



# Cabinet

9 February 2021

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

## Approval of the Community Safety Partnership Strategic Plan

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

### 1 Summary

- 1.1 The report seeks approval to adopt 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

### That Cabinet:

- 2.1 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
- 2.2 Recommend to Council that the proposed Community Safety Strategy 2021-24 be approved.

## 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 Six (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. These 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** If adopted, 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.

**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

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