

DECISION-MAKER:	CABINET COUNCIL
SUBJECT:	ADOPTION OF THE SAFE CITY PARTNERSHIP PLAN 2012 – 13
DATE OF DECISION:	17 JULY 2012 12 SEPTEMBER 2012
REPORT OF:	CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITIES
STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY	
None.	

BRIEF SUMMARY

Southampton Safe City Partnership (SCP) is responsible for bringing key partners together to jointly reduce crime and disorder. The Partnership has a statutory duty under the Police and Justice Act 2006 to meet national minimum standards which includes producing an annual Strategic Assessment to inform a Partnership Plan. The coalition government has recently affirmed intention to retain this statutory duty. The Partnership Plan is included in the Policy Framework and hence requires Full Council approval.

The Plan which is attached in full looks back at the achievements and performance of the partnership in the last year and then looks forward by setting priorities and actions for 2012/13.

The SCP is developing a full list of actions to be taken by partners to deliver the priorities within the Plan which will be a working document shared within the partnership. These actions will have read-across with the Council Plan, Directorate Plans and the City Plan. In addition links including joint projects and actions with other relevant partnerships such as Southampton Connect and Children and Young Peoples Trust have been established.

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 some of the contributions the Council is asked to make towards the delivery of this Plan within existing budgets.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

CABINET

- (i) To delegate authority to the Director for Environment and Economy to agree any final amendments to the Plan following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Communities prior to submission to Council for approval.
- (ii) Subject to (i) above, to recommend the Safe City Partnership Annual Plan 2012/13 to Council for approval.

COUNCIL

- (i) To approve the Safe City Partnership Plan 2012/13.

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, Children and Young People's Trust, Management Board of Directors, the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee 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 actions relating to those priorities.
3. It is proposed by the Safe City Partnership that the top 3 priorities remain for 3 years in order to take a longer term focus and delivery period, but the plan itself and related actions will be reviewed annually as required by legislation.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

4. As this is a statutory duty there is no alternative but to produce a plan. This plan will be available solely on the website in order to reduce associated costs.

DETAIL

5. The key messages in this plan are very positive:
 - 'All crime' – that is the overall crime level in the city – has reduced substantially over the last 5 years from 36,340 in 2007 to 27,214 in 2011 (26% reduction).
 - The Partnership achieved targets set against the top priority in 2011/12 Partnership Plan to reduce violent crime, this reduced 4% on the previous year. Violent crime has declined year on year for 5 years with step change reductions in violence in the night time economy (down 20% over 2 years) and in domestic violence repeat incidents (down 17% in 2011);
 - Burglary rates which had a steep rise in 2010 has decreased in the last year;
 - There has been a 10% reduction in criminal damage on the previous year and a 51% drop since 2007;
 - Southampton has repeatedly struggled when compared with our 'Most Similar Group' and 'core cities' for some crime-types. However, year-end figures for the first time show a positive shift for 'All Crime' of 3 places in the Most Similar Group placing the city 10th out of 15; for Burglary Southampton is 5th out of 15 in the lowest quartile. Violent crime and alcohol-related crime remain the biggest challenges as Southampton is consistently in the top quartile; and
 - Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) reports have risen slightly but the number of young offenders as first time entrants to the criminal justice system continues to fall.

6. The Plan details examples of the partnership activity that has contributed to a successful year in reducing crime. This includes the Safe City Partnership as the 2011 national winners of the Tilley Award for crime reduction and partnership work in the Night Time Economy. The Plan also identifies the areas for improvement which are then translated to the top 3 priorities for three years (2012/15). Specifically, the partnership has agreed to focus collective effort on the following annual improvement priorities:

1. **Reducing crime and anti-social behaviour in 'priority areas'** – specifically the areas identified in Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) and emerging hotspots. This will join up the work of the Safe City Partnership with that led by Southampton Connect to improve outcomes in the 5 top areas of multiple deprivation as well as Council services such as Economic Development and Housing which are also focused on this issue.
2. **Reduce the harms caused by drugs and alcohol.** This recognises the significant impact of alcohol and substance misuse on both offending behaviour and increasing the vulnerability of victims. Alcohol and drugs are key drivers of crime across multiple crime-types including violent crime, anti-social behaviour, burglary, robbery and sexual offences. This priority covers the range of alcohol misuse including under-age drinking, street drinking, binge drinking and longer term alcohol misuse. This priority also has strong links with many Council services including Public Health, Licensing, Trading Standards, Environmental Health and Children's Services.
3. **Reduce repeat victimisation with a focus on identifying and protecting vulnerable victims.** This priority reflects improved joint practice and growing awareness of the specific issues presented by and for victims with additional vulnerabilities such as mental health and learning disability and those made 'vulnerable' by the type of crime they experience – for example domestic violence or anti social behaviour. This area has strong links with Adult Safeguarding and Mental Health Services.

7. In addition to the top 3 priorities the Partnership has agreed a small set of key actions for focus in 2012/13. These actions are listed in the Plan, page 7.

8. 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 adults, CCTV, Environmental Health, 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.

9. 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 achieve crime and safety.
10. A few examples of the range of outcomes specifically from the Council-led activities contributing to crime reduction and safety include:
 - Troubled Families Initiative – delivering the new national initiative to 'turn around' the lives of identified families – this includes reducing re-offending.
 - Learning from Serious Case Reviews and Domestic Homicide Reviews and thus strengthening joint work in relation to safeguarding.
 - Reducing seasonal peaks for crime and anti-social behaviour, burglary, accidental fires and alcohol related violent crime in autumn months (recognising October for peak offences)
 - Delivering focussed and joint activities to tackle enviro-crime, Anti-social behaviour and related issues in agreed locations.
 - Launching the 'Pippa' Domestic and Sexual Violence Alliance to improve access to advice and support.
 - Improving Communications with residents including those from harder to reach and diverse communities.
 - Preparing for the changes arising from the election of the Police and Crime Commissioners.
 - Supporting Operation Fortress to reduce drug related organised crime.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Capital

11. None

Revenue

12. It is a requirement that the actions identified by respective agencies and SCC services within the SCP Plan must be included within their core budgets. All of the SCC actions can be met from within existing approved budgets. There is a small Community Safety Budget (£75,000) which the SCP currently allocates as grants to four priority voluntary sector groups.

Property/Other

13. Not Applicable

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.

Other Legal Implications:

15. None.

POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS

16. The Safe City Partnership Plan is included in the Council's Policy Framework.

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KEY DECISION? Yes/No 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 Plan 2012-13
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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 - None

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)