

# North Tyneside Council Report to Cabinet Date: 26 November 2018

**ITEM 6(d)**  
Item: Safer North  
Tyneside Community  
Safety Strategy 2019-2024  
– final proposals

**Portfolio:** Community Safety and  
Engagement

**Cabinet Member:** Councillor Carole  
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**Report from Service**

**Area:** Environment, Housing and Leisure

**Responsible Officer:** Phil Scott, Head of Environment,  
Housing and Leisure **Tel: (0191) 6437295**

**Wards affected:** All

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## PART 1

### 1.1 Executive Summary:

There is a statutory responsibility under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 for the Authority, in partnership with other agencies, to develop and publish a community safety partnership strategy that aims to tackle crime, disorder, substance misuse and reoffending within the community.

The Safer North Tyneside Community Safety Partnership has a Community Safety Strategy (the 'Strategy') in place that expires in March 2019 and therefore needs to be renewed.

This report outlines the strategic priorities of the Safer North Tyneside Community Safety Partnership for the period 2019-2024. It follows a comprehensive consultation exercise and commits the partnership to an annual Strategic Needs Assessment to identify specific areas of focus.

The Strategy forms part of the Authority's Budget and Policy Framework.

### 1.2 Recommendation:

It is recommended that Cabinet agree the final proposals for the draft Safer North Tyneside Community Safety Strategy attached as **Appendix 1** to this report.

### 1.3 Forward Plan:

Twenty eight days notice of this report has been given and it first appeared on the Forward Plan that was published on 26 October 2018.

## 1.4 Council Plan and Policy Framework

This report relates to the following priorities in the 2018 to 2020 Our North Tyneside Plan:

Our places will:

- Provide a clean, green, healthy, attractive and safe and sustainable environment.

Our People will:

- Be cared for, protected and supported

The Strategy forms part of the Authority's Policy Framework and must be formulated and approved in accordance with the process set out in sections 2.2 and 2.3 of this report.

## 1.5 Information:

### 1.5.1 Background

The Crime and Disorder Act 1998, as amended by the Police Reform Act 2002, Police and Justice Act 2006, the Police and Crime Act 2009 and the Crime and Disorder Regulations 2011, places a duty on 'responsible authorities' to work together, with other agencies, to tackle crime, disorder, substance misuse and reoffending within the community. The responsible authorities in North Tyneside are North Tyneside Council, Northumbria Police, Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Authority, Northumbria Probation Trust and North Tyneside Clinical Commissioning Group.

It is a statutory requirement for Community Safety Partnerships (known in this Borough as Safer North Tyneside or the SNT Partnership) to prepare an annual strategic assessment of crime and disorder activities and for this assessment to shape how the SNT Partnership responds to emerging issues. This process informs the Community Safety Strategy and the review of that Strategy.

The Safer North Tyneside Partnership has agreed that its next Strategy will cover the period 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2024. A copy of the final proposals for the draft Strategy is included as **Appendix 1**. Cabinet previously approved initial proposals for the development of the new Strategy at their meeting on 11 December 2017 prior to undertaking a consultation exercise in accordance with the Authority's Budget and Policy Framework rules.

### 1.5.2 The Strategy in Context

North Tyneside is one of the safest areas of the country to live, work and visit with comparatively low levels of crime. The recent Safer Communities Survey showed that perceptions of crime being a problem in North Tyneside remain extremely low at 3%. This was the lowest of any area in the Northumbria Police force area, which had an average of 6%.

It is important to recognise the contribution all partners continue to make in ensuring the Borough remains a safe place. Since the implementation of the current Strategy the SNT Partnership has achieved the following:

### Victim Support

- Supported the introduction of a new Victim Support Scheme by the Police and Crime Commissioner to better support victims of crime by engaging with the service provider to help shape the services locally;

### Domestic Abuse

- Engaged in partnership work with other local authority areas to define and establish links with Domestic Abuse and the Health economy to enable victims to access appropriate health support;
- Helped to introduce North Tyneside Council's Domestic Abuse Champions Scheme. This is a network of trained staff volunteers who offer initial support to other staff who are domestic abuse victims;

### Public Protection

- Overseen the procurement of mobile CCTV cameras for deployment in line with local policing priorities. These cameras are deployed when needed to manage crime and disorder in identified 'hot spot' areas across the Borough;
- Provided governance for the recent CCTV procurement project which will see the renewal of all current public space CCTV across the Borough as well as a new CCTV control room;
- Worked with North Tyneside Council to shape implementation of the new Public Spaces Protection Orders to help tackle environmental and anti social behaviour issues in our parks and public spaces;

### Hate Crime

- Established a Hate Crime task and finish group to identify the scope of hate crime in the Borough and to provide some signposting to support mechanisms for victims of all hate crimes;

### Anti Social Behaviour

- Supported the Young Mayor who was successful in securing funding for the Anti-Bullying schools campaign. This campaign raised awareness of the issues around bullying and the impacts on victims in schools right across the Borough;
- Provided funding for taxi marshals in Tynemouth as an interim measure to help manage incidents of anti social behaviour;

### Prevent

- Secured funding for VODA (Voluntary Organisations Development Agency) and the local charity Walking With to undertake further educational work under the Prevent Strategy. This was specifically designed to assist with some refugee re-settlement work and to help provide further educational tools to help run training events for other voluntary organisations;
- Coordinated and facilitated Project Argus counter terrorism events for local businesses. These were part of a national training programme to help local businesses learn how they can assist in the initial response to a terrorist incident;
- Coordinated the introduction of a new multi agency Channel Panel process to tackle the early signs of radicalisation under the Prevent Scheme. This is a multi agency approach which aims to draw the person away from radicalisation and to address any underlying support issues that may assist the individual;
- Managed the production of a Coordination Plan for the multi agency response to a terrorist attack under the CONTEST legislation. This brings together a multi agency

planned response to a terrorist attack in the Borough and identifies roles and responsibilities of the various responder organisations;

#### Community Resilience

- Helped to introduce the Volunteer Flood Warden Scheme. This came about after Thunder Thursday in June 2012 and created a network of volunteers to help identify and assist vulnerable people during flooding as well as provide us with some up to the minute information from the ground before, during and after flooding;
- Supported the introduction of Response Pastors in the Borough to assist with the community response to an emergency. The Response Pastor scheme expands the role of a Street Pastor to those volunteers who can assist our communities during an emergency or major incident.

#### 1.5.3 Developing the Community Safety Strategy 2019-2024

The draft Strategy has been developed by the SNT Partnership which has been mindful of the number of significant changes affecting the community safety landscape since the last Strategy was approved.

Cabinet will remember the Northumbria Police and Crime Commissioner (the PCC) 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 Authority 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 Partnership intends to work even more closely with other agencies and partners including for instance the Safeguarding Adults Board and the Local Children's Safeguarding Board to ensure that there is a jointly informed understanding of the overall picture and priority activity is delivered through the respective work plans.

The SNT Partnership has considered the latest available crime and disorder strategic assessment, and the priorities included within Police and Crime Plan 2017-2024, developed by the Northumbria Police and Crime Commissioner.

The Strategy has also 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.

In addition, the SNT Partnership knows it needs to support the many strategic plans and projects that the Authority and its partners are delivering. This includes making links to the scoping work underway on the Drugs and Alcohol Strategy and Cabinet's recent approval of the Travel Safety Strategy; developed under the North Tyneside Transport Strategy; which considers a broad range of safety and personal security issues for transport users.

#### 1.5.4 Identified Priorities

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 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.

#### 1.5.5 Consultation

Following consideration of the initial draft Strategy in December 2017 by Cabinet and then in January 2018 by Overview, Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee, a formal public consultation exercise took place between 28 February 2018 and 26 March 2018. The consultation was available online and, in line with comments received by Members, the consultation also included the Schools Improvement Service (via the Authority'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 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

Cabinet will remember that, prior to the formal consultation, the initial draft strategy was shaped by discussions with 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 any Members' Enquiries which had identified community safety issues throughout 2017.

#### 1.5.6 Consultation Results and Feedback

In total 47 responses were received to the consultation exercise. A summary of the consultation results is attached in **Appendix 2**. Members will note that the feedback was positive overall and that the majority of respondents were in agreement with the priorities in the Strategy.

One amendment has been made to the final draft Strategy following a suggestion about making more specific reference to Domestic Abuse and Sexual Assault within the Safeguarding priority. Other comments related to wider issues and some were better addressed by our partners, so the comments were relayed to the appropriate party.

Since the consultation took place the SNT Partnership has reviewed the draft Strategy to ensure that it takes into account new matters such as; the Domestic Violence and Abuse Bill, and the policy steer given by the Elected Mayor and her Cabinet to encourage a

greater sense of place in the Borough, particularly in relation to tackling anti-social behaviour and environmental crime.

#### 1.5.7 Delivering the Strategy

The new Strategy will be supported by an annual work plan once it is approved. Work has already started to identify activities across partner organisations and these are being collated centrally for agreement by the SNT Partnership. Progress against this work plan will be reported by all relevant partners and the SNT Partnership will own and maintain the delivery plan.

Performance will be managed by the SNT Partnership and reported quarterly to the North Tyneside Strategic Partnership. An annual report on progress against the operational delivery plan will be presented to Cabinet at the end of each delivery year. The Housing Sub Committee provides ongoing scrutiny of the work of the SNT Partnership.

The SNP Partnership is also reviewing its membership with a view to expanding it. This review will be complete in good time for the implementation of the new Strategy.

#### 1.6 **Decision options:**

The following decision options are available for consideration by Cabinet:

##### Option 1

Cabinet approves the draft Safer North Tyneside Community Safety Strategy attached as Appendix 1 to this report.

##### Option 2

Cabinet does not approve the draft Safer North Tyneside Community Safety Strategy attached as Appendix 1 to this report.

Option 1 is the recommended option.

#### 1.7 **Reasons for recommended option:**

Option 1 is recommended for the following reasons:

This will enable the Strategy to be considered by Council in accordance with the constitutional requirements of the budget and policy framework and ensure that it is in place by 1 April 2019 to meet the requirements of the provisions of the Crime and Disorder Act 1988.

#### 1.8 **Appendices:**

Appendix 1: Draft Safer North Tyneside Strategy

Appendix 2: Summary of consultation responses

## **1.9 Contact officers:**

Lindsey Ojomo, Resilience, Security Services and Community Safety Manager, tel. (0191) 643 7780

Janine Charlton, Community Safety Officer, tel. (0191) 643 6442

Colin MacDonald, Senior Manager Technical and Regulatory Services, Environment, Housing and Leisure, tel. (0191) 643 6620

Alison Campbell, Senior Business Partner, Finance, Tel (0191) 643 7038

## **1.10 Background information:**

The following background papers/information have been used in the compilation of this report and are available at the office of the author:

- (1) [The Crime and Disorder Act 1998](#)
- (2) [Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011](#)
- (3) [The Crime and Disorder \(Formulation and Implementation of Strategy\) Regulations 2007](#)
- (4) [The Crime and Disorder \(Formulation and Implementation of Strategy\)\(Amendment\) Regulations 2011](#)
- (5) [Safer North Tyneside Community Safety Strategy 2014-2019](#)
- (6) [Northumbria Police and Crime Plan 2017-2021](#)
- (7) [Strategic Needs Assessment](#)
- (8) [Equality Impact Assessment](#)

## **PART 2 – COMPLIANCE WITH PRINCIPLES OF DECISION MAKING**

### **2.1 Finance and other resources**

There are no financial or other resources implications arising directly from this report. The consultation on the strategy outlined in the report was funded from existing revenue budgets. In addition, the operational delivery plan will be developed and delivered through existing resources. However, any future financial implications that might arise through the development of the Strategy, and which cannot be contained within existing budgets, would be reported to Cabinet for approval before any additional spend is committed .

### **2.2 Legal**

There is a statutory requirement under sections 5-7 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 for local 'responsible authorities' to create a partnership in each local authority geographical area in order to address community safety issues. The same legislation states that a Strategy must also be in place to support the work of the Partnership.

The Community Safety Strategy forms part of the Authority's Policy Framework and is required to be formulated and progressed in compliance with the requirements of the Policy Framework Procedure Rules at section 4.7 of the Constitution.

The Constitution recognises that a number of strategies or plans are prepared under partnership arrangements, and that such documents need to be negotiated and agreed by the relevant authorities. One such strategy is the Community Safety Strategy, the preparation of which is the responsibility of the Safer North Tyneside Partnership. The Constitution (at Article 4.4) makes clear that the Council should not usually overturn any plans and strategies already agreed with local partners provided that the Budget and Policy Framework Rules have been complied with.

## **2.3 Consultation/community engagement**

### **2.3.1 Internal Consultation**

The draft Strategy has been considered by the Authority's Senior Leadership Team and Lead Member Briefing. Both the initial and final proposals have been considered by the Authority's Overview, Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee as part of the Budget and Policy Framework. Comments received have been incorporated into the final version of the Strategy.

Once the final draft of the Strategy is agreed by Cabinet, it will then be considered by full Council for final approval so that it is in place for implementation on 1 April 2019. This meets the requirements of the Authority's Budget and Policy Framework.

### **2.3.2 External Consultation/Engagement**

The Membership of the Safer North Tyneside Board has shaped the content of the Strategy and has already provided comment on the final draft Strategy. Public consultation took place during 2018 in line with the Authority's Community Engagement Strategy. The Membership of the Safer North Tyneside Partnership includes statutory community safety partners and representatives from the local community and voluntary sector.

As well as the North Tyneside Strategic Partnership, a range of other groups were consulted as part of the public consultation process:

- The current Residents Panel membership;
- Any specific groups currently engaged with relevant workstreams, such as project work with the Authority's Community Engagement Team;
- The Safer North Tyneside Hate Crime Group membership;
- The membership of the local Police led Joint Engagement Group;
- The Local Safeguarding Children Board;
- The local Safeguarding Adults Board; and
- The local Health and Wellbeing Board

The consultation was also provided to the Schools Improvement Service and hard copies were distributed to every Library and Customer First Centre.

The Police and Crime Commissioner for Northumbria was also consulted on the priorities. The content of the Strategy has been written to help support the objectives in the local Police and Crime Plan.

The draft Strategy was also been discussed at State of the Area event with young people and comments taken into account in drafting the Strategy.



## 2.4 Human rights

There are no human rights implications directly arising from this report.

## 2.5 Equalities and diversity

There are no adverse equality and diversity implications directly arising from this report. An Equality Impact Assessment on the consultation process was undertaken. There may be particular groups that the finalised strategy may have a positive impact on in areas such as Hate Crime.

## 2.6 Risk management

The Strategy considers community safety risks and the supporting delivery plan will set out work to help mitigate these risks and where appropriate, work to manage the consequences of those risks in communities.

## 2.7 Crime and disorder

The Strategy deals with the reduction of crime and disorder in the borough as one of the Partnership's key priorities for North Tyneside.

## 2.8 Environment and sustainability

There are no environment and sustainability implications arising directly from this report.

## PART 3 - SIGN OFF

- Acting Chief Executive
- Head(s) of Service
- Mayor/Cabinet Member(s)
- Chief Finance Officer
- Monitoring Officer
- Head of Corporate Strategy and Customer Service