

Meeting: Overview, Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee

Date: 7 November 2018

Title: Draft Safer North Tyneside Community Safety Strategy 2019-2024

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Service: Environment, Housing and Leisure

Wards affected: All

1. Purpose of Report

This report provides details of the completed consultation process in respect of the Safer North Tyneside Community Safety Strategy 2019-2024 ('the Strategy') which; under the Budget and Policy Framework; is to be considered by the Overview, Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee.

The Committee are invited to provide any comments or recommendations to the Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Engagement and the Safer North Tyneside Partnership Board, to be taken into account in formulating the final draft of the Strategy.

2. Recommendations

The Committee is invited to:

- a) Consider the consultation results and feedback on the Strategy detailed in this report;
- b) Note the final version of the Safer North Tyneside Community Safety Strategy 2019-2024, attached as **Appendix 1** to this report; and
- c) Provide any final comments or recommendation to the Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Engagement to consider as appropriate.

3. Details

3.1 Background and Context

The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 places a duty on responsible authorities to work together to tackle crime, disorder, substance misuse and reoffending within the community.

Our established Community Safety Partnership, Safer North Tyneside (SNT) oversees this statutory responsibility. A key requirement of the Partnership, is the production of a Community Safety Strategy. The current Community Safety Strategy covers the period April 2014 to 31 March 2019. Council approved the current Strategy at its meeting on 13 March 2014.

There have been a number of significant changes in the community safety landscape since the last Strategy was approved in 2014. Members of the Committee will remember the Northumbria Police and Crime Commissioner addressed Council on 27 September 2018 and spoke about some of the emerging types of crime and disorder. Some of these emerging issues are not only a challenge for Northumbria Police but also for the Council and its partners. There are a number of cross cutting issues that are complex in nature such as child sexual exploitation, modern day slavery, delivery of the Government's CONTEST agenda and cyber crime. To fully address the cross cutting nature of these emerging issues the SNT Board intends to work even more closely with similar forums, such as the Safeguarding Adults Board and the Local Children's Safeguarding Board and ensuring that we are jointly informed of the overall picture and are prioritising activity through our respective work plans.

In order to make sure that we are fulfilling our full statutory role as a Partnership, we have ensured that the draft SNT Partnership Strategy aligns with the Northumbria Police and Crime Commissioner's priorities which are set out in the Northumbria Police and Crime Plan 2017-2021. The strategic governance arrangements for the SNT Partnership lie with the North Tyneside Strategic Partnership Executive which receives quarterly reports from the SNT Partnership Board. As part of reporting arrangements for the new Strategy, it is proposed that there will also be an annual report to Cabinet to report progress against the annual work plan. Scrutiny will be provided by the Housing Sub Committee.

Crime levels in North Tyneside have risen significantly over the last three years, while the number of anti-social behaviour incidents has reduced. This is mostly due to Northumbria Police encouraging more robust reporting, although there has been an increase in some types of crime. Many anti-social behaviour incidents are now classed as a criminal offence. At a borough level, violence without injury offences have increased significantly and is the highest reported criminal offence in North Tyneside.

The annual resident's survey shows that residents' perception of community safety remains consistent compared to previous years at a borough level, but at a local level in the Southern wards of the borough the perception of feeling safe during the day has decreased significantly. The southern wards are showing higher than the borough average crime rates for violent offences, public order and anti-social behaviour incidents. This remains a key strategic focus for the SNT Partnership and membership has been reviewed to include some key partners with roles in tackling public order and anti-social behaviour, such as the Whitley Bay Street Pastors and Nexus.

3.2 Community Safety Strategy Priorities

The Strategy takes into account the priorities of the Elected Mayor which are included within the Our North Tyneside Plan, specifically to provide a clean, green, healthy,

attractive, safe and sustainable environment and also to ensure that our people are cared for, protected and supported.

The SNT Partnership has identified four key priorities for North Tyneside:

- Safeguarding
- Public Protection
- Alcohol and Drugs; and
- Crime and Disorder.

These are set out in the final draft of the Strategy in **Appendix 1**.

For each identified priority, the Partnership will consider what current service provision exists, what current data sets and intelligence may be available, what current resource levels are available and what current awareness/communication strategies exist. This will help to shape the annual work plan and identify what actions need to be taken to support delivery of the Strategy over each of the five years the Strategy will be in place.

3.3 Consultation Process

Following consideration of the initial draft Strategy in January 2018, a formal consultation exercise took place between 28 February 2018 and 26 March 2018. The consultation was available online and in line with comments made by Members of the Committee, the consultation also included the Schools Improvement Service (via the Council's Community Engagement Team) and hard copies were also printed and distributed to all Libraries and Customer First Centres across the borough.

In addition, the consultation was also extended to Members of the North Tyneside Strategic Partnership Executive and a range of other Partners and groups that would have a particular view on elements of the SNT Strategy. These included:

- The current Residents Panel membership
- The Safer North Tyneside Hate Crime Group membership
- The membership of the local Police led Joint Engagement Group
- The Local Safeguarding Children's Board
- The local Safeguarding Adults Board
- The local Health and Wellbeing Board
- The Northumbria Police and Crime Commissioner

Members will note, previous to the formal consultation, that the initial draft strategy was shaped by discussions lead by our young people at the State of the Area event in October 2017. The session was developed by young Cabinet Members and explored community safety issues that are a concern to young people. Wider Members' feedback had also been considered through the Members' Enquiries system to identify community safety concerns reported.

3.4 Consultation Results and Feedback

A full breakdown of the results and a table completed with the feedback comments is attached as **Appendices 2 and 3**.

Members will note that the feedback was positive overall and that the majority of respondents were in agreement with and supportive of the priorities identified by the Safer North Tyneside Partnership.

One amendment has been made to the final Strategy following a suggestion about making specific reference to Domestic Abuse and Sexual Assault within the Safeguarding priority. The SNT Board agreed that including this wording enables us to further highlight the importance of these issues. Other comments related to wider issues and some were better addressed by our Partners. Those comments are highlighted in the action plan attached within **Appendix 3**.

3.5 Next Steps

Members are requested to provide any comments or recommendations on the final draft Strategy to the Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Engagement and SNT Partnership Board to consider as appropriate. The next steps, in line with the budget and policy framework are for the draft strategy to be considered by Cabinet on 26 November 2018 prior to presentation to Council on 17 January 2019 for approval.

Work has commenced on the first year's action plan which will be ready for the Strategy implementation date of 1 April 2019. This work is being overseen by the SNT Partnership Board. Partners have been asked to contribute to the action plan with activities planned for the financial year 2019-2020. The action plan will be a live document so that any newly emerging activities against the agreed priorities can be added throughout each year.

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Final draft Strategy

Appendix 2 – Consultation Response Results

Appendix 3 – Consideration of Consultation Responses

Background Information

The following documents have been used in the compilation of this report and may be inspected at the offices of the author.

[The Crime and Disorder Act 1998](#)

[Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011](#)

[The Crime and Disorder \(Formulation and Implementation of Strategy\) Regulations 2007](#)

[The Crime and Disorder \(Formulation and Implementation of Strategy\)\(Amendment\) Regulations 2011](#)

[Safer North Tyneside Community Safety Strategy 2014-2019](#)

[Northumbria Police and Crime Plan 2017-2021](#)