

Local Authority Crime and Disorder Committees - Options

1 Background

- 1.1 Section 19 of the Police and Justice Act 2006 requires every local authority to have a crime and disorder committee with the power to review or scrutinise decisions made, or other action taken, in connection with the discharge by the responsible authorities of their crime and disorder functions.
- 1.2 The responsible authorities are the police service; local authorities; fire and rescue authority; probation service; and clinical commissioning groups.
- 1.3 The Police and Crime Commissioner is not a responsible authority; the power to scrutinise the Commissioner is vested in the Police and Crime Panel (a joint committee of the nine local authorities).
- 1.4 As with other local authority functions, this duty could be undertaken by a joint committee on behalf of a number of local authorities.
- 1.5 To date, to avoid duplication of effort, there has been an informal agreement that the district council crime and disorder committees will focus on community safety issues within their district, and the county council crime and disorder committee will focus on county-wide agreements and partnerships.

2 Changing circumstances

- 2.1 In the interests of efficiency and economy, it is proposed that the six district based Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) are merged into a single CSP for North Yorkshire (to be known as the North Yorkshire Community Safety Partnership). This will require a formal request for a merger to be made to the Police and Crime Commissioner by the responsible authorities. Until the proposed merger has been approved, the North Yorkshire CSP will function on a shadow basis.
- 2.2 A Local Delivery Team will be created for each of the districts within North Yorkshire, comprising operational managers, tasked with ensuring the delivery of the North Yorkshire Community Safety Partnership Plan in the district.

3 Options for local authority crime and disorder committees

- 3.1 Decisions about the future arrangements of local authority crime and disorder committees are the responsibility of the local authorities, but the proposed changes in community safety structures offer an opportunity for local authorities to review the arrangements of local authority crime and disorder committees.
- 3.2 All options need to consider how local arrangements for local authority crime and disorder committees are currently set up and how they may be impacted. The options include:

- 3.3 Option One: To continue the informal agreement that the district council crime and disorder committees will focus on community safety issues within their district, particularly the impact of the Local Delivery Team, and the county council crime and disorder committee will focus on the activity and impact of the North Yorkshire Community Safety Partnership. This would require a similar level of resources from local authorities to the current arrangements.
- 3.4 Option Two: The eight local authorities to create a joint crime and disorder committee. This would require a lower level of resources from local authorities than the current arrangements, particularly if the chairing and administrative support of the committee rotated among the eight councils.
- 3.5 Option Three: The district council crime and disorder committees to focus on community safety issues within their district, particularly the impact of the Local Delivery Team, and for the eight local authorities to create a joint crime and disorder committee to focus on the activity and impact of the North Yorkshire Community Safety Partnership. This would require a higher level of resources from local authorities than the current arrangements, although the increase could be limited if the chairing and administrative support of the joint committee rotated among the eight councils.
- 3.6 Option Four: Maintain status quo.