

# MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM: 8b

## OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

18<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2012

### 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.

#### PROGRESS OF THE PANEL

- 3 **Neighbourhood Watch**, The panel held its meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> August and had in attendance the Police Inspector responsible for Neighbourhood Watch across Middlesbrough. The panel was aware that Neighbourhood Watch in Cleveland is a partnership, which involves the Police, Community Safety Departments of Local Authorities, voluntary organisations and residents in communities who want to make their neighbourhood a better place to live. The panel wanted the Police Inspector to outline the present position.
- 4 The panel received a range of interesting information at this meeting which outlined the operation of Neighbourhood Watch and also provided comparisons of the various Neighbourhood Watch schemes across Teesside. This information indicated that Middlesbrough had a low membership with approximately 1,800 members compared to the

28,000 members in neighbouring Stockton. Indeed Middlesbrough has the lowest number of members in the Tees Valley. The Police informed the panel that there are concerns regarding the central committee in Middlesbrough. These were mainly relating to the focus of the committee and that Cleveland Police were in the process of addressing these issues.

- 5 Consequently, as the panel had been given an outline from the Police as to the structure and operation of Neighbourhood Watch. The panel considered it beneficial to invite some of the co-ordinators of the various NW schemes in Middlesbrough to gain their perspective. To achieve this, the Panel has invited and received confirmation of six area Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinators who will attend the panel meeting of 12<sup>th</sup> September. This will enable Members to engage directly with the co-ordinators regarding the strengths, weaknesses and ways to improve Neighbourhood Watch in Middlesbrough and hopefully this will assist the panel in looking for ways to improve NW in Middlesbrough.

#### **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

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

**COUNCILLOR FRANCES McINTYRE**

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

5<sup>th</sup> September 2012

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