

REPORT OF THE CABINET

A. YOUTH JUSTICE PLAN 2007/08

Introduction

1. This report concerns the proposed Youth Justice Plan for 2007/08

Background

2. The Youth Justice Plan is identified in the Constitution as forming part of the Policy Framework and therefore requires the approval of the County Council.
3. Youth Justice Plans have been produced on an annual basis since the Youth Offending Service was established in April 2000. The Plan also supports key safer communities outcomes and objectives within the Medium Term Corporate Strategy and the Local Area Agreement as well as the Community Safety Plan.
4. Whilst the County Council has a statutory duty under Section 40 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to prepare and submit an annual Youth Justice Plan to the Youth Justice Board (YJB), one of the freedoms and flexibilities as a 4 star authority is that the requirement to produce a Youth Justice Plan is relaxed. However, in the interests of good service planning it has been agreed by the Youth Offending Services Management Board that a Plan be produced and submitted as normal.
5. A copy of the proposed Youth Justice Plan 2007/08 is attached as Appendix A to this report.

Resource Implications

6. Section C3 of the Plan (pages 51-58) sets out the resourcing and funding arrangements for the Youth Offending Service which has a total partnership budget of £2.62 million. The County Council remains the major funding partner via the Chief Executive and the Children and Young People's Service (Social Care and Education). The YJB's overall grant allocation has increased in 2007/08 as a result of the Youth Crime Prevention Grant increasing from £200k to £270k. This Prevention Grant is also aligned with the Local Area Agreement and is used to support the Vulnerable Children and Young People's outcomes shared by both the Children and Young People and Safer Communities Blocks.

Consideration by Cabinet and Scrutiny

7. The Scrutiny Commission considered the matter at its meeting on 28 March 2007 and decided that the draft Plan and performance of the Youth Offending Service be commended.
8. The Cabinet considered this matter at its meeting on 3 April 2007 and decided that the draft Plan be approved for submission to the Youth Justice Board for England and Wales. The Cabinet also commended the high performance of the Leicestershire Youth Offending Service and agreed to recommend the County Council to approve the Plan.

(Motion to be moved:

That the Youth Justice Plan 2007/08, as referred to in Section A of the report of the Cabinet, be approved).