

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

REPORT TO: CORPORATE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting:	1 August 2017
Report of:	Head of Governance and Democratic Services
Subject/Title:	Committee remits - Communities/Community Safety Issues

1.0 Report Summary

- 1.1 To determine which Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be responsible for scrutinising community safety and communities matters in future.

2.0 Recommendations

That the allocation of responsibilities from the Finance and Communities Portfolio be approved and adopted with immediate effect, as set out in paragraph 10.7 below.

3.0 Reasons for Recommendations

- 3.1 It is good practice to provide clear guidance on Committee remits to enable effective management of the Committee's business.

4.0 Wards Affected

- 4.1 All

5.0 Local Ward Members

- 5.1 Not applicable.

6.0 Policy Implications including - Carbon reduction - Health

- 6.1 None.

7.0 Financial Implications

- 7.1 None.

8.0 Legal Implications

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- 8.1 The Police and Justice Act 2006 requires local authorities to designate a committee as a “crime and disorder committee”

9.0 Risk Management

- 9.1 There are no identifiable risks.

10.0 Background and Options

- 10.1 The Leader of the Council announced changes in portfolio holder responsibilities in May of this year. The Changes had an impact on the allocation of duties within the Overview and Scrutiny structure. Most of the changes were easily absorbed into the structure of four Overview and Scrutiny Committees. Also, the Council’s aim of ensuring that portfolio holders each should report to only one Overview and Scrutiny Committee each has been maintained with one exception. This relates to the new Finance and Communities Portfolio.
- 10.2 The new Portfolio combined responsibilities for finance, which is normally a corporate function, with a number of community based responsibilities including community safety (sometimes referred to as crime and disorder). The Council is required to designate one of its overview and scrutiny committees as a “crime and disorder committee”; specifically to scrutinise the work of the Safer Cheshire East Partnership (SCEP). In December 2016, the Health Adult Social Care and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee had been designated as the appropriate committee as cabinet responsibility for community safety rested with the Communities and Health Portfolio Holder.
- 10.3 In order to find a solution to ensure the designation of community safety matters is dealt with by the most appropriate committee, discussions have been held informally between the portfolio holder, the Leader of the Council, and Chairmen of the scrutiny committees.
- 10.4 Having received confirmation from the Finance and Communities Portfolio holder that he is content to report to more than one committee if necessary, the Scrutiny Chairs Group met informally on 25 July to consider this matter.
- 10.5 This Committee in its overarching role, has power at any time to allocate specific responsibilities to any committee, irrespective of this report. The Chairs group met informally on 25 July to consider this matter and concluded that in order for effective scrutiny of SCEP to take place, it is important all the matters that fall within the general heading of ‘community safety’ are retained in one place. The group therefore considered that in view of the strategic importance of community safety, the SCEP and its strategy, scrutiny of this function should transfer to Corporate Scrutiny committee with immediate effect. The group also agreed with a suggestion made by the portfolio holder,

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that a number of residual 'communities' matters that have a strong financial element, such as fixed penalty notices should also transfer to Corporate. It is recommended that the remaining matters within the portfolio will continue to be dealt with by the Health Adult Social Care and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

10.6 A full break down of the allocation of responsibilities within the Finance and Community portfolio to Corporate and Health Adult Social Care and Communities Committee is listed below.

10.7 Functions which relate to the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee

- The financing of the Council and its Budget, and Corporate Business Planning
- Capital Programme and Strategy
- Reserves, Income and Funding Strategy
- Treasury and Business Management
- Procurement, Corporate Contracts and Contract Monitoring
- Insurance
- External Audit
- Pensions
- Revenues and Exchequer Functions, including Benefits
- Governance and Performance of ASDVs
- Finance-based communities issues
- Fly-tipping
- Fixed-Penalty Notices
- Community Safety, including:
 - Police
 - Anti-Social Behaviour
 - CCTV
 - Drugs

Functions which relate to the Health and Adult Social Care and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee

- Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector, including Citizens' Advice Bureaux
- Gypsies and Travellers
- Community Strategy
- Crewe Market Scheme

11 *Access to Information*

The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting
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