

5th November 2013**Agenda Item: 5****REPORT OF SERVICE DIRECTOR
POLICY, PLANNING AND CORPORATE SERVICES.****DEVELOPING A PREVENTATIVE APPROACH TO REDUCE CRIME,
DISORDER AND ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR IN NOTTINGHAMSHIRE****Purpose of the Report**

1. The purpose of this report is to inform Members of the Committee of the development of a preventative approach to reducing crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour in Nottinghamshire and to seek approval of £50,000 from the Community Safety Budget (2013/2014) as a contribution from the County Council to this approach.

Information and Advice**Background and Current Situation**

2. Over the last three years, to March 2013, Nottinghamshire has seen a significant reduction in crime and anti-social behaviour. Nottinghamshire Police acknowledge that this reduction was due in no small part to the efforts and contributions of partner agencies, a key one of which is the County Council.
3. Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) are well established across Nottinghamshire and operate across the areas of Mansfield/Ashfield, Bassetlaw/Newark & Sherwood, and Broxtowe/Gedling/Rushcliffe. Each of these CSPs has the same overall objective, to reduce crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour, to reduce the fear of crime, and in so doing encourage strong vibrant communities in Nottinghamshire.
4. Specifically each of the CSPs:
 - Has a wide membership of partner agencies, including, Nottinghamshire Police, District/Borough Councils, County Council, Fire & Rescue, Health, Probation and the voluntary sector
 - Receives funding from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner
 - Has detailed action plans to address issues in "hot-spot" areas in the County, entitled, Partnership Plus Areas. 15 Partnership Plus Areas have been identified for 2013/2014

- Undertake and co-ordinate work to tackle the crimes that are the most detrimental to the communities of Nottinghamshire. At the moment this includes the crimes of burglary, retail crime and violence.
 - Links into other major work areas that impact on the crime and disorder agenda in order to ensure maximum effect and the optimum use of resources. This includes substance misuse, domestic violence, Supporting Families and Targeted Youth Support.
5. Despite the efforts of Nottinghamshire Police, individual partner agencies, and the CSPs, since April 2013 Nottinghamshire has been experiencing a rise in crime levels and anti-social behaviour. At the end of Quarter 1 for 2013/2014, this increase was recorded as 2.4% (232 offences) for all crime, compared to the same period last year. This is against the agreed target of a 10% reduction of all crime.
 6. Whilst this may only represent a relatively small increase in crime and anti-social behaviour it is crucial that this trend is halted and reversed. Any significant and sustained increase would have a damaging and detrimental effect on both the communities of Nottinghamshire and the individuals that live in, work in and visit these.
 7. To address this issue, the County Council has held discussions with Nottinghamshire Police to identify what would give the best chance to halt this trend and to enable further and sustained reductions in crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour. Discussions between the Senior Command Team at Nottinghamshire Police and the Community Safety Team from the County Council quickly identified that the development of a “preventative approach” has the potential to be the most impactful and effective. This approach was subsequently endorsed by all partners at the Safer Nottinghamshire Board at their meeting on 13 September 2013. It is also the approach that the County Council has adopted through the targeted use of its Community Safety Budget.

A Preventative Approach

8. The key element to this approach would be to refocus services and resources to prevent crime rather than react to it. Crucially:
 - Partners need to ensure that everything they do makes it as hard as possible for offenders and potential offenders to commit crime or anti-social behaviour.
 - Resources continue to be targeted at “hot spot” areas of the County – the 15 Partnership Plus Areas.
 - Repeat and vulnerable victims are identified and supported
 - Repeat and prolific offenders are effectively managed and offered appropriate choices to divert them from further crime and anti-social behaviour
 - New technology is utilised to full advantage, including data sharing, messaging and communications.
 - Work is undertaken to mitigate against issues arising from individuals with problematic mental health symptoms

9. Practically, in Nottinghamshire, this approach could translate into actions including stricter requirements for and improvements to:
- Security in new/refurbished homes – condition of build could include the need to include floor and key safes
 - An agreed minimum standard for such items as doors and door locks
 - Licensing agreements for retail outlets
 - Environmental schemes – lighting, footpaths, country parks
 - Building controls on new retail and residential developments – designing out crime
 - Work to identify and support those with mental health problems
 - Options for the management of offenders
 - Support the victims of crime and anti-social behaviour
 - Support for the vulnerable members of our communities, often those most at risk of being targeted for crime and anti-social behaviour
 - Targeted interventions for young people
 - Information sharing and analytical information on crime and anti-social behaviour
 - Pub watch and business watch schemes, through the use of mobile phone technology, rather than the current radio schemes.

Actions to Date.

10. The County Council Community Safety Team ensure the most effective use of the funding available to this Committee (£200k in 2013/2014) to tackle crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour. Equally importantly, they provide our contribution and interface to CSPs and are our primary point of contact with Nottinghamshire Police. This has meant that they are very well placed to ensure, that wherever possible, preventative measures be initiated to reduce crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour. This will continue.
11. Following the endorsement of a preventative approach by the Safer Nottinghamshire Board, the County Council has commissioned a graduate on the “Graduate Development Scheme” to work with Nottinghamshire Police to scope the potential and practicalities of developing and widening the potential of this approach. This will be a six month project (ending in March 2014). This project will be jointly managed by the County Council Community Safety Team and Nottinghamshire Police.

Next Steps

12. A small multi-agency strategic group will be convened to ensure that a preventative approach in Nottinghamshire is:
- Informed by the work of the project detailed above
 - Adopted as an agreed principle by each partner agency
 - Embedded in operating procedures of each partner agency
 - Consistent in its approach from all partners
 - Guided by an agreed action plan and schedule of priorities

13. This group will report to the Safer Nottinghamshire Board. The County Council will joint manage this group with Nottinghamshire Police and will be represented on the group by a member of the Community Safety Team.
14. To ensure that the County Council can maximise its contribution to both the development of this approach and its subsequent implementation it is proposed that a contribution of £50,000 from the Community Safety Budget 2013/2014 be allocated to this work. This funding would be held by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, who has already indicated that they will match fund this amount, if approved by this Committee.

Other Options Considered

15. Continuing to support the generic work of the CSPs was not considered to be a robust enough response to the deteriorating crime statistics.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

16. The increase in crime statistics across Nottinghamshire in the first few months of 2013/14 has provided the impetus to look again at preventative approaches to tackling crime and anti-social behaviour and to develop a more wide ranging preventative strategy for partners to support through the Safer Nottinghamshire Board, the Community Safety Partnerships and the work of the Police and Crime Commissioner.

Statutory and Policy Implications

17. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, equal opportunities, human resources, crime and disorder, human rights, the safeguarding of children, sustainability and the environment and those using the service and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

RECOMMENDATION/S

It is recommended that members approve the allocation of £50,000 from the 2013/14 Community Safety Budget to the development and implementation of a preventative strategy for crime and anti-social behaviour in Nottinghamshire.

**Martin Done, Service Director Communications and Marketing
Policy, Planning and Corporate Services**

**For any enquiries about this report please contact:
Chris Walker, Group Manager, Safer and Engaged Communities x72460**

Constitutional Comments ([LM 17/10/13])

18. The Community Safety Committee has delegated authority within the Constitution to approve the recommendations in the report.

Financial Comments ([SEM 17/10/13])

19. The financial implications are set out in the report.

Background Papers

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

Notes of the safer Nottinghamshire Board meeting on 13 September 2013

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All