

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (SPECIAL)

24th March 2010

PRESENT:-

Conservative Group

Councillor Jones (Chairman), Councillor Mrs. Farrington (Vice-Chairman) and Councillors Atkin, Mrs. Hood and Mrs. Plenderleith.

Labour Group

Councillors Lane and Mrs. Mead.

Representatives of Outside Organisations

Teresa Croft (Youth of Hatton) and Councillor Mrs. Wheeler (Chairman of the Safer South Derbyshire Partnership).

OS/24. **APOLOGY**

An apology for absence from the Meeting was received from Councillor Bambrick (Labour Group).

OS/25. **CRIME AND DISORDER SCRUTINY**

The Chairman welcomed Theresa Croft, Youth of Hatton Scheme representative and Councillor Mrs. Wheeler, Chairman of the Safer South Derbyshire Partnership, to the Meeting.

The Chairman reminded the Committee that, under Minute No. OS/23 of 10th February 2010, it had been agreed to convene this Special Meeting to discuss the suggested review area on how Safer Neighbourhood project funding was allocated. A draft scoping document for the review had been circulated to Members prior to the Meeting for their comments. The consensus was that the scheme application form was overly complex and repetitive for completion by small community groups, many of whom had no previous experience in completing such forms.

Teresa Croft, a representative of the Youth of Hatton Scheme, who had submitted applications for funding on two separate occasions, related her experience in seeking funding through the scheme. Members asked a number of questions and raised issues relating to unfamiliar wording on the application form and contact with organisations where forms were not completed adequately.

Councillor Mrs. Wheeler, Chairman of the Safer South Derbyshire Partnership commented on the administration of the scheme, in particular making reference to the existing quarterly/annual deadlines and consideration of applications at the Safer Neighbourhood Meetings.

Members discussed the issues of match-funding requirements; the method of scoring/approving applications and the spending of the grant within the financial year it was awarded. It was considered that these aspects of the scheme should remain as the present arrangements. The remaining aspects of the funding scheme were considered for possible review, namely the current application form and guidance notes and associated correspondence; the existing quarterly/annual deadlines; the maximum amount allowed per project; the post-Christmas 'big pot' and arrangements for payment of grants. It was suggested that two task groups could review these issues in greater detail, prior to the next Meeting of the Committee.

It was agreed:-

- (1) That the draft scoping document for the review of the administration of the Safer Neighbourhood project funding scheme be approved.**
- (2) That a task group comprising the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Committee, together with District Council's Community Partnership's Officer be appointed to review the scheme's current application form, guidance notes and associated correspondence.**
- (3) That a task group comprising Councillors Mrs. Hood and Mrs. Plenderleith, together with the Safer Communities Manager and Community Engagements Officer, be appointed to review the areas of the scheme comprising the existing quarterly/annual deadlines; the maximum amount of funding per project; the post-Christmas big pot and advance payments of grants.**
- (4) That the task groups report their findings to the next Meeting of the Committee in May.**

C. JONES

CHAIRMAN

The Meeting terminated at 5.05 p.m.