

# MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM: 11 (b)

## OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

30<sup>th</sup> April 2013

### 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 **Leisure Services** – This background has been conveyed to the Overview and Scrutiny Board previously. The panel had received information regarding the potential move to a Leisure Trust and the panel wanted further clarification on the ramifications of such a move. The panel then looked at the leisure provision in Middlesbrough and how this compared and contrasted with the private sector provision in Middlesbrough. At which time the panel was informed that consultants were being appointed to look at the shift in Leisure and move to a Prissick Sports Village. However, the panel has recently been informed that these consultants are no longer going to be appointed and that an internal examination is to occur. Consequently, the panel met with the service undertaking this review to gain an understanding of its remit.

- 4 **Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA)** - The panel has a duty to address the actions, intentions and restrictions of the Council in relation to RIPA. The Act sets out ways that government bodies, including the police, are allowed to carry out surveillance, which includes accessing any communications data, taking photographs etc. The panel therefore required an update and position statement and received this at its meeting of 20<sup>th</sup> March 2013
- 5 The Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 empowers the Council to make certain enquiries with regard to trading standards, public health, environment and other matters and it is sometimes necessary to conduct investigations in a covert manner. The legislation puts strict limits on the type of people who are allowed to use covert techniques and the conditions under which they can be used. Council Officers who wished to carry out covert investigation had to apply to the appropriate officer for permission.
- 6 RIPA Orders are not readily granted, as the granting officer has to establish that the offence is of such a serious nature that use of covert surveillance is necessary. The Council has a very good system in place and officers only seek permission in the most appropriate cases. The panel has been informed previously that there has been very few instances where an application has been refused.
- 7 **Work programme** – The panel agreed dates for the update of various items the panel has addressed and requires update on to be presented to the panel during 2013.
- 8 **Safer Middlesbrough Partnership (SMP)** – The Safer Middlesbrough Partnership (SMP) was established approximately eight years ago and since its formation there have been many references to how well the partnership is working.
- 9 The Secretary of State made regulation under the Police and Justice Act (Overview and Scrutiny) by giving powers in 2009 to the Local Authority Scrutiny Committee to hold to account and Scrutinise Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRP's). Consequently this Panel ensures it meets with the SMP each year to receive its Strategy and general update on major issues.
- 10 The partnership went through a review two years ago and the panel met on the 10<sup>th</sup> April to receive the outline Safer Middlesbrough Partnerships 2013 –14 strategy. At this time the panel identified two areas which it required further information. These are
  - a) the consolidation of information available within the Local Authority in relation to anti-social behaviour
  - b) a breakdown of crimes by crime type within the Middlesbrough Wards.

The panel is meeting on the 1<sup>st</sup> May to receive this information

**BACKGROUND PAPERS**

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

**COUNCILLOR FRANCES McINTYRE**

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

18<sup>th</sup> April 2013

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