



CABINET – 26 MAY 2023

**RUTLAND COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP OF THE LEICESTERSHIRE
SAFER COMMUNITIES STRATEGY BOARD AND DOMESTIC ABUSE
LOCAL PARTNERSHIP BOARD**

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

PART A

Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of this report is to inform the Cabinet that Rutland Council will become a member of the Leicestershire Safer Communities Strategy Board (LSCSB) and to seek approval for Rutland Council to join the Leicestershire Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board (DALPB).

Recommendations

2. It is recommended that:
 - a) The Cabinet notes that Rutland Council will become a member of the Leicestershire Safer Communities Strategy Board, subject to agreement by that Board at its next meeting;
 - b) The addition of Rutland Council to the membership of the Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board, subject to agreement by that Board at its next meeting, be approved.

Reasons for Recommendation

3. There is already very close alignment of shared community safety priorities across Rutland and the Leicestershire Safer Communities Strategy Board (LSCSB) and the Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board (DALPB) partnership.
4. A more formalised arrangement will provide more effective and efficient partnership working, for example providing opportunities to share resources, expertise and/or intelligence.
5. The approach to the establishment of the DALPB was previously agreed by the Cabinet (in 2021) hence the request for approval of the change to its membership.

Timetable for Decisions (including Scrutiny)

6. The LSCSB and DALPB, at their next meetings on 30 June 2023 will consider the addition of Rutland Council to their membership and, if this is approved, will amend their respective Terms of Reference.
7. It is intended that the membership changes and associated matters will be formally considered by Rutland Council's Cabinet on 11 July 2023.

Policy Framework and Previous Decisions

8. Safer Communities Strategy Boards were set up as a result of The Crime and Disorder (Formulation and Implementation of Strategy) Regulations 2007.
9. Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Boards are required as a result of Section 58 of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021.
10. The Cabinet at its meeting in December 2021 approved, inter alia, the proposed approach to establishing a DALPB.
11. The proposals align with the strategic outcomes contained within Leicestershire County Council's Strategic Plan 2022-26 and the principles of cross-partnership collaboration contained within the County Council's Community Safety Strategy 2022-26. The Strategic Plan 2022-26 sets out five strategic outcomes for good quality of life in Leicestershire. These include engendering 'Great communities', 'Keeping people safe and well' and 'Improving opportunities'. The proposals align with and supports delivery of these strategic outcomes, all of which can be profoundly affected by crime and disorder and broader community safety issues.
12. The County Council's Community Safety Strategy 2022-2026 sets out its responsibilities in relation to crime and disorder matters. The proposal will also align with and support delivery of this Strategy.
13. To ensure regulatory compliance Rutland Council has indicated that, in addition to membership of each of the two Boards, it will retain the Safer Rutland Partnership to oversee community safety matters and a strategic group to meet the requirements of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 in its local authority area. More detail is given in Part B of this report.

Resource Implications

14. There are no resource implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

Legal Implications

15. The Crime and Disorder Regulations 2007 placed a duty on each 'County Area' to create a Safer Communities Strategy Board. Required membership

is specified, however Section 8(6) of the Regulations extends membership to include “such other persons as the county strategy group invites.”

16. The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 places a duty to create a Domestic Abuse Partnership Board to advise the Council about its functions under s57 and the provision of local authority support in its area. Statutory guidance issued under the Act sanctions broader membership of the Board where this will enhance its function.
17. The Director of Law and Governance has been consulted on the content of this report.

Circulation under the Local Issues Alert Procedure

18. None.

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PART B

Background

The Leicestershire Safer Communities Strategy Board (LSCSB)

19. Safer Communities Strategy Boards were set up as a result of The Crime and Disorder (Formulation and Implementation of Strategy) Regulations 2007, Section 8 of which states that “for each county area there shall be a county strategy group”. Accordingly, both Leicestershire County and Rutland Councils have created bodies to ensure regulatory compliance and manage community safety matters efficiently and effectively, as follows:
 - (a) The LSCSB coordinates community safety priorities across Leicestershire and includes representatives from the County Council, Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs), and the “responsible authorities” (including, Police, Public Health, Fire and Rescue, Probation Service, and the Police and Crime Commissioner). Representatives from Rutland Council and Leicester City Council are also invited as participating observers, with no voting rights.
 - (b) Rutland Council likewise has a Safer Rutland Partnership comprising local partners to oversee community safety matters. To ensure regulatory compliance Rutland Council has indicated that it will retain a CSP which will run in tandem with its LSCSB (and DALPB) membership.

20. The 2007 Regulations confirm that representatives from other local authorities may attend the LSCSB meetings:
 - (a) *“Strategy group meetings may be attended by persons who represent co-operating and participating persons and bodies and such other persons as the strategy group invites.” (Section 3(6))*
 - (b) *“County strategy group meetings may be attended by persons who represent co-operating and participating persons and bodies for the areas in the county area and such other persons as the county strategy group invites.” (Section 8(6))*

21. It is intended that Leicester City Council will continue to be invited to attend LSCSB meetings as a participating observer.

The Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board (DALPB)

22. Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Boards are required as a result of Section 58 of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021.

23. Section 58(1) of the Act states that “A relevant local authority in England must appoint a domestic abuse local partnership board”. Section 61 of the Act defines a relevant local authority as:

- (a) a County Council;
- (b) a District Council for an area for which there is no County Council;
- (c) the Greater London Authority;
- (d) the Council of the Isles of Scilly.

24. The DALPB was established by Leicestershire County Council to ensure regulatory compliance. It carries out a governance and consultative role for certain functions including:
- Assessing the need for accommodation-based domestic abuse support for all victims.
 - Supporting the development and publication of the Domestic Abuse Reduction Strategy and giving effect to the Strategy (through monitoring commissioning / de-commissioning needs).
 - Ensuring representation of marginalised groups and those who are underrepresented in local services.
25. Rutland Council has attended the meetings of this Board as a participating observer from its inception. If membership is formalised Rutland Council has indicated that it will retain a group to oversee domestic abuse matters to ensure regulatory compliance under Section 58 of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021.
26. Section 58(2) of the Act specifies which organisations must be represented on domestic abuse local partnership boards. This list is not exhaustive and therefore additional members can be added to the DALPB as it wishes.
27. Statutory guidance issued under the Act (*“Delivery of Support for Victims of Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Services” Section B1 and B2*) specifically broadens membership to include a very wide-range of partners membership. For example:
- “Tier one authorities may choose to work in close partnership with other tier one authorities to deliver part 4 duties jointly across more than one local authority area, for example working as a regional cluster” (Section B1.1)*
- “Tier one authorities are encouraged to work collaboratively with neighbouring tier one authorities by, as a minimum sharing local data and service information to support in understanding potential need, join up and consistency” (Section B1.2)*
- “Where tier one authorities choose to deliver the duty jointly with other tier one authorities, they must ensure the Board adheres to the relevant requirements set out above (section B1 bullets a-g setting out required attendees) – all tier one areas covered under the joint arrangement must be represented” (Section B2.19)*

Proposed Membership

28. Crime, anti-social behaviour and domestic abuse matters are not restricted to County boundaries. The proposal will provide opportunities to better share information, intelligence and resources and help reduce duplication of work with many of the stakeholders involved covering both Leicestershire and Rutland.
29. Rutland Council's attendance at meetings of the LSCSB and DALPB as a participating observer already benefits joint working and communication. A more formalised arrangement will engender a more effective partnership between Rutland and bordering localities.
30. If the changes are agreed Rutland Council will have full voting rights on the LSCSB and the DALPB.
31. The LSCSB and DALPB at their meetings on 30 June will be asked to agree the change of membership and any consequent changes to their respective Terms of Reference.
32. Rutland Council's Cabinet at its meeting on 11 July will be asked to consider its membership on the LSCSB and DALPB and its own arrangements going forward to ensure compliance with the relevant legislation.

Consultation

33. There is no statutory requirement to consult on this matter. Initial discussion has taken place and the proposed change to the membership of the LSCSB and DALPB was supported by officers from both authorities.

Equality Implications

34. There are no equality implications arising from the recommendations in this report.
35. An Equality Impact Assessment is not needed. The proposal does not require material change to the Council's policies, procedures, functions and services. No services are being reduced or withdrawn; indeed, it is envisaged that the efficiencies and effectiveness in dealing with community safety matters anticipated by the proposal will enhance equality, diversity and community cohesion.

Human Rights Implications

36. There are no negative human rights implications envisaged arising from the recommendations in this report.

Crime and Disorder Implications

37. The proposal will have a positive impact and provide mutual benefits to partners in dealing with crime and disorder matters.

Background Papers

Leicestershire County Council Strategic Plan 2022-26 - <https://bit.ly/3pMhKol>

Leicestershire County Council Community Safety Strategy 2022-26 -
<https://bit.ly/42HAq6Y>

Report to the Cabinet on 14 December 2021 “Leicestershire Domestic Abuse Reduction Strategy 2022-2024” and minutes of that meeting -
<https://politics.leics.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CIId=135&MID=6449#A169950>

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