

ITEM NO:16

DECISION-MAKER:	CABINET		
SUBJECT:	SAFE CITY PARTNERSHIP ANNUAL PLAN 2010/11		
DATE OF DECISION:	15 MARCH 2010		
REPORT OF:	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 a 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 and seek to build on the achievements which include a reduction in total crime rates for three consecutive years, thus, contributing to improving the quality and safety of people's lives.

The Safe City Partnership's 3-year Strategic Plan (2009-2012) was approved by Full Council in March 2009 and this is the annual update of that Plan. The aims, priorities and targets set out in the 3-year plan will continue to apply. The 2010/11 Annual Plan updates progress on achievements in 2009/10 and identifies actions for the forthcoming year to achieve the agreed **top priorities**:

- 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 47% 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 report seeks support from the council to make a significant contribution towards the implementation of the Safe City Partnership Annual Plan for 2010/11 and the actions detailed in it. The attached draft Plan is work in progress and a final version will be published by 1st April 2010.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- (i) To approve the Safe City Partnership Annual Plan 2010/11 and approve the council's contribution, as detailed in the Plan.

- (ii) To delegate authority to the Executive Director for Neighbourhoods to agree the final version of the Annual Plan, following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Economic Development and the Performance Management Group of the 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 national minimum standards. This includes producing an Annual Strategic Assessment and an annual Partnership Plan.
2. This Plan is included in the council's Policy Framework and has to be approved before publication on 1st April 2010.

CONSULTATION

3. Consultation has taken place, including feedback from the following:
 - Southampton Safe City Partnership and sub groups
 - Children and Young People's Trust – Making A Positive Contribution Group
 - Policy Co-ordinators and Chief Officers Management Group
 - Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee.
4. This Annual Plan therefore includes feedback from all key partners including relevant council services, Police, Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service, Hampshire Probation Service, South Central Ambulance Service, SCPCT, voluntary sector organisations and the YOT. The views of local residents and communities, particularly relating to issues and priorities in their neighbourhoods, form part of continuous local engagement and involvement activities undertaken by the Partnership. This includes activities such as 'Not in My Neighbourhood Week' and by partners – such as community priority setting through the Police Safer Neighbourhoods teams as well as residents surveys such as the Place Survey.
5. A shorter, accessible version of the Annual Plan 2010/11 will be published and feedback from the public will be invited on an on-going basis. This will include an article in City News and publication on the council website, Safer Communities pages which are about to be substantially improved and updated.
6. The key elements of the Plan were considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee and received positive feedback about the progress made in reducing crime rates. The Committee recommended that the Safe City Partnership should identify hotspots where assaults have fallen and complete an analysis of the actions that contributed to this.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

7. None.

DETAIL

8. The Council has a statutory duty as one of six 'responsible authorities' to lead and support a Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (which locally is known as the Safe City Partnership) and as already noted that duty includes production of an annual plan. The Safe City Partnership and Plan must deliver actions to reduce crime and disorder, anti-social behaviour and the harms caused by alcohol and substance misuse in the city.
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 and Regeneration Plan, the Safe City Partnership Plan, the Children and Young People's Plan and the Health and Well-Being Strategic Plan.
10. As detailed in the draft Annual Plan 2010/11, the Safe City Partnership has very successfully delivered a wide range of new initiatives while continuing and consolidating existing service delivery. This has led to considerable successes, not least a substantial fall in recorded crime rates including (April 2009 to Dec 2009):
12% reduction in 'All Crime' which is almost double the fall in either of the last two years and this includes;
 - 7% reduction in Violence Against the Person
 - 13% reduction in Robbery
 - 36% reduction in Theft from a vehicle
 - 26% reduction in Theft of a motor vehicle
 - 5% reduction in sexual offences
 - 6% reduction in Criminal Damage (often a proxy measure for ASB) and Arson.
11. The Safe City Partnership is accountable for 14 top priority (LAA) indicators comprising 2 Stretch Targets (relating to criminal damage & arson; and assaults respectively) and 12 National Indicators. Of these all are on target with the exception of 2 indicators. Much of the success in driving down crime is due to effective cross-partnership working on priority issues and in hot spot locations. The progress and notable successes are detailed in Section 2 of the Plan.
12. Although the city's position relative to comparable cities in our 'Most Similar Group' has improved in some areas, notably Most Serious Violence, for which Southampton is now 3rd best (out of 15) there has been no shift in the comparable ranking for all violence (violence against the person per 1,000 residents) and little favourable shift from criminal damage. This suggests that in Southampton incidents are still relatively high in both crime types, although in respect of violent crime it is the lower level, less serious offences that push up the figures. It is noted that 'violent crime' has a wide definition and according to the Home Office up to 50% of 'violence' offences involve no physical contact. Therefore it is performance in these 2 key areas – reducing violent crime and reducing criminal damage that drive the priorities for the Safe City Partnership in 2010/11 and this is reflected in the annual Action

Plan.

13. To deliver the top 3 priorities of the Safe City Partnership Plan, the focus in 2010/11 will be on:
 - reducing crime in the Night Time Economy
 - improving response to domestic violence especially focusing on medium and standard risk and the impact of domestic violence on children and young people
 - tackling youth-related violence with a focus on prevention and education; reducing re-offending and entry to the youth justice system; preventing knife crime and supporting young victims of crime
 - pro-active joint work to address other types of violent crime and other related issues such as Hate Crime, serious sexual offences and delivering the Prevent agenda
 - developing and delivering ASB minimum service standards ensure effective and appropriate support to victims and witnesses of ASB
 - continuing to deliver joint initiatives to tackle ASB, Arson and Criminal Damage e.g. CREWS
 - delivering a joint public reassurance campaign
 - achieving the 2 Stretch targets which attract financial rewards – criminal damage & arson and reducing assaults presented to Emergency Department
 - delivering Integrated Offender Management – to reduce re-offending
 - improving the analysis and use of intelligence by the partnership to increase effective targeting of resources to maximum effect.
 - Delivering a joint public reassurance campaign.
14. The Council is a vital partner in the Safe City Partnership – providing support to develop and service the Partnership itself, but also providing, at all levels of the partnership, a wide range of services that support the delivery of the core objectives. This ranges from the core functions of the Safer Communities team to services such as the Licensing team and Trading Standards in contributing to reducing alcohol-related crime, to the work of the Children and Young People’s Trust on issues ranging from Safeguarding to supporting Safer Schools Partnerships; input from Adult Social Care services e.g. in protecting adults and thus supporting the new ASB MARACs (Multi-agency Risk Assessment Conferences) and Communications team working with partners to improve public perceptions.
15. 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 cannot be achieved by any single organisation in the city as so many factors influence crime and ASB, therefore the collective investment and energy of partners with the Council as a key partner is crucial.

16. The details of where the Council is lead agency and the investment from the Council are identified in the Action Plan.

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 Crime and Disorder Act 1998 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. None

POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS

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

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices

1.	Draft Safe City Partnership Annual Plan 2010-11
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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)
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1.	None	
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Background documents available for inspection at: N/A

KEY DECISION? Yes

WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:	All
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