

Central
Bedfordshire
Council
Priory House
Monks Walk
Chicksands,
Shefford SG17 5TQ



**TO EACH MEMBER OF THE
SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

21 June 2010

Dear Councillor

**SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - Tuesday 22
June 2010**

Further to the Agenda and papers for the above meeting, previously circulated, please find attached the following additional reports which will be considered during the Chairman's announcements and communications (item 3).

Letter re recommendations relating to the community safety plan dated
10/05/2010

Letter re recommendations relating to the community safety plan dated
18/05/2010

Should you have any queries regarding the above please contact Democratic Services on
Tel: 0300 300 4040

Yours sincerely

Ellen Heaney,
Democratic Services Officer
email: ellen.heaney@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

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Gary Alderson
Chairman of the Community Safety
Partnership

Your ref:
Our ref: PartriJ/100510
Date: 10 May 2010

Dear Gary

**RE: Overview and Scrutiny Committee Recommendations Relating to the
Community Safety Plan (2010)**

The Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee is Central Bedfordshire Council's designated 'crime and disorder committee' under the Police and Justice Act (2006).

At its meeting on 26 January 2010 the Committee received a report regarding the Community Safety Partnership Strategic Assessment and identified priorities for 2010/11. The report informed elected Members of the six priorities that had been identified through the Community Safety Partnership Strategic Assessment and invited Members to comment on these priorities before they were recommended for adoption by the Community Safety Partnership.

As outlined in Section 19 of the Police and Justice Act 2006 (amended by Section 126 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007) the Council's Constitution (Part D2, paragraph 6.7.1) states that:-
"where the Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee makes a report or recommendations on a local crime and disorder matter it will copy the report to the responsible authorities, notifying them of their duty (...):-

- (a) to consider the report or recommendations;
- (b) to respond to the Committee in writing within 28 days indicating what (if any) action it proposes to take; and
- (c) to have regard to the report or recommendations in exercising its functions."

At the Committee meeting Members recommended to the Executive that the priorities for 2010 – 11, identified through the Community Safety Partnership Strategic Assessment, be supported for adoption by the Community Safety

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Partnership and inclusion within the Community Safety Plan. Members also raised a series of concerns that they wished to be brought to the attention of the Community Safety Partnership. Members resolved that “the Community Safety Partnership be advised that:

- a) an important need exists for careful communication with the public regarding the priorities contained in the Community Safety Plan;
- b) residents need to be informed of the work of the Community Safety Partnership and the areas on which partners were focusing attention whilst emphasising that although these areas were a priority this did not mean that action was not being taken in other areas; and
- c) appropriately detailed information regarding performance should be made available by partners of the Community Safety Partnership to residents, Central Bedfordshire Council and Town and Parish Councils.”

A full copy of Minute reference SCOSC/09/22 is attached to this letter for information.

In accordance with the guidelines outlined above I would be most grateful if you could consider the recommendations agreed by the Committee and consider what (if any) action you propose to take. We would be grateful for a response in writing within 28 days of receipt of this letter.

For information purposes the Committee is keen to ensure that the views of the responsible authorities are made available at meetings of the Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee whenever matters relating to crime and community safety are considered. A work programme, including all of the items that will be considered by the Committee, is kept up to date and made available on the Council’s website (www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk). Matters relating to crime and community safety are currently scheduled as follows (all meetings commence at 10am):-

Meeting Date	Title of Item	Description of Item
7 September 2010	CCTV Service Options	To consider options available to move to an approach for the provision of a CCTV service within Central Bedfordshire.
7 September 2010	Visible Presence	To consider the options available for Central Bedfordshire to undertake enforcement of a range of environmental and community safety legislation (including the Environmental Protection Act (EPA) and Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act (CNEA)) and exploring the role that a

		uniformed team has in that respect.
18 January 2011	Community Safety Plan (2011)	To receive a report regarding the refresh of the Community Safety Plan for 2011. The Committee will be able to review the outcomes of the strategic assessment and comment on the emerging priorities for the refresh of the 2010 Community Safety Plan.

If any further issues arise we will endeavour to provide as much notice of these meetings as possible via the website.

If you would like to discuss any of these matters further please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours Sincerely

Jonathon Partridge

Overview and Scrutiny Officer

(On behalf of the Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee)

Direct telephone 0300 300 4634

Email jonathon.partridge@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

CC: Bedfordshire Probation Service; Bedfordshire Police Authority; Bedfordshire and Luton Combined Fire Authority and Bedfordshire and Luton Fire and Rescue Service Fire Authority; NHS Bedfordshire; Chairman, Community Safety Partnership

Councillor McVicar (Portfolio Holder Safer Communities and Healthier Lifestyles); Jane Moakes (Assistant Director Community Safety, Public Protection & Waste); Jeanette Keyte (Head of Community Safety); Joy Craven (Community Safety Partnership Manager)

**SCOSC/09/22 Community Safety Partnership Strategic Assessment,
Identified Priorities for 2010 – 2011**

The Committee considered a report informing Members of the following six priorities that had been identified for 2010-2011 through the Community Safety Partnership Strategic Assessment:

1. Reduce Re-Offending;
2. Reduce Substance Misuse (Drugs and Alcohol);
3. Reduce Serious Acquisitive Crime (Domestic Burglary and Theft from Motor Vehicles);
4. Reduce Anti-Social Behaviour;
5. Reduce Domestic Abuse.
6. Casualty Reduction - Road Safety.

Members noted that they were being invited to comment on the priorities and recommend to Executive that it support their adoption by the Community Safety Partnership. Once adopted by the Partnership the priorities would be included within the Community Safety Plan.

To assist Members in their deliberations the Committee received the executive summary of the Strategic Assessment which set out the detailed analysis carried out as part of the Strategic Assessment document. In addition Superintendent Neil Wilson of Bedfordshire Police attended the Committee to provide additional information, offer clarification and answer questions on the above whilst the Head of Community Safety gave a briefing presentation which provided further background detail on the Strategic Assessment process.

The Head of Community Safety explained that the common themes running throughout the priorities were a reduction in the fear of crime and improving public confidence. Following comment she undertook to circulate a copy of the draft Community Safety Plan to Members in February.

Following full and detailed consideration Members gave their approval to the priority areas identified in the Strategic Assessment. However, the meeting also raised comments with regards to the Community Safety Plan which they requested be taken into consideration by the Community Safety Partnership.

RESOLVED that the Community Safety Partnership be advised that:

- a) an important need exists for careful communication with the public regarding the priorities contained in the Community Safety Plan.
- b) residents need to be informed of the work of the Community Safety Partnership and the areas on which partners were focusing attention whilst emphasising that although these areas were a priority this did not mean that action was not being taken in other areas.

- c) appropriately detailed information regarding performance should be made available by partners of the Community Safety Partnership to residents, Central Bedfordshire Council and Town and Parish Councils

RECOMMENDED to Executive:

That it supports the following priorities for 2010-2011, identified through the Community Safety Partnership Strategic Assessment, for adoption by the Community Safety Partnership and inclusion within the Community Safety Plan:

1. Reduce Re-Offending;
2. Reduce Substance Misuse (Drugs and Alcohol);
3. Reduce Serious Acquisitive Crime (Domestic Burglary and Theft from Motor Vehicles);
4. Reduce Anti-Social Behaviour;
5. Reduce Domestic Abuse;
6. Casualty Reduction - Road Safety.

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**Jonathon Partridge
Overview and Scrutiny Officer
(On behalf of the Sustainable Communities
Overview and Scrutiny Committee)**

Your ref: PartriJ/100510
Our ref:
Date: 18 May 2010

Dear Jonathan

**Re: Overview and Scrutiny Committee Recommendations Relating to the
Community Safety Plan (2010)**

Thank you for your letter dated 10 May with regard to the recommendations agreed by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 26 January 2010.

In response I can advise that the recommendations made by the Committee will be used to help inform the Partnerships developing work on improving public confidence and perception in relation to crime and disorder in Central Bedfordshire. The Partnership has in place a Public Confidence Group, led by the Police Authority, which is developing actions, based on national and regional guidance, in addition to local survey results to increase public confidence in relation to crime and disorder. In promoting confidence it will be the case that the Partnership will be more proactive in the work it undertakes to support the priorities identified in the Community Safety Plan, not only in vulnerable areas but the whole of Central Bedfordshire.

With regard to the availability of performance information, some information is already available to residents via partners websites e.g. Bedfordshire Police where information for the local policing area can be found. Town and Parish Councils do receive some performance information through their local policing officer's attendance at Town and Parish Council meetings albeit that it is acknowledged that a more robust mechanism for providing such information needs to be established. As part of its Local Area Agreement monitoring Central Bedfordshire Council also has access to performance information linked to National Indicators:

- NI 30 - Reducing Re-offending
- NI 16 – Serious Acquisitive crime
- NI 32 – Reducing repeat incidents of Domestic abuse

NI 40 – Reducing Substance Misuse

Developing additional means by which performance information can be made available will also be part of the work undertaken by the Public Confidence Group.

I will ensure that the recommendations received from the Committee are formally noted by the Community Safety Partnership Executive at its next meeting and I hope that this information responds to the query raised with regard to proposed action.

On behalf of the Community Safety Partnership I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the Committee for the recommendations made at its January meeting, and for supporting the identified community safety priorities for Central Bedfordshire going forward in 2010 - 2011.

Yours sincerely

Gary Alderson

Director

Sustainable Communities