



Policy and Resources Committee – 2 June 2014

Community Safety in East Northamptonshire

Purpose of report

To update Members on changes to the legislative framework, funding sources and the countywide structure for community safety and seek approval for new arrangements to be implemented for East Northamptonshire.

Attachments

Appendix 1 – Local Solutions Fund: Draft Outcomes for East Northamptonshire
Appendix 2 – Countywide Community Safety Arrangements

1.0 Background

- 1.1 The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (the Act) places a duty on this council to work with other responsible partners in formulating a strategy (the strategy) for reducing crime and disorder in East Northamptonshire.
- 1.2 Under the Act the following organisations are determined as responsible partners:-
- District and borough councils,
 - Police Constabulary,
 - County Councils in the case of two-tier administrative areas.

Originally the responsible partners also included the now dissolved police authority, fire service, probation service and NHS health trust. However the Act does require the three responsible partners to consult and co-operate with these other bodies.

- 1.3 Up to now, delivery of the strategy and related work has been carried out through the East Northants Community Safety Partnership (CSP). The CSP Board has met bi-monthly to formulate and oversee the strategy. Several working groups have focused on specific areas of delivery such as Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB), Acquisitive Crime and Violent Crime. The CSP Board has for the last four years been chaired by the district commander for policing in East Northamptonshire. Councillor Northall has represented the council on the CSP Board and has been its vice-chair for the last two years.
- 1.4 It was reported to Policy and Resources Committee 10 February 2014 (minute 361) that funding for community safety activities had moved over to the Police and Crime Commissioner (the Commissioner). A new Local Solutions Fund linked to the Commissioner's commissioning framework was being developed. Members were made aware that these changes involved the withdrawal of financial support for Community Safety Officer roles. As part of the decisions taken (minute 361) Members approved the continuation of this council's Community Safety Officer (CSO) role, funded from monies from external sources or managed within the Council's budget for 2014/15 through appropriate cost reductions.

2.0 Local Solutions Fund

- 2.1 The Commissioner has published his Police and Crime Plan setting out a range of outcomes and targets he wants to achieve during his term of office.
- 2.2 The Local Solutions Fund has been set up using monies derived from second home funding allocations, council tax discounts and exemptions and a number of other

discretionary streams available to the Commissioner. East Northamptonshire has been allocated £49,775 for financial year 2014/15. It is not clear whether the Local Solutions Fund will carry on beyond 31 March 2015.

- 2.3 It is the intention of the Commissioner to commission direct with the district and borough councils and not with CSPs. His view is that district and boroughs have a well-established and robust structure for delivering against outcomes and have the arrangements in place to be accountable for financial resources.
- 2.4 A workshop has been held involving current CSP Board partners to draw up the outcomes for East Northamptonshire. These draft outcomes are set out in Appendix 1 and are to be agreed with the Commissioner's office. Effectively these outcomes will form the strategy for 14/15.
- 2.5 In future years it is proposed that a local annual conference be held in October/November to formulate the outcomes for the following year. This work would be supported and influenced by a wide range of partners. By holding this event at this time it would allow sufficient time to agree the outcomes with the Commissioner's office before the start of the financial year. This of course would be subject to the Commissioner's decisions on funding frameworks in future financial years.

3.0 East Northamptonshire Community Safety Partnership arrangements

- 3.1 A review of the countywide community safety arrangements has been undertaken and various changes have been approved by the Northamptonshire Chief Executives' Group. Set out in Appendix 2 is the set up following this review. It follows a cyclical framework with a countywide annual community safety conference where the priority areas identified by the Partnership Strategic Assessments are agreed. This event will help inform the local conference referred to in 2.5 above.
- 3.2 Three specific delivery groups were set up to oversee activity on the three areas that were agreed to be countywide priorities. These will continue to function and meet quarterly and are:-
 - ASB and Hate Crime,
 - Inter-Personal Violence,
 - Northamptonshire Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy group.
- 3.3 Our CSP Board has for the last four years been the only one in the county not to have been chaired by an elected member or a senior officer from the local council. However a quarterly meeting is held between the district policing commander and the Chief Executive to ensure there is full communication and understanding around the community safety issues, including progress with current priorities. The meetings are attended by the Community Partnerships Manager and the local policing Inspector.
- 3.4 Given that the Commissioner intends to commission direct with local councils, it is proposed that the quarterly meetings outlined in 3.3 above, are used to oversee progress with achieving the outcomes agreed and become the main conduit for communication between the responsible partner organisations on community safety matters. It is necessary to extend the membership of that group to the County Council as a responsible partner. It is also felt important for an ENC member to be part of this group.
- 3.5 Using this quarterly meeting to oversee community safety matters in East Northamptonshire means that the bi-monthly CSP Board would no longer be required. Given the recent operational changes to the fire service, health and probation, representation of those organisations at CSP Board meetings has been low. However as partner organisations they will be able to help shape the outcomes to be achieved and support the delivery of those outcomes via the local annual conference proposed in paragraph 2.5.

4.0 Summary of changes going forward

4.1 The table below sets out the various changes outlined above:-

Area	Current position	Change required
Funding to the CSP	The Office of Police & Crime Commissioner has made available a funding stream up to £49,775 to support the achievement of outcomes in East Northamptonshire that align with and support the delivery of his Police and Crime Plan.	Framework has been implemented and the outcomes are being agreed with the Commissioner.
Countywide delivery groups:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ASB and Hate Crime • IPV • NAHRS Group (para. 3.1 above refers)	Established to deliver key aspects relating to each area.	To be continued within the countywide arrangements. East Northants representatives will need to be identified to support these groups going forward.
Quarterly meeting – Policing Commander and ENC Chief Executive (para. 3.3 and 3.4 above refers)	Meets quarterly as outlined in 3.3 above.	Continues to function as current but attendance to include County Council so that the requirements of the Crime & Disorder Act 1998 (as amended) are fulfilled by the responsible partners. This group would effectively oversee community safety matters in East Northamptonshire. It is proposed to nominate an elected member to this group.
CSP Board	Bi-monthly meeting involving responsible bodies and other partners.	To be discontinued. An annual East Northants Community Safety conference involving both the responsible partners and other agencies would be held to draw up the outcomes, informed by the Countywide Annual Conference.

5.0 Equality and diversity implications

5.1 As a responsible partner, the Council discharges its statutory duties under the Act to all individuals and communities across East Northamptonshire including those individuals with protected characteristics. The Council will also meet its Public Sector Equality Duties by discharging these responsibilities. In addition to ensuring that individuals with protected characteristics will be free from unlawful discrimination,

harassment and victimisation, there will also be the opportunity to have positive effects in the local community by advancing equality of opportunity between different groups and fostering good relations between different groups.

6.0 Legal implications

6.1 As referred to above, the Council is a responsible partner under the Act and as such is required to formulate a strategy for reducing crime and disorder. The arrangements set out in this report will support this Council in meeting this requirement and discharging its statutory functions around tackling crime and disorder in East Northamptonshire.

7.0 Risk management

7.1 The key risk for this council is not meeting its duties as a responsible partner as set out in the Act. The changes to the arrangements proposed will ensure we have the resources in place to fulfil this duty effectively.

8.0 Financial and resource implications

8.1 The Local Solutions Fund allocation for East Northamptonshire is available to support the delivery of the outcomes once agreed with the Commissioner's office. It will not be a bidding process; however the funding will be controlled by an appropriate Service Level Agreement between the Commissioner and this council.

8.2 Through the SLA, this council will act as the accountable body for the monies from the Commissioner's office.

9.0 Constitutional issues

9.1 For the past few years Annual Council has agreed this council's representative on the CSP Board. The changes proposed in the report suggest the nomination of an elected member to be part of the quarterly meeting of the responsible partners as set out in para. 3.4 and referred to in table 4.1 above.

10.0 Corporate outcomes

10.1 Meeting our statutory duties under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 contributes to our corporate outcomes as follows:-

A good quality of life – safe: Our community safety work as a responsible authority under the Crime & Disorder Act 1998 maintains low levels of crime and anti-social behaviour in the district.

Effective partnership working: The working relationships between all of the responsible partners and other organisations are strong and this will support the achievement of the community safety outcomes being agreed with the Commissioner's office.

11.0 Recommendations

11.1 Members are recommended to:

1. Endorse the legislative, funding and countywide structure changes as set out in this report.
2. Nominate a member to attend the quarterly meetings of the responsible partners set out in 3.4 and referred to in table 4.1 above.

(Reason: To ensure this council meets its statutory duties as required by the Crime and Disorder Act 1998)

Legal	Power: Crime & Disorder Act 1998				
	Other considerations: Local Government Act 2000				
Background Papers: None					
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Date: 13 May 2014					
CFO		MO		CX	

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Appendix 1

DRAFT outcomes 2014/15 – Local Solutions Fund (Office of Northamptonshire Police and Crime Commissioner)

The following draft outcomes have been developed by the Community Safety Partnership and are to be agreed with the Commissioner’s office for the Local Solutions Fund allocation.

Draft outcome to be achieved	Outline of delivery
Improved awareness of domestic abuse and domestic violence	<p>There will be a focus on two key areas of development in this area:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The use and application of social media and technology to increase people’s awareness of domestic abuse, how to get help and support and how to recognise the signs of abuse. • Improving the awareness of domestic abuse through work in schools and further education establishments.
Enhanced positive activities for young people	<p>This area of work will expand on the detached youth work already successful in East Northants.</p> <p>A package of sport-related opportunities will be developed with our partners including Northamptonshire Sport and this potentially could expand to music and arts.</p> <p>There will also be opportunity to develop and roll-out the “prison? me? no way” campaign run in schools.</p>
Reduced vehicle-related crime	<p>East Northants has experienced periods of theft from motor vehicles, calling for greater awareness amongst owners when parking and leaving their vehicles.</p> <p>There is a high level of police intervention undertaken in this area; however the CSP believes it is an area where more investment could help.</p> <p>It was agreed to keep this as a reserve project subject to the funding being available from the LSF allocation.</p>

Appendix 2 – Countywide community safety arrangements

