

**CABINET - 24 JUNE 2022****LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL COMMUNITY SAFETY  
STRATEGY 2022-2026****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 revised 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 2022-2026 for consultation with stakeholders;
  - c) Notes that the Cabinet will receive a further report at its meeting in September 2022 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 lays 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 undertaken 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 2021-22.

### **Timetable for Decisions (including Scrutiny)**

4. The Scrutiny Commission will consider the draft Strategy at its meeting on 7 September 2022. The outcome of the consultation together with the final version of the Strategy will be submitted to the Cabinet on 16 September 2022.
5. Subject to the views of the Cabinet, the final Strategy will be submitted to the County Council for approval on 28 September 2022.

### **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.
7. The County Council's Strategic Plan 2022-26 sets out an outcome-based approach with five strategic outcomes for good quality of life in Leicestershire. The outcomes include engendering 'Great Communities', 'Keeping people safe and well' and 'Improving Opportunities'. The Strategic Plan also covers matters such as promoting thriving and inclusive communities, in which the people of Leicestershire are safe and protected from harm, and have the opportunities and support needed to take control of their health and wellbeing and reach their full potential.
8. The current Community Safety Strategy was approved by the County Council on 19 February 2020.

### **Resource Implications**

9. 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**

10. None.

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## **PART B**

### **Background**

11. 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 Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs), which in Leicestershire are run by the district councils.

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

12. In order to identify and co-ordinate countywide community safety priorities, the Leicestershire Safer Communities Strategy Board (LSCSB) was introduced in 2011. 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; Leicestershire Police, Public Health, Fire Authority, Leicestershire Fire and Rescue, the National Probation Service, Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC).
13. The role of the LSCSB is to oversee and co-ordinate the implementation and delivery of Leicestershire Community Safety Partnership priorities including supporting the Police and Crime Plan. The priorities include reducing offending and re-offending, 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.
14. 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.
15. The approach adopted has been for the County Council's Community Safety Team to liaise with District Councils and LLR partner agencies, to undertake planning and give support and if required adopt work-streams. This oversight and coordinating role permits the Community Safety Team to support the LSCSB by providing the necessary background information and support for its meetings.

16. An important part of the County Council's Community Safety Team's work has been regular attendance at local CSP meetings. This includes providing support to enable CSPs to introduce a local plan to address crime and disorder, importantly the Community Safety Team can ensure local strategic priorities take cognisance of and are linked to countywide, LSCSB, Strategic Partnership Board (SPB) and PCC priorities.

### **Police and Crime Commissioners**

17. 2012 saw the introduction of Police and Crime Commissioners who have responsibility for oversight of the local police force and introducing 'force-wide' (LLR) Police and Crime Plans focused on reducing crime and disorder in their region.
18. Recognising that there may be some crossover in the role of PCCs and County Councils in two-tier arrangements, the Crime and Disorder (Formulation and Implementation of Strategy) Regulations 2012 introduced a requirement for county-level strategy groups such as the LSCSB to introduce a Community Safety Agreement (CSA) and a partnership plan. Research into the national picture highlighted that a number of local authorities had introduced a community safety agreement which:
- i) Aggregated common countywide priorities; and
  - ii) Provided a 'transparent' web-based plan available to the public.
19. In Leicestershire a web-based plan has been introduced by the LSCSB. The CSA 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 has been developed by the LSCSB (a copy of the plan is attached as Appendix B).
20. 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 along with a representative of each district council who can raise Leicestershire-related issues. The current County Council representative on the Panel is the Cabinet Lead Member for Children and Family Services and Community Safety, who also chairs the LSCSB.

### **Community Safety Team**

21. In addition to having a role in co-ordinating the work of the LSCSB, the County Council's Community Safety Team also leads and 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 LLR to provide a coordinated response to emerging threats – notably ‘County Lines’ serious organised crime, exploitation of children, modern slavery, knife, and cyber crime.

### **The Draft Community Safety Strategy**

22. Dealing effectively with crime and disorder matters requires a collaborative partnership approach. The draft Community Safety Strategy (attached as Appendix A) sets out details of the County Councils responsibilities and approach in dealing with these matters within the context of a two-tier local authority arrangement.
23. The strategy includes;
  - The relevant legislation in relation to the County Council’s responsibilities.
  - An outline of the local partnership framework for dealing with community safety matters.
  - The approach adopted to identify, manage, and monitor community safety matters, including scanning for new and emerging issues.
  - An overview of the role of the LCC community safety team, and
  - An outline of the current shared crime and disorder priorities which are to:
    - Identify and protect the most vulnerable.
    - Reduce crime and the fear of crime.
    - Reduce the incidence and impact of Anti-social behaviour (ASB).
    - Reduce the 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**

24. 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, the Combined Fire Authority, Fire and Rescue Service, Leicestershire CCGs, the Probation Service, Public Health, Rutland County Council and Leicester City Council.
25. The consultation will take place for 8 weeks, between June and August 2022. It will be undertaken via formal and informal meetings and written communication with the above stakeholders. The Scrutiny Commission will receive a report at its meeting on 7 September.

**Equality and Human Rights Implications**

26. There are no identified direct equality or human rights implications for the County Council as a partner agency within broader crime and disorder arrangements.

**Background Papers**

Leicestershire County Council Strategic Plan 2022-26

<https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/sites/default/files/field/pdf/2021/10/29/Draft-Strategic-Plan-2022-26.pdf>

Report to the County Council – 19 February 2020 – Community Safety Strategy

<https://politics.leics.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=134&MId=6038&Ver=4>

**Appendices**

Appendix A - Draft Leicestershire County Council Community Safety Strategy 2022-26

Appendix B - Leicestershire Community Safety Agreement