

PEOPLE COMMITTEE

14 NOVEMBER 2018

REPORT OF THE DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE

COMMUNITY SAFETY UPDATE

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To update members regarding the response to recent community safety issues and provide information relating to a review of CCTV provision across the Borough. To also outline the updated Community Safety Partnership Action Plan which provides operational direction to the existing Community Safety Partnership Strategic Plan (2017-2020).

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 **That members approve the proposed Community Safety Partnership Action Plan to be presented to Council as set out in Appendix 1**
- 2.2 **That members authorise the initial review of CCTV provision across the Borough to be carried out by members of the Community Safety Partnership.**

3.0 KEY ISSUES

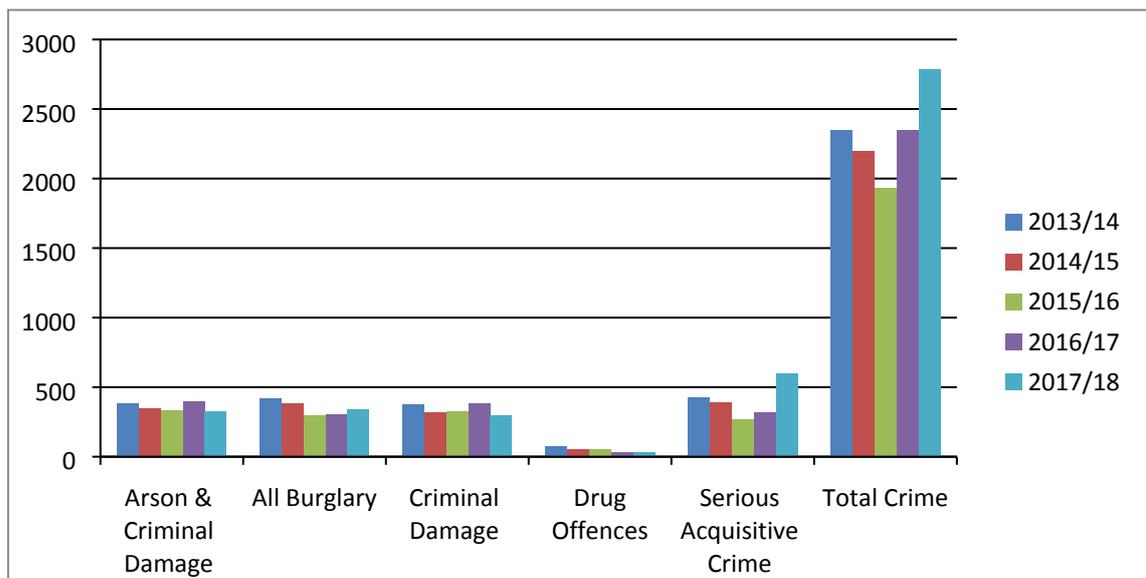
Community Safety Partnership Action Plan

- 3.1 The Council is required to authorise an updated Community Safety Partnership Strategic Plan and associated Action Plan on an annual basis. This process provides assurance to the Council that agencies engaged in the Partnership are providing operational oversight to issues affecting residents and businesses within the Borough.
- 3.2 The existing Strategic Plan (Appendix 2) covers the period 2017 to 2020 and outlines the community safety priorities within the borough. These priorities are assessed against crime and antisocial behaviour statistics which provide the basis for the development of the annual Action Plan (Appendix 1).
- 3.3 The Strategic Plan is still relevant however, against an operational backdrop of a new managerial structure within the Council, it will be necessary to undertake a fundamental review of the plan in 2019. The new plan will be reviewed by members once fully developed alongside partner agencies.
- 3.4 The updated action plan focuses on 5 main priorities:
- **Crime and antisocial behaviour**, with a particular focus on understanding the underlying cause
 - **Predict, Prepare and Prevent**, responding to patterns and fluctuations in crime and ASB rates
 - **Support vulnerability**, with a particular focus on mental health and economic factors

- **Horizon scanning**, including emerging national factors such as cyber crime, child sexual exploitation and modern slavery
- **Community focus**, planning specific local action regarding issues such as speeding, mental health, substance misuse and domestic violence

3.5 Alongside the day to day responses to issues, the safer communities team is therefore focusing on the above listed priorities, however regular performance indicator reviews are undertaken to inform operational responses.

3.6 Recent reviews have shown the following trends in crime and antisocial behaviour within the Borough against key indicators. The below table shows recent trends in incidents over the past 5 years. By comparison, in 2004/05, there was a total of 3,148 crimes recorded against a 2017/18 total of 2,783, a fall of 12%.



3.7 Assessment of these trends also informs inter agency work, particularly with Leicestershire Police, National Probation Service, Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service (LFRS), Leicestershire County Council (LCC) and Melton Borough Council. Monthly Joint Action Groups (JAG's) focus on the emerging issues affecting residents of the Borough through the sharing of information and resources. Alongside this, vulnerable residents are identified and appropriate safeguarding measures implemented through the Adults at Risk group where sharing information and resource is key.

3.8 Recent serious incidents in Melton have highlighted the requirement for, and effectiveness of the partnership arrangements in place as a result of the Community Safety Partnership. Targeted enforcement action, regarding criminal activity alongside tenancy management action has allowed both the Police and Council to react quickly to emerging issues and to implement plans to safeguard vulnerable tenants within the town centre area.

3.9 This action has also impacted upon wider, regional activities such as the County Lines initiative, assessing crimes on a regional basis.

- 3.10 The recently recruited team of neighbourhood support officers alongside tenancy management and antisocial behaviour officers were able to respond quickly to the recent high profile incidents, providing reassurance and information to tenants affected by the incidents. This was coordinated with the police with officers working closely with the neighbourhood policing team in Melton.

CCTV Provision

- 3.11 Melton's Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) is seen as a valued evidential tool available to the Council and the police in the continuing fight against crime and Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB). It has been a factor in assisting the on-going fight against retail theft from our town centre retail businesses with continued cooperation with our own business run retail theft scheme; Secure Melton Against Retail Theft (SMART). It has also worked well in continuing to assist the management of our pubs and clubs as part of our evening economy working in cooperation with our PubWatch scheme. Leicestershire Police utilise imagery gained from the system to evidence criminal or ASB activity within the town centre.
- 3.12 Melton Borough Council and business organisations hold the view that CCTV has the potential to deter incidents of crime and public disorder where it is either in place or will subsequently be introduced. It also assists in monitoring road safety and impacts community confidence thereby potentially creating a safer environment for residents, traders, tourists and visitors alike.
- 3.13 The CCTV system operated by Melton Borough Council comprises a total of 16 cameras. 12 of these are distributed throughout the town centre, 2 are situated in the Cattle Market and 2 more are on different social housing estates (Egerton & Fairmead). The Council also operates two mobile CCTV cameras which are not included within the CCTV maintenance contract. Maintenance and monitoring costs amount to £8,520 per year.
- 3.14 The system records imagery 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. A team of volunteers operate the CCTV from Melton Police Station. Each operator is a police volunteer who has undergone specific training for employment within the CCTV monitoring room. Recorded video is retained for a period of 28 days.
- 3.15 In 2016 improvements were made to the quality of the recording equipment with the replacement of the old digital video recorder. A more capable network video recorder and software now allows evidential footage to be able to be produced at a much higher quality and the software allows greater search and find capability. These upgrades will also allow the running of upgraded camera technology which may be introduced at a later date (for example high definition cameras such as those used in Rutland).
- 3.16 The majority of the CCTV cameras are linked to the Police Station by fibre optic cabling although 3 of the cameras are linked by wireless communication devices and rely on a radio relay unit positioned on the roof of the PERA building. They use a 'Fluid Mesh' advanced radio communication technology which relies on 'line of sight'. This 'Fluidmesh' technology is now past its sell by date and repair by replacement is not an option in the service contract.

- 3.17 CCTV technology has improved greatly over the last few years and the most recent technological advances can include features such as wifi to a phone app, text notifications, movement, noise and temperature detection. These options can also be made available on mobile CCTV units allowing them to be deployed where there is demand and not restricting them to fixed locations.
- 3.18 The Community Safety Partnership is therefore looking to undertake an initial review of the CCTV provision in the Borough, to determine the need for continued coverage and support and to also assess whether further investment in the technology would provide sufficient value for money. The review will also assess officer capacity, volunteer resource and overall impact of the CCTV upon residents and businesses across Melton. The review and any associated options will be presented to members in early 2019.
- 3.19 Any proposed upgrade to the CCTV provision would have implications for the Capital Programme, however any potential impact will be fully assessed in the review and will be presented to members accordingly.

4.0 POLICY AND CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Impacts upon the following Corporate Priority:

PP2: Work with our partners to address vulnerability and tackle the root causes of social problems, building safe, happy and healthy communities.

The CCTV review will be carried out by the Community Safety Partnership, led by the council. There is therefore an impact upon the delivery of actions associated with the Strategic Plan and action plan outlined in this report.

5.0 FINANCIAL AND OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The initial review of the current CCTV provision may identify the need for future capital investment. Once the initial review has been completed, a business case will be brought to this committee should additional investment be required.

6.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS/POWERS

- 6.1 Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 places a duty on local authorities to do all they reasonably can to prevent; a. crime and disorder in their areas (including anti-social and other behaviour adversely affecting the local environment), b. the misuse of drugs, alcohol or other substances, and c. reoffending in their areas.
- 6.2 The Home Office produced a document entitled "Surveillance Camera Code of Practice" (the Code). The Code was developed to address concerns over the potential for abuse or misuse of surveillance and this report assists in demonstrating compliance with this document. CCTV must be used in accordance with the Code which can be viewed via:-

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/282774/SurveillanceCameraCodePractice.pdf

7.0 COMMUNITY SAFETY

7.1 The report outlines the impact upon community safety of both the action plan and the CCTV provision review.

8.0 EQUALITIES

8.1 The recommendations in the report impact upon residents across the borough. Any recommendations from the CCTV review will be subject to an Equalities Impact Assessment.

9.0 RISKS

9.1 .

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|--|----------|--------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| L I K E L I H O O D | A | Very High | | | | |
| | B | High | | | | |
| | C | Significant | | | | |
| | D | Low | | 1 | | |
| | E | Very Low | | | | |
| | F | Almost Impossible | | | | |
| | | | Negligible 1 | Marginal 2 | Critical 3 | Catastrophic 4 |

IMPACT

| Risk No | Risk Description |
|----------------|---|
| 1 | Increased crime/fear of crime due to reduced quality of CCTV coverage |
| 2 | |
| 3 | |

10.0 CLIMATE CHANGE

10.1 None anticipated

11.0 CONSULTATION

11.1 None required

12.0 **WARDS AFFECTED**

12.1 All wards

Contact Officer Albert Wilson

Date: 5th November 2018

Appendices : Appendix 1: MSCP Action Plan 2018
Appendix 2: MSCP Strategic Plan

Background Papers: None

Reference : X:\Cttee, Council & Sub Cttees\People Committee\2018-19\141118