

AGENDA ITEM: 10 b

**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD**

**23<sup>rd</sup> AUGUST 2011**

**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 26<sup>th</sup> July 2011.

**PROGRESS OF THE PANEL**

- 3 **Coroners Service.** The panel met on the 10<sup>th</sup> August and received some background information regarding the Coroners Service and the Councils obligations regarding employment and payment for the Coroner. The panel then discussed and identified its Terms of Reference and Lines of Enquiry for this Scrutiny.
- 4 The panel considered there are two prime strands to this Scrutiny. These are driven by the public concerns on the amount of time taken

which is considered to be excessive. The other is in relation to the cost effectiveness of the service.

- 5 The Draft Terms of Reference are
  - To assess the cause for the delays taken between death and the conclusion of an inquest with the intention of finding ways to reduce this time.
  - To examine the funding structure of the Coroners Office to ensure its cost effectiveness.
- 6 The panel identified its Lines of Enquiry and is intending to receive information from the Hospital (Pathology) and from the Police at its next meeting.
- 7 The panel is also looking at the option of inviting an expert witness to join the panel for the duration of this subject. Those enquiries are presently being undertaken.
- 8 **Golf Centre.** The Panel undertook a site visit to the Golf Centre on 1<sup>st</sup> August at which time they received an update on the cost effectiveness of the Golf Centre as this had been a concern of the panel when addressing this subject. The panel was pleased to find that the Centre has moved from having a substantial financial deficit last year to being on target to achieving a financial surplus this year.
- 9 **Food Hygiene.** As presented to the Board previously, the panel was scheduled to receive an update this month. However, the Food Standards Agency is presenting its Scheme to the Service in September, Consequently, for the panel to receive a comprehensive update this item has been rescheduled for October.

## **COUNCILLOR FRANCES McINTYRE**

### **CHAIR OF THE COMMUNITY SAFETY AND LEISURE SCRUTINY PANEL**

#### **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

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

12<sup>h</sup> August 2011

Contact: Peter Clark  
Senior Scrutiny Officer, Legal and Democratic Services.  
Telephone: 01642 729 708 (direct line)