

Agenda Item No 12 Appendix 1

South Norfolk Crime Reduction Partnership Working Arrangements**Head of Partnerships & Performance**

- Summary:** Following a national review of the Crime and Disorder Act in 2007, and subsequent legislation, there have been changes to the statutory requirements for Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnerships and what they have to deliver.
- These changes included the repeal of the requirement to produce an audit of local crime and a strategy every 3 years. This has been replaced by an annual Strategic Assessment and three-year Partnership Plan that is reviewed annually.
- This paper proposes a revised constitution and terms of reference for the South Norfolk Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnership and its executive group the Responsible Authorities Partnership.
- Conclusions:** The proposed constitution and terms of reference for the South Norfolk Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnership and its executive group the Responsible Authorities Partnership will ensure it is fit for purpose to meet the revised statutory requirements.
- Recommendations:** Cabinet agrees, as a Responsible Authority, the reestablishment of the South Norfolk Crime Reduction Partnership and the Responsible Authorities Partnership, as the executive group, according to the constitution and terms of reference in Appendix A and subject to consultation by Scrutiny and with the other Responsible Authority Partners.

Cabinet member(s): Martin Wilby	Ward(s) affected: All
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1. Background

- 1.1. The five responsible authorities, the police, police authorities, fire and rescue authorities, local authorities (county and district in two-tier areas) and Primary Care Trusts ,set out in the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and subsequent

legislation, are under a duty to formulate and implement a strategy to tackle crime and disorder in their areas. The National Offender Management Service will also be a Responsible Authority Partner from 2010.

- 1.2. The Crime & Disorder Act Review set out in the Police & Justice Act 2006, and subsequent regulations, revised the statutory requirements and established minimum standards of partnership performance to reflect the changing landscape since 1998.
- 1.3. The duty to produce three-yearly audits and strategies was repealed along with the duty to report annually to the Secretary of State on the partnership's work and progress.
- 1.4. These were replaced with a duty to produce an annual Crime & Disorder Strategic Assessment and a three-year rolling Partnership Plan. The duty to report to the Secretary of State was replaced with new duties to communicate with stakeholders, communities and the public on the preparation and implementation of the three year plan.
- 1.5. These are governed by Responsible Authority Partners (RAPs) where the members are again statutory.
- 1.6. For the last three years, the Responsible Authority Partners have operated as a combined Responsible Authority Partnership for South Norfolk Council, Broadland District Council and Norwich City Council.
- 1.7. This arrangement has served the district councils, and the public agencies above, well. However, by mutual consent and agreement, it is no longer deemed appropriate or effective and each district has proposed to re-establish its own partnership.
- 1.8. This reflects the changing partnership landscape. For example, when the combined RAP was established it mirrored the Basic Command Units (BCUs) of Norfolk Constabulary with the BCU for the Central Area covering South Norfolk, Broadland and Norwich City areas. This is no longer the case because the Constabulary has been restructured with an Inspector aligned to each local authority district area.
- 1.9. The proposal to re-establish South Norfolk's CDRP Responsible Authority Partnership has already been agreed by the Environment, Health & Leisure OSC in May (when the community safety function existed within that service). It has also been agreed, as part of the Constitution, that the Scrutiny Committee will be the effective Scrutiny body for the South Norfolk CDRP under locally agreed arrangements.

2. Decision Sought

- 2.1. The recommendation to re-establish South Norfolk's CDRP Responsible Authority Partnership is now coming forward to Cabinet for approval as a Responsible Authority Partner.

- 2.2. The terms of reference for the South Norfolk CDRP are contained in Appendix A to this paper.
- 2.3. The decision sought is that: Cabinet agrees the reestablishment of the South Norfolk Crime Reduction Partnership and the Responsible Authority Partners, as the executive group, according to the constitution and terms of reference in Appendix A and subject to consideration by Scrutiny and consultation with the other Responsible Authority Partners.

3. Proposal and Reasons

- 3.1. The RAP is the executive and decision-making body of the Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnership.
- 3.2. In 2007, the Home Office published “Delivering Safer Communities: A Guide to effective Partnership Working.” The partnership landscape had changed considerably since legislation was first introduced in the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. The Home Office worked with stakeholders and carried out a formal review of the partnership provisions of that act. The suggested improvements were reflected in the Police and Justice Act 2006 and in subsequent regulations, which came into force on 01 August 2007 in England.
- 3.3. These new statutory requirements are included in the guidance above and form part of the Hallmarks of Effective Partnerships. These represent the key aspects of partnership working that underpin effective delivery through partnerships. The six Hallmarks of Effective Partnerships are:
 - Empowered and Effective Leadership;
 - Visible and Constructive Accountability;
 - Intelligence-led Business Processes;
 - Effective and Responsive Delivery Structures;
 - Engaged Communities; and
 - Appropriate Skills and Knowledge.
- 3.4. The guidance sets out clearly the new statutory requirements for partnership working and suggested best practice to achieve increased effective partnership working.
- 3.5. The guidance recognises very effectively that “one size does not fit all” and, providing statutory requirements are met, allows flourishing local arrangements to continue.
- 3.6. It is within this framework of the six hallmarks of effective partnership working that all CDRPs aspire to operate.

- 3.7. The recommendation for the South Norfolk CDRP Responsible Authority Partnership is that it should operate as a branch of the Alliance (our Local Strategic Partnership) to conduct its formal business, meeting, as a minimum, four times a year.
- 3.8. This proposal forges very strong links with our existing framework of partnership working because six of the seven statutory Responsible Authority Members can be drawn from the existing members of the Alliance Board.
- 3.9. There is a further practical efficiency in this proposal because the whole of some Alliance meetings, or parts of others, can be dedicated to conducting formal CDRP RAP business.
- 3.10. The Chair of the CDRP RAP needs to be the portfolio holder for Community Safety within the Local Authority.
- 3.11. In South Norfolk Council's restructure, the function of Community Safety has moved from Environment, Health and Leisure to the new Directorate of Place & Performance. The portfolio holder for Place & Performance is Cllr Martin Wilby who is also Chair of the Alliance.
- 3.12. The Chair of the CDRP RAP is an important role and placing it with the portfolio holder responsible for Community Safety emphasises the community leadership and place-shaping role that all Members have.
- 3.13. The Home Office communicates directly with the Chair of the CDRP RAP emphasising the importance of the role and the way it communicates key messages.
- 3.14. The proposal for the South Norfolk CDRP RAP goes further than the statutory minimum requirements. Our proposal is to include within the membership of the RAP the five Chairs of the South Norfolk Neighbourhood Action Panels. This again will further strengthen our existing framework of partnership working and ensure that local differences, within our district, are reflected in future decision-making on community safety issues.
- 3.15. The constitution and terms of reference for the CDRP and its executive group the RAP are set out in Appendix A. Briefly, the functions of the Responsible Authority Partners are to:
 - Direct the work of the partnership;
 - Prepare and implement the Crime & Disorder Reduction Strategic assessment;
 - Engage with stakeholders, communities and members of the public on priority issues to be addressed;
 - Develop, produce and implement the rolling 3-year partnership plan;
 - Refresh the Partnership Plan annually;
 - Prepare and publish a summary of the Partnership Plan;
 - Monitor the implementation of the partnership plan;
 - Agree funding priorities and allocations;
 - Consider annually whether the partnership has the requisite skills and knowledge to meet the statutory requirements;

- Prepare an information sharing protocol;
 - Ensure the signing of the information sharing protocol by the responsible partners to govern the sharing of information between them;
 - Nominate a designated liaison person for each responsible partner to share information;
 - Hold one or more public meetings during each year and ensure they are attended by individuals who hold a senior position within each authority;
 - Publicise these public meetings effectively;
 - Carry out new statutory requirements regarding community engagement;
 - Share sets of depersonalised information on a quarterly basis;
 - Consider required information to prepare a strategic assessment;
 - Have regard to all other consultation when undertaking community consultation for the strategic assessment;
 - Identify in the strategic assessment the priorities to escalate to the County level and therefore inform the County Community Safety Agreement in two-tier areas and
 - Ensure compliance with the statutory requirements set out in the Crime & Disorder Act Review by the Police & Justice Act 2006.
- 3.16. This paper so far has set out the membership and roles of the CDRP Responsible Authority Partners. Essentially, this is the executive, decision-making group for the Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnership in general.
- 3.17. The Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnership is not a partnership that would ordinarily meet except, perhaps, to develop a revised Crime Reduction Strategy or in an annual meeting, in much the same way as the Alliance Conference meets in July each year. The term partnership is used more loosely as a term to cover the many organisations, and many different ways, in which those agencies, or individuals, come together to deliver the South Norfolk Crime Reduction Strategy or local community safety issues.
- 3.18. By way of example, here are some of the ways in which we combine in partnership to deliver the Crime Reduction Strategy:
- Working with the police, through the South Norfolk action Panels, on the prioritised issues for each neighbourhood area;
 - Working with Registered Social Landlords, such as Saffron Housing Trust, on their neighbourhood walkabouts and community issues;
 - Conducting SNAPs in schools and public places to engage with local communities and understand their local issues;
 - Neighbourhood Officers participating in the police's fortnightly tactical tasking and coordinating group sessions so we are as aware as they are of immediate issues;
 - Working with town and parish councils on anti-social behaviour issues and establishing, for example, Designated Public Place Orders, to curb public consumption of alcohol and

- Establishing restorative justice as a means of redressing harm caused to individuals and communities.
- 3.19. It is an irony of the progress that has been made in this field in the last ten years that the more mainstreamed the work has become, the less visible the partnership has become too. The partnership is no longer, as it tended to become a bureaucratic three-monthly meeting (repeating the agenda of the RAP to the same people, in the main) but is now a practical working response to the issues that affect everyday people's everyday lives.
- 3.20. It is clear, however, from the statutory guidance, that the work of the partnership and how the RAP as the governing body makes its strategic assessment, resulting plan , and delivery of it, needs to be very visible to the local community.
- 3.21. The re-establishment of the South Norfolk CDRP Responsible Authorities Partnership will oversee the work of the partnership, the implementation of the Crime Reduction Strategy and ensure the work is on the right track to address South Norfolk's local priorities.

4. Relevant Corporate Objectives

- 4.1. Get to grips with anti-social behaviour and other environmental crimes.

5. Other Options

- 5.1. None.

6. Implication –

Risk, Legal and Crime Reduction

- 6.1. Reviewing the constitution and terms of reference for the CDRP and its executive group, the RAP, will ensure that we comply with the revised statutory regulations.

7. Conclusion

- 7.1. The proposed constitution and terms of reference for the South Norfolk Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnership and its executive group the Responsible Authorities Partnership will ensure it is fit for purpose to meet the revised statutory requirements.