

ITEM NO: 10

DECISION-MAKER:	CABINET COUNCIL
SUBJECT:	ADOPTION OF THE SAFE CITY PARTNERSHIP PLAN 2011/12
DATE OF DECISION:	14 MARCH 2011 16 MARCH 2011
REPORT OF:	CABINET MEMBER FOR LOCAL SERVICES AND COMMUNITY SAFETY
STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY	
Not Applicable	

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 a Partnership Plan. The Partnership Plan is included in the Policy Framework and hence requires full Council approval. The Plan which is available in the Members' Rooms looks back at the achievements and performance of the partnership in the last year and then looks forward by setting priorities and actions for 2011/12.

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. This report outlines the contribution the council is asked to make towards the delivery of this Plan, noting in particular the intention to deliver activities from within existing budgets and through allocation of funding from the Home Office – Community Safety Fund 2011/12. The Plan also specifically identifies efficiencies and leaner working practice to maximise partner resources in order to deliver agreed priority outcomes.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

CABINET

- (i) To approve the Safe City Partnership Annual Plan 2011/12 and to recommend the Plan to Council for approval.

COUNCIL

- (ii) To delegate authority to the Executive Director for Neighbourhoods to agree the final allocation of the grant funding from the Home Office Community Safety Fund and any final amendments to the Plan following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Local Services and Community Safety.
- (iii) For Full Council to approve the Safe City Partnership Plan 2011/12 and approve the Council's contribution as detailed in the Plan.

REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

1. This annual plan is a statutory duty and part of the Policy Framework. It has been developed to reflect the findings of the annual joint strategic assessment which covers crime trends and patterns as well as community feedback. The draft plan has been considered by the members of Safe City Partnership, the Strategy Planning Board, the Crime Reduction Scrutiny Panel and Cabinet Member.
2. Approval of the recommendation will enable the Partnership to work to a clear and concise set of priorities for the forthcoming year and to deliver the headline actions relating to those priorities.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

3. Discussions have taken place to explore countywide Partnership options for a joint Plan as well as potential integration of this Plan with other Southampton Partnership plans but this would not meet the statutory deadlines to publish a Plan by 1 April 2011.

DETAIL

Overview of the Plan

4. The strategic assessment has identified some positive trends in relation to reducing crime and improving public reassurance;
 - 'All crime' – that is the overall crime level in the city – has reduced for the 4th consecutive year.
 - More people in Southampton feel the council and police are successfully tackling crime in their area (an increase of 27% on the 2008 return of 23%).
 - The reoffending rates for both adults and youths has decreased.
 - Reports of anti-social behaviour and criminal damage (often used as a measure of Anti-Social Behaviour) are down and this continues a substantial downward trend in the city over recent years.
5. The Plan details examples of the partnership activity that has contributed to a successful year in reducing crime. The Partnership achieved targets set against the top 3 priorities set in the previous annual plan: this means violent crime and criminal damage have reduced while public perception of safety in the city has improved. It also identifies the areas for improvement which are then translated to the top 3 priorities for 2011/12. Specifically, the Partnership has agreed to focus collective effort on the following annual improvement priorities:
 - **Reducing violent crime**
This is because the comparative position in Southampton against our most similar partnerships continues to require substantial incremental reductions to create a positive comparative shift in this area.

- **Reducing house burglary**
This is one of the few crime types that shows an upward trend since last year and is an area that also has considerable impact on the public perception of safety.
- **Improving public perception of safety and increasing residents involvement in activities to help make themselves and their communities safer**
This continues to be a priority despite significant improvements in public perception over the last 2 years as the partnership still seeks to reduce further the gap between falling crime levels and the public perception of crime and safety in the city, as well as continuing to reassure residents in order to reduce the fear of crime.

6. The Plan provides headline actions to deliver these priorities in the forthcoming year.

The Council's role within the Safe City Partnership

7. The Council has both a statutory duty and civic leadership role in working with partners to promote a safer city and contribute to the Safe City Partnership objectives. More specifically, the council is a crucial partner in achieving a safer city through direct service delivery, for example through the community safety team, safeguarding children and adult protection, CCTV, licensing and Housing functions. While many other council services significantly contribute to tackling the root causes of crime from economic development to environment and the communications team. A thriving economy, improved educational standards and reduced absenteeism, more resilient families, and cleaner and greener environments all contribute to reducing crime.
8. The Council's significant contribution to the Safe City Partnership recognises the causes and impacts of crime in the city on the well-being of residents and the need to continue to support actions that prevent, educate, challenge, enforce and protect local communities. This also directly contributes to the Southampton Partnership priorities and challenges. National and local evidence robustly reinforces the added value of working together with partners to reduce crime and improve safety.
9. Some examples of the range of outcomes specifically from the council-led activities contributing to crime reduction and safety in the last year include:
- Increasing the safety of the highest risk victims of domestic violence – 62% of cases to the council advocacy team stop abuse altogether after receiving advocacy and support. A further 29% report abuse only once more after this intervention.
 - Development of additional support for victims of anti-social behaviour – including leading nationally on establishing ASB case conferencing for vulnerable victims. 26 joint operations to tackle anti-social behaviour – such as targeted enforcement action on noise nuisance and anti-social behaviour in hot spot areas late at night.
 - Safer Southampton Week led by Safer Communities and the Corporate Communications team resulted in engagement with over 3,000 residents in one week to improve public reassurance of safety in the city.

- 93 alcohol test purchases (18% failed) with subsequent enforcement action.
 - An average of 150 arrests per month resulting from CCTV coverage.
 - Providing the ICE Bus service late at night in the city centre to meet welfare and medical needs and leading new projects to prevent and respond to young people and alcohol issues.
 - 430 noise abatement notices served (up 2% on last year).
 - Reductions in the average number of young people 16 – 18 not in education, employment or training.
 - Removal of 2115 square metres of graffiti – 89% removed within 5 working days.
 - Completion of the 3-year Think Family project to improve support to families with multiple complex problems.
 - Funding through voluntary sector grants and Supporting People to support key voluntary sector organisations to deliver services that help to tackle crime.
10. The Plan provides headline actions to deliver 3 improvement priorities plus actions to drive efficiency measures within the partnership.
11. The council's contribution to the Partnership in 2011/12 will include on-going delivery of the range of services indicated above, as well as strategic support to the Partnership itself. The council will assume the Chair of the Partnership. In addition, the indicative priority actions cited in the new plan that will be led by the council include:
- Develop and deliver a new integrated services model for improving responses to domestic violence and reduce repeat offending.
 - Increase actions to further tackle anti-social behaviour and support vulnerable victims of ASB.
 - Deliver a public reassurance campaign – including promotion of home security advice and encouraging involvement of residents in local crime prevention activities, such as Neighbourhood Watch.
 - Support the 'roll out' of crime reports to increase transparency and access to local crime data and maximise communications with and between residents.
 - Continue to build on initiatives in the night time economy and to support partners to tackle the harms caused by excess alcohol.
 - Proactively make the Partnership more streamlined, focused and better value for money.
 - Prepare for the introduction of directly elected Police and Crime Commissioner and the impact of Police reforms on Community Safety Partnerships and the specific role of the Council within that.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Revenue

12. The Council will continue to provide services that both directly and indirectly contribute to reducing crime and improving safety. No new or additional costs are identified and relevant services are subject to the corporate savings programme. Therefore activities identified within this Plan will be met through existing Business Unit budgets.

13. In addition, the Home Office has allocated funding intended for Community Safety Partnerships, called the Community Safety Fund 2011/12. This funding is for resource spending and it consolidates the previous funding streams – Safer and Stronger Communities Fund and Young People’s Substance Misuse Budget. This forms part of the Home Office Spending Review settlement and is non-ring-fenced. The allocation for Southampton in 2011/12 is in total £249,100. This represents a 20% cut on the previous year. As this funding was received in recent years, there are existing priority commitments to funds within the Neighbourhoods Directorate portfolio (for Anti-Social Behaviour, Domestic Violence and grants allocation to voluntary sector groups that significantly contribute to Safe City Partnership agreed priorities); Adult Social Care portfolio (for Drug Action Team) and Children’s Services portfolio (for Young People’s Substance Misuse).
14. A provisional allocation of this funding has been considered by the Safe City Partnership Executive on 27 January 2011 and this has been used as the basis for the plan. However, the final allocation of the reduced funding has yet to be confirmed. It is therefore proposed that authority be given to the Executive Director for Neighbourhoods, following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Local Services and Community Safety, to finalise the allocation of the grant funding and make any consequential changes to the plan.
15. It should be noted that the Home Office has confirmed a further cut to this budget in 2012/13 to £125,000 representing almost 50% reduction. It is also noted that subject to legislative approval, from 2012/13 the elected Police and Crime Commissioner will have full responsibility for allocation of this funding across the Police and Crime Commissioner’s area (Hampshire).

Property/Other

16. Not Applicable

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:

17. 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.

Other Legal Implications:

18. The strategies and actions within the Plan must be assessed and delivered in accordance with the Equalities Act 2010 and the Human Rights Act 1998.

POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS

19. The Safe City Partnership Plan is included in the Council’s Policy Framework.

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KEY DECISION? Yes

WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:	All
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SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Non-confidential appendices are in the Members' Rooms and can be accessed on-line

Appendices

1.	Draft Safe City Partnership Annual Plan 2011-12
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Documents In Members' Rooms

1.	None.
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Integrated Impact Assessment

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

Integrated 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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1.	None	
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