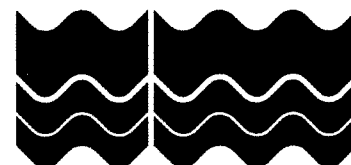
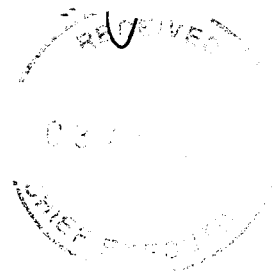


Chief Executive's Department
6th Floor, St Mary's House
52 St Leonard's Road
Eastbourne, BN21 3UU

**East Sussex
County Council**



~~Mr Robert Cottrill
Chief Executive
Eastbourne Borough Council
Town Hall
Grove Road
Eastbourne
BN21 4UG~~



Friday, 23 July 2010

Dear Colleague

Community Safety Review

I am writing to seek the support of the partners in the East Sussex Safer Communities Partnership for the proposed re-organisation of our work.

The review of our current approach to community safety was prompted by the view of Sussex Police that this was required both to deliver improvement in the way we work, but also to prepare for imminent reductions in public expenditure. The full implications of the latter point are now emerging with in year reductions in council budgets which have particularly affected East Sussex and Hastings with 2011/12 seeing reductions across the public sector. It is clear that Police and local authority budgets will face sustained pressure over the next four years and reductions may well exceed the 25% figure widely quoted.

Crime and safety will remain key issues for all our residents and are key to the regeneration of those parts of the county where new investment and jobs are important priorities.

Key priorities have been therefore:

- To maximise the ways in which external funding streams deliver impact on the ground and to minimise spending on structure.
- Strengthen the role of CDRPs, in particular the role of Lead Members, in reviewing the delivery of partners in their areas and to continue to underpin this with partnership action at a locality level through Joint Action Groups. CDRPs to have a substantial local member and community input.
- To get the benefit of a more universal standard of best practice through county wide groups leading work around thematic areas like anti-social behaviour and domestic violence.
- To emphasise neighbourhood and community level work as the basis for building confidence and communication – alongside the local work of Police and councils.
- To provide cost effective support to the running of CDRPs through a small team at a cost of approximately £8k per partner and thus enabling local councils to direct their community safety resources towards delivery on the ground.
- To continue this process onwards by reviewing the provision of central services to the Partnership by ESCC, Sussex Police, Probation and others to identify further efficiencies.

The broad thrust of these proposals was consulted with partners in September 2009 and since then work has gone on to flesh out how these could be implemented. The Safer Communities Steering Group met on 13th July 2010 and agreed to adopt the proposals attached to this report and are now seeking the confirmation of partners that this is agreed as the way forward.

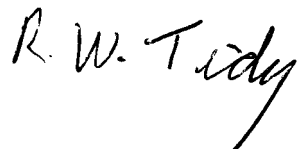
You are asked to respond to this by Friday, 27th August 2010 to allow implementation to move ahead in time to ensure new structures are in place and bedded down in time for the next financial year and I enclose a very brief form for this purpose.

I attach the executive summary of the proposals together with the report considered by the Partnership when it adopted the proposals. Full copies of all the research documents in this process are held by each agency or partner. Appendix A of the report lists each specific recommendation agreed at the Partnership meeting. If you want further discussion of the detail behind the report, the following colleagues are available (subject to holidays and work commitments) for this purpose:

Chief Inspector Natalie Carron (Sussex Police)
Monica Adams-Acton (Hastings Borough Council)
Kieran McNamara (East Sussex County Council)
Simon Hubbard (Hastings Borough Council)

Subject to the feedback from partners, the Partnership will continue to press forward in order to ensure the best possible delivery of services to our residents.

Yours sincerely



Councillor Bob Tidy

Chairperson of the East Sussex Safer Communities Partnership