7 PCSO's who work in Teesdale 5 from Barnard Castle Police Station and 2 who work from Bishop Auckland Police Station. They are an integral part of effective local Neighbourhood Policing in Teesdale and are helping to reduce crime and antisocial behaviour. They are making people feel safer in the community in line with Streetsafe and closing the gap between crime and the fear of crime.
- 7.27 In Teesdale all of the PCSO's have a dedicated geographical 'beat' to patrol and they work hard to tackle local problems with regular officers and partner agencies. PCSO's perform a vital role in gathering information from the community which is known as community intelligence. This information is not only about crime and disorder but may also include community problems and tensions; this assists the police in identifying local priorities.
- 7.28 PCSO's are firmly embedded in the local Neighbourhood Policing Team and are supervised by the Neighbourhood Police Sergeant who has the responsibility for tasking, performance and welfare.
- 7.29 The five PCSO's working from Barnard Castle patrol identified hot spots and provides key visibility at key locations at key times of the day. For example they patrol in and around comprehensive schools to provide a presence and to affect road safety issues. The five officers are establishing a network of community contacts to enhance our familiarity and to ensure we capture community concerns for inclusion in the Area Forum priority setting process.
- 7.30 The PCSO's have been a key component of visibility for the current Cockfield priority and act as the eyes and ears for Police officers. Information and evidence from PCSO's has helped lead to arrests in the village.
- 7.31 Recently four public toilet blocks were attacked in Staindrop, Hamsterley, Toft Hill and Butterknowle. The thieves stealing the fittings for scrap, a PCSO was tasked to make full enquiries with scrap yards across the region. The work by the officer led to the recovery of all the property and the arrests of two men.
- 7.32 PCSO's provide representation at some parish and community meetings. They participate in regular planned Farm Watch crime operations working with community volunteers and enforce the recently revised Barnard Castle town centre parking regulations. Two PCSO's arranged and took part in Streetsafe multi agency walk-a-bouts which identified the scale and extent of the current graffiti problem.
- 7.33 The Chief Constable has recently been out on patrol with Councillor John Shuttleworth and the Neighbourhood Policing team to ensure he has a good understanding of the issues affecting policing in the rural communities.

- 7.34 There is a competitive process that police officers undertake to be appointed as neighbourhood police officers. It is inevitable that those that are chosen are of a high calibre and at some stage wish to develop their careers either laterally into specialist departments or through promotion. This can lead on occasions to a quicker turn over of staff than what the community may wish for. However, where it is possible the continuity of staff is maintained.
- 7.35 Finally it is important that the Overview and Scrutiny Report is understood in the wider context of neighbourhood management.
- 7.36 Sir Ronnie Flanagan in his recently published review of policing states: *'Community safety is no longer the sole preserve of the police and must instead be at the heart of local partnership working, bringing together different agencies in a **wider neighbourhood management approach**'*
- 7.37 The principles of the neighbourhood management approach are identified as:
- Strong Community Safety Partnership leadership and priority setting
  - Understanding local neighbourhoods:
    - Information sharing and analysis
    - Profiling, mapping and prioritisation of neighbourhoods and resource allocation.
  - Strong community engagement in priority settings and problem solving
  - Dedicated, multi agency teams, with a neighbourhood manager and accommodated in the same place where possible
  - Joint tasking arrangements and prioritisation to deal with local problems
  - Better information and feedback to the public
  - Joint performance measures, monitoring and improvement processes
  - Financial planning and pooling of budgets to support outcomes.
- 7.37 Within Teesdale there is a combined Community Safety Partnership which also operates within Wear Valley. The Community Safety Partnership is formed by the following agencies who are required to work together as an Executive Group; Teesdale and Wear Valley District Council, County Council, Police, Police Authority, Fire and Rescue Service and the Primary Care Trust known as the 'Responsible Authorities'. Other agencies that can assist or have an interest in community safety both from the voluntary and statutory sectors as well as the community are also involved and are formally consulted on a six monthly basis.
- 7.38 When comparing Teesdale with the most similar Community Safety Partnership for All Crime Teesdale is the best performing being ranked 15th out of the 15 districts (1<sup>st</sup> being worst performing, 15 being the best performing district) with a crime rate per 1000 population of 6.324 compared to the grouping average of 11.377.
- 7.39 When comparing Teesdale with the Most Similar CSP for British crime survey Comparator Crime, Teesdale is ranked 14th out of 15 (with 1<sup>st</sup> being the worst performing and 15 being the best performing area) with a crime rate per 1000 population of 3.625 compared to the grouping average of 6.399.

- 7.40 Of the 376 Community Safety Partnership throughout the country as of January 2008 Teesdale was placed 371 (1<sup>st</sup> being worst performing, 376 being best performing area).
- 7.41 Although performance in comparison to other areas is excellent the Police are committed to ensuring Teesdale remains a safe place and therefore work closely with other agencies either from the voluntary or statutory sector as well as the community to ensure community safety issues are addressed and a problem solving approach is adopted.
- 7.42 In late October 2007 a multi-agency week of action was held in Evenwood. The initiative was planned by the co-ordinating unit of the Wear & Tees CSP and involved the District and County Council, Probation Service, Environmental Enforcement, Youth Service, Neighbourhood Policing Team, Road Policing Unit and Neighbourhood Watch. Signal crimes such as graffiti and fly tipping were removed and high visibility reassurance patrols carried out. The exit strategy involved continued input from the local beat officer and PCSO.
- 7.43 The Neighbourhood Policing team has taken the lead in progressing many of the issues surrounding the Traveller period including funding and community research for target hardening at Winston and Stainton Grove and temporary CCTV.
- 7.44 A medium term problem solving solution was identified and driven by the police for St.Peters at Gainford and a burglary issue at Cockfield resulted in 75 households being target hardened with smart water and other security measures.
- 7.45 There are many examples of work with other partners including Pub watch to fund and reduce issues around the night time economy, Farm watch to help tackle rural crime and its fear, trading standards to target underage alcohol sales, national caravan assets recovery team to seize stolen property with arrests, and innovations with private companies including for example a new scheme to provide multiple free tracker devices to help tackle a recent rise in Land Rover thefts.
- 7.46 At a strategic level the police are taking a leading role in the Place Agenda to ensure Teesdale remains a safe place. The assistant Chief Constable is a member and vice chair of the County Durham Partnership and is the strategic lead for the Safer Communities block. The Assistant Chief Constable and Area Commander are both members of the strategic County Durham Community Safety Partnership.
- 7.47 At a local level the Police Area Commander is the chair of the Wear Valley and Teesdale Community Safety Partnership, the local Neighbourhood Inspectors chair the tasking groups. The police have invested finance to secure the appointment of an analyst and researcher to analyse partnership data to identify hot spot locations for anti-social behaviour and enable a problem solving approach to take place. Local priority setting is being driven forward by the Neighbourhood Inspectors with the Parish forum to ensure the local communities can influence and shape community safety issues, and the Neighbourhood Inspectors have been successful in working with local youth groups to secure funding to enable young people to be diverted away from crime and anti-social behaviour.

## 8.0 CONCLUSIONS

- 8.1 It is acknowledged that the questionnaire sent to the Parish Councils and Meetings is not statistically reliable for the whole of Teesdale due to the small numbers of respondents involved. Also, some of the questions were unlikely to have produced different answers to those received. For example it is unlikely that people would have indicated that they would like to see a smaller Police presence in their areas. Nevertheless, there are some notable conclusions that may be drawn, subject to those caveats. Most conclusions are positive. Anti-social behaviour is not seen as a problem in most areas and the Police response is seen to be effective in dealing with it where it occurs. Similarly most people are not afraid to leave their homes at night and are satisfied with the Police response to incidents when they occur.
- 8.2 The main concern that does exist relates to the adequacy of the Police presence in several areas. This is in a way surprising given the low level of anti-social behaviour and the overall satisfaction with the Police response. It is however probably inevitable that most communities would prefer to have a more visible Police presence in order to make people feel safer.
- 8.3 Other concerns relate to the use of PCSOs to which the Police have responded above. PCSOs have not enjoyed particularly positive national media coverage and this could contribute towards local concerns. Also, their powers fall short of those of Police Officers which may affect public confidence. The Police have clarified the role of the PCSOs and outlined the positive work they do in the community. The Council is keen to develop its understanding of their role and to assist the Police in educating people in the role of PCSOs.
- 8.4 The 0845 6060365 number continues to be an issue. This may be due to an incorrect belief that this is a premium rate number and callers become anxious about the cost, if calls are not answered as promptly as they would like. It is actually not a premium rate number, although the cost of calls is slightly higher than that of local calls.
- 8.5 The amount of liaison between some Parish Councils and the Police has also been highlighted as a concern. The recently revamped Parish Council Forum under a Parish Council Chairman, and the incorporation of the Neighbourhood Forum attended by the Police Inspectors, is clearly already having a significantly beneficial effect in this regard. The Forum already devotes a significant amount of its time to neighbourhood issues with the Police and other agencies. The Forum is becoming increasingly effective in identifying local priorities for the Police, Teesdale District Council and other agencies to target. The Forum can also ensure that those Parish Councils who feel liaison with the Police needs to be improved, are able to have a regular opportunity to raise concerns at Inspector level within the Police service.
- 8.6 It is worth reiterating that the Council also has a key role in the "Place Shaping" agenda, and needs to be focused upon tackling anti-social behaviour and reducing crime and disorder. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee considers that in producing this Report it is helping to do so, and that as the Report is considered by the Executive Committee and other Council Members that a strong commitment towards working closely with the Police to achieve this will be evident.

- 8.7 It is considered that to enable these outstanding concerns to be addressed, this report should be submitted to a future meeting of the Parish Councils' Forum.
- 8.8 The public are likely to have a high level of interest in the outcome of this report and it would be appropriate to issue a joint Press Release with the Police to highlight the main findings.

## 9.0 IMPLICATIONS

### 9.1 Risk:

| Risk   | Category                                | Implications  |
|--|---|---|
| That the Council does not achieve its objective of making communities more safe and less subject to nuisance or is perceived not to do so. | Community leadership / service delivery | That actual crime and anti-social behaviour is not properly addressed and that the community of Teesdale wrongly perceives that crime and anti-social behaviour is adversely affecting our communities. |
| That the relationship with the Police as a key stakeholder is undervalued  | Partnership                             | That the issues that are by their nature of a multi-agency concern are not properly addressed   |

- 9.2 **Equality and Diversity:** all communities ought to have the same assurance of safety and well-being. Young people or others who are often perceived as the cause of anti-social behaviour and nuisance can be assisted through measures that provide diversionary activity, however that is not equally accessible because of socio-economic or geographic reasons.
- 9.3 **Human Resources:** there could be implications for the deployment of personnel and for the involvement of other agencies according to the future issues raised in the Parish Council Forum.
- 9.4 **Community Safety:** Addressing crime and the fear of crime and anti-social behaviour is the main objective of this report.
- 9.5 **Legal Issues:** None
- 9.6 **Financial Issues:** There are no direct financial consequences of this report.

**Background papers: Letter and questionnaire to Parish Councils.**

**Contact: Councillor Paul Ryman, Vice Chair, Overview and Scrutiny  
Services Panel**

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