

# BRIEFING PAPER

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**SUBJECT:** SAFE CITY AND YOUTH JUSTICE STRATEGY  
**DATE:** 12 SEPTEMBER 2013  
**RECIPIENT:** OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

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## THIS IS NOT A DECISION PAPER

### 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 a partnership plan outlining its priorities to tackle crime and disorder. This draft plan, attached as Appendix 1, is included in the council's Policy Framework and hence requires Full Council approval.

The Safe City Plan will be a working document shared within the Partnership. The actions in this plan will have read-across with the Council Plan, including joint projects and actions with other relevant work in the City. The council is a key member of the Safe City Partnership and has a pivotal role in working with partners to make Southampton a safer city.

The council is also now responsible for the Youth Offending Service, which makes a significant contribution to the priorities and work of the Safe City Partnership and therefore, the report to Cabinet and Council recommends that the 2 plans should be considered as a combined Safer City and Youth Justice Strategy. The 2 attached draft plans have been produced in an easy to understand, accessible format on a single page. The report seeks support for the council's contribution towards the implementation of the Safe City Partnership Plan and the Youth Justice Strategic Plan within existing budgets.

### BACKGROUND AND BRIEFING DETAILS:

1. The City has experienced a sustained positive downward trend in many crimes and this is mainly due to productive partnership working, both between agencies and with local communities. Successes include:
  - Reduction of 16% in total crime in the City
  - 1433 fewer violent crime offences, a 15% reduction including decreases of
    - 31% in alcohol related violence
    - 16% in domestic violence offences
    - 28% in serious sexual offences
  - Reduction of 20% in burglary
  - Reduction of 22% in theft of a vehicle
  - Reduction of 15% in recorded theft from a vehicle
  - Reduction of 21% in theft from a person
  - Reduction of 14% for total ASB incidents
  - Reduction of 37% in arson

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2. The City's comparator position in relation to crime rates for other cities in our most similar group has also improved for:
  - All crime
  - Sexual offences
  - Other sexual offences
  - Rape
  - Burglary
  - Burglary (Dwelling)
  - Burglary (non dwelling)
  - Vehicle Offences
  - Arson
  - Violence with Injury
  - Violence without injury
  - Public Order.
  
3. However, even though crime rates have come down in Southampton, this has been in line with the national trend and therefore, in some critical areas, the City's comparative position needs significant improvement. This is particularly so for:
  - Criminal Damage
  - Criminal Damage /Arson
  - Violence with Injury
  - Violence without injury
  - Theft from Person
  - Burglary (non dwelling)
  - All crime
  - Possession of drugs.
  
4. The priorities and actions in the draft Safe City Plan therefore reflect the need to focus on improving our comparative position in relation to the above in addition to improvements in reducing reoffending (particularly domestic violence and youth), ASB in some areas of the City and drug related crimes.
  
5. The draft Youth Justice Strategic Plan (Appendix 2) identifies the following priorities in addition to implementing an action plan to deliver improvements within the service:
  - Reducing custody
  - Reducing the number of first time entrants into the criminal justice system
  - Reducing reoffending
  - Reducing youth crime.
  
6. It is recognised that the council and its partners would benefit from building on the synergy between community safety and youth offending functions. Therefore, the council is being requested to consider the 2 plans together in order to start the development of a single safer city and youth justice strategy. The council is in dialogue with the Local Government Association about benefiting from a Peer Review

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for the wider community safety function early next year.

7. The Cabinet Member has also requested that officers explore the following:
  - Closer alignment across the council of community safety, emergency planning and enforcement functions
  - Consider options with the Safe City Partnership and the Youth Offending Board for improving the governance arrangements for these areas as the key partners are on both partnerships.

## **RESOURCE/POLICY/FINANCIAL/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS:**

### **Capital/Revenue**

8. There are no additional resource requirements as council led actions to deliver targets detailed in these plans will be met within existing budgets.

### **Policy**

9. The Safe City Plan is included in the Council's Policy Framework. These plans link with a range of other strategies and plans including the Health and Wellbeing Strategy and the Integrated Offender Management Plan.

### **Legal Implications**

10. The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (amended by the Police and Justice Act 2006) 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.
11. All Youth Offending Services are required to submit a Youth Justice Strategic Plan to the Youth Justice Board and Ministry of Justice, and the Plan needs to be endorsed by full Council (Crime and Disorder Act, 1998, Part iii, Section 40).

## **Appendices/Supporting Information:**

1. Draft Southampton Safe City Plan 2013/14
2. Draft Southampton Youth Justice Strategic Plan 2013/14 – plan on a page
3. Draft Southampton Youth Justice Strategic Plan 2013/14 – detailed plan

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