

**TITLE OF REPORT:**        **Role and Remit**

**REPORT OF:**                **Sheena Ramsey, Chief Executive  
Mike Barker, Strategic Director,  
Corporate Services and Governance**

---

### **Summary**

The report sets out the remit and terms of reference of the Sub-Committee as previously agreed by the Cabinet and the Council.

---

### **Background**

1. Article 6 of the Council's Constitution sets out the aims and objectives of the scrutiny function in Gateshead Council. In particular it should be an integral part of the Council's framework and a constructive process which works alongside other parts of the Council's structure, contributing towards policy development. Importantly it will enhance rather than duplicate activity and it will look to broader issues affecting local people rather than just internal Council issues.

### **Remit/ Terms of Reference**

2. The Community Safety Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee is a Committee of the Communities and Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee and its remit/terms of reference is set out below:-
  - To perform the Overview and Scrutiny role in relation to the safety of communities and people in the Borough, including the functions of the crime and disorder committee as set out in the Local Government Act 2000 and associated regulations.
3. The legislation (Section 19 of the Police and Justice Act 2006) requires local authorities to establish a committee with power to review and scrutinise the decisions and actions of the responsible authorities on a Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership.
4. The role of the Committee is to act as the "critical friend" of the Partnership providing it with constructive challenge at a strategic level rather than an operational level. This role will involve:-

- considering the actions undertaken by the responsible bodies on the Partnership and
- making reports and recommendations to the local authority with regard to those functions
- responsibility for considering any Councillor Calls for Action (CCfA) in line with the Council's protocol.

5. The Sub-Committee may therefore:-

- Review decisions, holding decision makers to account
- Call-in executive decisions in accordance with the procedure set out in the Overview and Scrutiny Committee rules
- Contribute to the policy making process
- Carry out Policy reviews agreed as part of the service planning cycle
- Advise Cabinet as part of the Council's performance management system
- Have a role in scrutinising and developing the Council's Improvement Programme
- Examine the schedule of Decisions

### **Recommendation**

6. The Sub-Committee is asked to note its remit and terms of reference.