

# **Draft Protocol between the Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Committee and the Safer Cheshire East Partnership.**

## **Introduction**

1. In accordance with Part 3 of the Police and Justice Act 2006, local authorities have the power to scrutinise the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (Safer Cheshire East Partnership) in their area and make reports and recommendations to the Local Authority and the Partnership. In Cheshire East this role is carried out by the Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Committee, which has been designated the 'Crime and Disorder Committee' under Paragraph 1, Section 19 Part 3 of the Act.
2. This protocol has been jointly agreed by the Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Committee, and the respective partners comprising the Safer Cheshire East Partnership, to provide a framework for that scrutiny to take place. The publication of Regulations and good working practice has shaped this protocol which may be revised by agreement between all the interested parties in order to continually improve the scrutiny process.

## **Principles of the Scrutiny Function**

1. Scrutiny in Cheshire East is positive, objective and constructive. It acknowledges good practice and recommends improvements where it feels that these would be of benefit. Scrutiny concentrates on service outcomes and seeks to add value to each service it considers.
2. Community safety and freedom from crime and disorder for the people of Cheshire East is dependant upon many factors including the services provided in collaboration with Partners in the Safer Cheshire East Partnership. This shared responsibility will be acknowledged by scrutiny and will feature in Scrutiny Reviews.
3. Scrutiny of the reduction of crime and disorder will only be truly successful if key organisations work together in an atmosphere of mutual respect and trust with an understanding and commitment to its aims.
4. The key organisations involved in scrutiny of crime and disorder must be willing to share information, knowledge and reports which relate to the delivery and success of service in Cheshire East and carry out duties that would be reasonably expected of them to enable crime and disorder scrutiny to be successfully undertaken.
5. At all times both officers and members of the organisation involved in crime and disorder scrutiny, representatives and members of the public

will be treated with respect and courtesy. Matters of confidentiality will be treated with respect.

6. Crime and disorder scrutiny will be open and transparent. Any person involved in crime and disorder scrutiny will always declare any personal or other interests that they have either in a scrutiny exercise or during a meeting of the committee.
7. The Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Committee, whilst working in partnership, is independent of the respective partners comprising the Safer Cheshire East Partnership.
8. Scrutiny of crime and disorder will try to maximise the involvement of the community and will work with other agencies representing the public.

### **Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Committee**

1. The Safer Cheshire East Partnership will be consulted on the annual work programme and informed in advance of scrutiny exercises that the Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Committee is intending to undertake.
2. The Partnership will also be informed of the scope of scrutiny exercises and will be given adequate notice of invitations to attend meetings of the Committee or Task and Finish Groups and of any required information.
3. The Safer Cheshire East Partnership will be consulted on any draft Scrutiny reports relating to crime and disorder matters before they are published. The final reports will be published on the Council's website and circulated as appropriate.
4. Crime and disorder scrutiny will not be used as a complaints process.
5. The Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Committee will at all times comply with the Council's Constitution.

### **Safer Cheshire East Partnership**

1. The Safer Cheshire East Partnership will work in partnership with the Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Committee to provide objective and efficient scrutiny of crime and disorder.
2. The Safer Cheshire East Partnership will provide information relating to the planning and operation of crime and disorder reduction activities and strategies that is required by the Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Committee so that it can undertake its required scrutiny reviews. This will not however include confidential information that

might impinge upon actual police operations or individuals, unless an individual gives consent for such information to be released.

3. The Safer Cheshire East Partnership will provide the Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Committee with such information within 15 working days of receipt of the request.
4. The Safer Cheshire East Partnership will respond to crime and disorder scrutiny reviews within 15 working days of receipt, or if this is not reasonably possible as soon as possible.
5. The Community Safety Manager will be the main contact person for crime and disorder and will maintain regular contact with the Sustainable Communities scrutiny Committee.
6. The Safer Cheshire East Partnership will ensure that officers attending the Scrutiny Committee meetings are of appropriate seniority to be able to answer questions openly.