



# Notes of evidence

Name of meeting	<b>POLICY COMMISSION FOR SAFER COMMUNITIES</b>
Date and time	<b>THURSDAY, 17 JULY 2008 AT 6.00 PM</b>
Venue	<b>COMMITTEE ROOM ONE</b>
Commission	Cllrs David Williams (Chair), Mike Cunningham, Heather Humby, Jilly Wood.
Officers Present	Stuart Love, Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods Zoryna O'Donnell, Head of Safer Neighbourhoods Partnership Chris Mathews, Head of Democratic Services
Apologies	Henry Adams, Susan Scoccia

1. **Notes of Evidence**

1.1 The Notes of evidence arising at the meeting held on [1 May 2008](#) were agreed (Paper A)

2. **Declarations of Interest**

2.1 None received.

3. **Community Restorative Justice Blue Paper**

3.1 The Commission considered the final draft version of the Community Restorative Justice Blue Paper that had been following the enquiry into this matter.

3.2 The Commission received the latest crime figures for the Hampshire Police area – these will be broken down to the Isle of Wight level in due course.

3.3 It was unanimously resolved to approve the Blue Paper as drafted.

4. **Crime and Disorder and Fear of Crime Enquiry**

4.1 **To agree the scoping document**

4.1.1. The Commission considered a draft scoping document for this enquiry. It was noted that Consumer Protection should be added to the list of stakeholders. It was also explained that the Planning and Engineering Departments had a role to

play in the issue of environmental problems (like fly typing) and they would also be involved in the enquiry at some stage.

4.1.2. It was also agreed that Cllr Humby should become the third lead member on this enquiry.

4.1.3. Subject to the alterations as detailed above the scoping document was agreed.

#### **4.2 Evidence from Zoryna O'Donnell Head of Safer Neighbourhoods Partnership**

4.2.1. The Commission received a presentation from the Head of Safer Neighbourhoods Partnership on the data that illustrated the relatively low level of crime on the Island and yet the high level of fear of crime. Though there were many best practices on the Island in terms of tackling these issues (as recognised by the Local Government Association) the Public Service Agreement (PSA) and Local Area Agreement (LAA) targets that had been set nationally were at an unrealistically high level and were not being achieved. This is partly because these targets were set based on the government assumption that the higher the fear of crime in the area, the higher reduction targets should be set. However, given the relatively low crime rate on the Island, the ability to improve on that figure was very limited. The same was true for the South East (with exception of London) and the South West of England where the crime rates are significantly lower than those for the Midlands and the North of England. As the result, all South of England did not meet their crime reduction targets, while still remains the safest region in the UK.

4.2.2. A particular concern to the Commission was that for statistical reasons the prisons were included in the Island data (some types of violence offences and some types of drug offences) and this may detrimentally affect a number of the data results. This need to be a particular focus of the enquiry as the Council cannot influence these issues in the prisons but they gave a distorted view of the level of crime on the Island.

4.2.3. Additionally the data did not take into account the tourist nature of the Island and therefore any measurements based on "per head of population" was measured against the resident population and not the increased population during the summer months.

4.2.4. A copy of the slides would be provided for all members of the Commission.