

# Overview and Scrutiny Board

16<sup>th</sup> January 2017

## **Potential Joint Scrutiny of the North Worcestershire Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership**

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Cllr Roger Smith – Portfolio Holder for Environmental Services, Regulatory Services and Community Safety.
Portfolio Holder Consulted	No
Relevant Head of Service	Judith Willis, Head of Community Services
Wards Affected	<b>All</b>
Ward Councillor Consulted	No
Non-Key Decision	

### **1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS**

- 1.1 Officers are suggesting that as the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership is now a shared partnership over North Worcestershire, (Redditch and Kidderminster) that the Overview and Scrutiny Board may wish to consider forming a joint Scrutiny Panel in order to cover its statutory responsibility of scrutinising the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership at least once during each municipal year.
- 1.2 This report details a number of options for consideration by the Board.

### **2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

Members are asked to consider the following options:

- 2.1 **Option 1 – to approach Redditch Borough and Wyre Forest District Councils’ Overview and Scrutiny Committees and to invite them to participate in a new Joint Scrutiny Committee of the North Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership;**
- 2.2 **Option 2 - To invite representatives of Redditch Borough and Wyre Forest District Councils to attend the Board’s meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> March 2017 to undertake joint scrutiny of the Partnership as a pilot of shared scrutiny arrangements; or**
- 2.3 **Option 3 – To take no further action and continue with the current arrangements for scrutinising the local Community Safety Partnership.**

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### **3. KEY ISSUES**

- 3.1 Section 19 and 20 of the Police and Justice Act 2006 require local authorities to scrutinise the work of the local crime and disorder reduction partnership. Councils must designate one of their committees with responsibility for this function. Local authorities had to ensure that the Partnership was scrutinised at least once a year and this requirement remains in place.
- 3.2 When the legislation was introduced the majority of Councils in Worcestershire chose to appoint their main Overview and Scrutiny Committees to scrutinise the CDRP. In Bromsgrove this responsibility is currently held by the Overview and Scrutiny Board.
- 3.3 At the time when the legislation was introduced there were three separate Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships in Bromsgrove, Redditch and Wyre Forest. However, more recently the three partnerships merged into one, to form the North Worcestershire Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership. Despite this, Bromsgrove, Redditch and Wyre Forest continue to each hold separate scrutiny committee meetings to hold the partnership to account.
- 3.4 In the South of the County there has been a joint partnership covering Worcester, Malvern and Wychavon districts since the legislation was introduced. These Councils scrutinise their partnership jointly.
- 3.5 The benefits of joint scrutiny are that the partnership can concentrate its resources on discussing the key issues of its work once and by working collectively there is less risk of duplication.

### **Financial implications**

- 3.6 Each of the authorities could take it in turns to host the meeting, and it is believed therefore that the costs associated with undertaking scrutiny of the partnership would reduce over time for all partner authorities.

### **Legal Implications**

- 3.7 It should be noted that under the legislation scrutiny committees can only hold the partnership as a whole to account and not individual partners.
- 3.8 The West Mercia Police and Crime Panel, which is facilitated by Worcestershire County Council has separate responsibility for holding the Police and Crime Commissioner to account. A representative of Bromsgrove District Council sits on this Panel.

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### **Service / Operational Implications**

- 3.9 If Members were minded to approve options 1 or 2 then Members at Redditch Borough and Wyre Forest District Council would need to be consulted.
- 3.10 It is understood that to date, neither Bromsgrove, Redditch nor Wyre Forest have scrutinised the Crime and Disorder Partnership in this municipal year.
- 3.1 Members are asked to note that if the Board agrees to undertake joint scrutiny of the partnership this will not prevent Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Board from undertaking separate investigations of Community Safety matters should it so wish.

### **5. APPENDICES**

None

### **6. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

National Support Framework Delivering Safer and Confident Communities (Guidance for the Scrutiny of Crime and Disorder Matters – England) 2009.

### **AUTHOR OF REPORT**

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