

DECISION-MAKER:	CABINET COUNCIL		
SUBJECT:	SAFER CITY AND YOUTH JUSTICE STRATEGY		
DATE OF DECISION:	17 SEPTEMBER 2013 18 SEPTEMBER 2013		
REPORT OF:	CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITIES		
<u>CONTACT DETAILS</u>			
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STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY

None

BRIEF 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 the Safe City Plan. This Plan 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, this report recommends that the 2 plans should be considered as a combined Safer City and Youth Justice Strategy. The 2 plans have been produced in an easy to understand, accessible format on a single page. This 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.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Cabinet

- (i) To delegate authority to the Head of Communities, Change and Partnerships to agree any final amendments to the Safe City Plan 2013/14 (Appendix 2) and the Youth Justice Strategic Plan 2013/14 (Appendix 3 and 4) following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Communities and the Council's Management team.

- (ii) Subject to (i) above, to recommend the Safe City Plan 2013/14 (Appendix 2) and the Youth Justice Strategic Plan 2013/14 (Appendix 3 and 4) to Council for approval.

Council

- (i) To approve the Safe City Plan 2013/14 (Appendix 2) and the Youth Justice Strategic Plan 2013/14 (Appendix 3 and 4).

REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Police and Justice Act 2006 places a duty on Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships to meet established national minimum standards. This includes producing an Annual Strategic Assessment to inform the Safe City Plan. This Plan is included in the Council's Policy Framework and has to be approved before publication.
2. The Youth Offending Service is required to publish a Youth Justice Strategic Plan in line with the Crime and Disorder Act, 1998, Part iii, Section. 40. The Youth Justice Strategic Plan is also included in the Council's Policy Framework and has to be approved before publication.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

3. As it is the Council's statutory duty to approve these plans, no other options were considered.

DETAIL (Including consultation carried out)

4. The priorities for community safety are informed by an annual strategic assessment of crime and disorder issues in the City (Appendix 1). The Safe City Plan 2013/14 attached at Appendix 2 takes into account this strategic assessment.
5. Southampton 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
 - 1,418 fewer violent crime offences, a 19% 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 11% for total ASB incidents
 - Reduction of 37% in arson

6. 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
7. 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
8. The priorities and actions 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.
9. The Youth Justice Strategic Plan 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; and
 - Reducing youth crime.

10. 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 for the wider community safety function early next year.
11. 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 IMPLICATIONS

Capital/Revenue

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

Property/Other

13. None

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:

14. 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.
15. 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).

Other Legal Implications:

16. None

POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS

17. 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.

KEY DECISION? Yes

WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:	All
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SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices

1.	Draft Crime and Disorder Strategic Assessment
2.	Draft Southampton Safe City Partnership Plan 2013/14
3.	Southampton Youth Justice Strategic Plan 2013/14 – plan on a page
4.	Southampton Youth Justice Strategic Plan 2013/14 – detailed plan

Documents In Members' Rooms

	None
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Equality Impact Assessment

Do the implications/subject of the report require an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) to be carried out.	Yes
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Other Background Documents

Equality Impact Assessment and Other Background documents available for inspection at:

Title of Background Paper(s)	Relevant Paragraph of the Access to Information Procedure Rules / Schedule 12A allowing document to be Exempt/Confidential (if applicable)
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None	
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