

REPORT TO THE: COMMUNITY AND CORPORATE ORGANISATION POLICY AND SCRUTINY PANEL

DATE OF MEETING: TUESDAY 14 MARCH 2017

**SUBJECT OF REPORT: DEVELOPMENT OF A JOINT COMMUNITY SAFETY
PLAN**

TOWN OR PARISH: ALL

**OFFICER/MEMBER PRESENTING: JO MERCER, SAFER AND STRONGER
COMMUNITIES SERVICE MANAGER**

KEY DECISION: NO

RECOMMENDATIONS

- I. That the Panel notes the intention to develop a joint North Somerset Community Safety Plan with the Avon and Somerset Police and Crime Commissioner
- II. That the Panel notes the priorities in related plans (North Somerset People and Communities Strategy and Avon and Somerset Police and Crime Plan) and provides any feedback to inform the development of the new joint Community Safety Plan
- III. That the Panel identifies whether and how they would wish to be further involved in the development of the joint plan. It is suggested that either a working group of Panel members or the Chair of the Panel could review a draft of the Plan prior to consideration by the People and Communities Board in May 2017.

1. SUMMARY OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report provides background information on the development of a joint North Somerset Community Safety Plan with the Police and Crime Commissioner for Avon and Somerset.
- 1.2 The report provides an opportunity for the Community and Corporate Organisation Policy and Scrutiny Panel to feed into the development of a joint plan (building on the comments which the Panel have previously made in relation to the development of the Avon and Somerset Police and Crime Plan and the North Somerset People and Communities Strategy).

2. POLICY

- 2.1 The North Somerset People and Communities Strategy and the North Somerset Council Corporate Plan set out ambitions to build safer and stronger communities.

3. DETAILS

- 3.1 The Crime and Disorder Act (1998 and subsequent amendments) designates 5 'responsible authorities' (Local Authorities, Police, Fire & Rescue Authorities, Probation and Clinical Commissioning Groups) to work together to protect local communities from crime and to help people feel safe.
- 3.2 This role includes understanding local crime and disorder issues and addressing antisocial behaviour, drug or alcohol misuse and re-offending. This includes a requirement to annually assess local priorities and to have a community safety plan in place setting out how the partnership will address local issues.
- 3.3 In North Somerset, the People and Communities Board fulfils the role of Community Safety Partnership and the People and Communities Strategy sets out a high level plan for addressing crime, disorder and substance misuse issues. The Joint Strategic Needs Assessment sets out local needs and issues in relation to crime, disorder, antisocial behaviour and substance misuse and informs the development of the People and Communities Strategy and the People and Communities Board work plan.
- 3.4 Since the introduction of Police and Crime Commissioners for Police Force areas in 2012, there has also been a requirement for Community Safety Partnerships and PCCs to work together, including by having regard for each other's priorities. In North Somerset, the Avon & Somerset Police and Crime Commissioner is a member of the People and Communities Board (which fulfils the role of Community Safety Partnership). The PCC team has therefore been actively involved in the development of the People and Communities Strategy and the Board's work programme.
- 3.5 Police and Crime Commissioners are required to publish a Police and Crime Plan for their force area (Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011). The Plan should set out the PCC's police and crime objectives for the area, the PCC's policing expectations and reporting mechanisms and information on the resources which the PCC will allocate.
- 3.6 The PCC consulted on priorities for inclusion in the current Avon & Somerset Police and Crime Plan in 2016 and now wishes to work with individual Community Safety Partnerships in Avon & Somerset to produce a plan for each Local Authority area. The PCC also chose to produce individual Local Authority area plans during her first term of office and this was supported by both the North Somerset People and Communities Board and the Community and Corporate Organisation Policy and Scrutiny Panel.
- 3.7 A North Somerset level plan provides an opportunity to describe how the PCC's overall priorities relate to the local area and what impact the related work programme will have. A joint plan also provides an opportunity to describe community safety priorities and work streams in greater detail than can be accommodated within the People and Communities Strategy (given its broad scope).
- 3.8 Both the People and Communities Strategy (currently in draft form) and the Police and Crime Plan for Avon & Somerset will therefore help shape the joint North Somerset Community Safety Plan.

3.9 The full Avon and Somerset Police and Crime Plan 2016 can be found at www.avonandsomerset-pcc.gov.uk/YourPCC/Police-Crime-Plan-2016.aspx

3.10 The Plan describes the PCC's new priorities, which are:

- Protect the most vulnerable from harm - acting as a fierce advocate for victims and ensuring the most vulnerable are protected. This priority includes improving services for victims of crime and vulnerable people in contact with the criminal justice system, including victims of: child abuse (including Female Genital Mutilation), exploitation including modern slavery and child (sexual) exploitation, domestic abuse including so-called 'honour' based abuse, sexual abuse, people experiencing a mental health crisis who come into contact with the Police and hate crime.
- Strengthen and improve your local policing teams – ensuring the police are accessible and tackle the crimes that matter most to you. The Plan notes that priorities vary across communities but the most typical are road safety, anti-social behaviour, drug crime and burglary. There is a more detailed description of how the Constabulary will work with partners to address drug misuse than in the consultation draft reflecting some of the feedback which was received on these issues.
- Ensure Avon and Somerset Constabulary has the right people, right equipment and right culture – working with the Chief Constable focusing on supporting the representative workforce programme, providing suitable equipment and technology for officers and staff; developing leadership capability to embed a positive culture and to reform how complaints are handled.
- Work together effectively with other police forces and key partner agencies to provide better services to local people – working with other Constabulary and other public sector partners to: share estates and enabling services and make savings for reinvestment in priority areas; and transform the criminal justice system locally into a criminal justice service.

3.11 The consultation draft People and Communities Strategy has recently been considered by members of the Panel. The priorities included in the strategy are:

- Ensuring the best start in life
- Adding years to life and life to years – this includes reducing alcohol and drug harm
- Ageing well
- Enabling communities to thrive – this includes addressing areas where there are above average crime rates including alcohol related crime in town centres, addressing the needs of young people, people from Black and Ethnic Minority Communities and people with complex needs who are at increased risk of being victims of crime, supporting vulnerable victims of personally targeted offences including domestic and sexual abuse, exploitation and hate crime as well as addressing fear of crime and cyber-related offences.

3.12 There is already strong alignment between the community safety priorities identified in the Police and Crime Plan and those set out in the People and Communities Strategy. However, the PCC's Police and Crime Plan covers the

whole of Avon and Somerset and the People and Communities Strategy has a broad scope including health and well-being issues as well as community safety. There is therefore an opportunity to build on these two existing plans and set out in more detail community safety issues and responses in North Somerset.

- 3.13 It is proposed to develop a joint North Somerset Community Safety Plan with the PCC and to take this to the People and Communities Board for sign off in May 2017.

4. CONSULTATION

- 4.1 The Avon and Somerset Police and Crime Commissioner launched a public consultation on 'Your Policing Priorities' in 2016 to inform the development of the Police and Crime Plan for Avon and Somerset.
- 4.2 In July 2016, the North Somerset Council Community and Corporate Organisation Policy and Scrutiny Panel considered a report on the 'Your Policing Priorities' consultation and the Panel's feedback was included in the North Somerset People and Communities Board response to the consultation.
- 4.3 In November 2016, the North Somerset People and Communities Board launched a public consultation on the draft People and Communities Board Strategy.
- 4.4 In January 2017, North Somerset Council Members were invited to discuss the draft People and Communities Strategy consultation questions and provide feedback.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no financial implications arising directly from this report. However, the plan will inform resource allocation and support bids for external funding.

6. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 6.1 A North Somerset Community Safety Plan will provide a better shared understanding of local priorities and responses and will inform resource allocation.

7. EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 Being safe and feeling safe affect some communities disproportionately (including those with protected characteristics).

8. CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 Building safer and stronger communities currently features in both the North Somerset People and Communities Strategy and the North Somerset Council Corporate Plan.
- 8.2 Both the North Somerset Partnership and North Somerset Council have reflected the key role of partnership working in their current plans.
- 8.3 Alignment of the PCC's priorities with local concerns will strengthen the approach to addressing these issues.

9. OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 9.1 The Police and Crime Commissioner could meet the requirement to publish a Police and Crime Plan through producing only the Avon and Somerset level plan which is already available. However, the PCC is keen to work with local partnerships to produce Local Authority level plans which describe how the overall priorities will be delivered on a local level. The PCC has received positive feedback to produce these more local plans (including in feedback from the North Somerset People and Communities Board and Community and Corporate Organisation Policy and Scrutiny Panel).
- 9.2 The Crime and Disorder Act (1998 and subsequent amendments) requirement for 'Responsible Authorities' to produce a Community Safety Plan is fulfilled through the People and Communities Strategy. However, it is considered that the proposed joint plan will provide an opportunity to set out more community safety details (given that the People and Communities Strategy has broad scope).

AUTHOR

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BACKGROUND PAPERS

None