

## REPORT OF THE CABINET

### A: COMMUNITY SAFETY STRATEGY 2022 - 2026

#### Introduction

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 2022-26, approved by the County Council in May 2022 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. All of these strategic outcomes can be profoundly impacted by crime and disorder. The Community Safety Strategy sets out the County Council's responsibilities in relation to crime and disorder issues. The crime and disorder priorities are agreed by Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs), the Police and Crime Commissioner, and other statutory agencies with whom the Council works.
5. The current Community Safety Strategy was approved by the County Council on 19 February 2020. The Cabinet approved the revised draft Strategy for consultation at its meeting on 24 June 2022.

#### How Community Safety is delivered in Leicestershire

6. The Leicestershire Safer Communities Strategy Board (LSCSB) coordinates community safety priorities across Leicestershire and includes representatives from the County Council, CSPs, and the "responsible authorities" (including, Police, Public Health, Fire and Rescue, Probation Service, and the Police and

Crime Commissioner). Representatives from Rutland County Council and Leicester City Council are also invited.

7. 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 is co-ordinated by the LSCSB and identifies community safety priorities across the County. In Leicestershire this is a document which identifies common themes/priorities and provides links to the PCC and CSP plans and to related national crime and disorder strategies.
8. The County Council's Community Safety Team liaises with district councils and other agencies to plan and coordinate work, provides data, and supports the 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**

9. The Community Safety Strategy (attached as the 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.
10. The Strategy includes.
  - The relevant legislation in relation to the County Council's responsibilities.
  - An outline of the local partnership framework for managing 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 County Council's 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
    - 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 undertaken

11. Consultation with stakeholders in relation to the draft Strategy took place between July and August 2022. It included consultation with the partners who form the LSCSB: the community safety partnerships for the district areas, the Police, the Combined Fire Authority, Fire and Rescue Service, the local NHS, the Probation Service, Public Health, Rutland County Council and Leicester City Council as well as other key community safety specialists such as, Senior Partnership Board, the Violence Reduction Network and the Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy Group and Prevent Steering Group.
12. A total of 8 responses were received. The feedback was positive, with 75% of respondents indicating that the purpose and aims of the Strategy were clear, 76% of respondents also agreed in the context of community safety the document reflected their understanding of the position of the County Council within a two-tier local authority structure.
21. There were some more detailed areas of feedback, notably
  - The respondent didn't feel the document fully reflected the breadth of the County Council's community Safety work and suggested more detail regarding these.
  - There was a request to more overtly reference the County Council's links to other associated partnership supporting structures, for example, Public Health (PH) who have specialists in the Safer Communities Team supporting work in aspects of substance misuse and domestic abuse amongst others.
  - On a similar theme to the above, there was a suggestion there could be more overt reference in the document to broader partnership 'whole system' approach to shared priorities both within strategies such as the Violence Reduction Networks Strategy and more broadly across other work streams e.g. Violence Against Women & Girls.
22. As a result of the feedback a number of additions have been made, to the draft Strategy, in order to;
  - More clearly reference and acknowledge links to other partnership structures both internal and external.
  - more clearly reflect a whole system approach being adopted,
  - Include a stronger reference to links to associated work-streams being undertaken by partners and more broadly at regional and national level. The latter in particular is reflected in the horizon scanning function described within the Strategy.

23. The draft Strategy was considered by the Scrutiny Commission at its meeting on the 7 September. The views of the Commission set out in Commission, set out in Appendix B, were reported to the Cabinet on 23<sup>rd</sup> September.

### **Delivery of the Strategy**

24. The LSCSB will be responsible for overseeing and co-ordinating the implementation and delivery of Leicestershire Community Safety Partnership priorities which are set out in the Community Safety Strategy. The Board will receive regular service update reports from constituent members and stakeholders responsible for delivery of the Strategy. This will be supplemented by performance data reported at each Board meeting in order for the Strategy's delivery to be closely monitored.
25. The LSCSB will continue to be supported by the Council's Community Safety Team in its role. This will include support for ancillary workstreams with stakeholders to support the Boards function and aims. For example, the team will lead and co-ordinate operational planning across the County on several areas linked to crime and disorder connected to priorities set out in the Strategy. Examples include; co-ordinating standards, commissioning, coordinating and facilitating joint working arrangements, priority setting, data sharing, training, and other joint working arrangements linked to anti-social behaviour, 'Prevent' activity (related to counter terrorism), hate crime, and domestic violence.

### **Decision of the Cabinet**

26. The Cabinet at its meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> September noted the outcome of the consultation and the comments of the Scrutiny Commission. The Cabinet also noted Community Safety Agreement would reflect the joint working between this area and the Health and Wellbeing Strategy. The decision of the Cabinet is set out in the motion below.

**(Motion to be moved:-**

**That the Community Safety Strategy 2022 - 2026 be approved).**

**23<sup>rd</sup> September 2022**

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

## **Background Papers**

Report to the Cabinet – 24 June 2022 – Leicestershire County Council Community Strategy 2022 – 2026

<https://politics.leics.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=135&MId=6775&Ver=4>

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](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** Comments of the Scrutiny Commission

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