

**SCRUTINY COMMISSION – 19 JANUARY 2010****LEICESTERSHIRE SAFER COMMUNITIES AGREEMENT 2008 -11****REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE****Purpose of Report**

1. The purpose of this report is to present the updated Leicestershire Safer Communities Agreement for 2010-11.

**Policy Framework and Previous Decisions**

2. This is the second update of Leicestershire's Safer Communities Agreement 2008-11, based upon the strategic assessment and review process carried out between November 2009 and March 2010 and This is the second update of Leicestershire's Safer Communities Agreement, based upon the strategic assessment and review process carried out between November 2009 and March 2010 and was approved by the Safer Communities Strategy Board on 17-10-10. The priorities are derived from the Sustainable Community Strategy, the Local Area Agreement 2008-11 and from District Community Safety Partnership strategies.
3. The Commission received a report on the Safer Communities Agreement at its meeting on 28 October 2009 and resolved to welcome and fully support the Agreement.

**Background**

4. The Crime and Disorder (Overview and Scrutiny) Regulations 2009 require every local authority to have in place a committee with power to review and scrutinise, and make reports or recommendations, regarding the functioning of the responsible authorities (local authorities, fire and rescue authorities, police authorities, the police, primary care trusts which comprise a Community Safety Partnership. The Scrutiny Commission exercises this function in relation to the County Council and is required by the 2009 Regulations to meet for this purpose at least once a year.
5. The Crime and Disorder (Formulation and Implementation of Strategy) Regulations 2007 require in two tier areas a strategy group to be established to prepare a community safety agreement for the county on behalf of the responsible authorities. The Leicestershire Safer Communities Board chaired by the County Council's Cabinet Lead Member for Community Safety was established in May 2008 for this purpose.

6. According to the 2007 Regulations, the community safety agreement is intended to identify the ways in which the responsible authorities in the county area might more effectively implement the priorities set out in their strategic assessments through coordinated or joint working; and how the responsible authorities in the county area might otherwise reduce crime and disorder or combat substance misuse through coordinated or joint working.

### **Leicestershire Safer Communities Agreement 2008-11**

7. The Agreement is presented for consideration by the Commission to enable the Commission to carry out its function as a Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee.
8. Clearly much has changed since the updated Agreement was approved in March 2010 and the Coalition Government has made many changes to the way local authorities and their partners need to work together, including the ending of nationally imposed performance indicators and Local Area Agreements which are at the heart of the current Safer Communities Agreement.
9. Many of these changes are still being worked through, particularly in relation to how performance will be measured locally in the future. However, not surprisingly the key risks and priorities across the county highlighted in the latest Partnership Strategic Assessment published at the end of last year remain broadly similar. Key risks identified in the Assessment include; ASB, Theft and Shoplifting, Domestic Abuse, Criminal Damage, ABH and Vehicle Crime & Burglary. Reducing re-offending also continues to be a high priority for local areas. The Safer Communities Strategy Board will need to agree later in the year what are to be the main priorities for inclusion in a new Safer Communities Agreement for 2011 onwards.

### **Recommendation**

8. The Commission is asked to consider the Agreement and indicate what comments, if any, it wishes to submit to the Safer Communities Strategy Board.

### **Background Papers**

Leicestershire Sustainable Community Strategy 2008-11  
Leicestershire Local Area Agreement 2008-11

### **Circulation under the Local Issues Alert Procedure**

None.

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## **List of Appendices**

Appendix 1 – Leicestershire Safer Communities Agreement 2008–11 (Update 2010)

## **Equal Opportunities Implications**

9. A joint Equality Impact Assessment was carried out on the Community Safety Plan and the Safer Communities Agreement, which can be found at [http://www.leics.gov.uk/cex\\_eia.htm](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.