



WARDS AFFECTED: All Wards

FORWARD TIMETABLE OF CONSULTATION AND MEETINGS:

Cabinet

27th June 2005

STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY SAFETY

Report of the Corporate Director of Social Care and Health

1. Purpose of the Report

1.1 This report seeks to confirm arrangements to strengthen the leadership and coordination of the Council's Community Safety functions, and its contribution to the City's Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership.

2. Summary

2.1 Crime and Disorder is a corporate priority. Under Section 17 of the Crime & Disorder Act 1998, all City Council services and functions have a legal duty to do all they reasonably can to reduce crime and disorder in their relevant service areas.

2.2 At present the Service Director for Regeneration manages the Community Safety Team and leads on the Council's support for the partnership. The Housing Department leads a service which addresses Anti-Social Behaviour. The Youth Offending Service and Drug and Alcohol Action Team, which both have nationally driven targets with substantial work programmes, are managed in the Social Care and Health Department, with two management boards chaired by the Deputy Chief Executive.

2.3 The recent Audit Commission inspection of Community Safety rated this service as fair with uncertain prospects for improvement, citing the main weaknesses as the dispersed nature of leadership and delivery, and the failure of the Council to consider Community Safety in all aspects of its business. A report has been prepared for the Scrutiny Committee on this report and the Action Plan put in place to address it.

2.4 Following discussion at both Scrutiny, Cabinet and Council meetings in the Spring, the previous administration decided to appoint a temporary Project Director (Community Safety) working to the lead corporate director, until the

reorganisation of the Council, as a consequence of the Children Act 2004, was concluded. An internal recruitment exercise for this role was begun in May but was suspended, at the request of the incoming Cabinet Lead member, so that the new administration could confirm its approach to leadership of the Community Safety function.

- 2.5 The recommendations set out below address the high priority the new administration intends to give to Community Safety, reflected as a key part of a Cabinet portfolio. A report elsewhere on this agenda sets out a proposal for the lead department being the new Adults/Community Services Department.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 It is recommended that:

- (a) no permanent arrangements for the coordination of the Council's overall Community Safety functions should be put in place until the completion of the reorganisation of the Council as a consequence of the Children Act 2004;
- (b) an interim project director be appointed, reporting to the Corporate Director of Social Care and Health, but working closely with Regeneration and Culture, with responsibility for supporting the Cabinet Lead, coordinating Council-wide activity and the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership;
- (c) line management arrangements and host departments remain as now for the various elements of the Council's work, but the organisational review (for the creation of new Children's Services and Adults/Community Services), with the advice of the Project Director, should explore the benefits and disadvantages of bringing these functions together as part of the role of a Service Director and of co-location in one Department;
- (d) the costs of this arrangement be met from unutilised resources allocated to the CDRP from the NRF and as a first call on the £100,000 Crime and Disorder budget allocation in 2005/06 and that Cabinet note that proposals for use of the balance of this, although delegated to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Cabinet Lead, are to be subject to consultation with Scrutiny Committee first; and
- (e) Cabinet notes that this proposal will form the basis of the Action Plan required following the Audit Commission inspection findings.

4. Headline Financial and Legal Implications

(These have been adapted from the previous Cabinet reports.)

Financial Implications (Colin Sharpe Ext 8800)

- 4.1 The additional cost of the proposed Project Director is £81,000 in a full year and estimated to be around £54,000 in 2005/06 (assuming an appointment from August), however this can be reduced by using acting up arrangements to replace the secondee. No additional provision is required for secretarial and

administrative support costs as existing resources can be used. The cost could be funded in 2005/06 from any unutilised NRF resources allocated to the CDRP for 2005/06, with the balance being met from the Council's provision of £100,000 for Community Safety, which has not yet been allocated for 2005/06. Arrangements from 2006/07 could be met on a recurring basis from this provision, with the balance met from the budget of the host department.

Legal Implications (Rebecca Jenkyn Ext 6378)

- 4.2 Local authorities are subject to a duty contained in Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to exercise its various functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all it reasonably can to prevent, crime and disorder in its area.

The creation of this post would appear to be in furtherance of the satisfaction of this duty.

5. Other Implications

OTHER IMPLICATIONS	YES/NO	Paragraph Within Supporting information	References
Equal Opportunities	None directly		
Policy	Yes	Throughout	
Sustainable and Environmental	No		
Crime and Disorder	Yes	Throughout	
Human Rights Act	None directly		
Elderly/People on Low Income	Yes	Crime and fear of crime impacts disproportionately.	

5. Background Papers – Local Government Act 1972

- Cabinet Reports: 7th March 2005 and 25th April 2005
- Community Safety Strategy 2005-08
- Community Safety, Leicester City Council; Audit Commission Inspection Report – February 2005

6. Consultations

Cabinet Lead
 Corporate Directors Board (on previous)
 Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership) reports

7. Report Author/ Officer to Contact

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DECISION STATUS

Key Decision	No
Reason	
Appeared in Forward Plan	No
Executive or Council Decision	Executive (Cabinet)