

MEETING:	COUNCIL
DATE:	20 JULY 2012
TITLE OF REPORT:	HEREFORDSHIRE COMMUNITY SAFETY STRATEGY 2011 - 2014
PORTFOLIO AREA:	ENTERPRISE AND CULTURE

CLASSIFICATION: Open

Wards Affected

County-wide

Purpose

To endorse the Herefordshire Community Safety Strategy 2011 – 2014

Recommendation

THAT: Council adopts the Herefordshire Community Safety Strategy 2011-2014

Key Points Summary

- The local Community Safety Partnership (CSP) is responsible for producing a Community Safety Strategy. This is a statutory requirement under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. The Herefordshire Partnership Executive Group (HPEG) is responsible for the Community Safety Partnership's statutory duties and has been integral to the development of this strategy.
- This strategy is underpinned by an annual strategic needs assessment of crime and disorder in the county. This entails a robust process looking at partner information relating to crime and disorder and consultation with communities on what their concerns are. This information forms the basis of the strategy and informs the key priorities each year the CSP will focus on.
- This Strategy has to be renewed annually with the up to date information provided through the annual strategic needs assessment. The document provides the strategic direction for the CSP and it is the fundamental document of which the responsible authorities within the CSP (Police, Local Authority, Probation, Police Authority, Fire Service and Health) use for partnership work in the area of community safety.
- Direct funding to CSPs has been substantially reduced over recent years from the Home Office and future funding from April 2013 will be transferred to the elected Police and Crime Commissioners (PCC's) for each police force area. The Herefordshire Community Safety Partnership hopes to work closely with the West Mercia elected PCC in the future to prioritise the issues that matter most to local residents.

Alternative Options

1. No alternative options are applicable, it is a statutory requirement

Reasons for Recommendations

2. The Herefordshire Community Safety Strategy is in the Budget and Policy Framework and needs to be adopted.

Introduction and Background

3. Herefordshire Community Safety Partnership is a statutory partnership formed as a result of the 1998 Crime and Disorder Act and the later amended 2002 Police Reform Act. These acts placed a duty for the 'responsible authorities' to work together to reduce crime and disorder.
4. The Community Safety Strategy is underpinned by an annual strategic needs assessment of crime and disorder in the county. This entails a robust process looking at partner information relating to crime and disorder and consultation with communities on what their concerns are. This information forms the basis of the strategy and informs the key priorities each year the CSP will focus on. This Strategy has to be renewed annually with the up to date information provided through the annual strategic needs assessment. The document provides the strategic direction for the CSP and it is the fundamental document of which the responsible authorities within the CSP (Police, Local Authority, Probation, Police Authority, Fire Service and Health) use for partnership work in the area of community safety.
5. Direct funding to CSPs has been substantially reduced over recent years from the Home Office and future funding from April 2013 will be transferred to the elected Police and Crime Commissioners (PCC's) for each police force area. The Herefordshire Community Safety Partnership hopes to work closely with the West Mercia elected PCC in the future to prioritise the issues that matter most to local residents.

Key Considerations

6. The local Community Safety Partnership (CSP) is responsible for producing a Community Safety Strategy. This is a statutory requirement under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. Since April 2011 the Herefordshire Partnership Executive Group (HPEG) has become responsible for the Community Safety Partnerships statutory duties. The Strategy has to be refreshed annually to reflect the emerging priorities for partners and communities. The Herefordshire Community Safety Strategy has been reviewed using information from the annual strategic assessment.
7. The Strategy details what the priorities will be for 2012 – 2013 and how partners will work together and target resources where they are needed in the most efficient and effective way. The key priorities identified as
 - o **Integrated Offender Management (IOM)** - Through partnership working, activity is focussed around supporting offenders away from crime. This priority also seeks to ensure that repeat and vulnerable victims of crime are adequately supported.
 - o **Alcohol Harm Reduction** – Alcohol is seen as a joint priority for both the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWBB) and HPEG. Therefore a joint Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy and Action Plan are currently being developed which will include training front line staff to give brief advice, an education programme, intelligence led enforcement with a focus to intervening early to prevent violent crime and address health implications

relating to alcohol use.

- **Empowered Localities** - It is recognised that in order to deliver effectively and reduce crime and ensure that our communities feel safer, we need to work with communities in both identifying and tackling issues. As the Local Authority moves towards a locality model, focus will be on embedding community safety into all locality working.
- **Cross cutting themes include:**
 - Education
 - Substance Misuse
 - Communications
 - Equality and Diversity

8. The Strategy will ensure that partners work together and share resources efficiently and effectively, reducing crime rates and improving the quality of life for communities in Herefordshire. It will also provide an important link to the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) when elected in November 2012. The Strategy and the key priorities will be used to draw funding into the county when the opportunity arises. Continued overall Council support for community safety will be reviewed as part of the Root and Branch review programme.
9. Herefordshire Community Safety Partnership is required to provide Overview and Scrutiny Committee with an annual progress report on the work of the community safety partnership. This was done on 19th March 2012, when the Committee received an update on the current priorities and issues for the Community Safety Partnership and noted the refreshed Community Safety Strategy. Issues raised by Committee members included the rise in rural crime, particularly the theft of metal and scrap, concerns about unlicensed taxis, anti-social behaviour, especially linked to alcohol misuse, as well as speeding through rural areas, cold calling, concerns on the pricing of alcohol and the need for supermarkets to be more responsible about the sale of alcohol and the need to get reassurance messages out into communities. Whilst some of these are primarily policing issues, it should be noted that the Community Safety Partnership is prioritising alcohol harm reduction, multi-tasking to support the most vulnerable, as well as working with communities to address speeding traffic issues.
10. Cabinet reviewed the Strategy at its meeting on 16 April 2012 and has recommended to Council that it be adopted. Cabinet noted that performance had been achieved against most targets in 2011/12. It also recognised the future role of the Police and Crime Panel which would add greater accountability across the West Mercia Police Force area.

Community Impact

11. Herefordshire Community Safety Partnership is committed to effectively serving all members of the community and will ensure that actions and plans consider all groups and sections of Herefordshire's communities. All partners will work together to ensure that services are commissioned which do not disadvantage any members of the community and support the most vulnerable members of the community.

Equality and Human Rights

12. This strategy pays regard to equality and human rights and will not negatively impact on any members of the community.

Financial Implications

13. Delivery of the Strategy priorities will be undertaken within the constraints of available partnership funded budgets and carry no additional funding implications for Herefordshire Public Services.

Legal Implications

14. None identified.

Risk Management

15. Any risks identified within the Strategy will be managed through the Herefordshire Partnership Executive Group (HPEG).

Consultees

16. Consultation has taken place over a period of 6 months, collating data and information to produce the annual strategic assessment which informs the Herefordshire Community Safety Strategy. Information is gathered from various sources such as survey results, data collection from partners such as police, probation, registered housing providers, local authority, courts, youth offending and third sector organisations.
17. The following consultation to identify the priorities has included:
 - Members of Herefordshire Partnership Executive Group including the responsible authorities.
 - Consultation was completed through the Strategic assessment which informs this Strategy and the priorities. This was completed between 1st July and 30th November 2011 and included the following:
 - Surveys sent to all Parish Councils.
 - Surveys sent to local businesses through the Chamber of Commerce.
 - Opportunity for people to fill out the survey was highlighted in First Press.
 - Herefordshire livestock market was visited 3 times to engage with rural communities during the summer months.
 - West Mercia Police complete a Crime Survey and results from their quarterly surveys completed during 2010-2011 were also used to inform the strategic assessment and the Community Safety Strategy.
18. All comments have been taken into consideration through the strategic assessment and have assisted in identifying the priorities for this financial year. Comments from partners have assisted in developing the Herefordshire Community Safety Strategy.

Appendices

19. Herefordshire Community Safety Strategy 2011 – 2014

Background Papers

None identified.