

## SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

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**REPORT TO:** South Cambridgeshire Local Strategic Partnership Board 19<sup>th</sup> November 2009  
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### NEIGHBOURHOOD PANELS

#### Purpose

1. The purpose of this report is to
  - (a) outline the findings from the consultation that has taken place in three of the neighbourhood panel areas;
  - (b) provide an opportunity for Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) Board members to shape the future direction of the panels through consideration of a number of recommendations for implementation at (i) all seven panels or (ii) the three that have been consulted.

#### Background

2. Please see report to the 17<sup>th</sup> July 2009 LSP Board.

#### The Consultation

3. The consultation took place in three Neighbourhood Panel areas and involved a simple launch at the appropriate panel meetings. The consultation involved:
  - (a) Asking people in attendance to complete a paper copy of the survey (agreed at the last LSP Board);
  - (b) Sending an email link to an online version of the survey to everyone on the email distribution list for each of the areas;
  - (c) Sending an email link to parents via Parent Mail at the local Village College (Swavesey neighbourhood only);
  - (d) Asking people in the street at various venues across the neighbourhood to complete an adapted survey for people who had not attended a panel meeting (Swavesey neighbourhood only).

#### The Findings

4. The summary data is presented at Appendix A.
5. Are they achieving their current purpose?
  - 5.1 49 out of 53 (2 did not respond to this question) people who attend panel meetings and responded to the consultation agree or strongly agree that

“Neighbourhood panels give me a chance to agree local policing priorities for my neighbourhood.”

- 5.2 51 out of 53 (1 did not respond to this question) people who attend panel meetings and responded to the consultation agree or strongly agree that

“Neighbourhood panels enable me to play an active role in helping to make my neighbourhood safer.”

- 5.3 50 out of 53 (3 did not respond to this question) people who attend panel meetings and responded to the consultation agree or strongly agree that

“Neighbourhood panels provide an opportunity for me to meet local police officers.”

- 5.4 40 out of 53 (1 did not respond to this question) people who attend panel meetings and responded to the consultation agree or strongly agree that

“Neighbourhood panels provide an opportunity for me to meet local authority representatives.”

Although 11 respondents disagreed and 1 strongly disagreed with this statement, they were not asked if they would like the panel meetings to provide this opportunity and it is not clear why the minority felt that the panels meetings do not provide this opportunity or if they would value a higher local authority profile in the future. A few of the answers in relation to the open-ended question “What aspects of the Neighbourhood Panels do you like?” did specifically mention that the local authority input/attendance is valuable.

6. Should the focus be widened?

- 6.1 Based on the responses from those who have attended a panel meeting, it should be made clear that ANY issues relating to community safety can be raised e.g. parking issues, traffic management, illegal trading and that the Panels are multi-agency.

**Recommendation (a): Include a definition of community safety on the agenda and include these topics specifically in panel terms of reference to be published on the SCDC website, with copies available at all meetings.**

**Recommendation (b): Panel branding to reflect partnership working and ensure LSP and Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership banner pop-ups are displayed at each meeting.**

- 6.2 Based on the responses from those who have attended a panel meeting, there should be an opportunity on each agenda for partners to highlight consultations that are relevant to the local area.

**Recommendation (c): Include a regular agenda item on Local Consultations to provide an opportunity for consultations to be highlighted and/or presented as appropriate.**

- 6.3 Based on the responses of those who have **not** attended a panel meeting (50 people), the main topics of interest were community facilities and youth facilities. There was also some interest in having a say on topics such as traffic management, waste and recycling and parking issues as well as hearing crime prevention advice. Most people had not heard of Neighbourhood Panels.

**Recommendation (d): Relevant partners to consider alternative methods of involving residents in discussions and/or decisions about community and youth facilities.**

**Recommendation (e): Wider advertising of panel meetings in parish magazines and on the SCDC website, plus posters with a year of dates in local venues (updated in January each year).**

7. Is the name 'Neighbourhood Panel' relevant?

7.1 The majority of respondents who attend the meetings feel that the name 'Neighbourhood Panel' describes what the meetings are about.

8. What aspects of the panels do people like?

8.1 A few of the responses are listed below (all responses can be found in the results document):

"The opportunity to voice concerns."

"Informality combined with good structure to the meetings. An opportunity to put a face to a name."

"Allows police and public alike to appreciate each others 'side'. To an extent replaces on-street contact."

"Open discussions. Police / council attend."

9. What aspects of panels would people like to change?

9.1 A few of the responses are listed below (all responses can be found in the results document):

"Horningsea is very remote from the rest of the "neighbourhood"."

"The police sometimes get unjustified criticism as we are not aware of who we should be directing comment to e.g. speeding in Stapleford."

"I would really like these meetings to be much more of a catch-all by more effective visible village advertising."

"Too much time is spent on going over the previous actions leaving insufficient time to discuss current problems."

9.2 The views within this section were often contradictory.

**Recommendation (f): Review the Linton Neighbourhood Panel boundary in order to try to address the "inconvenient" nature of the geography (i.e. Horningsea), which is reflected in the consultation findings as well as attendance at panel meetings.**

## **Recommendations**

10. The LSP Board is asked to consider the following recommendations (a)-(f) for implementation at either
  - i. all seven neighbourhood panels across the district; or
  - ii. the three neighbourhood panels that have been consulted to date.
- (a) Include a definition of community safety on neighbourhood panel agendas and include these topics specifically in panel terms of reference to be published on the SCDC website, with copies available at all meetings.
- (b) Reflect partnership working in panel branding and ensure LSP and Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership banner pop-ups are displayed at each meeting.
- (c) Include a regular agenda item of Local Consultations at neighbourhood panels, which will enable partners to highlight and/or present consultations as appropriate.
- (d) Suggest that relevant partners consider alternative methods of involving residents in discussions and/or decisions about community and youth facilities.
- (e) Ensure wider advertising of panel meetings in parish magazines and on the SCDC website, plus posters with a year of dates in local venues (updated in January each year).
- (f) Review the Linton Neighbourhood Panel boundary in order to try to address the “inconvenient” nature of the geography (i.e. Horningsea), which is reflected in the consultation findings as well as attendance at panel meetings.