

AGENDA ITEM: **8b**

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

23rd SEPTEMBER 2008

COMMUNITY SAFETY and LEISURE SCRUTINY PANEL PROGRESS REPORT

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1 To inform Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Board of the progress made to date by the Community Safety and Leisure Scrutiny Panel.

RECOMMENDATION

- 2 It is recommended that the Overview and Scrutiny Board approves the actions of the Community Safety and Leisure Scrutiny Panel since the last update which was presented to this Board at its meeting of 26th August 2008.

PROGRESS OF THE PANEL

- 3 **CCTV** -The Panel met on 27th August and travelled to Newcastle to observe the operation of the Town Centre CCTV Control room which is operated and funded directly by the Police. The Panel wanted to see how this differed from Middlesbrough Councils operation and also if the Police response to incidents identified on CCTV differed in any way. It was explained to the Panel that the Police Officers monitoring the CCTV system were trained by Police and had developed an understanding of the terminology required by operational officers, which improved the effectiveness of their operation.

- 4 The Panel also met on the 10th September at which time they met a representative of Cleveland Police. The Panel wanted to engage with the Police to gain information regarding the effectiveness and contribution CCTV made to the Polices operation in Middlesbrough. The Panel considered it important, that the Police perspective is obtained and that information which would indicate how effective CCTV is in tackling Anti Social behaviour and crime through the deployment of Police resource. Also to what extent the evidence provided by CCTV coverage contributed to securing prosecutions. The Panel found that CCTV did make a major contribution in the efficient deployment of Police resource and also the influence it has in changing an individuals plea and securing a prosecution.

- 5 The Panel also wanted to gain information on young peoples outlook towards CCTV and as the Voiceover Survey was about to be circulated the Panel requested that the results of this at brought before the Panel. Consequently the Panel received that detail at the last meeting which illustrated that the issue of feeling safe due to CCTV is probably a factor which increases with age.

- 6 The Panels next meeting is the 29th September at which time it is the Panels intention to discuss its findings and form its conclusions to this Scrutiny examination.

COUNCILLOR PERVAZ KHAN

CHAIR OF THE COMMUNITY SAFETY AND LEISURE SCRUTINY PANEL

BACKGROUND PAPERS

No background paper was used in the preparation of this report: -

11th September 2008

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