

Meeting: COUNCIL
Portfolio Area: Safer and Stronger Communities
Date: 1 October 2008

Agenda Item:
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STEVENAGE COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP PLAN 2008/2011
(Policy, Performance & Partnerships)

KEY DECISION

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1 PURPOSE

To consider the Stevenage Community Safety Partnership Plan 2008-2011

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- That the Stevenage Community Safety Partnership Plan 2008-2011 is noted and recommended to Council for approval
- That Scrutiny Overview Committee consider this matter and makes any comments direct to Council in October

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 places a duty on Stevenage Borough Council and other statutory agencies to work in partnership to reduce crime and disorder, anti-social behaviour and substance misuse. This partnership is known as the Stevenage Community Safety Partnership.
- 3.2 The partnership arrangements contained in the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 were amended in the Police and Justice Act 2006, and in subsequent regulations which came into force on 1 August 2007. The Act makes it a requirement for every Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) in England and Wales to produce an annual strategic assessment and to approve and publish a three-year Community Safety Partnership Plan. In line with this requirement, the Partnership Plan was taken to the Stevenage Community Safety Partnership Responsible Authorities Group (RAG) meeting of 19 May and agreed.

- 3.3 The purpose of the strategic assessment is to help identify which crime and disorder priorities to focus on. The strategic assessment was prepared by analysing: levels and patterns of crime, disorder and substance misuse; changes in levels of crime, disorder and substance misuse; and why these changes have occurred. From this analysis, priorities for the Stevenage Community Safety Partnership Plan 2008-2011 were identified.

4 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDED COURSE OF ACTION AND OTHER OPTIONS

- 4.1 The Stevenage Community Safety Partnership Plan 2008-2011 contains seven priorities to be tackled over the next three years. These are:

- reduce violent and serious violent crime
- reduce robbery, burglary, motor vehicle crime and theft
- reduce criminal damage
- reduce anti-social behaviour
- reduce re-offending
- improve feelings of safety, particular at night
- tackle drug and alcohol related crime and its impact on communities

The core part of the Partnership Plan describes why each identified priority is important and summarises the actions that will take place during 2008-09 to achieve the priority.

- 4.2 Each priority is also supported by a separate and more detailed action plan, which identifies who is responsible for delivering activity, deadlines for delivery, how the action contributes toward the achievement of the priorities and quantifiable success measures.
- 4.3 The Partnership Plan has also been informed by other local, county-wide and national plans and strategies. Locally, the Plan is consistent with the Stevenage Community Strategy and the Stevenage Children and Young People's Plan. At a county-wide level, the Partnership Plan complements the current and new Local Area Agreements.
- 4.4 The latter part of the Partnership Plan describes how performance and progress will be measured. In particular, to deliver the seven priorities it will be important that the work of the Stevenage Community Safety Partnership is of high quality and reflects best practice. To support this, the Government has identified 'Six Hallmarks of Effective Partnerships', which CDRPs are expected to comply with. The Stevenage Community Safety Partnership has reviewed its position in relation to the 'Six Hallmarks' and whilst the Partnership already matches up to most, there is further work to do to ensure complete compliance. The Partnership will be working towards achieving this during 2008/09.
- 4.5 Consultation on the priorities took place during January and February 2008 to ensure that they reflected the needs of stakeholders and the local community. This included an insert in Chronicle; specific consultation with hard to reach groups; a dedicated page on the Council's website which allowed people to submit a response electronically; and feedback at a Community Safety Forum meeting. A total of 195

responses were received, with many pointing to the need to tackle lower level crime, such as criminal damage and anti-social behaviour, drug and alcohol related crime, and the need to keep neighbourhoods clean and safe.

5 IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Financial Implications

There are no financial implications arising from this report. The actions contained in the Partnership Plan are developed around mainstream activities and therefore delivered through existing budgets. Where additional funding is required to deliver actions, the Safer, Stronger Communities Fund will be utilised or other external funding sought.

5.2 Legal Implications

Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 placed a legal obligation on the Stevenage Borough Council to have due regard to the likely effect of its actions on crime and disorder and to all that it reasonably can to prevent crime and disorder in its area.

The Stevenage Community Safety Partnership has a statutory duty to produce an annual strategic assessment and a three-year rolling Partnership Plan reviewed annually on behalf of its partners.

5.3 Risk Implications

Performance management arrangements have been put in place to ensure the delivery of the Partnership Plan. A number of targets have been identified to measure performance against priorities. These will be reviewed regularly through the balanced score card. In addition, the detailed action plans supporting the delivery of priorities will also be reviewed regularly. Where there is under-performance the Responsible Authorities Group will be alerted and corrective action identified and taken.

5.4 Policy Implications

The Partnership Plan 2008-2011 is consistent with the 'Keep the Town Safe' priority in the Council's Corporate Plan 2008-2013. The Plan also complements the 'Improve the Image of Stevenage' and 'Maintain a Clean and Green Environment' priorities.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

- None

APPENDICES

- Stevenage Community Safety Partnership Plan 2008-2011 - attached to report