**NEW FOREST DISTRICT ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS – 21 APRIL 2016**

**SAFER NEW FOREST PARTNERSHIP**

**ENGAGEMENT WITH THE ASSOCIATION**

1. **Introduction**
   1. The law requires certain authorities, including District Councils, to formulate strategies for

* reducing crime and disorder;
* combatting the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substance abuse; and
* the reduction of re-offending.
  1. This is done through the Safer New Forest Strategy & Delivery Group, a multi-agency group set up for the purpose outlined above. The Strategy Group also fulfils a further legal requirement to prepare an annual strategic assessment which must include:
* an analysis of the levels and patterns of re-offending, crime and disorder and substance misuse;
* an analysis of the changes in the those levels and patterns;
* matters which the persons living and working in the area consider the responsible authorities should prioritise when each are exercising their function to reduce crime and disorder, etc.
  1. The Strategy Group has recently revised its membership and working practices. Membership is currently:
* New Forest District Council
* Hampshire County Council (Councillor plus Children’s & Adult Services),
* Hampshire Constabulary
* Hampshire Fire & Rescue
* Forestry Commission
* New Forest National Park Authority
* South West Hampshire Clinical Commissioning Group
* Hampshire West Clinical Commissioning Group
* Probation Service
* Youth Offending Team
* Community First New Forest

Other agencies, including Town & Parish Councils, Housing Associations, the Environment Agency, Action for Children, Natural England and the Health Sector are invited if items of particular relevance to them are on the agenda.

1. **Involvement of Town and Parish Councils**
   1. The Strategy Group considers that input from town and parish councils, in both the formulation of its strategies (contained in an annual partnership plan) and in the strategic assessment would be extremely valuable. Town and Parish Councils are ideally placed to bring issues of concern to the Partnership for consideration of the annual partnership plan, and in contributing to the assessment of performance.
   2. Chief Inspector Simon Tribe, Hampshire Police’s Divisional Commander for the New Forest, and Shaun Lawrence of the Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service, would like to attend Association meetings on, probably, two occasions per year, as representatives of the Strategy Group, to obtain the Association’s views on issues for inclusion in the partnership plan and to contribute to the assessment of performance against the plan. Bob Jackson, the District Council’s Chief Executive, regularly attends Association meetings and he also sits on the Strategy Group.
   3. If the arrangement in paragraph 2.2 is agreeable to the Association, it is proposed that officers supporting the Strategy Group would contact all parish and town councils in late autumn each year, inviting suggestions inclusion in the partnership plan. These would then be discussed at the Association’s meeting in January. Feedback from that meeting would be considered by the Strategy & Delivery Group in March when it will agree its action plan for following year commencing 1 April.
   4. The Strategy & Delivery Group also wishes to involve local communities in the strategic assessment of the Partnership’s actions and sees that input from the Association would be valuable in meeting this objective. This issue will be further discussed by the Strategy & Delivery Group at its next meeting on 6 June 2016.
   5. **Recommended:**

That the Association considers the request by the Safer New Forest Strategy & Delivery Group to be represented and to speak at two meetings of the Association per year to obtain the Association’s views on

1. issues for inclusion in the annual partnership plan and
2. performance against the plan.

**Further information:**

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