

**DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**IMPROVEMENT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – PLACES**

**08 March 2016**

**REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF THE IMPROVEMENT AND SCRUTINY**

**COMMITTEE – PLACES**

**REVIEW OF THE IMPACT OF FUNDING CUTS ON COMMUNITY SAFETY SERVICES – PROGRESS REPORT**

**1. The Purpose of the Report**

To inform the Committee of the progress made by the working group conducting the review of the impact of funding cuts on community safety services.

**2. Information and Analysis**

The Committee, at its meeting on 14 July 2015, approved a scoping report for a review of the impact of funding cuts on community safety services in Derbyshire. A working group has been appointed and the Members are Cllrs Gillott (Chair), Booth, D, Williams, and Hart.

At a time of austerity organisations are having to do things differently. The aim of the review is to examine community safety across Derbyshire and identify the consequences of organisations having less money to deliver their services, and to highlight challenges faced by individual organisations and Derbyshire as a whole.

Prior to the commencement of the review Cllr Gillott attended the Derbyshire Safer Communities Board (30 July 2015) to communicate to partner organisations the rationale behind the review. He delivered two key messages: First, that the working group will consider (at a strategic level) how funding cuts have impacted on the delivery of crime prevention activities, community safety and victim support services in Derbyshire, and second, that it is not the intention to review the performance of individual agencies.

The working group has held a series of meetings. Members have spoken with Derbyshire's Police and Crime Commissioner (Alan Charles), Derbyshire County Council's Assistant of Director Health and Communities, Community Safety (Sally Goodwin), and representatives

from the Public Protection Unit at Derbyshire Police, Derbyshire Crossroads (a voluntary organisation supporting victims of domestic abuse) and SV2 (a voluntary organisation supporting victims of sexual violence).

The Chair of the working group has written to all Derbyshire Borough and District Councils inviting them to submit evidence to the review. At the time of preparing this report one submission has been received, from North East Derbyshire District Council, and further written responses are anticipated shortly and will be referenced in the final report of the review.

A strong message emerging from the evidence (submitted to the review so far) is that the pressure on the financial resources of partners is having a cumulative impact on the volume and nature of community safety services that the Police, local authorities and voluntary sector organisations can deliver. The information provided by partners indicates that there has been a rise in incident threshold levels before community safety interventions are triggered and that the reduction or withdrawal of ancillary activities is having a significant impact on the demand for headline services and their capacity to deliver.

It is the intention that the findings of the review will inform the debate leading up to the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) election on 5 May 2016. As the next meeting of this Committee is on 18 May 2016 Members are asked to agree that the final report of the review be approved by the Director of Legal Services in consultation with the Committee Chair, once all the written submissions have been received from the District and Borough Councils. A draft document containing key information that has been submitted to the review so far will be circulated to Members, separately, prior to the Committee meeting on 8 March. The reason for this approach is that some of the information provided needs clarification before it is published.

### **3. Considerations**

The relevance of the following factors has been considered in preparing this report; Finance, Human Relations, Legal and Human Rights, Prevention of Crime and Disorder, Equality and Diversity, Environmental, Health, Property and Transport

#### **4. Recommendations**

The Improvement and Scrutiny Committee – Places is asked to:

- (1) Note the investigations undertaken by the review working group and the messages emerging from the evidence gathered so far, and
- (2) Agree that that the final report of the review is approved by the Director of Legal Services in consultation with the Committee Chair, once all the written submissions have been received from the District and Borough Councils.

**Councillor Kevin Gillott**

**CHAIR, IMPROVEMENT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – PLACES**