



**CABINET – 13<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2019**

**LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL COMMUNITY SAFETY  
STRATEGY 2019-2021**

**REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY  
SERVICES**

**PART A**

**Purpose of the Report**

1. The purpose of this report is to set out the duties placed on the local authority and other named statutory responsible agencies in relation to crime and disorder, to outline the current approach adopted in Leicestershire, and to seek approval to consult stakeholders on the draft Leicestershire County Council Community Safety Strategy which sets out the Authority's proposed approach to its coordinating role.

**Recommendations**

2. It is recommended that the Cabinet
  - a) Notes the role of the County Council in relation to community safety within two-tier local authority arrangements;
  - b) Approves the draft Community Safety Strategy for consultation with stakeholders;
  - c) Receives a further report in December 2019 regarding the outcome of the consultation and presenting a revised draft Community Safety Strategy for approval prior to its submission to the County Council.

**Reasons for Recommendation**

3. The County Council has a statutory responsibility under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to work with other named agencies to reduce crime and disorder. In two-tier local authority arrangements, the duty to produce detailed locality-based plans to reduce crime and disorder lies with Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) at district council level. A duty is placed on responsible partners to co-ordinate priorities at a county level which in Leicestershire is done through the Leicestershire Safer Communities Strategy Board (LSCSB). The draft Community Safety Strategy is based on the current approach and priorities introduced and overseen by the LSCSB during 2018.

**Timetable for Decisions (including Scrutiny)**

4. The Scrutiny Commission will consider the draft Strategy at its meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> November 2019. The outcome of the consultation together with the final version of the Strategy will be submitted to the Cabinet on 17<sup>th</sup> December 2019.
5. Subject to the views of the Cabinet, the final Strategy will be submitted to full Council for approval on 19<sup>th</sup> February 2020.

**Policy Framework and Previous Decisions**

6. The Community Safety Strategy forms part of the Policy Framework as set out in Schedule 2 to the Articles of the County Council's Constitution. This is a new Strategy.
7. The County Council's Strategic Plan 2018-22 sets out an outcome-based approach with five strategic outcomes for good quality of life in Leicestershire, including Keeping Communities Safe. This covers matters such as safeguarding for adults and children, and the need for people to feel safe in their daily lives, at home and whilst out and about in the County. The Community Safety Strategy will support this, setting out the Council's responsibilities in relation to crime and disorder issues and priorities agreed by CSPs, the Police Crime Commissioner, and other statutory agencies with whom the Council works

**Resource Implications**

8. There are no resources implications arising from the recommendations in this report. The Strategy can be implemented using existing resources within the Children and Family Services budget.

**Circulation under the Local Issues Alert Procedure**

9. None.

**Officers to Contact**

Paula Sumner  
 Assistant Director, Education and Early Help  
 Children and Family Services Department  
 0116 305 0546

Chris Thomas  
 Head of Early Help and Safer Communities  
 Children and Family Services Department  
 0116 305 6602

## **PART B**

### **Background**

10. The duty for agencies to work together to reduce crime and disorder arises from section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. The local authority is named as one of the responsible authorities in the act. While the Crime and Disorder Act places a duty on responsible authorities to work together, the responsibility for introducing local plans to reduce crime and disorder is vested in local CSPs, which in Leicestershire are run by the district councils.

### **Leicestershire Safer Communities Strategy Board**

11. In order to co-ordinate work between Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland (LLR)-focused agencies and identify countywide priorities, the LSCSB was introduced around 10 years ago. The Board is chaired by the County Council's Cabinet Lead Member for Community Safety, and other board members include the chairs from each of the CSPs, senior representatives from the responsible authorities; the police, public health, Fire and Rescue, both the National Probation Service and Community Rehabilitation Company, and the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC).
12. The role of the LSCSB is to oversee and co-ordinate the implementation and delivery of Leicestershire Community Safety Partnership priorities requested by the Board including coordination of the Police and Crime Plan for the LLR area. The priorities include reducing re-offending and substance-related crime and disorder, protecting those considered to be most vulnerable in the community, reducing anti-social behaviour and increasing public confidence in local crime and disorder services.
13. The Board's key roles and responsibilities are to:
- provide strategic leadership in delivering safer communities priorities across Leicestershire;
  - develop joint approaches to community safety and encourage collaborative work across agencies and partnerships; and
  - facilitate greater alignment between CSPs and other bodies and structures with community safety responsibilities.
14. The approach adopted has been for the County Council's Community Safety Team to liaise with district councils and LLR agencies, undertake planning, adopting a number of workstreams, and supporting the LSCSB by providing the necessary background information and data and support for its meetings. An important part of the Community Safety Team work has been regular attendance at local CSP meetings and providing support to enable CSPs to introduce a local plan linked to countywide and, more recently, PCC priorities.

### Police and Crime Commissioners

15. In 2012 the landscape in relation to community safety became more complex, particularly in two-tier local authority arrangements, due to the introduction of Police and Crime Commissioners who have responsibility for oversight of the local police force and introducing a force-wide (LLR) Police and Crime Plans focused on reducing crime and disorder in their region.
16. Recognising that there may be some crossover in the role of PCCs and County Councils in two-tier arrangements, the Crime and Disorder Regulations 2012 introduced a requirement for county-level strategy groups such as the LSCSB to introduce a community safety agreement and a partnership plan. Research into the national picture highlighted that a number of local authorities had introduced a community safety agreement which:
  - i) amalgamated collective countywide priorities; and
  - ii) provided a web-based plan available to the public. In Leicestershire a web-based plan has been introduced by the LSCSB. It identifies common themes and priorities and provides links to the PCC and CSP plans and to related national crime and disorder strategies. The planning cycle linked to the local community safety agreement is being developed by the LSCSB (a copy of the plan is attached as Appendix B).
17. As indicated, the PCC functions include oversight of the local police and production of a Police and Crime Plan. Oversight of the PCC lies with the Police and Crime Panel, a joint committee which includes a County representative who can raise Leicestershire-related issues. The current representative on this panel is the Cabinet Lead Member for Children and Family Services and Community Safety, who also chairs the LSCSB.

### Community Safety Team

18. In addition to having a role in co-ordinating the work of the LSCSB the Council's community safety team also leads or co-ordinates operational planning across the County on several areas linked to crime and disorder. This includes co-ordinating standards, commissioning, joint working arrangements, priority setting, data sharing, training, and joint working arrangements linked to anti-social behaviour, Prevent activity (related to counter terrorism), hate crime, and domestic violence. In addition, the team works with other responsible agencies across the LLR to provide a coordinated response to emerging threats - notably serious organised crime, exploitation of children, knife, and cyber crime.

### Consultation

19. It is proposed that the draft Community Safety Strategy will be the subject of consultation with the Scrutiny Commission and the partners who form the LSCSB: the community safety partnerships for the district areas, the Police,

Combined Fire Authority, Fire and Rescue Service, Leicestershire CCGs, the Probation Services, Public Health, and Leicester City Council.

20. The consultation will take place for 8 weeks, from 16<sup>th</sup> September to 11<sup>th</sup> November 2019. It will be carried out via formal and informal meetings and written communication with the above stakeholders. The Scrutiny Commission will receive a report at its meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> November.

### **Equality and Human Rights Implications**

21. There are no direct equality or human rights implications for the local authority as a partner agency within broader crime and disorder arrangements.

### **Background Papers**

Leicestershire County Council Strategic Plan 2018-22

<https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/about-the-council/council-plans/the-strategic-plan>

### **Appendices**

- Appendix A – Draft Leicestershire County Council Community Safety Strategy
- Appendix B – Leicestershire Community Safety Agreement

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