
Meeting	Business Management Overview & Scrutiny Committee
Date	20 November 2012
Subject	Crime and Disorder Scrutiny – Update on Implementation of the Safer Communities Strategy 2011/12 – 2014/15
Report of Summary	Scrutiny Office This report updates the Committee on the progress made by the Safer Communities Partnership Board in implementing the Safer Communities Strategy 2011/12 to 2014/15.

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Status (public or exempt)	Public
Wards Affected	All
Function of	Business Management Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Enclosures	Appendix A – Barnet Safer Communities Strategy 2011/12 – 2014/15 Appendix B – Safer Communities Partnership Board, 16 October 2012, Strategy Progress Review
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1. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 That the Committee consider the progress made by Safer Communities Partnership Board in implementing the Safer Communities Strategy 2011/12 to 2014/15.**
- 1.2 That the Committee make appropriate comments and/or recommendations to the Safer Communities Partnership Board on the Safer Communities Strategy 2011/12 to 2014/15 for reporting to the Board meeting in January 2013 when they consider an Annual Review of the Strategy.**

2. RELEVANT PREVIOUS DECISIONS

- 2.1 Policy & Performance Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 25 January 2010, Decision 7, Crime & Disorder (Overview & Scrutiny) Regulations 2009
- 2.2 Policy & Performance Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 13 April 2010, Decision 6, Police Strategic Assessment
- 2.3 Business Management Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 28 February 2011, Decision Item 9, Crime and Disorder Scrutiny – the Committee received evidence from the responsible Cabinet Member and representatives from the Metropolitan Police. A number of recommendations were made for the Safer Communities Partnership Board to take into account when developing the Safer Communities Strategy for the period 2011/12 to 2014/15.
- 2.4 Cabinet, 11 September 2011, Decision Item 5, Safer Communities Strategy
- 2.5 Safer Communities Partnership Board, 16 October 2012, Agenda Item 5 (Safer Communities Strategy: Review of Progress Against Objectives)

3. CORPORATE PRIORITIES AND POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1 Overview and Scrutiny Committees, Panels and Task and Finish Groups must ensure that the work of Scrutiny is reflective of the Council's priorities.
- 3.2 The three priority outcomes set out in the 2012-13 Corporate Plan are: –
 - Better services with less money
 - Sharing opportunities, sharing responsibilities
 - A successful London suburb
- 3.3 Under the priority outcome of 'A successful London suburb', there is an improvement initiative of 'Working with our partners and residents to keep Barnet safe' which includes an undertaking to "...complete a review of our community safety work to ensure resources are allocated efficiently and effectively across the partners to deliver the Safer Communities Strategy..."

4. RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES

- 4.1 There is a reputational risk to the authority if the council's overview and scrutiny function fails to discharge their statutory responsibilities in relation to crime and disorder scrutiny.
- 4.2 There is a corporate and reputational risk that the targets in the strategy may not be achieved which may erode public confidence in the ability of the council and partners to make Barnet a safer place. This risk has been mitigated by rigorous performance monitoring at the Safer Communities Partnership Board and an annual review of priorities.

5. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

- 5.1 Pursuant to the Equality Act 2010 ("the Act"), the council has a legislative duty to have 'due regard' to eliminating unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Act; advancing equality of opportunity between those with a protected characteristic and those without; and promoting good relations between those with protected characteristics and those without. The 'protected characteristics' are age, race, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy, and maternity, religion or belief and sexual orientation. The 'protected characteristics' also include marriage and civil partnership, with regard to eliminating discrimination.
- 5.2 In addition to the Terms of Reference of the Committee, and in so far as relating to matters within its remit, the responsibility of the Committee is to perform the Overview and Scrutiny role with respect to:
- The Council's leadership role in relation to diversity and inclusiveness; and
 - The fulfilment of the Council's duties as employer including recruitment and retention, personnel, pensions and payroll services, staff development, equalities and health and safety.
- 5.3 The report to Cabinet on 11 September 2011 identified that each of the targets in the Strategy would have an equalities dimension as they may impact on communities in a differential way. As a result, review of performance against targets would target activity where particular groups were disproportionately victims of crime or offenders, building on data in the Strategic Assessment.
- 5.4 The report to Cabinet on 11 September 2011 also highlighted that the Strategy included targets around specific crime types that have an equalities dimension, such as domestic violence, which have been identified as priorities in Barnet's Equality Scheme.

6. USE OF RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS (Finance, Procurement, Performance & Value for Money, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)

- 6.1 The activities to deliver the Strategy will be met from the existing budgets of the Council and partners.

- 6.2 Any specific proposals arising from implementation of the Strategy that have particular resource implications will be reported to the relevant decision making bodies separately.

7. LEGAL ISSUES

- 7.1 Section 19 of the Police and Justice Act 2006 requires every local authority to have a crime and disorder committee with the power to review or scrutinise decisions made or other action taken in connection with the discharge by the responsible authorities of their crime and disorder functions. The Crime and Disorder (Overview and Scrutiny) Regulations 2009 complement these provisions and are supported by Home Office guidance.

8. CONSTITUTIONAL POWERS

- 8.1 The scope of the Overview & Scrutiny Committees is contained within Part 2, Article 6 of the Council's Constitution.
- 8.2 The Terms of Reference of the Overview & Scrutiny Committees are set out in the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules (Part 4 of the Constitution). The terms of reference of the Business Management Overview and Scrutiny Committee includes:

"In relation to crime and disorder:

- (i) to consider all matters, not the responsibility of the Executive, relating to crime, disorder, anti-social behaviour and scrutiny of the Safer Communities Partnership Board in accordance with the provisions of the Police and Justice Act 2006.
- (ii) to make recommendations to Council on the appointment of representatives to serve on the Barnet Community Safety Engagement Group and to receive regular reports as necessary from those representatives to highlight crime and disorder matters of public concern."

9. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 9.1 In 2009/10, the Policy and Performance Overview and Scrutiny Committee fulfilled their statutory duty (under the Police and Justice Act 2006) in relation to crime and disorder at their meeting on 13th April 2010. At the meeting, the Committee received a presentation from the Metropolitan Police Borough Commander (Barnet) on the Police Strategic Assessment.
- 9.2 In 2010/11, the Business Management Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee received evidence from the responsible Cabinet Member and representatives from the Metropolitan Police and made representations to the Barnet Safer Communities Partnership Board to inform the emerging priorities for the Safer Communities Strategy for the period 2011/12 to 2014/15.
- 9.3 In September 2011, the Cabinet approved the Safer Communities Strategy. The approved Strategy is set out at **Appendix A**.

- 9.4 The Safer Communities Partnership Board met on 16 October 2012 to consider progress made in implementing the Safer Communities Strategy 2011/12 to 2014/15. Details of this report are set out at **Appendix B**.
- 9.5 As the current strategy will be the subject of an annual review at the Safer Communities Partnership Board in January 2013, the Committee are requested to consider progress made in strategy implementation and whether they wish to make any recommendations to the Safer Communities Partnership Board regarding the realignment of strategy objectives.
- 9.6 The Cabinet Member for Safety and Resident Engagement and the Metropolitan Police Chief Superintendent for Barnet will be invited to the Committee to provide an update on current performance.

10. LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 10.1 Home Office, National Support Framework – Delivering Safer and Confident Communities, Guidance for the Scrutiny of Crime and Disorder Matters – England Implementing Sections 19 and 20 of the Police and Justice Act 2006.

Cleared by Finance (Officer's initials)	MC/JH
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