

## ITEM NO: 12

<b>DECISION-MAKER:</b>	CABINET COUNCIL		
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	SAFE CITY PARTNERSHIP, STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT AND PARTNERSHIP PLAN 2009 UPDATE		
<b>DATE OF DECISION:</b>	16 MARCH 2009 18 MARCH 2009		
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	CABINET MEMBER FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT		
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### STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY

Not Applicable

### SUMMARY

Southampton Safe City Partnership is responsible for reducing crime and disorder and has a statutory duty under the Police and Justice Act 2006 to meet established national minimum standards which includes producing an annual Strategic Assessment to inform a Partnership Plan. The Partnership Plan is included in the council's Policy Framework and hence requires full council approval and is based on the first joint (multi agency) Strategic Assessment to identify key priorities. The actions in the Plan are closely linked to key outcomes within Southampton's Local Area Agreement Refresh and seek to build on the achievements which include a reduction in total crime rates for two consecutive years, thus, contributing to improving the quality and safety of people's lives.

The aims, actions and targets set out in this 3-year, rolling annual plan, to be published on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2009, contribute to the council's priority of keeping people safe and seek to reduce crime year-on-year, with a specific focus on reducing Violent Crime and Criminal Damage which make up almost half of all Crime in the city. At the same time, the Partnership will also seeks to ensure that local people see and feel the benefits of our collective actions and are confident in the services provided by partner agencies to improve community safety. The top priorities to be achieved by 2012 are:

- To further reduce, year on year the total level of crime and disorder in the city.
- To specifically reduce Violent Crime and Criminal Damage (which together equate to 49% of all crime in Southampton). Criminal Damage is closely linked to Anti-Social Behaviour and Arson and is often seen as a proxy measure.
- To increase the public perception of Southampton as a safe city.

This Plan identifies 3 cross-cutting themes which will be the focus of joint action in 2009/10 and these are improving safety in Neighbourhoods, tackling alcohol related harm and the safety of children and young people.

This report seeks support from the council to make a significant contribution towards the implementation of the Safe City Partnership Plan and the actions detailed in it.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

### **Cabinet**

- (i) To endorse the Safe City Partnership Plan (2009 – 12) and to recommend to Full Council to approve the Council's contribution to the Plan and 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 Economic Development and the Performance Management Group of Safe City Partnership

### **Full Council**

- (i) To approve the Safe City Partnership Plan as part of the Council's Policy Framework and approve the Council's contribution, as detailed in the Plan.
- (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 Economic Development and the Performance Management Group of Safe City Partnership

## **REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. The Police and Justice Act 2006 places a duty on Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships to meet these newly established national minimum standards. This includes producing an Annual Strategic Assessment to inform the three year rolling annual Partnership Plan which has to be in place by April 2009.
2. This Plan is included in the Council's Policy Framework and has to be approved before publication on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2009.

## **CONSULTATION**

3. Considerable consultation has taken place, including feedback from the following:
  - Southampton Partnership Delivery and Policy Boards;
  - Southampton Safe City Partnership and sub groups;
  - Southampton Communities and Renewal Partnership;
  - Children and Young People's Trust Board;
  - Health and Wellbeing Strategic Partnership; and
  - Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee.
4. In addition to a Stakeholder Event in November 2008, consultation has been carried out with all key partners including key Council services, Police, Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service, Hampshire Probation Service, voluntary sector organisations and the YOT.
5. An article on the findings of the Strategic Assessment was published in the City View magazine that is delivered to every household in the City inviting comment on the findings.
6. The Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered a draft version

of this Plan and their feedback was that:

- investigations should be carried out to find out what action other local authorities, such as Nottingham City Council, have successfully taken to reduce the incidence of alcohol related anti-social behaviour within their areas
- the enforcement opportunities be explored for Trading Standards and the Licensing Department with reference to the Licensing Act 2003 to constrain the sale of alcohol
- there should be a focused alcohol awareness education programme for secondary school pupils, targeted at children who are at risk of alcohol misuse or offending
- details be forwarded to Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee of actions contained within the Children and Young People's Plan, such as the provision of nurture groups, which will support children and families who are considered to be at risk from alcohol misuse or other related "hidden harms".

## **ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED**

7. None.

### **DETAIL**

8. The Safe City Partnership has a statutory duty to produce an annual Strategic Assessment which presents an analysis on the current position on crime and disorder, anti-social behaviour, alcohol and drug misuse in the City. The Strategic Assessment therefore provides the foundation for the Safe City Partnership Plan (2009- 12), identifying cross cutting priority actions for 2009/10.
9. The Safe City Partnership Plan is part of a family of Plans under the leadership of the Southampton Partnership. Together, these plans seek to make Southampton a better place to live, work and enjoy leisure time. The key plans include the Economic Development Plan, the Safe City Partnership Plan, the Children and Young People's Strategic Plan, the Health and Well-Being Strategic Plan and the Local Regeneration and Renewal Strategy.
10. This Plan is based on the first joint (multi-agency) Strategic Assessment (annual analysis of crime and disorder, Anti-Social Behaviour, drugs and alcohol misuse in the City) and includes community and Stakeholder feedback. This also reflects needs and gaps highlighted in the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2007 and the health Joint Strategic Needs Assessment. This year, for the first time, the Strategic Assessment for Southampton was jointly produced by the Police, the Council and other partner agencies. The Assessment is a lengthy document, but a summary of the key findings is included in the Partnership Plan, available in Members' Rooms. The Executive Summary is attached at Appendix 1.
11. Year on year Southampton is a safer place to live, visit and conduct business. The 'Total Crime' level has fallen for the last two consecutive years and within this, most types of crime are reducing. Some crime types such as Secondary Arson have fallen as much as 24% in 2007/08, with Homicide and Common Assault reducing 22% and 21% respectively. Residents' surveys continue to

show that the majority of people living in Southampton feel safe (in the day time), while many of the wider issues that impact on Anti-Social Behaviour and crime such as absenteeism from school are also going in the right direction (that is reducing). However, violent crime rates continue to be a matter of concern, and Assault with Injury crimes (which from 44% of all violent crimes) have risen by 29% in the last year.

12. Key achievements include:

- Improved performance across a number of crime areas;
- On target for most performance indicators and attention is being given to those that are not doing well (e.g. violent crime);
- Development of a Cumulative Impact Policy;
- Development of the Street Pastors project;
- The SOS pilot project delivered emergency medical services and general welfare advice on peak nights in the City Centre over the Christmas period including New Years Eve. There was a 21% reduction in violence against the person crimes in the City Centre during December 2008 compared to December 2007;
- City council support for encouraging recruitment of special constables;
- Neighbourhood watch - increase in take up by 15%;
- Supporting and developing community payback (led by Hampshire Probation Service);
- The Police 'Safer Neighbourhoods Teams' successfully delivered on-going engagement and consultation in local neighbourhoods;
- Multi service work is currently underway to identify ways in which the Council can maximise the opportunities presented by 'Community Pay Back' and or Restorative Justice Schemes;
- In November 2008 a themed CREW was implemented to address the issues surrounding Halloween and Bonfire Night. This resulted in a 60% reduction in reported anti-social behaviour in targeted areas (compared to the previous year) and Arson rates almost halved;
- Installation of the Concierge Scheme by Southampton City Council in every tower block across the city is being implemented;
- Local Intervention Fire Education (LIFE) course for young people who have shown a tendency toward Criminal Damage, arson or ASB, staffed by Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service and the Police;
- A number of successful bids for projects including Think Family, parenting support, the Youth Crime Action Plan (£90,000), Neighbourhood Crime and Justice Co-ordinator post to assist in Engaging Communities in fighting Crime and Challenge and Support project to increase early interventions and support for young people committing Anti-Social Behaviour;
- Numbers in drug treatment services in Southampton have trebled since 2004; and
- Continued impact of Operation Phoenix in the city (3 high profile police operations to reduce and disrupt drug supply since 2005).

13. Emerging issues: The Strategic Assessment identifies the link between the economic downturn and crime levels as an important current issue. It is recognised that crime rates typically rise in periods of economic decline and unemployment. Moreover the image of the city in terms of safety may have direct impact on economic and business investment, and factors such as university places.
14. Continuing concerns with the two biggest types of crime where Southampton remains in a comparatively poor position against other similar cities: Violent Crime and Criminal Damage. Although some types of violent crime are reducing, Southampton does not compare well to other cities in this category and violence is always a top priority public concern.
15. In view of the overall volume, profile and impact of different types of crime in Southampton, the overarching priorities in the Plan for 2012 are to reduce all crime and disorder year-on-year (with specific attention to reducing Violent Crime and Criminal Damage) and to reduce the fear of crime. It also identified three common themes or threads that emerge from the Strategic Assessment, which will inform the top three priorities for the Partnership:
  - Alcohol (linked to priority identified in the JSNA and Health and Well-being Strategy)
  - Safety in neighbourhoods (linked to the Index of Multiple Deprivation report 2007 and Neighbourhood Management). The Cabinet approved on 16<sup>th</sup> February 2009 for locality governance which included revised arrangements in relation to local management and the co-ordination of services. These provide the framework for all relevant services to work together to implement the Safety in Neighbourhoods Action Plan.
  - Safety of children and Young People (linked to Children and Young People's Plan).
16. Therefore, for 2009/10 these three cross-cutting themes are identified as the main focus for joint action and will make a significant contribution to the council's priority of keeping people safe.

## **FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

### **Capital**

17. Council actions identified in the Partnership Plan will be met through existing budgets or through identified external funding as detailed in the Action Plans.

### **Revenue**

18. Council actions identified in the Partnership Plan will be met through existing budgets or through identified external funding as detailed in the Action Plans.

### **Property**

19. Not applicable

### **Other**

20. Not applicable

## LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

### Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:

21. The 1998 Crime and Disorder Act places a statutory duty on Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships to produce a strategic assessment and a Partnership Plan outlining its priorities to tackle crime and disorder.

### Other Legal Implications:

22. Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act (1998)

## POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS

23. The Safe City Partnership Plan is within the Council's Policy Framework and needs to be approved by Cabinet and Full Council.

## SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

### Appendices

(Non-confidential appendices are available in Members' Rooms and can be accessed on-line)

1.	Draft Safe City Partnership Plan 2009-12
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### Documents In Members' Rooms

1.	None.
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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)

1.	None	
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### Background documents available for inspection at:

FORWARD PLAN No: ED03326 KEY DECISION? Yes

WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:	All
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