

AGENDA ITEM: 14b

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

17th NOVEMBER 2009

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 20th October 2009.

PROGRESS OF THE PANEL

- 3 **Community Courts.** The Panel undertook a site visit to the Community Justice Court operating in Liverpool on the 2nd November. The panel found this visit extremely beneficial as the court operated differently to that observed in Middlesbrough. Mainly due to the fact that Liverpool operated with a Crown Court Judge and the court was located in the community where the crime or anti social behaviour was undertaken. Conversely Middlesbrough operates with Magistrates and the Magistrates court is used as the location.
- 4 The panel Held a meeting on the 4th November where they discussed and compared the operation of the two courts. Resulting from this the panel established their Terms of Reference and Lines of Enquiry. The panel has

asked the Executive Member for Community Safety to attend the next meeting of the Panel which is scheduled for 25th November to assess the level of involvement the Council has through its Executive in the development of Community Courts in Middlesbrough.

- 5 **RIPA. Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act.** The panel received an outline of RIPA and how covert surveillance is directed by the Council and to what effect. The panel found this information very beneficial and how it has moved away from an unregulated situation to one which allows the Council to undertake surveillance appropriately for environmental protection, trading standards, fraud etc.

COUNCILLOR PERVAZ KHAN

CHAIR OF THE COMMUNITY SAFETY AND LEISURE SCRUTINY PANEL

BACKGROUND PAPERS

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

5th November 2009

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