

Report of	Meeting	Date
Chair of the Chorley and South Ribble Community Safety Partnership	Overview and Scrutiny	28 March 2011

ALLEYGATES AND THEIR IMPACT ON COMMUNITY SAFETY

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. To provide Members with an update on the impact on community safety following the removal of the capital funding for alley gate schemes in the Borough.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

2. That the report be noted.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF REPORT

3. Members will recall that a report was presented to Executive Cabinet in August 2010 detailing the impact that the Councils alley gate scheme was having on community safety and in particular the reduction in criminal activity.
4. At that time and in consideration of the report, the Executive Cabinet determined that the capital funding for alley gate schemes should be withdrawn and that the use of alley gates as a tool in tackling community safety issues and criminal activity be administered on a case by case basis through the well established multi agency tasking and coordinating (MATAC) process.
5. Since the removal of the scheme one individual case for alley gates has been put forward by the relevant agencies into the MATAC process for consideration. This was determined as not suitable on the basis of cost versus risk and present levels of threat.
6. Since 2007 the allocation of funding for alley gates schemes, through the capital programme were evaluated using a matrix scoring method based on recorded crime, disorder and ASB levels. The evaluation process was never capable of evaluating the softer criteria that might make a scheme attractive such as feelings of safety and perceptions of crime and disorder.
7. Members should note that whilst the nominated schemes may have been the most problematic in the Borough in relation to crime and ASB, it needs to be recognised that the base levels of crime and ASB were relatively low.
8. When the alley gates impact on crime and ASB evaluated it was clear that the implementation of schemes had no statistically significant impact on the crime.
9. Alley gates were implemented often as a quick fix before any other partnership response could be fully explored and implemented. Since the decision to cease the alley gate budget

the Community Safety Partnership now uses alley gates as last resort in dealing with the issues relating to crime and disorder.

10. Before an alley gate is considered a full partnership orientated problem (POP) process is carried out using the Scanning Analysis Response and Evaluation (SARA) model.
11. Once the POP has been completed options, including alley gates, are considered. A further evaluation is made if the problem has persisted and the POP process is reopened in these cases.
12. Given the levels of crime and ASB involved it is not possible to demonstrate any statistically significant rise or fall in crime levels since the withdrawal of the capital program for alley gates.
13. In conclusion it is recognised that the alley gate scheme was very popular and perhaps for the reasons of feelings of safety and perceptions of crime rather than any statistical evidence that they contributed to crime and ASB reduction against a backdrop of low baseline figures. Therefore the move to a case by case assessment of schemes based on the POP and SARA methodology is deemed to be a more appropriate use of limited resources in tackling community safety issues across the Chorley area.

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Background Papers			
Document	Date	File	Place of Inspection
Executive Cabinet Report Alleygate Schemes	12 August 2010	Council Minutes	Loop