



CABINET – 6th OCTOBER 2009

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

LEICESTERSHIRE SAFER COMMUNITIES PLAN 2009 - 12

PART A

Purpose of Report

1. The purpose of this report is to seek the Cabinet's approval of a draft Safer Communities Plan for 2009 – 12, attached as an appendix to this report.

Recommendation

2. It is recommended:
 - (a) That the County Council be recommended to approve the draft Safer Communities Plan for 2009 – 12;
 - (b) That the Chief Executive be authorised to amend the draft Plan prior to submission to the County Council to take account of comments made by the Scrutiny Commission on 28 October 2009.

Reason for Recommendation

3. The County Council has a statutory duty under Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to exercise its functions with due regard to the likely effect on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can, to prevent crime and disorder in its area.

Timetable for Decisions (including Scrutiny)

4. The draft Plan will be considered by the Scrutiny Commission at its meeting on the 28th October 2009 and by the County Council on 2 December.

Policy Framework and Previous Decisions

5. This is the third Community Safety Plan to be produced since the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 was introduced. Under the Act, the County Council is a responsible authority member of each of the seven district based Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships. In 2007, new regulations were introduced requiring a county wide Safer Communities Strategy

Board to be established in two tier areas and which is also responsible for formulating a Safer Communities Agreement bringing together shared community safety priorities across Leicestershire. Making Leicestershire a safe and attractive place to live and work is one of the key themes within the Sustainable Community Strategy and the LAA.

6. The draft Plan updates and replaces the 2006 – 09 Plan which was approved by the County Council on 24th May 2006.

Resource Implications

7. There are no additional resource implications arising from the draft Plan.

Circulation under the Local Issues Alert Procedure

None

Officer to contact

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PART B

Background

8. Making Leicestershire a safe and attractive place to live and work is a key theme within the Sustainable Community Strategy and the safer communities priorities within this theme include reducing violent crime, reducing the harm caused by alcohol and drugs, building a culture of respect by tackling anti-social behaviour effectively and improving people's lives so they are less likely to commit offences and re-offend.
9. The Leicestershire Safer Communities Agreement (SCA) draws together the community safety priorities across Leicestershire from the Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS), second Local Area Agreement (LAA2), and District & Borough Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs). The Agreement is made between the County Council, District Community Safety Partnerships and relevant partners including Leicestershire Constabulary, the Police Authority, Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service, Leicestershire County and Rutland NHS and Leicestershire and Rutland Probation Trust.

Proposals

10. The Plan describes the work of the County Council with its partner agencies to reduce crime and create safer and stronger communities across Leicestershire and brings together the County Council's contribution to the priorities set out in the Leicestershire Sustainable Community Strategy and the Safer Communities Agreement by:
 - Identifying priority community safety issues and geographical areas based on our strategic assessment.
 - Working in partnership with other organisations
 - Communicating with and involving people in Leicestershire to address the issues that matter most to them.
 - Mainstreaming community safety activity and incorporating delivery of the Safer Communities Agreement priorities within the County Council's departmental service plans.
 - Leading and supporting the Leicestershire Safer Communities Strategy Board in delivering the top priorities for safer communities in Leicestershire, as contained in the Safer Communities Agreement and which include the safer communities LAA priorities and indicators (Appendix 1 of the attached Plan).
 - Supporting the delivery of the seven district-based Community Safety Plans.
 - Working as part of a wider sub regional approach to safer communities through the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Community Safety Programme Board.
11. An Action Plan is found in Appendix 2 of the Plan which details the actions to be taken by Departments in support of achieving the Plan's priorities.

Equal Opportunities Implications

12. An Equality Impact Assessment was carried out on the Plan and the Safer Communities Agreement, which can be found at

http://www.leics.gov.uk/cex_eia.htm Some of the key findings include:

- There are still gaps in information regarding victims, offenders, and service users, particularly regarding sexual orientation, religion and disability.
- Meeting specific needs of women offenders has been identified as an area for development by the Reducing Re-offending Board. Women are also under-represented in drug treatment.
- Young people who are Black or Black British or of Mixed ethnic origin are slightly over-represented in the Youth Justice System.
- There is an over-representation of BME victims for violence against the person when compared to the population overall. Individuals of White British background aged 29 years and under are more likely to be victims of assault with less serious injury when compared to other types of violence against the person.

13. Equality Improvement Actions for the Council are incorporated and highlighted in the Action Plan at Appendix 2.

Background Papers

Leicestershire Sustainable Community Strategy 2008-13

Leicestershire Local Area Agreement 2008-11

Leicestershire Safer Communities Agreement 2009-10

Report of the cabinet to the County Council on 24th May 2006

Appendix

The draft Leicestershire Safer Communities Plan 2009 - 12