

## **Maidstone Borough Council**

### **External Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

**Tuesday 17 March 2009**

#### **Partners and Communities Together (formerly Police and Communities Together) – Briefing Note**

**Report of:** Overview and Scrutiny Officer

#### **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 At its meeting on 17 February 2009 the External Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed that an update on the Partners and Communities Together (Previously the Police and Communities Together) scheme would be beneficial.

#### **2. What is Partners and Communities Together (PACT)**

- 2.1 PACT is a national initiative which allows local police and other agencies to engage with communities. The PACT groups provide local people with the opportunity to identify community concerns and monitor the performance of the PACT partners. PACTs are closely associated with the local neighbourhood policing teams.
- 2.2 Community groups, Parish Councils, Residents Associations and other small groups are able to establish a local PACT panel which is comprised of local people and representatives from local organisations (for example youth workers, school head teachers, social housing providers, KCC wardens, local borough and county councillors etc)<sup>1</sup>.
- 2.3 Issues raised by the local neighbourhood are considered by the PACT panel who then decide what the top three policing priorities are to be for the local area. It is intended that through the PACT panel, the community is able to influence policing and other such issues within their area.
- 2.4 It is not the role of the PACT members to make decisions on behalf of their organisations but rather they should aim to ensure that the right organisations take the correct action to address the identified problem.
- 2.5 Guidance suggests that the PACT panel should meet every 2 – 4 months depending upon the issues currently under discussion. Initially the panel is advised to undertake 'walkabouts' in the local community to raise awareness of the panel and meet members of the public. Community workshops provide local people with the opportunity to raise what they believe should be considered a top priority concern of the area. Surgeries

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<sup>1</sup>Information of how to establish a PACT panel can be found at:  
<http://www.kent.police.uk/About%20Kent%20Police/Neighbourhood%20policing/PACTHandbook.pdf>

are also held which provide local residents with the opportunity to meet the members of the PACT panel.

### **3. Recommendation**

3.1 Members are recommended to interview the Community Safety Co-ordinator and a representative of Kent Police. Areas of questioning could include but are not limited to:

- The establishment of PACTs within the Borough
  - Which areas of the borough do not have an established PACT?
  - Which areas have been particularly successful?
- The effectiveness of partnership working, particularly between local neighbourhood policing teams and the additional partners.
- Available funding.
- Evidence that PACTs are successful.
- Monitoring of the PACTs.
- Coordination between local PACTs.
- Publicising of PACTs.
- The influence PACTs have had upon crime rates.