

FEEDBACK FROM PARTNERS: ORGANISATION OF MEETINGS

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To inform the Partnership of the results of the questionnaire sent out to members on 15 October 1999.
- 1.2 To recommend a model agenda for Partnership meetings in accordance with the questionnaire results.

2. Background

2.1 After the last meeting on 15 September 1999, some partners expressed concern that the discussion had gone into such detail that there was a danger of loss of focus on the main strategic issues. For this reason, the coordinators prepared the questionnaire which is attached to this report at **Annex A**. Copies of this were sent to all partners on 19 October 1999.

2.2 The results were as follows:

- (a) 5 questionnaires were returned out of a total of 13 (38%).
- (b) A wide range of key issues was highlighted. Each respondent tended to come up with different concerns from the others. Specific issues (in no particular order) were:
 - community safety in urban areas;
 - policing in rural areas;
 - reducing racial incidents (2 replies);
 - valuing cultural diversity;
 - improved services for minority ethnic groups;
 - equal opportunities;
 - community policing;
 - drug taking in relation to youth crime;
 - physical and verbal abuse; and

- theft.

Two replies commented that all community safety issues are of significant concern.

- (c) Respondents used a wide range of methods to represent their organisations. These include personal briefings, formal and informal meetings, regular newsletters, mailing shots and email circulation.
- (d) All those who replied accepted the model agenda without any proposed amendment.
- (e) Four respondents made suggestions as to how the Partnership could become more effective. These were:
 - Addressing key issues in depth.
 - Ensuring that partners are able to make policy choices.
 - Partners should take full responsibility for service delivery by their own organisations.
 - Providing resources to existing groups which are delivering partnership requirements.
 - Develop a Partnership fund.
 - Develop clear management responsibility and accountability to ensure the Partnership retains impetus and focus.
 - Establish a parish council sub-group.
 - Trim down the number of partners.

3. **Recommendations**

- 3.1 That the model agenda (**Annex B**) be adopted for future meetings of the Partnership. It has, in fact, been used for the meeting on 1 December 1999.
- 3.2 That the Partnership considers the suggestions for making the Partnership more effective. There will be an opportunity to discuss this in depth following the presentation by Peter Crisp during the meeting on 1 December 1999.

Richard Solly
24 November 1999