

Agenda

Meeting name	Scrutiny Committee
Date	Tuesday, 2 March 2021
Start time	6.30 pm
Venue	By remote video conference
Other information	This meeting is open to the public

Members of the Scrutiny Committee are invited to the above meeting to consider the following items of business.

Edd de Coverly
Chief Executive

Membership

Councillors	P. Cumbers (Chair)	R. Bindloss (Vice-Chair)
	R. Browne	R. Child
	J. Douglas	C. Evans
	C. Fisher	E. Holmes
	R. Smith	J. Wilkinson

Quorum: 5 Councillors

Meeting enquiries	Democratic Services
Email	democracy@melton.gov.uk
Agenda despatched	Monday, 22 February 2021

No.	Item	Page No.
	<p>REMOTE JOINING INSTRUCTIONS</p> <p>Meeting Participants: Zoom video conferencing webinar An invitation will be sent to Members for this meeting.</p> <p>Public Access: The meeting will be available on YouTube</p>	
1.	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE	
2.	<p>MINUTES To approve the minutes of the previous meeting held on 11 February 2021</p>	1 - 6
3.	<p>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST Members to declare any interest as appropriate in respect of items to be considered at this meeting.</p>	7 - 8
4.	<p>THE COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP (CSP) STRATEGIC PLAN The Director for Housing and Communities to provide a report setting out the proposed Community Safety Strategy 2021-23 which will lead to an annual Community Safety Action Plan to be compiled and reviewed by the Partnership to allow focused action and resource deployment for the forthcoming year. The Strategic Plan sets out how the Partnership will assess and act upon issues relating to crime and disorder across the borough for a three year timescale.</p>	9 - 26
5.	<p>CRIME AND DISORDER/COMMUNITY SAFETY PRESENTATION To follow</p>	
6.	<p>URGENT BUSINESS To consider any other items that the Chair considers urgent</p>	

Minutes

Meeting name	Scrutiny Committee
Date	Thursday, 11 February 2021
Start time	6.30 pm
Venue	This meeting will be held remotely - details below

Present:

Chair Councillor P. Cumbers (Chair)

Councillors

R. Bindloss (Vice-Chair)	R. Browne
R. Child	J. Douglas
C. Evans	C. Fisher
E. Holmes	J. Wilkinson

Observers Councillor P. Chandler
Councillor P. Posnett MBE

Officers Director for Housing and Communities
Director for Growth and Regeneration
People Manager
Case Management Lead
Democratic Services Manager
Democratic Services Officer (HA)

Minute No.	Minute
89	<p>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Apologies were received from Councillor Smith.</p>
90	<p>MINUTES The minutes of the meeting held on 26 January 2021 were approved and authorised to be signed by the Chair.</p> <p>Cllr Holmes abstained from the vote as she had not been in attendance for this meeting.</p> <p>Cabinet had asked the Chair to thank the Committee for the feedback provided on the budget papers.</p>
91	<p>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST There were no declarations of interest.</p>
92	<p>REVIEW OF SCRUTINY WORKPLAN 2020-21 AND THE ANNUAL FORWARD PLAN Councillor Cumbers introduced the Scrutiny Workplan and the Cabinet Forward Plan, highlighting.</p> <p>The review date for the Melton BID had been put back as the date for the ballot had been deferred.</p> <p>During the discussion the following points were noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Director for Housing and Communities, Mr Cotton, assured Members that though the general housing application list is currently on hold, homeless applications are still being taken on a day to day basis and he would make sure that the website would be updated to clarify this. He would provide Members with an update on housing and the housing application system. ➤ Cllr Evans had requested for an item to be added to the Scrutiny workplan in relation to a recent decision by Cabinet regarding the sale of a piece of land at Lake Terrace and an allegation made by Leicestershire County Council Cabinet over best value that could have been achieved for the sale of the land. ➤ The request put forward by Cllr Evans was as follows: <p style="margin-left: 40px;">That a Task and Finish Group be established to examine the claim made by Leicestershire County Council:</p>

1. That Melton Borough Council never informed them that a potential requirement for Leicestershire County Council to sell a piece of land for a potential development to take place.
2. That Melton Borough Council, via the Chief Executive and officers, misled members as to the value of said ransom strip, thus breaking the rule on the best value for a sale.

Cllr Cumbers thanked Cllr Evans for providing this request, but highlighted that there was currently not enough information or evidence to make a decision regarding addition to the work plan. She advised the committee that she and Cllr Bindloss would be meeting as a matter of urgency to investigate the request. Further detailed information would be gathered regarding land registry; land searches; planning applications; evidence of ownership; previous discussions with highways, LCC and developers and any relevant communication relating to this item.

The committee was in full agreement that this was a serious allegation and warranted further investigation. Cllr Cumbers provided assurance that she and Cllr Bindloss would give this matter careful consideration and they would update members as soon as possible.

RESOLVED

The Committee **NOTED** the Annual Forward Plan and Scrutiny Work Plan.

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COMMUNITY SUPPORT HUB

The Director for Housing and Communities, Mr Cotton, gave a brief summary of the presentation, the purpose of which was to highlight the Community Support Hub Development and to update Members on the progress made to date, he then handed over to the Leisure Culture and People Manager, Mrs Rahman and the Case Management Lead, Ms Swift.

During the presentation the following points were highlighted:

- Mrs Rahman advised that it had been a challenge to capture all the elements required for the running of the Hub as so much had to be considered and interlinked.
- With the lack of detailed national or county guidance during the early implementation stages, the skills and diversity of roles that would be needed by staff seconded to the Hub had to be considered; coaching had been put in place immediately to ensure the right people had the right skills to get support out to the public as soon as possible e.g. homelessness, addiction, ASB, mental health.
- Staff welfare was a high priority. We were responding to a pandemic in a way we had never done before, dealing with so many unknowns; staff were used to working in face to face engagement roles and suddenly had to change how they delivered, whilst dealing with their own anxieties and concerns.

- The Communications department were very proactive in getting information out to the public. We worked well with our core partners in delivering consistent messages, monitoring and addressing unregulated false information being published on Facebook and other social groups. .
- Ms Swift advised that the Venue at Phoenix House had been sourced for sorting the food parcels as there was a kitchen and adequate space for the storage of food. Storehouse provided many of the parcels, Partners, groups and volunteers assisted in the delivery of food parcels as did the Melton Learning Hub, the delivery is now with the Storehouse as numbers have reduced.
- The Hub supported community groups with funding information on grants and how to apply for them.
- Recently, we have engaged with new groups such as 'Unlock Your You' to ensure we address and reassure ourselves of the governance behind the groups, and where appropriate, help them to develop and grow. Recently, Unlock Your You received funding through the CCG to deliver mental health specific services.
- Toys for Christmas had proved such a success that this would be continued again this year, The toys that had been collected, cleaned and wrapped up by the Team, provided up to 50 children across the borough with a Christmas present, something which some of them had never received before.

Members thanked Mrs Rahman and Ms Swift for their presentation and passed praise on the work that had been achieved, the support and understanding of the needs of people and the success they had working with agencies and partners

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HOUSING STRATEGY

The Director for Growth and Regeneration, Ms Parikh presented a report the purpose of which to seek the views of the Committee in respect of the strategic approach to managing the housing need, supply and delivery of housing in Melton prior to finalising the Housing Strategy Document for public consultation.

Ms Parikh offered apologies of absence from Cllr Higgins, Portfolio Holder for Growth and Prosperity and from the Growth and Regeneration Manager, Nicola Butcher the report writer.

During the discussion the following points were noted

- Ms Parikh stressed that this is a draft report and any comments that are received from tonight's meeting would be discussed with the Portfolio Holder and accommodated in the final draft which would then go out to public consultation.
- The Climate Emergency Group would be discussing electric car charging points. The Design SPD which is being consulted on, could include measures to encourage developers to provide such provisions on new build developments.

During the discussion, Members offered the following suggestions:

- New developments for social housing to be closer to the town centre or in larger villages as those living in the smaller villages on low incomes may struggle financially to pay for heating in the winter and fuel to get into the town for work and shopping.
- Consideration given to the building of more 1 and 2 bedroom properties in the town centre.
- Consideration given to ensure that good quality materials and workmanship would go in to the new build properties/developments to avoid residents having to call out plumbers and electricians a few weeks after moving in.
- To consider the growing ageing population and to assist people to move into smaller dwellings adapted to medical//mobility needs to help reduce the number of under occupied properties.
- To consider assisting with adapting properties to help keep people in a safer home for longer.
- To provide advice and signposting to home owners, those in social housing and those on low income, regarding the fitting of cavity wall insulation and loft insulation for an energy efficient dwelling.
- A need for increased outside space for people to exercise in and enjoy.
- Consideration to costs as more people are now working from home using bedrooms as workplaces which in turn increases overhead costs for heating, food etc.

RESOLVED

1. The Committee **NOTED** the Draft Housing Strategy
2. The Committee provided comments and a steer on the priorities and proposed actions.

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URGENT BUSINESS

There was no urgent business for discussion.

The meeting closed at: 8.25 pm

Chair

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Advice on Members' Interests

PERSONAL AND NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS

If the issue being discussed affects you, your family or a close associate more than other people in the area, you have a personal and non-pecuniary interest. You also have a personal interest if the issue relates to an interest you must register under paragraph 9 of the Members' Code of Conduct.

You must state that you have a personal and non-pecuniary interest and the nature of your interest. You may stay, take part and vote in the meeting.

PERSONAL AND PECUNIARY INTERESTS

If a member of the public, who knows all the relevant facts, would view your personal interest in the issue being discussed to be so great that it is likely to prejudice your judgement of the public interest and it affects your or the other person or bodies' financial position or relates to any approval, consent, licence, permission or registration then **you must state that you have a pecuniary interest, the nature of the interest and you must leave the room***. You must not seek improperly to influence a decision on that matter unless you have previously obtained a dispensation from the Authority's Audit and Standards Committee.

DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS AND OTHER INTERESTS

If you are present at any meeting of the Council and you have a disclosable pecuniary interest in any matter to be considered or being considered at the meeting, if the interest is not already registered, you must disclose the interest to the meeting. You must not participate in the discussion or the vote and you must leave the room.

You may not attend a meeting or stay in the room as either an Observer Councillor or *Ward Councillor or as a member of the public if you have a pecuniary or disclosable pecuniary interest*.

BIAS

If you have been involved in an issue in such a manner or to such an extent that the public are likely to perceive you to be biased in your judgement of the public interest (bias) then you should not take part in the decision-making process; you should leave the room. **You should state that your position in this matter prohibits you from taking part.** You may request permission of the Chair to address the meeting prior to leaving the room. The Chair will need to assess whether you have a useful contribution to make or whether complying with this request would prejudice the proceedings. A personal, pecuniary or disclosable pecuniary interest will take precedence over bias.

In each case above, you should make your declaration at the beginning of the meeting or as soon as you are aware of the issue being discussed.*

*There are some exceptions – please refer to paragraphs 3.12(2) and 3.12(3) of the Code of Conduct

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Scrutiny Committee

2 March 2021

Report of: Councillor Alan Pearson - Portfolio Holder for Housing and Communities

The Community Safety Partnership Strategic Plan

Corporate Priority:	Excellent services impacting positively on our communities Connected and led by our communities
Relevant Ward Member(s):	N/A
Date of consultation with Ward Member(s):	N/A
Exempt Information:	No

1 Summary

- 1.1 The report sets out the proposed Community Safety Strategy 2021-23, providing an overview of the issues impacting upon communities across the borough and setting out how the Council and partner agencies seek to resolve long standing issues.
- 1.2 Each Community Safety Partnership must have an overarching Strategic Plan and associated action plan. The Strategic Plan sets out how the Community Safety Partnership will assess and act upon issues relating to crime and disorder across the borough over a three year timescale. The partnership not only determines resource allocation in a coordinated way, but also looks for future threats and current trends.
- 1.3 The strategy seeks to set out a direction of travel and key functions of the Community Safety Partnership. Upon approval of the strategy, an annual Community Safety Action Plan will be compiled and reviewed by the partnership to allow focused action and resource deployment for the forthcoming year.

2 Recommendations

2.1	That Scrutiny Committee: Notes the content of the Report and the ongoing contribution of the Community Safety partnership to ASB issues across the borough; direction of travel for the Community Safety Partnership
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3 Reason for Recommendations

3.1 The Council's Corporate Strategy 2020-24 commits to two key priorities which impact upon the Community Safety Strategy:

- Excellent services impacting positively on our communities (Priority one)
- Connected and led by our community (Priority six)

The strategy seeks to enable the Council and partner agencies to be able to deliver community focused services in an efficient and effective manner, meeting the needs of our diverse and complex communities.

3.2 Section 6 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 sets out the requirement for responsible agencies, including Melton Borough Council, to work together in formulating and implementing a strategy to tackle crime and disorder in the area.

3.3 Additionally, the Crime and Disorder (Formulation and Implementation of Strategy) (Amendment) Regulations 2012 set out the requirement for Community Safety Partnerships to share such strategies with the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and for these to be reviewed on an annual basis.

3.4 The proposed strategy will replace the existing strategy (2017-20) with a greater focus on services understanding the needs of communities, and seeking to facilitate change from within the community as opposed to externally facilitated service delivery.

3.5 The strategy will also seek to build on the operational focus of the previous strategy (2017-20) by allowing communities to see the services provided by the partnership as part of the fabric of the community where underlying causes of demand and vulnerability can be addressed.

3.6 The strategy also seeks to cement the relationship of partner organisations under one defining approach to service delivery, one of localised services with a strong engagement philosophy.

4 Background

4.1 The Community Safety Partnership consists of a range of agencies committed to the reduction of crime and antisocial behaviour alongside impacting upon social and economic drivers for communities. Chaired by the Portfolio Holder for Housing and Communities, the partnership seeks to engage communities to facilitate early intervention work and asset based community management across Melton.

4.2 Operating under the broader strategic umbrella of the Leicestershire Safer Communities Strategic Board (LSCSB), the partnership meets on a quarterly basis to provide an assessment of issues across the borough, assess actions and allocate resources according to the severity of the issue. The associated Melton Joint Action Group (JAG) is provided direction by the partnership and undertakes case management and targeted interventions in line with the strategy and action plan. The JAG is the operational arm of the Community Safety Partnership, with issues escalated from the JAG for the awareness and action of the partnership. A JAG tasking mechanism allows for the delegation of targeted issues to the operational team.

4.3 Agencies engaged with the partnership include:

- Melton Borough Council
- Leicestershire Police
- Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service
- Office of the Leicestershire Police and Crime Commissioner
- Leicestershire County Council
- Leicestershire Probation Service
- Turning Point (Substance Misuse)
- UAVA (Domestic Violence)
- Melton BID

The partnership is designed to provide coordinated service delivery to address issues of crime and disorder, including antisocial behaviour, whilst also addressing wider community safety issues such as deprivation, vulnerability and engagement with services.

5 Main Considerations

5.1 The Community Safety Partnership Strategic Plan seeks to reset the relationship between communities and partnership agencies and has been written to link closely with the Council's Corporate Strategy in particular Priority 6 (connected and led by our community) and the priority neighbourhood agenda.

5.2 The plan is based upon a range of data and information, from public consultation and stakeholder engagement to crime and disorder information and the strategic plans of the OPCC and Leicestershire County Council.

5.3 The overriding objective of the plan is to ensure that the Council and partner agencies know what is happening within our communities, both from an issues perspective and on an individual basis. We will utilise the plan to reinvent our engagement with communities whilst maximising data analysis and information sharing mechanisms, enabling more effective targeting of resources. A greater focus on proactive prevention activities will impact on long term, sustainable change within communities.

5.4 To maximise engagement, the Council and partner agencies will utilise existing assets such as community centres to have a greater presence in priority neighbourhoods and surrounding rural areas to understand the needs of residents and the issues impacting communities. We will identify and community assets and work with voluntary organisations to create an environment conducive to strong engagement and co-production of initiatives.

Key areas of focus

5.5 The strategic plan public consultation, alongside stakeholder workshops and alignment with the corporate strategy and Countywide strategic plans provide clear direction to focus the partnership's resource on five key areas:

Drug related Crime

5.6 A key issue on both a local and countywide scale, the borough has seen a recent increase in crime associated with drug usage. Whether relating to shoplifting and burglary, vulnerability and safeguarding, the partnership recognises the need to identify key

locations and individuals to undertake targeted interventions with residents. This also links to the national and regional agenda regarding County Lines, cuckooing and associated vulnerabilities.

Road Safety

- 5.7 A consistently high priority for residents across the borough, the partnership recognises the need to engage with communities to deliver targeted actions, particularly in speeding hotspots. We will seek to utilise a range of methods to reduce the 'fateful four' (inappropriate speed, drink driving, using a mobile phone and not wearing a seatbelt) on our roads.

Violent Crime including Domestic Abuse

- 5.8 With violent crime having recently increased, year on year across the County, the partnership will work closely with our communities to understand the pressures and issues which can lead to increases in violent crime. We will use data more effectively to identify trends and individuals more effectively, whilst also engaging in a proactive and preventative way with key perpetrators and their networks. The Violence Reduction Network will provide valuable context and expertise in tackling violent crime and further enhance the collaborative impact of resource deployment in this area.

- 5.9 Domestic abuse is a key area of focus for the partnership, particularly as a result of Covid-19 and the associated lockdowns. This will be addressed in line with the recently adopted MBC Domestic Abuse policy.

Cybercrime

- 5.10 Connected to a range of underlying issues such as fraud, mental health and wellbeing, bullying, safeguarding and online criminality, we will seek to undertake meaningful and impactful awareness campaigns alongside working to equip residents and businesses with the tools to stay safe whilst online. This will have a specific focus on youth vulnerability and safeguarding, linking with the education sector to provide a holistic approach to addressing cybercrime.

Improved Communication

- 5.11 As detailed above, the partnership recognises the need to engage with communities and stakeholders on a more effective basis. We will also seek to use alternative methods of communication with our residents such as social media, targeted campaigns and regular updates against the key priority tasks.

Key outcomes

- 5.12 A key element of the plan is the annual action plan which sets out individual deliverables and objectives for the partnership to track on a regular basis. The following outcomes will be tracked and reported to Scrutiny Committee on an annual basis:

- A move to localised engagement, using community centres in the priority neighbourhoods
- Improved communication with communities, allowing them to easily interact with our services
- A focus on violence, drug use, rural crime and cyber crime
- To facilitate community led change, ensuring a long lasting impact
- Taking a holistic approach to case management providing targeted prevention actions in key neighbourhoods

6 Options Considered

- 6.1 Due to the statutory requirement for a partnership to have a strategic plan, the options are limited to reassessing the key deliverables, priorities and overall approach of the plan.

7 Consultation

Public Consultation

- 7.1 A public consultation was undertaken in January and February 2020. This consisted of an online survey and workshops undertaken across the borough. The full assessment of this consultation is included as a background document to the report.

Stakeholder workshop

- 7.2 Two stakeholder workshops were undertaken within the consultation phase. The sessions included partner agencies from within the Community Safety Partnership, the Violence Reduction Network, commissioned services and third sector organisations.
- 7.3 The priorities and overall approach of the strategic plan has been developed from the outcomes of these workshops and consultation sessions.
- 7.4 The Community Safety Partnership has approved the Strategic Plan in full.

8 Next Steps – Implementation and Communication

- 8.1 The new Strategic Plan will progress to Council for approval on 24 March 2021 and will take effect from 1 April 2021.

9 Financial Implications

- 9.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from the report.

Financial Implications reviewed by: Director for Corporate Services

10 Legal and Governance Implications

- 10.1 The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 requires Community Safety Partnerships to publish a strategy for reducing crime and disorder in their local area every three years.
- 10.2 Scrutiny Committee hold an annual meeting to consider crime and disorder and community safety in order to fulfil their function as the Council's designated Crime and Disorder Committee under the Police and Justice Act 2006, as set out in the Scrutiny Procedure Rules (Chapter 2, Part 10 of the MBC Constitution).

Legal Implications reviewed by: Monitoring Officer

11 Equality and Safeguarding Implications

An Equality Impact Assessment has been completed and is available as a Background Paper to the report; no significant impacts have been identified. Any issues with tenants who cannot:

11.1.1 read or write;

11.1.2 read or write in English;

11.1.3 read due to being visually impaired,

11.1.4 or will have difficulty with reading the tenancy agreement

will be mitigated through alternative forms of communication e.g. telephone or face to face contact; letters in the person's first language; braille or large print.

12 Community Safety Implications

12.1 As detailed within the report.

13 Environmental and Climate Change Implications

No direct implications

14 Other Implications (where significant)

14.1 No direct implications.

15 Risk & Mitigation

Risk No	Risk Description	Likelihood	Impact	Risk
1	Lack of resource to fulfil the strategic plan	Low	Marginal	Low Risk
2	No engagement from partners	Very Low	Marginal	Low Risk

		Impact / Consequences			
		Negligible	Marginal	Critical	Catastrophic
Likelihood	Score/ definition	1	2	3	4
	6 Very High				
	5 High				
	4 Significant				
	3 Low				
	2 Very Low		1,2		
	1 Almost impossible				

Risk No	Mitigation
1	This is mitigated by the ongoing requirement for the Council partners to address crime and disorder across the borough
2	This is mitigated through the use of Council resource, if necessary, however partner agencies have reiterated their commitment to the strategic plan throughout formulation.

16 Background Papers

16.1 Consultation Summary document

16.2 Equality Impact Assessment

17 Appendices

17.1 Appendix 1 – Draft Community Safety Partnership Strategic Plan

Report Author:	Albert Wilson, Communities and Neighbourhoods Manager
Report Author Contact Details:	01664 502335 apwilson@melton.gov.uk
Chief Officer Responsible:	Andrew Cotton, Director for Housing and Communities
Chief Officer Contact Details:	01664 504322 acotton@melton.gov.uk

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**Melton Community Safety Partnership
Draft Strategic Plan
2021-2024**

Introduction to Melton

Melton Borough is an attractive rural area located in north-east Leicestershire and includes the market town of Melton Mowbray and more than 70 small villages. The town is about 28 kilometres from the surrounding cities of Leicester and Nottingham and the towns of Loughborough and Grantham.

The population for Melton Borough is 52,000. The majority (52%) live in Melton Mowbray and the remainder in the surrounding villages. Melton includes a small proportion of residents from a non-white ethnic background and has an ageing population.

Melton is host to a variety of unique tourist attractions including a weekly cattle market and the annual East Midlands Food Fair, one of the biggest food fairs in the country. The reality of crime and anti-social behaviour levels recorded in the audits and strategic assessments correspond directly to the local perception of crime and strengthens the actuality that Melton is a safe place to live with low crime and disorder levels.

About the Partnership

The Safer Melton Partnership (SMP) formed as a result of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 which placed a statutory duty on the Police, Local Authority, County Council, Primary Care Trust, Police Authority, Probation Trust and Fire Authority to work together in order to develop and implement a community safety strategy designed to reduce crime and disorder within their local authority area. The partnership also engages with as many local agencies and voluntary groups as possible in order to achieve a truly community-based multi-agency approach to crime reduction.

About the Community Safety Plan

Every three years the partnership is required to produce a three year community safety plan which is informed by an audit of crime and disorder and through consultation with the wider public. The Safer Melton Partnership is required to produce a three year 'rolling' community safety strategy which is reviewed annually through a strategic assessment. Each year the Partnership will prepare a Strategic Assessment to assist in revising the plan and the community safety priorities for Melton.

Setting the Partnership Priorities

This Community Safety Strategy outlines the main priorities for the Partnership, with regard to crime, disorder and other aspects of safety for communities. For each priority the partnership has identified what we want to achieve and how we will work to achieve this. Communities themselves know the issues that affect them the most,

and have a major part to play in making themselves as a community safer. We have worked with communities and neighbourhoods to listen to their concerns and issues and these are reflected in the priorities.

This document also seeks to reset the relationships our services have with communities. We recognise that over recent years, services across the public sector have begun to withdraw from communities. The Safer Melton Partnership has sought the views of communities, partner agencies and stakeholders to ensure that the community is placed at the centre of decision making and service delivery.

In applying a more holistic approach to problem solving, the Safer Melton Partnership will aim to solve deep rooted complexities across individuals and communities.

Partners will continue to use accepted partnership working mechanisms such as SMO meetings, Joint Action Group (JAG operational meetings) and Adults at Risk meetings to manage risk and support those most in need of assistance.

Community safety service delivery in Melton

Our communities

Services from across the Safer Melton Partnership are engaged in supporting residents, businesses, voluntary organisations and community groups in tackling complex issues which can be seen on both a national and local scale and are affecting communities across the nation.

To meet this challenge, services are committed to building on the many successes and positive elements of living in Melton, creating an environment of empowerment, confidence and growth to enable communities to thrive.

Recent engagement across our borough has identified the following pressures:

- Crime and anti-social behaviour
- Underemployment and Social Mobility
- Physical health and mobility
- Mental Health and substance misuse
- Community resilience and organisation
- Educational attainment and future prospects
- Housing quality, cost and availability
- Environmental quality
- Financial stability and welfare reform

These issues are barriers to, and opportunities for, ensuring our communities are thriving and engaged places and require bespoke solutions to be applied to maximise effectiveness. We recognise that a one size fits all approach does not help residents become independent, or assist communities in finding solutions which fit

their precise circumstances. The Partnership therefore needs to be flexible in its approach, and build upon existing strengths within each area of focus.

Communities with identity and resilience

Melton is a community with myriad different identities, faiths, skills, histories, cultures, and circumstances, of great potential and creativity. Harnessing such elements is key in developing engaged and self sustaining communities.

We will adopt an asset based approach to community development, utilising the many positives of each community to facilitate change. We will look to develop both the physical assets of each community, e.g. community centres, alongside the identification of residents or groups of residents, who are committed to supporting others within their community.

The varied 3rd sector and voluntary organisations working in each area will be engaged, alongside community groups, faith groups, housing associations, schools, GP's and public sector partners to ensure that expertise and resources are maximised.

Understanding what really matters

To truly understand what matters to our communities, we need to listen to residents, outside of our organisational silos. This can only be achieved once a position of trust has been established between the Council and the community. A position of trust can only be gained by spending time with, and working alongside our communities.

Specific listening events will be facilitated in each community, in the process identifying individuals who feel empowered to lead a community effort to address any identified issues alongside organisations and agencies. This approach will build a collaborative and sustainable environment for change.

Aims and Outcomes

By adopting this neighbourhood and community orientated approach, we hope to:

Earn the trust of our communities. We will spend time getting to know residents, businesses and organisations, doing so in a non confrontational, open way. We will listen to them, and help solve issues when they arise.

Utilise community assets. Community centres, communal lounges, empty properties, shops, and community halls, amongst others, provide opportunities to connect with communities in new and innovative ways. We will ensure opportunities to work from these bases are maximised.

Create a sense of ownership. We know that it is not possible to solve all issues for everyone on our own. To have long lasting and sustainable communities, we need to

develop solutions from within the community itself, ensuring the community is empowered to identify and solve issues alongside partner agencies.

Develop a true picture. We will not assume that we know what the problems are, or how to solve them. We will rely on local knowledge, and create bespoke solutions in collaboration with stakeholders to define problems and improve situations.

Improve communication. We will not rely on digital engagement to create a rounded picture of our communities, however we will ensure that if someone needs to contact us, they have numerous options available to them. The rich story of our communities will be gained through talking to residents, face to face, ensuring clarity of message.

Deploy resource more effectively. Through understanding the problem, we can react more effectively, aligned to the community itself. We are not stepping back from our responsibilities – if there is an acute issue, or support needed, we will respond – and officers will be empowered to do what is truly required, not just ‘the done thing’.

Remove organisational barriers. We, as a partnership will align our services in order to address issues in the most effective way, so we operate as a single partnership as opposed to discreet parts.

Intervene early and appropriately. Increased knowledge of our communities will allow earlier identification of issues, and therefore early deployment of resource to assist and support residents.

We will not define outcomes at an early stage, as this assumes we know the issues. Outcomes and goals can only be developed in concert with each community, and with shared ownership of such outcomes. This does not, however, mean we will not be accountable for delivery. We will track and measure success, and be accountable for our actions.

Measuring Success

The effectiveness of our actions over the coming years will be measured by the strides taken by each community, and each individual within them. We will develop measures which include a ‘narrative’, or context, and which inform service delivery. We will not ‘benchmark’ against other Community Safety Partnerships, as we recognise that each area is unique and facing its own individual circumstances.

These measures will be developed with the community, and will rely on their testimony.

Long lasting impact

The aim of this blueprint is to create the conditions within our services and communities that will engender long term, sustainable change within our borough.

We wish to help our communities become self sustaining, independent and healthy places, able to engage with public services effectively and efficiently.

Partnership priorities

The Leicestershire Safer Communities Strategic Board (LSCSB) sets the overarching priorities for Community Safety Partnerships across Leicestershire. This includes the Safer Melton Partnership.

The priorities in relation to crime and disorder were agreed by LSCSB in 2018:

- Identify and protect the most vulnerable;
- Reduce crime and fear of crime;
- Reduce incidence and impact of ASB;
- Reduce harm from alcohol and substance misuse;
- Reduce risk of harm to young people from cyber crime and bullying;
- Increase reporting of domestic abuse and protect the most vulnerable; and
- Increase confidence in reporting of hate incidents.

Local Priorities

The forthcoming Violence Crime Bill (2020) is likely to further set out a place based, holistic approach to tackling crime, building on connections within communities to resolve issues. Following an extensive consultation period in early 2020 with communities, voluntary organisation and partner agencies, the Safer Melton Partnership has identified the following aspects of community safety as priorities for the years 2021 to 2023:

1. Drug related crime

Why has this priority been identified?

- Highest polling issue from resident consultation in January 2020.
- Significant partnership resource directed towards preventing and policing issue across Melton in 2020/21.

2. Road safety

Why has this priority been identified?

- Highest polling issue for rural communities across the borough.
- Complements ongoing road safety and speeding awareness programmes being delivered by partner agencies.

3. Violent crime

Why has this priority been identified?

- People carrying knives and knife crime was identified as a priority for young people through the 2020 consultation
- Violence Reduction Network established to address these issues across Leicestershire and specifically Melton.
- Recent increase in violent crime statistics in Melton

4. Cybercrime

Why has this priority been identified?

- Growing area of focus amongst partner agencies with a view to future crime trends
- Key area of focus amongst young and vulnerable groups

5. Communication/ engagement with communities

Why has this priority been identified?

- Key focus of Community Safety Partnership agencies
- Clear guidance from consultation that information regarding services is shared with the public.

Effective Partnership Structure

Safer Melton Partnership is committed to ensuring that the partnership is the most effective vehicle for delivering crime reduction in the borough of Melton. Therefore the partnership has developed an improvement plan which incorporates the key aspects that underpin effective partnership working. This improvement plan will be revised annually and will be managed by the Community Safety Partnership.

Delivering Priorities

Each of the priorities identified within this 3 year plan are supported by detailed action plans which outline appropriate initiatives, timescales, lead organisations and measures of success. Each action plan will have a designated owner whose responsibility is to regularly monitor performance through an agreed performance management framework to ensure successful delivery.

Working Countywide

By working with other partnerships and agencies as part of the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Community Safety Programme Board the partnership aims to use resources effectively in order to achieve the best outcomes for those who live in, work in and visit Melton, and Leicestershire as a whole. Where possible

the SMP also works closely with other partnerships across smaller areas on common issues.

Partners

The Safer Melton Partnership is made up of a number of agencies, some of which are required by law to work together to reduce crime and disorder.

The statutory agencies responsible for the work of the partnership are:

- Melton Borough Council
- Office of Police & Crime Commissioner
- Leicestershire Constabulary
- Leicestershire Police Authority
- Leicestershire County Council
- Leicestershire & Rutland County Primary Care Trust
- Leicestershire Fire & Rescue Authority
- Leicestershire & Rutland Probation Trust

Other non-statutory agencies who are involved and contribute to the work of this partnership include:

- Leicestershire & Rutland Probation Service
- Leicestershire Youth Offending Service
- Leicestershire Early Help Service
- Local Businesses – Pubwatch & SMART
- Melton Learning Hub/Voluntary Action Melton
- Melton Town Estate
- Melton Parish Councils
- Me & My Learning
- Leicestershire Neighbourhood Watch Associations
- ASRA Housing
- East Midlands Housing Association
- Demotford Housing Association
- Axiom Housing
- Muir Housing Group

Other relevant organisation and agencies also support the partnership in tackling crime and disorder in Melton.

Contribution of partners

Each statutory partner within the Partnership agrees to:

- Participate in the strategic development, performance management and delivery of the partnership's priorities and actions.

- Incorporate priorities and actions from the Community Safety Plan, as relevant, into their own plans, and therefore provide appropriate mainstream resources to deliver these priorities and actions.
- Provide appropriate attendance to and involvement in the partnership's delivery structure to enable it to function effectively.
- Share data and information in accordance with the Partnership and Leicestershire County Information Sharing protocols for the prevention of Crime and Disorder to the benefit of the communities within the Borough of Melton.
- Ensure their duties to consider the impact of their actions on Community Safety under Section 17 of the Crime & Disorder Act 1998 are fulfilled by their organisation.
- Ensure the partnership receives full support from their organisation

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