

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

**DATE OF MEETING: TUESDAY 13 MARCH 2018**

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

**TOWN OR PARISH: ALL**

**OFFICER/MEMBER PRESENTING: HOWARD POTHECARY, COMMUNITY SAFETY MANAGER**

**KEY DECISION: NO**

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- I. That the Panel notes that the joint North Somerset Community Safety Plan has now been completed and approved by the People and Communities Board and Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Avon and Somerset (the joint plan is attached to this report)
- II. That the Panel notes the priorities and actions included in the plan and provides any feedback to inform the implementation of the plan
- III. That the Panel identifies how and when they would wish to receive updates on the progress of implementing the plan and achieving the identified objectives and outcomes

### **1. SUMMARY OF REPORT**

- 1.1 This report provides an opportunity for the Panel to review the North Somerset Community Safety Plan which has recently been completed and approved by the People and Communities Board and Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Avon and Somerset. The Panel was involved in identifying priorities for inclusion and shaping the plan in its early stages of development.
- 1.2 The report provides an opportunity for the Community and Corporate Organisation Policy and Scrutiny Panel to feed into the implementation of the plan and to agree how and when Members wish to receive future updates.

### **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 6 'Responsible Authorities' (Local Authorities, Police, Fire & Rescue Authorities, Probation Services – National Probation Service and Community Rehabilitation Company - 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 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.
- 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 In 2017, it was agreed by the People and Communities Board and Police and Crime Commissioner that a North Somerset level plan would be jointly developed 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). This intention was considered and supported by the Community and Corporate Organisation Policy and Scrutiny Panel at its meeting in March 2017.
- 3.7 Subsequently a small working group drawn from the Panel membership met and provided feedback on an early draft of the joint Community Safety Plan.
- 3.8 The joint Community Safety Plan has now been completed by the Council's Community Safety and Drug Action Team in consultation with partner organisations. It has been approved by the People and Communities Board and Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner. It is attached to this report for Panel Members to review. The joint plan brings together the priorities set out in the People and Communities Strategy and the Police and Crime Plan and outlines the local actions which will be implemented to achieve the objectives set out in these plans.
- 3.9 As Panel Members will see within the attached, the priorities within the joint plan are:
  - Priority 1 – Building strong, resilient communities

- Priority 2 – Tackling crime types and locations where there are particular concerns and opportunities
- Priority 3 – Supporting vulnerable victims
- Underpinning the above, there is a priority to work in partnership

3.10 The joint plan sets out a range of actions which will be undertaken to implement the plan including:

- A programme of joint work to reduce crime and disorder within the night-time economy. This will include use of the MAVIS Bus with the aim of reducing demand on health services and maintaining Purple Flag status in Weston-super-Mare
- Providing information about healthy relationships to young people
- Commissioning support services for victims of domestic abuse
- Reducing substance misuse related offending
- Strengthen the zero tolerance approach to hate crime in North Somerset - including awareness raising, identifying local need and ensuring adequate provision of victim support services.
- Continuing work in partnership with the street community and those facing homelessness to ensure they have access to safe, alternative pathways and can access appropriate, well-resourced support when it is needed.

3.11 In addition to the attached full version of the joint Community Safety Plan which it is proposed to make available through the Council and PCC websites, it is also proposed to produce a more widely available and accessible summary version of the joint plan.

#### **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.
- 4.5 In March 2017, North Somerset Council Community and Corporate Organisation Policy and Scrutiny Panel supported a proposal to develop a joint Community Safety Plan for North Somerset with the PCC and provided feedback on the priorities to be included within the Plan.
- 4.6 A subsequent working group of Panel Members provided feedback on an early draft of the joint Community Safety Plan which has subsequently been considered and approved by the People and Communities Board.

## **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). For example, some members of the community are more at risk of being the victim of crime – particularly some types of crime.

## **8. CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1 Community Safety 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.

## **9. OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 9.1 The Panel considered the option of not producing a joint Community Safety Plan for North Somerset. Instead, the PCC's overall Police and Crime Plan for Avon & Somerset and the North Somerset People and Communities Plan would be the points of reference for Community Safety priorities. The Panel felt that these plans did not provide sufficiently detailed information about Community Safety in North Somerset and therefore supported the development of the attached joint Plan.

## **AUTHOR**

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## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Report to the Community and Corporate Organisation Policy and Scrutiny Panel –  
Development of a Joint Community Safety Plan, March 2017.