

**SCRUTINY COMMISSION – 8 June 2011****LEICESTERSHIRE SAFER COMMUNITIES AGREEMENT 2011-13****REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE****Purpose of Report**

1. The purpose of this report is to present a new Leicestershire Safer Communities Agreement for 2011-13, attached as Appendix 1.

**Policy Framework and Previous Decisions**

2. This is the second Safer Communities Agreement to be produced, following on from the 2008-11 Agreement. It is based upon the strategic assessment and review process carried out between October 2010 and May 2011 and was approved by the Leicestershire Safer Communities Strategy Board on 26<sup>th</sup> May 2011.
3. The Commission has received previous reports on the 2008-11 Safer Communities Agreement in October 2009 and again in January 2011.

**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 2011-13**

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. The priorities are set out in paragraph 5.1 of the Agreement and these are also reflected in local Community Safety Partnership strategies. An important link is also made between reducing re-offending and the Community Budget work on Families with Complex Needs.
9. It should be noted that in common with all public services, the Agreement has been produced against a backdrop of significantly reducing resources. There has been a 20% cut in funding in what is now known as the Community Safety Fund (previously Area Based Grant) in 2011-12 and there will be a further 40% cut in 2012/13.
10. Although the Agreement has been approved by the Safer Communities Strategy Board, it is in effect a working draft as the funding allocations and service commissioning decisions for the period October 2011 to March 2013 will not be finalised until the September meeting of the Strategy Board. Once these are agreed by the Board, the Agreement can be finalised.
11. In addition to resource reductions, the introduction of an elected Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) in May 2012 will fundamentally alter the community safety landscape, not least because control of the Community Safety Fund will pass to the PCC although the exact timing is unclear. The Safer Communities Agreement is based on a presumption that control of funding will pass to the PCC on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2013, although more recent information suggests it might be earlier. The introduction of the PCC is also the reason for the time period of Agreement running through to March 2013 rather than 2014.

### **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.

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

None.

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## **List of Appendices**

Appendix 1 – Leicestershire Safer Communities Agreement 2011-13

### **Equal Opportunities Implications**

An Equality Impact Assessment will be undertaken on the Safer Communities Agreement. However, this will be best done at the same time as the resource and funding decisions are finalised.