

SUBJECT: PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE CITY COUNCIL'S SELECT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

DIRECTORATE: COMMUNITIES AND ENVIRONMENT

REPORT AUTHOR: SIMON WALTERS, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITIES AND ENVIRONMENT

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1** To propose an amendment to the terms of reference for Select Scrutiny Committee when it sits annually as the Crime and Disorder Committee.

2. Background

- 2.1** The City Council is required, under provisions within the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, to fulfil obligations in connection with scrutinising both the Council's own response and that of partners to the nature and impact of crime and disorder experienced within the City.
- 2.2** The City Council discharges this statutory duty through its Select Scrutiny Committee, which sits as a Crime and Disorder Committee once per year.
- 2.3** Whilst very effective in its role, it is envisaged that now is an appropriate time to broaden the range of partners requested to attend the committee to provide information. Currently the invite is extended to various council officers alongside Lincolnshire Police and Lincoln Business Improvement Group.
- 2.4** This limited attendance misses the opportunity to bring a wider selection of partners to that meeting to gain a rounded view of how crime and disorder is more holistically tackled in the city.

3. Proposed Way Forward

- 3.1** **Appendix A** covers the current terms of reference, which are in hindsight vague and open to interpretation. The revised wording, also included within Appendix A, seeks to strengthen the remit for the committee by specifying the partners to attend the meeting. For clarity, the proposal is to include the wider Safer Lincolnshire Partnership alongside those partners already attending each year. In addition, it provides the opportunity to request attendance from a wider group of organisations termed 'responsible authorities' under the Act. These latter bodies would be called on only if there were issues identified that required their input to the debate.
- 3.2** Officers have reviewed a selection of terms of reference from other local authorities and those attached within **Appendix A** are in accordance with those found elsewhere.

4. Strategic Priorities

4.1 Let's reduce all kinds of inequality

Clarification of a slightly wider remit for the committee will be helpful to provide a more comprehensive insight into the nature of crime and disorder in the City and the impact on victims. It will therefore provide the opportunity for committee to gain a more rounded view when fulfilling the council's statutory duty.

5. Organisational Impacts

5.1 Finance

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

5.2 Legal Implications

The change in the terms of reference enables the committee to more fully undertake its statutory function.

5.3 Equality, Diversity and Human Rights

The Public Sector Equality Duty means that the Council must consider all individuals when carrying out their day-to-day work, in shaping policy, delivering services and in relation to their own employees.

It requires that public bodies have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination
- Advance equality of opportunity
- Foster good relations between different people when carrying out their activities

The report will have a positive impact as it will facilitate a broader debate on the issues, with the opportunity for a wider range of bodies to attend.

6. Risk Implications

- 6.1 There are considered to be no risks associated with the report. All affected parties will be notified well in advance of these changes to enable them to prepare to attend the annual committee.

7. Recommendation

- 7.1 Full Council are recommended to approve the changes to the terms of reference for the City Council's Select Scrutiny Committee as detailed in Appendix A.

Is this a key decision?

No

Do the exempt information categories apply?

No

Does Rule 15 of the Scrutiny Procedure Rules (call-in and urgency) apply?

No

How many appendices does the report contain?

one

List of Background Papers:

None

Lead Officer:

Name: Simon Walters

Email address: simon.walters@lincoln.gov.uk