

REPORT OF THE CABINET

B. COMMUNITY SAFETY STRATEGY 2019-2021

Purpose of the Report

1. This report seeks approval of the County Council's Community Safety Strategy.

Background

2. 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.
3. The County Council has a statutory responsibility to work with other named agencies to reduce crime and disorder. In two-tier local authority areas, the duty to produce detailed locality-based plans to reduce crime and disorder lies with district-level Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs). Priorities are coordinated at a county level; in Leicestershire this is done via the Leicestershire Safer Communities Strategy Board (LSCSB). The Community Safety Strategy is based on the LSCSB's current approach and priorities.
4. 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.

How Community Safety is delivered in Leicestershire

5. The Leicestershire Safer Communities Strategy Board (LSCSB) coordinates community safety priorities across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland, and includes representatives from the County Council, CSPs, and the "responsible authorities" (Police, Public Health, Fire and Rescue, National Probation Service, Community Rehabilitation Company, and Police and Crime Commissioner).
6. Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) and Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) have responsibility for oversight of the local police force and introducing a force-wide Police and Crime Plan for their region. District-based CSPs have responsibility for introducing a plan to reduce crime and disorder in their locality, recognising that there may be some crossover between the PCC's and CSP's responsibilities. The Crime and Disorder Regulations 2012 introduced a requirement in two-tier local authority

arrangements for a county level strategy group to introduce a county level Community Safety Agreement. This (shown at Appendix B) is co-ordinated by the LSCSB and identifies community safety priorities across the county. In Leicestershire this is a web-based plan on the internet, which identifies common themes/priorities and provides links to the PCC and CSP plans and to related national crime and disorder strategies.

7. The County Council's Community Safety Team (within the Children and Family Services Department) liaises with district councils and other agencies to plan and coordinate work, provides data, and supports CSPs. The team also works with other responsible agencies and helps to provide a coordinated response to emerging threats such as serious organised crime, child exploitation, and cyber-crime.

The Community Safety Strategy

8. The Community Safety Strategy attached as Appendix A to this report sets out details of relevant legislation in relation to the County Council's responsibilities for crime and disorder matters, provides an overview of the role of the community safety team, and outlines the crime and disorder priorities agreed by Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs), the Police Crime Commissioner, and the statutory responsible agencies across Leicestershire.
9. The Strategy includes the following County-wide priorities -
 - Identify and protect the most vulnerable.
 - Reduce crime and fear of crime.
 - Reduce incidence and impact of Anti-social behaviour (ASB).
 - Reduce harm from alcohol and substance misuse.
 - Reduce risk of harm to young people from cybercrime and bullying.
 - Increase reporting of domestic abuse and protect the most vulnerable.
 - Increase confidence in reporting of hate incidents.

Consultation undertaken

10. Consultation with stakeholders in relation to the draft Strategy took place over 8 weeks between 16th September and 11th November 2019. The consultation involved consideration of the Strategy by the Scrutiny Commission on 6th November, and via an online survey which was forwarded to stakeholders; the CSPs for the district areas, the Police, Combined Fire Authority, Fire and Rescue Service, Leicestershire CCGs, the Probation Services, Public Health, and Leicester City and Rutland Councils.
11. The Scrutiny Commission supported the draft Community Safety Strategy at its meeting on 6 November and had no significant concerns in relation to its content.
12. A total of 11 responses were received to the consultation. The feedback was very positive with 80% of respondents indicating that the purpose and aims of the Strategy were clear, and that the approach of adopting an online web-

based Community Safety Agreement (attached as Appendix B) was helpful due to it providing all key information on national community safety issues and local community safety priorities in one accessible place.

13. There were some more detailed areas of feedback, notably concerning, the relationship between PCC and CSP plans, the process for the LSCSB reviewing joint priorities, and the need to outline in a little more detail the Community Safety Team's work on serious crime.
14. As a result of the feedback a number of minor additions have been made in order to
 - make it clear that the PCC and CSPs should have due regard to each other's priorities,
 - note that the LSCSB will review county-wide crime and disorder priorities annually,
 - state that the Strategy will take a flexible approach, to enable the Community Safety Team to focus on areas of serious and organised crime and risk as they emerge as national or local priorities.

Decision of the Cabinet

15. The Cabinet at its meeting on 17th December noted the responses to the consultation and decided to recommend the County Council to approve the Community Safety Strategy 2019-2021.

(Motion to be moved:-

That the Community Safety Strategy 2019 - 2021 be approved).

17th December 2019

**N. J. Rushton
Leader of the Council**

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 – Leicestershire County Council Community Safety Strategy

Appendix B – Leicestershire Community Safety Agreement

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