



**REPORT of
HEAD OF LEISURE AND LIVEABILITY**

to
**Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting as the
CRIME AND DISORDER COMMITTEE
7 OCTOBER 2009**

**SCRUTINY OF CRIME AND DISORDER MATTERS - THE MALDON DISTRICT
COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP**

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide background information on the Maldon District Community Safety Partnership to assist the Committee in its work on scrutinising crime and disorder matters in the Maldon District.

2. AREA FOR DECISION/ACTION

- 2.1 This report is intended to provide a basis for the Committee to identify key outputs from the work of the Partnership it may wish to scrutinise.
- 2.2 The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 places a statutory duty on the statutory agencies to work together, and with the community, to tackle crime and disorder. This statutory duty was fulfilled when the Maldon District Community Safety Partnership (Maldon CDRP) was formed in 1998. Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships and Community Safety Partnerships (CDRPs) have made significant progress over the past ten years, but further evolution is always required.
- 2.3 Powers given to Local authorities' scrutiny functions by sections 19 and 20 of the Police and Justice Act 2006 – as amended by section 126 of Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 place Councillors in a unique place in local decision making, providing a clear line of democratic accountability between decision making and the people they serve. The new provisions will enable councillors to bring their perspective to bear on how CDRPs are tackling crime and disorder.
- 2.4 All CDRPs are now part of a new performance framework. CDRPs are no longer subject to any central targets or funding streams apart from what is negotiated through Local Area Agreement. There are four elements to the performance framework:
- National Public Service Agreements (PSAs) as measured through the National Indicator Set (NIS);
 - The Local Area Agreement (LAA);
 - Comprehensive Area Agreement (CAA); and
 - The Place Based Survey.

- 2.5 In order to identify and deliver on the priorities that matter most too local communities, the Maldon District Community Safety Partnership is required to carry out a number of main tasks. These include:
- Preparing an annual strategic assessment – a document identifying the crime and community safety priorities;
 - Producing a Partnership Plan; laying out the approach for addressing those priorities;
 - Undertaking a community consultation and engagement on crime and disorder issues; and
 - Sharing information among the responsible authorities with the Partnership.
- 2.6 **APPENDIX 1** and **APPENDIX 2** inform Members of the Strategic Assessment and Partnership Plan 2009/10.
- 2.7 These documents outline actions to address issues affecting our District.
- 2.8 The scrutiny function of the Committee is to provide four fundamental roles:
- Provides ‘critical friend’ challenge to executive policy-makers and decision makers;
 - Enables the voice and concerns of the public and its communities to be heard;
 - Is carried out by ‘independent minded governors’ who lead and own the scrutiny process; and
 - Drives improvement in public services.
- 2.9 The Maldon District Community Safety Partnership has been extremely successful in reducing crime over the past ten years. In the past four years a reduction in reported crime has been 27%. The Home Office stated that this was an ‘absolutely phenomenal’ success and the challenge that now faces the partnership is that it will be difficult to sustain and reduce further the extremely low crime rate.

3. LINKS WITH CORPORATE OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 This report links with the following Corporate Objectives:
- Supporting Sustainable Community Strategy;
 - Protecting and enhancing the environment and quality of life;
 - Promoting active lives;
 - Meeting our statutory requirements;
 - Ensuring our functions are carried out in accordance with the following overarching principles:
 - ❖ Being focused on the customer
 - ❖ Being efficient and effective
 - ❖ Working in partnership
 - ❖ Embracing continuous improvement

4. IMPLICATIONS

- (i) **Corporate Risk** – No Corporate risk identified.
- (ii) **Sustainability** – The Community Safety Partnership is an integral part of the Maldon District Council Corporate Strategy and it is important that it is completed comprehensively and that the key priorities and targets are correct and achievable.
- (iii) **Resources** – The targets identified in the Strategy will continue to be met from existing resources from the LAA and from within the Council's agreed budgets.

5. CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1 The development of an Overview and Scrutiny activity is now a requirement under the Police and Justice Act 2006 and will enhance the Community Safety Partnership further in forthcoming years.

6. RECOMMENDATION

That, subject to any particular items or areas of work being identified by the Committee, the Head of Leisure and Liveability in consultation with the Chairman of the Committee draws up a list of key issues arising from the Strategic Assessment for detailed scrutiny at a future meeting.

Background Papers: Community Safety Strategic Assessment 2008-2011 and Partnership Plan 2008-2009.

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