

Cheltenham Borough Council

Social and Community Overview & Scrutiny Committee 9 November 2009

Nomination for Gloucestershire Community Safety Scrutiny Committee – referral from the Leader

Background

New legislation

Section 19 of the Police and Justice Act 2006 requires each council to have a scrutiny committee which has crime and disorder issues within its remit. At Cheltenham this would fall within the remit of the Social and Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the council's constitution will need to be amended accordingly.

The government guidance on crime and disorder scrutiny encourages local authorities in two tier areas to work together to ensure that the scrutiny process is effective and makes a difference to local people.

County arrangements

The new structure for scrutiny at the County Council includes a new Community Safety Scrutiny Committee and one seat is available on the committee for each of the District Councils. The committee will be responsible for scrutinising the decisions and actions of the statutory partners on the Crime and Disorder Partnerships operating across the county. These include the County Council, the District Councils, the Police, the Police Authority and the Glos NHS. The remit of the committee also covers the activities of the County Council's Community Safety Directorate which provides fire and rescue, emergency management, trading standards, coroners and registration services.

On 9 September 2009, Peter Bungard, Chief Executive at the County, wrote to all the leaders of the District Councils inviting them to nominate a member to sit on the committee. They requested that the councillor nominated was not a member of the Police Authority or a member of the council's Cabinet. They also encouraged each council to appoint a Deputy to attend meetings in the event of their nominated member being able to attend.

Since receiving this letter, Councillor Steve Jordan has written to Group Leaders inviting their nominations. The PAB have replied saying they do not have a nomination. Councillor Stuart Hutton has proposed Councillor Barbara Driver with a deputy of Councillor Tim Cooper.

The first two meetings of the Community Safety Scrutiny Committee are scheduled for 26 November 2009 at 10 a.m. and 9 December 2009 at 10 a.m. in the Cabinet Suite,

Shire Hall. These meetings will be awareness raising sessions on the role of the committee.

Required action from this committee

As crime and disorder is within the remit of this committee, the Leader considered it was appropriate for this committee to make the final decision. They can either accept the nominations from the Group Leader of the Conservatives or they may decide it is more appropriate for a member of this committee to take up the appointment.

The committee is asked to nominate a member and deputy to join the Community Safety Scrutiny Committee. The member (and deputy) will be formally appointed at the next meeting of Cabinet and their names forwarded to the County.

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