

24 January 2003

Dear Councillor Porter

**Community Support and Safety Scrutiny Sub Committee:
Meeting with the Executive Member on Wednesday 5 February**

The Community Support and Safety Scrutiny Sub Committee has made time on its work programme to meet with you on Wednesday 5 February, starting at 7pm.

The Sub Committee met on Tuesday 21 January to determine the particular issues they would like to discuss with you. I have been asked by the Sub Committee to write to you with details of the issues and questions likely to arise. There will also be supplemental questions on the night.

The Sub Committee has determined its questions under 6 headings:

1. Recommendations arising from reviews by the Sub Committee to date
2. MORI 2002
3. Performance monitoring (including Southwark's PSA)
4. Corporate Priorities
5. Community Councils
6. Additional issues arising

1. Recommendations arising from reviews by the Sub Committee to date which are:

- The effectiveness of the Council's input to partnership working with the Police on issues of crime and disorder
- Enviro-Crime: Graffiti
- Neighbourhood renewal funding
- Strategic Support for the SRB6 Project Board
- Arrangements for the development of Community Wardens Schemes
- A review of the outbreak of public disorder at the Council's Fireworks event on Peckham Rye Common on November 5, 2002.
- A review of the chapter 'Cutting Crime and Fear of Crime' in the draft Community Strategy.

Members of the Sub Committee would be pleased to receive from you an update on progress on all of the specific recommendations arising in reviews by this Sub Committee, as appropriate, and what mechanisms you have put in place to support the work of the Overview and Scrutiny Sub Committee more generally.

On individual reviews and recommendations members are particularly interested to hear from you on:

- What action the Council has taken, as a member of the Southwark Alliance (LSP) to influence a speedier distribution of neighbourhood renewal funding to the five priority areas as determined by the Southwark Alliance and what guarantees the Council, as a member of the Southwark Alliance, is trying to bring about so that small, but still vital voluntary organisations, have an equal opportunity to access NRF funding as well as the larger agencies, through the Southwark Alliance.
- Community Wardens – an Officer report going to the Executive in February will outline arrangements for the development of Community Wardens schemes in identified priority areas but members would like to know what Community Wardens schemes are planned for areas which are not deemed a priority currently.

2. MORI 2002

- Crime and the fear of Crime was revealed as being top on a list of resident concerns arising out of the MORI 2002 survey. In particular, the proportion of residents dissatisfied with policing in the borough is twice the national average.
- Could you describe the extent of the action being taken to reverse resident concerns on crime and the fear of crime and what arrangements are in hand to improve public satisfaction with policing in the borough.
- Could you describe what progress is being made with the extension of CCTV across the borough, particularly into wards such as Surrey Docks where it is not extensively used at present. Could you also describe what progress is being made on establishing the main CCTV Control Centre for the borough.
- Could you tell the Committee how many anti social behaviour orders have been issued in the current financial year, to date, and what the success of the use of these orders is deemed to be in progressing the Safer Southwark Partnership's agenda to reduce anti social behaviour. Could you describe how the ongoing Best Value Review of Community Safety will enable better outcomes in dealing with anti social behaviour.

3. Performance Monitoring

- Two local indicators on crime are reported to the Executive as part of the quarterly monitoring performance framework. Under performance in the first two quarters' reports was as follows:

LP1 – To achieve the average and then a below average rate of crime per 1,000 of the population as compared to a family of 11 other comparable boroughs –

Quarter 1 target 47% - actual rate of crime 53.4%

Quarter 2 target 43.7% - actual rate of crime 48%

LP2 – Street crime per 1,000 of the population

Quarter 1 target 11.9% - actual rate of crime 17.3%

Quarter 2 target 13.5% - actual rate of crime 15%

- How do you deal with under achievement and how important do you consider performance indicators to be?
- Could you describe if the department is being realistic in its target setting against indicators generally, how does the department know it is being realistic and what checks and balances exist in the service to ensure that the Council meets and exceeds targets.
- **PSA** - Targets 1, 3 and 4 in Southwark's Public Service Agreement are to do with crime and offending or disturbing behaviour on the part of young people. What are the strategies in place for meeting these targets and how important do you perceive them to be?

4. Corporate Priorities

- Equalities is one of the Council's five corporate priorities. What is your understanding of the Race Relations Act? Could you describe how equalities issues generally are being promoted through the borough with reference to the Council's Race Equality Scheme, action 'on the ground' and, in particular, what measures are in place to combat homophobic behaviour and attitudes.
- Could you describe what action is being taken within the department to progress corporate performance in employing more staff from black and minority ethnic groups and ensuring that a percentage of top earners are women and from black and ethnic minority groups.

5. Community Councils

Full Council has agreed a system of Community Councils to begin work in April 2003. How will the Community Support and Safety Agenda be progressed through the Community Councils. What impact do you expect in year 1 and how will success be measured?

6. Additional Issues

Sub Committee members would be pleased to hear from you about the extent and scope of your involvement in the Community Support and Safety portfolio and what formal mechanisms are in place in the department to enable that involvement.

Please find attached to this letter copies of the correspondence and recommendations generated by the Sub Committee to date to assist you with your responses to the Sub Committee. Members of the Sub Committee will take ownership of individual questions at the meeting. The Chief Officer, Bob Coomber, has been invited to attend the meeting to assist you in answering the questions with additional information, where necessary. This meeting will provide the first opportunity for you and this Sub Committee to meet under the new Overview and Scrutiny arrangements. Members of the Sub Committee are looking forward to a productive meeting.

If you need any further context please contact Maggie Sullivan on 0207 525 7160 or by email to maggie.sullivan@southwark.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely

Councillor Barrie Hargrove
Chair, Community Support and Safety Scrutiny Sub Committee

cc: All members of the Community Support and Safety Scrutiny Sub Committee
Bob Coomber, Chief Executive
All members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Nathalie Hadjifotiou, Head of Social Inclusion
Stan Dubeck, Head of Community Safety
Eleanor Rees, Constitutional Support