

**COMMUNITY SAFETY AND LEISURE SCRUTINY PANEL
FEAR OF CRIME– ACTION PLAN**

SCRUTINY RECOMMENDATION	PROPOSED ACTION	BY WHOM	BUDGET COST	TIMESCALE
<p>1. That the Councils Executive engage with the Auditors to ensure that future proposed actions contained within the Audit and Inspection letter are well founded and that proposals clearly state their evidence source.</p>	<p><i>Policy and Performance</i></p> <p>The last Audit and Inspection Letter was developed under the Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) audit and inspection regime. CPA was succeeded in April 2009 by a new audit and inspection regime for local government and its partners – Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA).</p> <p>CAA is an overall assessment of the effectiveness of public services in an area made jointly by the public sector inspectorates. It is framed as a process that will help drive improvement throughout the year through ongoing dialogue with the local CAA Lead (single point of contact). Under this new arrangement, the rationale for any judgements presented in inspection reports will be clearly understood and, in the great majority of cases, accepted by local partners before publication.</p> <p>“ Through this process we expect most issues to be resolved and we would not expect an LSP or organisation to wait until receipt of the pre-publication assessments before discussing issues with the</p>	<p>Performance and Policy (Assistant Chief Executive)</p>	<p>Within existing staffing costs</p>	<p>First CAA reports to be published in December 2009.</p>

APPENDIX D

	<p>inspectories.” (Audit Commission, Proposed CAA Review Procedure, April 2009)</p> <p>In this first year of CAA, the Council has had regular contact with the CAA Lead in discussing potential judgements for Middlesbrough’s Area Assessment. Whilst the first year of CAA has been challenging, there has been ongoing dialogue. It is expected that this dialogue will result in auditors reaching judgements on Middlesbrough’s performance that are both fair and robust. The Council’s approach to auditor engagement will be reviewed once the first round of CAA has been completed, in December 2009.</p> <p><i>Strategic Resources</i></p> <p>The service will discuss and agree any information included in the Financial / Use of Resources reports with the external auditor.</p>	<p>Deputy Director of Resources</p>	<p>Nil</p>	<p>September 2009</p>
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