

Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee
Cabinet

26th June 2024
9th July 2024

Name of Cabinet Member:

Cabinet Member of Policing and Equalities – Councillor A S Khan

Director approving submission of the report:

Director of Law and Governance

Ward(s) affected:

All

Title: Proposed Consultation for the Community Safety Partnership Plan 2024-2027

Is this a key decision?

No - although the Plan would affect all wards of the City, this report seeks approval for a city-wide consultation

Executive summary:

Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) are the statutory body that bring together local partners to solve shared issues around Crime and Disorder, Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB), Drug and Alcohol misuse and Reoffending. The CSP in Coventry meets as the Police and Crime Board (PCB) and is chaired by the Local Authority.

CSPs are required to develop an overarching Community Safety Partnership Plan under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. The plan provides an overview of the work and priority areas that fall under the responsibility of the CSP.

The Plan is intended to focus upon those issues of most concern to residents, that cause the most harm to communities, and require a coordinated approach to deliver lasting change.

The Community Safety Plan will be informed by:

- the views of residents, including those who have been affected by crime and/or accessing services;
- analysis of the problem, drawing on data and information from a breadth of partners;
- evidence of “what works” in tackling crime and disorder; and

- the views of professionals and stakeholders working locally.

To help inform the Plan a public consultation will be undertaken and the information together with data from West Midlands Police will be reviewed in workshops by the sub-groups of the PCB. This will be used to develop a Community Safety Partnership Plan which will identify how these priorities will be delivered.

When complete, the draft Plan will be brought back to Cabinet for approval on 7th January 2025.

Recommendations:

Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee is recommended to:

- 1) Consider the requirements of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and the need to create a Community Safety Partnership Plan.
- 2) Identify any further recommendations for Cabinet.
- 3) Agree to receive a future report setting out the responses received, and the proposed Community Safety Partnership Plan 2024-2027.

Cabinet is recommended to:

- 1) Consider the requirements of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and the need to create a Community Safety Partnership Plan.
- 2) Authorise a citywide 12-week consultation beginning 10th July to 2nd October 2024.
- 3) Request a future report setting out the responses received, and the proposed Community Safety Partnership Plan 2024-2027.

List of Appendices included:

The following appendices are attached to the report:

Appendix 1 – Engagement and Consultation Plan

Appendix 2 – Timeline of Plan

Appendix 3 – Equality Impact Assessment

Background papers:

None

Other useful documents

Crime and Disorder Act 1998

Has it or will it be considered by Scrutiny?

Yes – Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee 26th June 2024

Has it or will it be considered by any other Council Committee, Advisory Panel or other body?

No

Will this report go to Council?

No

Report Title: Proposed Consultation for the Community Safety Partnership Plan 2024-2027

1. Context (or background)

- 1.1. Under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, the Council along with the Police have a joint responsibility for preventing and reducing crime and disorder within their area. They are “Responsible Authorities” and have a duty to cooperate through “Community Safety Partnership” (CSP).
- 1.2. In Coventry the CSP meets as the Police and Crime Board (PCB). The “Responsible Authorities” within the CSP are:
 - Coventry City Council (Regulatory Services, Public Health, Youth offending Services)
 - West Midlands Police
 - West Midlands Fire and Rescue Authority
 - West Midlands Probation Services
 - Coventry and Warwickshire Integrated Care Board

Other stakeholders include:

 - Citizen Housing
 - Community Representatives
- 1.3. The PCB meets every quarter, the purpose of the group is to bring together local partners to solve shared issues around Crime and Disorder, Anti-Social Behaviour, Drugs and Alcohol misuse and Reoffending.
- 1.4. Every three years Community Safety Partnerships are required to develop an overarching Community Safety Partnership Plan under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. The plan provides an overview of the work and priority areas that fall under the responsibility of the CSP.
- 1.5. In creating the Community Safety Partnership Plan the CSP are required to review the levels and patterns of crime and disorder in the area. This review is known as the Strategic Assessment. Within Coventry, the Strategic Assessment is created on behalf of the CSP, by West Midlands Police Partnership Intelligence Team (PILT) and looks back at the previous 12 months.
- 1.6. The Community Safety Partnership plan is also required to take the views of members of the public and stakeholders to establish their views on Community Safety. This will be completed through a public consultation.
- 1.7. The information from the public consultation and stakeholders, together with the data from the Strategic Assessment will be reviewed in workshops by the sub-groups on the PCB. This will be used to generate the Strategic priorities of the PCB and the Community Safety Partnership Plan will identify how these priorities will be delivered.

- 1.8. The final Community Safety Partnership Plan will be brought back to Cabinet on 7th January 2025 for final approval.
- 1.9. The Community Safety Partnership Plan will be monitored by the Police and Crime Board every quarter and the progress of specific actions will be monitored by the subgroups of the PCB.
- 1.10. Over the three-year period the data from the Strategic Assessment will be used to inform the PCB on the progress of the plan.

2. Options considered and recommended proposal

- 2.1. There are two options to consider. a) Take no action b) authorise a consultation and to inform the development of a Community Safety Partnership Plan.
- 2.2. The preferred option is b) and the main reasons for supporting this are as follows: -
 - The survey and plan will ensure legal compliance with the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.
 - The survey will ensure that the Council has taken members of the public and stakeholders' views into account when considering plans to reduce crime and disorder. This will also enable the Council to take into account and promote and value the diversity of Coventry residents and all communities, adapting the delivery of partnership priorities to their needs.
 - The plan will give an accountable and coordinated response to enable the City Council and its partners to reduce crime and disorder within the city.
 - The plan will be monitored by the PCB on a quarterly basis this will ensure that partners are held accountable for reducing crime and disorder in Coventry.

3. Consultation approach and strategy

- 3.1. Under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 CSPs are required to seek the views of members of the public when creating Community Safety Partnerships Plans.
- 3.2. A city wide 12-week consultation will commence on 10th July 2024 and will end on 2nd October 2024. A detailed consultation plan, which sets out the approach to the consultation is attached at Appendix 1 to the report. This will use a range of communication methods. The approach will also be informed by an Equality Impact Assessment which is attached in Appendix 3 to the report.
- 3.3. In summary the consultation will include:
 - A dedicated Let's talk page containing an online questionnaire,
 - Focus Groups with key stakeholder groups,
 - Drop-In sessions in various parts of the city, and
 - E-communications through social media and the Council Website.

3.4. The results of the consultation, together with the crime data from the Strategic Assessment will be reviewed by the sub-groups in the Police and Crime Board. This will be co-ordinated through themed workshops on:

- Public place safety and reassurance
- Vulnerable persons and victims
- Reducing reoffending and harm
- Exploitation and youth violence

3.5. During the workshops the subgroups will identify the priorities and will identify actions to achieve the priorities. These actions will form the basis of objectives within the Community Safety Partnership Plan together with deadlines and key performance indicators and ownership of each action.

4. Timetable for implementing this decision

4.1. The proposed timetable for the implementation the recommendation of this report is set out in Appendix 2 to the report.

5. Comments from the Director of Finance and Resources and the Director of Law and Governance

5.1. Financial Implications

The financial implications associated with the recommendation are limited to the costs associated with implementing the consultation. To support the CSP statutory duty to reduce crime and disorder, CSPs are allocated a small fund from the Home Office. Last year this was £153K. Future CSP funding will therefore be aligned to these priorities.

5.2. Legal Implications

Under Section 5 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, the Council along with the Police have a joint responsibility for preventing and reducing crime and disorder within their area. They are “Responsible Authorities” and have a duty to co-operate through “Community Safety Partnership” (CSP).

Community Safety Partnership also have a legal duty to formulate a strategy for the reduction of crime and disorder in the area. This strategy is known as the Partnership Plan. Before formulating a strategy, the Responsible Authorities are required to carry out a review of levels and partners of crime and disorder. This review is known as the Strategic Assessment.

6. Other implications

6.1. How will this contribute to the One Coventry Plan?

(<https://www.coventry.gov.uk/strategies-plans-policies/one-coventry-plan>)

The One Coventry Plan 2022 - 2030 takes forward the main themes agreed by the Council in recent years. It reaffirms the Council’s ambition of “Working together to improve our city and the lives of those who live, work and study here”.

This ambition is driven through three corporate priorities which directly address the needs of the city:

Improving outcomes and tackling inequalities within our communities
Improving the economic prosperity of the city and regions
Tackling the causes and consequences of climate change

The primary driver for all the work carried out by the Community Safety Partnership is to coordinate City and Partner resources to prevent and reduce crime and ASB.

The CSP work together to:

- Prevent offending
- Managing and changing the behaviour of offenders
- Reduce crime, the fear of crime and ASB
- Reduce the harm of illegal drugs and alcohol and support safer socialising
- Minimising the risk of harm to vulnerable people
- Supporting victims
- Protecting communities
- Protecting locations from crime and making public spaces safer

The Community Safety Partnership Plan will support the following priorities of the Regulatory Services Operational Plan 24/25:

Priority 8 - Prevent and reduce crime, disorder, ASB and environmental issues that affect the quality of life in the city.

Priority 9 - Tackling violence and abuse in all forms, including sexual assault and abuse, serious violence and domestic abuse.

How is risk being managed?

Under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, the Council has a duty to work together with partners to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour in their area. The consultation will ensure we have taken the views of members of the public and stakeholders into account. The plan will also ensure we have a co-ordinated response to tackling crime and ASB.

6.2. What is the impact on the organisation?

The approval of the recommendations to conduct a consultation should have a limited impact on the organisation. There is no human resource, financial or ICT implication as the consultation exercise will be carried out using current resources.

6.3. Equalities / EIA?

The report makes links to the Council's Equalities and Diversity Policies. The data from the Strategic Assessment will be used to inform the Equality Impact. A draft Equality Impact Assessment has been completed and is attached at Appendix 3 to the report. The final version of the Equality Impact Assessment will be presented to Cabinet on 7th January 2025.

6.4. Implications for (or impact on) climate change and the environment?

The Community Safety Partnership aims to tackle place-based issues. The consultation will obtain the views on place-based ASB and the Community Safety Partnership Plan will support improving this objective.

6.5. Implications for partner organisations?

The Community Safety Partnership is made up of a wide range of partners which are detail in 1.2 of the report. The consultation will obtain the views of these partners and will require them to work in partnership to achieve the priorities of the Community Safety Partnership Plan.

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