

11 February 2009

Dear Councillor

**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - TUESDAY, 10TH FEBRUARY 2009**

The following reports were tabled the above meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

**Agenda No    Item**

8.    **Chorley Partnership' s Performance Report for Third Quarter of 2008/09 (Pages 73 - 74)**

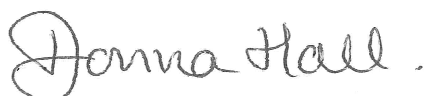
To receive and consider the Local Area Agreement Crime Indicators.

10.   **Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme and Reports from the Task and Finish Groups**

- c)    **Housing Allocation Policy** (Pages 75 - 76)

To consider and receive the report of the task and finish group.

Yours sincerely



Donna Hall  
Chief Executive

Ruth Hawes  
Democratic and Member Services Officer  
E-mail: ruth.hawes@chorley.gov.uk  
Tel: (01257) 515118  
Fax: (01257) 515150

**This information can be made available to you in larger print or on audio tape, or translated into your own language. Please telephone 01257 515118 to access this service.**

આ માહિતીનો અનુવાદ આપની પોતાની ભાષામાં કરી શકાય છે. આ સેવા સરળતાથી મેળવવા માટે કૃપા કરી, આ નંબર પર ફોન કરો: 01257 515822

ان معلومات کا ترجمہ آپکی اپنی زبان میں بھی کیا جاسکتا ہے۔ یہ خدمت استعمال کرنے کیلئے براہ مہربانی اس نمبر پر ٹیلیفون  
کیجئے: 01257 515823

## OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

10<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2009

### LAA CRIME INDICATORS

The Chorley Partnership's 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter performance report highlights Chorley's performance against the Local Area Agreement targets for the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter. The two crime-related indicators showed an overall rise in crime in Chorley over the last quarter.

These figures can be broken down to compare against the same period last year to give a reflection of the trends in crime over the year.

The table below shows the numbers of Serious Acquisitive Crime recorded in Chorley over 2007/8 and 2008/9.

NI16 – Serious Acquisitive Crime	2007/08	2008/09	% Change
Quarter 1	187	223	+19.3%
Quarter 2	228	150	-34.2%
Quarter 3	203	155	-23.6%
YTD (Apr – Dec)	618	528	-14.6%

Overall, this shows that Serious Acquisitive Crime in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter 2008/9 is actually **23.6% lower than the same period last year, and 14.6% lower for the year to date** compared with the year to date figure at the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter last year.

However, when you compare the difference between this year's 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter performance with that of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter, the number of instances of crime has **risen by 3.3%**, as opposed to the same period last year where crime fell by just over 10% between the second and third quarters.

*(NB. The big difference with last year's performance could be due to the miscalculation of the indicator, experienced by many Police Forces around the country, as a result of incorrect guidance from the Home Office)*

The table below shows the numbers of Assault with Less Serious Injury recorded in Chorley over 2007/8 and 2008/9.

NI20 Assault with less serious injury	2007/08	2008/09	% Change
Quarter 1	171	155	-9.4%
Quarter 2	177	163	-7.9%
Quarter 3	147	180	+22.4%
YTD (Apr – Dec)	495	498	+0.6%

This shows that for the third quarter, Assault with less serious injury is **22.4% higher than this time last year**. The Year to date figure 498 crimes is 0.6% higher than the year to date figure at the same time last year.

The table also shows that this type of crime **rose by approximately 10%** between Quarters 2 and 3 of this year, compared with a **fall of just under 17%** between the same period last year.

## Report to Overview and Scrutiny Committee from the Housing Allocations Task and Finish Group

The Group met twice to consider the draft Housing Allocations Policy and the effect on customers arising from the change in the way customers are assessed, from a 35 point system to a 4 band system.

The Group found the topic extremely interesting and discussed the policy in detail. Councillors were reassured that the four bands would not disadvantage existing customers on the waiting list and that the new system gave clarity to the position of individuals on the list.

It was recommended that existing tenants could benefit from a mechanism to transfer to a house that became available in another location and subject to ensuring the policy complies with the law officers will develop a mechanism for transfers.

Chorley is currently leading the way in adopting the 4 band system which is required by law. Other Local Authorities currently using the 2 band system are reviewing their arrangements to bring them in line. A particular benefit of this is that in difficult circumstances a customer from Chorley could be accommodated in a neighbouring borough.

Officers are mindful of the need to get an appropriate mix of customers in any one area and are working with housing providers and other partners to ensure any issues are resolved. Members discussed the small number of customers who, by their behaviour, have the duty owed to them by the Council revoked.

At the other end of the scale there are customers who have savings and or capital assets. It was recommended that a system should be devised to preclude customers with a certain level of savings and or capital assets from housing allocation to ensure more deserving customers are not disadvantaged.

The Group noted that the Policy will be reviewed in six months, in line with the inquiry recommendations monitoring.

### Recommendation from the Chair

When the Policy has been finalised Members might find a Member Learning Hour useful on the Housing Allocations Policy and Choice Based Lettings.

Councillor Mike Devaney

Chair of the Housing Allocations Task and Finish Group

This page is intentionally left blank