

ITEM NO: 11

DECISION-MAKER:	CABINET COUNCIL
SUBJECT:	SAFE CITY PARTNERSHIP'S PARTNERSHIP PLAN 2008-11
DATE OF DECISION:	17 MARCH 2008 19 MARCH 2008

REPORT OF: CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH, ADULT SOCIAL
CARE AND COMMUNITIES

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STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY

None

SUMMARY

Southampton Safe City Partnership is responsible for reducing crime and disorder and has completed a comprehensive assessment to identify key priorities. The Safe City Partnership will publish its three year rolling annual Partnership Plan on 1st April 2008, detailing actions to be taken by a variety of stakeholders in the city. This report seeks support from the council to make a significant contribution towards the implementation of the Partnership Plan and the actions detailed in it. This work is closely linked to key outcomes within Southampton's Local Area Agreement 2007-10 (Safer and Stronger Communities Block). While the Strategic Assessment has shown progress against the main types of crime, it also highlighted the negative impact of alcohol and that half of all crimes are violent crimes and criminal damage. The key priorities are:

- Reduce alcohol related harm (crime and health)
- Reduce violent crime
- Reduce serious acquisitive crimes and re-offending by prolific and priority offenders
- Improve safety of children and young people
- Tackle anti-social behaviour
- Reduce drug related harm
- Foster stronger communities

This Plan is included in the council's Policy Framework and hence requires full council approval.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Cabinet

- (i) To endorse the Safe City Partnership Plan and to recommend to Full Council to approve (a) the Council's contribution to the Plan, where resources have been identified, and (b) the aspirational actions for the Council, subject to the availability of appropriate funding.

- (ii) To approve delegated authority to the Executive Director for Communities, Health and Care to agree the final version of the Partnership Plan, following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Health, Adult Care and Communities and the Performance Management Group of Safe City Partnership.
- (iii) To request Executive Directors to ensure that they routinely assess the community safety impact of their decisions, actions and recommendations to Members (Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act).

Full Council

- (i) To approve the Safe City Partnership Plan as part of the council's Policy Framework and to approve (a) the Council's contribution to the Plan, where resources have been identified, and (b) the aspirational actions for the Council, subject to the availability of appropriate funding.
- (ii) To approve delegated authority to the Executive Director for Communities, Health and Care to agree the final version of the Partnership Plan, following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Health, Adult Care and Communities and the Performance Management Group of Safe City Partnership.

REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Police and Justice Act 2006 placed a duty on Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships to meet these newly established national minimum standards. This included producing an Annual Strategic Assessment to inform the three year rolling annual Partnership Plan which has to be in place by April 2008.
2. This Plan is included in the council's Policy Framework and has to be approved before publication on 1st April 2008.

CONSULTATION

3. Considerable consultation has taken place, including feedback from the following:
 - Southampton Partnership Strategy Board
 - Southampton Safe City Partnership and sub groups
 - Southampton Communities and Renewal partnership
 - Economy and Enterprise Board
 - Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership
 - Strategic Housing Partnership Development Group
 - Council Directorates and COMT
 - Members

The writers' group includes representation from the Police, GOSE, YOT and SVS
4. In terms of public perspective, the main feedback received through a number of sources comprises relates to the impact of alcohol on daily life in the city centre, in some neighbourhoods and lack of facilities for young people and

consequent anti-social behaviour and nuisance. This affects local residents and local businesses.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

5. None

DETAIL

6. The SCP's Strategic Assessment sets out the priorities for the Safe City Partnership in order to reduce Crime and Disorder and Substance Misuse and to make Southampton a safer place. This work is closely linked to key outcomes within Southampton's Local Area Agreement 2007-10 (Safer and Stronger Communities Block) and the priorities of the five responsible authorities.
7. Since the publication of the Community Safety Strategy (2005-08), significant changes have taken place. These relate primarily to the Local Area Agreement and stretch targets, including 3 stretch targets for achieving outcomes relating to safer communities. Considerable partnership working has also taken place to tackle key community safety problems.
8. The most notable developments include:
- Introduction of the Single Non Emergency Number in April 2006
 - Launch of the Home Office RESPECT Action Plan in January 2006 and SCC was one of the first local authorities to produce its own local version
 - In December 2006, RESPECT announced Southampton as a Flagship Action Area
 - SCC was the first authority to sign up to the RESPECT Standard for Housing Management
 - The Junior Neighbourhood Warden Scheme has been held up by RESPECT as best practice and awarded additional funding
 - SCC was the first local authority to introduce city wide access to a mediation service, provided by New Forest Mediation. This is available for referrals of tenants who exhibit anti-social behaviour.
 - Reviewing the city council's 'Sotonsafe' Emergency Response Plan (Nuclear Submarine Berth).
 - Plan for civil emergencies and business continuity, including Avian Flu and Flu Pandemic
 - Management of the Prolific and Priority Offender project for monitoring identified PPOs in the city
 - Use of the Gating Order at M271
 - Introduction of the Independent Domestic Violence Advocacy Service
 - Development of the Independent Sexual Violence Advice Service
 - Launch and implementation of the Hate crime and Harassment Strategy
 - Significant improvement in the performance of the DAT
9. Key outcomes include:
- Recent BVPI national survey - % of respondents from Southampton who perceived ASB as a problem in their area has reduced from 48% in 2003 to 29% in 2006
 - BCS Comparator crime rate came down by 6% and overall crimes by 7%

- by September 2007
 - Increase in FPNs (from 212 in 2004/05 to 296 in 2005/06); reduction in % of test purchase venues with off licenses that sold to an under age volunteer; increase in tonnes of bulk refuse collected during CREW (from 81 to 89)
 - Increase in number of referrals of families needing support (from 30 to 44) and number of families assisted with positive results in the Taking Control project (20 to 31)
 - Increase in reporting for under reported crimes such as DV and hate crime
 - Reduction in criminal damage incidents
 - Increase in the number of licensed premises participating in the Best Bar None Scheme
 - Increase in number of Junior Wardens (now about 250) and high take up of 1:1 mentoring for ABC subjects (97 out of 100 in 2005/06)
 - Take up of the Independent Domestic Violence Advocacy services for the highest risk victims in the city
10. The Strategic Assessment highlighted many issues, including the negative impact of alcohol on city life. There is evidence to show that alcohol is a significant factor in the high volume of crimes in the city i.e. violent crimes and criminal damage. While the over whelming majority of those who use the city centre at night do not fall victim to crime or get involved in crime or anti-social behaviour, the city centre and immediate area has significantly higher rates of violence than elsewhere. Specific reports on areas such as Leisure World and Above Bar detail the frequency and type of crime associated to these areas. The hotspots for city centre crime and disorder in 2007 included Leisure World, Above Bar, Bedford Place and London Road.
11. The draft Partnership Plan details the Safe City Partnership's 3 year strategy to reduce crime, disorder, ASB and drugs abuse as well as 20 specific action Plans in Year 1 to tackle the most important issues. These actions are closely linked to the LAA and will be reflected in the LAA Refresh, to be agreed in June 2008.
12. A copy of the draft Plan is available in Members' Rooms. The final Plan has to be published by 1st April 2008 and therefore, this report seeks delegated authority for the Executive Director for Communities, Health and Care to agree the final version of the Partnership Plan, following consultation with the Cabinet member for Health, Adult Care and Communities and the Performance Management Group (PMG) of Safe City Partnership. The PMG is scheduled to hold a special meeting on 27th March 2008 to approve the final Plan.

FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Capital

13. Please see revenue below.

Revenue

14. Council actions identified in the Partnership Plan for 2008-2011 will be met through existing budgets or through identified external funding as detailed in the Action Plans. The endorsement of the Plan does not, therefore, commit

any new Council resources. The detailed Action Plans, which will be finalised by the Executive Director of Communities, Health & Care, will include the financial commitments for each action. The funding for any new initiatives that are included will be approved in accordance with Financial Procedure Rules

Property

15. None

Other

16. None

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:

17. The Council’s powers for this proposal are contained in the Police and Criminal Justice Act 2006 and the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.

Other Legal Implications:

18. None.

POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS

19. This Plan is included within the Council’s Policy Framework.

20. A safe city is essential for the continued economic prosperity and improved quality of life for residents and visitors. All council services play an important role in ensuring they contribute to this agenda. Directorates need to therefore routinely assess the community safety impact of their decisions, actions and recommendations to Members (Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act).

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices

1.	None.
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Documents In Members’ Rooms

1.	Safe City Partnership Plan
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Background Documents

Title of Background Paper(s)

Relevant Paragraph of the Access to Information Procedure Rules / Schedule 12A allowing document to be Exempt/Confidential (if applicable)

Background documents available for inspection at:

FORWARD PLAN No: ED02787 **KEY DECISION?** YES

WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:	
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