

**EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM TO THE
CRIME AND DISORDER ACT 1998 (RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITIES)
ORDER 2005**

2005 No. 1789

1. This explanatory memorandum has been prepared by the Home Office and is laid before Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
2. **Description**
 - 2.1 This Order allows three Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRPs) in Worcestershire to operate as though the local government areas of Worcester City Council, Wychavon District Council and Malvern Hills District Council formed one combined area. The three CDRPs have been informally working together for two years.
3. **Matters of special interest to the Joint Committee on Statutory Instruments**
 - 3.1 None
4. **Legislative Background**
 - 4.1 This Order is the first to be made under section 5(1A) of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. The Secretary of State is satisfied that the application is in the interests of reducing crime and disorder and of combatting the misuse of drugs and that it is supported by the all of responsible authorities concerned with the combined area.
5. **Extent**
 - 5.1 This instrument applies to England and Wales.
6. **European Convention on Human Rights**
 - 6.1 Not applicable.
7. **Policy Background**
 - 7.1 Sections 5 to 7 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 set out the statutory framework for responsible authorities to work with other local agencies and organisations to develop and implement strategies to tackle crime, disorder, misuse of drugs and anti-social behaviour in their area. These statutory partnerships are known as CDRPs. The responsible authorities are:
 - the police
 - local authorities

- fire and rescue authorities
- police authorities
- primary care trusts in England
- health authorities in Wales.

7.2 Section 97 of the Police Reform Act 2002 amended section 5 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to allow CDRPs to combine if it was in the interests of reducing crime and disorder or of combatting the misuse of drugs. There are 354 CDRPs in England and 22 Community Safety Partnerships in Wales. These CDRPs are organised on local government boundaries and are sited at unitary authority level in single tier authorities and district level in two-tier authorities in England. In Wales Community Safety Partnerships have responsibility for crime and disorder and substance abuse reduction.

7.3 The three CDRPs in South Worcestershire are already informally working together successfully as a combined partnership. However, it is a requirement of the legislation that each CDRP consults locally on its crime and disorder and misuse of drugs audit, and publishes its joint strategy locally. Without a formal order to combine the CDRPs, those CDRP areas currently working together 'informally' as a merged partnership are still required under the legislation to publish their audit of crime and disorder and drug misuse and consult on the findings, and to publish their separate strategies in each of the local government districts within the 'merged' partnership area. This has been done for the 2005-8 crime reduction strategy.

7.4 The benefits for these partnerships as a result of combining are large. The pooling of expertise, knowledge, skills and resources will enable partners to more effectively tackle crime and disorder and the misuse of drugs at local level. Merger will also be beneficial in overcoming the practical barriers of partnership working in two tier areas. It will enable closer, more streamlined working between the county level services, including the Worcestershire DAT (Drug Action Team), by reducing the number of CDRPs with whom these services must interact.

8. Impact

8.1 A Regulatory Impact Assessment has not been prepared for this instrument as it has no more than negligible impact on business, charities or voluntary bodies.

8.2 There is no significant impact on the public sector other than a reduction in bureaucracy and an increased focus on delivery.

9. Contact

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