

COMMITTEE:	CABINET
DATE:	5 DECEMBER 2002
SUBJECT:	MEMBER INVOLVEMENT IN THE CRIME REDUCTION PARTNERSHIP
REPORT OF:	DIRECTOR OF HOUSING HEALTH AND COMMUNITY FINANCE
Ward(s):	ALL
Purpose:	To seek Members approval for the proposed mechanism for Councillor involvement in the Crime Reduction Partnership
Contact:	Justine Armstrong, Crime Reduction Partnership Co-ordinator, Telephone 01323 415346 or internally on extension 5346.

<p>Recommendations:</p>	<p>1. That Council be recommended:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · To approve proposed new Member representation and Community representatives on the Partnership Working Groups and Action Groups as set out in Appendix 2 to this report. · That nominated Member representatives be provided by the two Group Leaders. · That the Head of Democratic Services be instructed to set out the representative structure in the Council's Constitution. <p>2. That Cabinet approves the position as set out in paragraph 4.2 that all action groups are organised and administered from within the membership of the group.</p> <p>3. That, in future years, the Council receives the Annual Report of the Crime Reduction Partnership at one of its meetings with an associated presentation on its content from the Cabinet Portfolio holding Member.</p> <p>4. That Cabinet notes the changes to the Responsible Authorities arising from the Police Reform Act 2002.</p>
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<p>1.0</p>	<p><u>Introduction</u></p>
<p>1.1</p>	<p>The Eastbourne Crime Reduction Partnership was formed in 1998 in response to the Crime and Disorder Act, which gave the Council, the Police and other key partners, new responsibilities for the prevention of crime and disorder. The aim of the partnership is to “reduce crime, disorder and the fear of crime in Eastbourne”.</p>

1.2	<p>Following the production of the Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy 2002 to 2005 the Crime Reduction Partnership revised its structure in order to enable the delivery of action on the six priority areas of the partnership those being:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Substance misuse · Vehicle Crime · Domestic Burglary · The Fear of Crime · Violent Crime and · Anti Social-Behaviour
2.0	<p><u>Partnership Structure</u></p>
2.1	<p>A revised structure diagram for the Partnership is attached at Appendix 1.</p>
2.2	<p>In reviewing the structure the Partnership were aware that over the course of time a number of multi-agency action groups had emerged to tackle specific crime and disorder issues. In order to improve the co-ordination and communication between the various action groups 2 overarching working groups were created:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Violent Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour; and 2. Domestic Burglary, Vehicle and Business Crime.

2.3	A nominated representative for each of the action groups attends the working groups alongside other agencies relevant to the particular crime and disorder issue.
2.4	The working groups meet on a quarterly basis to look at crime trends, update progress on action plans, identify any barriers to action, identify new actions and request resources from the partnership.
2.5	This information is then reported to the main Partnership Board who monitor the progress toward achieving the target set in the Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy and progress towards achieving the actions being undertaken by the working groups.
2.6	The CAD project group includes substance misuse agencies and meets twice a year to consider bids made against the Communities Against Drugs Funding.
2.7	All requests for funding are considered at the Joint Funding Group, which is a separate meeting of the main Partnership Board.
3.0	<u>Current Councillor Representation in the Crime Reduction Partnership</u>
3.1	As the relevant portfolio holding Cabinet Member, Councillor Leggett represents the Council on the Partnership Board. However, there is no current Member representation at the key working group level of the structure.

3.2	<p>Elected Member participation in the Partnership is focused on the work overseen by the Violent Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour Working Group. However, in respect of the action groups that report to that Working Group, Member representation is currently somewhat uneven. There is Member representation on some of the action groups as detailed in Appendix 2. However, this also shows that some of the action groups do not have any Member representation at present.</p>
3.3	<p>A further anomaly is that there is proportionately heavy Member representation on the Town Centre Action Group with secretarial support provided from within the Council. In all other cases, the action groups are self-sustaining and administered from within their memberships.</p>
3.4	<p>Active involvement of Members in all the action groups that work to the Violent Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour Working Group together with direct Member representation on that Working Group will provide a more equitably balanced contribution, enhance representative democracy and allow Members to better inform their constituents. This would be particularly beneficial if members shared their learning. It is therefore recommended that the Council should approve revised representation within the Crime Reduction Partnership as set out in Appendix 2.</p>
4.0	<p><u>Secretariat for the Groups</u></p>

4.1	<p>The Home Office Funded Partnership Co-ordinator and Partnership Support Officer will continue to provide the Secretariat for the following groups:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Main Partnership Board · Joint Funding Group · CAD Project Group · Vehicle Crime, Domestic Burglary and Business Crime · Violent Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour
4.2	<p>As stated in paragraph 3.3 above, the action groups are organised and administered from within their membership. This arrangement will also need to be taken on board by the Town Centre Action Group.</p>
5.0	<p><u>The Police Reform Act 2002</u></p>
5.1	<p>The Police Reform Act has given statutory responsibility for reducing Crime and Disorder to:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · The Fire Authority · The Police Authority · Primary Care Trusts
5.2	<p>As a result of this legislation representation from these bodies will increase the membership of the Crime Reduction Partnership main board.</p>
6.0	<p><u>Best Value Implications</u></p>
6.1	<p>Changes arising from this report will be included as actions in the Best Value Improvement Plan for the Community Safety Review being undertaken this year.</p>
7.0	<p><u>Consultation</u></p>

7.1	The Corporate Management Team has been consulted on and has endorsed the recommendations contained within this report.
7.2	The Crime Reduction Partnership has been consulted on and has endorsed the recommendations contained within this report.
7.3	The Town Centre Action Group has been consulted on and are in agreement with the recommendations contained within this report.
8.0	<u>Human Resource Implications</u>
8.1	There are no human resource implications arising from this report.
9.0	<u>Financial Implications</u>
9.1	There are no financial implications arising from this report.
10.0	<u>Summary</u>
10.1	The Crime Reduction Partnership has revised its structure to enable the delivery of the Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy 2002 to 2005. There are 11 action groups undertaking action on crime and disorder issues and two overarching working groups have been created to improve co-ordination and delivery of the targets and objectives of the Crime Reduction Strategy. A number of Councillors are already represented on some of the various partnership action groups. This report seeks to amend and enhance the current representation. All action groups will continue to be self-administrating. The Police Reform Act has increased the number of responsible authorities and the membership on the main partnership board.

Justine Armstrong Crime Reduction Partnership Co-ordinator	
Background Papers: The Background Papers used in compiling this report were as follows: Police Reform Act 2002 To inspect or obtain copies of background papers please refer to the contact officer listed above.	
Justine Armstrong/ Community Safety Plan/Committee	Reports/Member involvement in the CRP 02

Appendix 2

Partnership Group	Current Councillor Representation	Ward	Proposed New Councillor Representation
Crime Reduction Partnership Main Board	Councillor Leggett	Portfolio holding Cabinet Member	No Change
Violent Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour Working Group	None	N/A	One Member to be nominated from the Controlling Group
Anti-Social Behaviour Problem Solving Group	Confidential case working group tackling specific nuisance and anti-social behaviour issues	N/A	None Proposed
Community Street Wardens Steering Group	Councillor Mrs Sims Councillor Elkin	Langney Meads	No Change
Youth Officers Group	None	N/A	Two Members, one to be nominated from each Group

Overseas Advisory Committee (Operation Columbus)	Councillor Mrs Teso Councillor Warner	Devonshire Sovereign	No Change
North Langney Forum	Councillor Berry Councillor Mrs Sims Councillor Slater	Langney Langney Langney	No Change
Town Centre Action Group	Councillor Mrs Healy Councillor Mrs Teso Councillor Elkin Councillor Mrs Murray	Devonshire Devonshire Meads Upperton	Three Members, one each from Devonshire, Meads and Upperton Wards
Pubwatch	No Councillor Representative	N/A	One Member, can be from either Group
Race Action Forum	No Councillor Representative	N/A	One Member, can be from either Group
Domestic Violence Forum	No Councillor Representative	N/A	One Member, can be from either Group