

<b>Council</b>			
<b>Report Title</b>	Safer Lewisham Strategy 2011 – 2014		
<b>Key Decision</b>	Yes	Item No.	8
<b>Ward</b>	All		
<b>Contributors</b>	Executive Director for Community Services		
<b>Class</b>	Part 1	Date: 29 June 2011	

### 1. Purpose of the Report

This report presents the Safer Lewisham Strategy 2011 – 2014 and its priorities. The strategy should be read in conjunction with the Safer Lewisham Plan 2011 -12 which outlines the strategic priorities for this financial year and is attached to this report at Appendix B

### 2. Recommendation

Council is recommended to:

Agree the 3 year strategy for the partnership to deal with crime and disorder in Lewisham.

### 3. Policy Context

3.1 The Sustainable Community Strategy outlines the strategic direction for delivery of services and developments in Lewisham. Specifically linked to the 'Safer' agenda are the following priorities:

- Reduce the overall levels of crime to below the average for London
- Tackle anti social behaviour and ensure people feel confident and safe throughout the borough
- Keep our young people safe from harm, abuse and criminal activity.

3.2 In addition the Council's priorities specifically focus on safety, security and visible presence.

3.3 The national and local policy context is outlined in detail within the strategy. The Government intends to make significant changes to legislation and strategic direction in the way crime and disorder is tackled. There are a number of consultations underway by central government that will shape the future policy direction.

- 3.4 This strategy has been written with these changes in mind, including levels of flexibility to ensure that the partnerships are well placed to deliver on a changing landscape.

#### **4. Background**

- 4.1 The Strategy is a statutory requirement under the Crime And Disorder Act 1998. This strategy has been developed with all partners involved in the Safer Lewisham Partnership (SLP) and sets a direction local delivery on this agenda, whilst acknowledging that changes in policy are forthcoming.
- 4.2 The 5 aims of public protection through crime reduction set out in the Strategy are:
1. Reducing anti social behaviour (ASB)
  2. Reducing reoffending – rehabilitation, punishment and payback
  3. Working with young people – both victims and perpetrators of crime – Youth Justice
  4. ‘Volume Crime’ – offending that affects most people in Lewisham
  5. Making Lewisham safer through crime prevention and working with communities.
- 4.3 The strategy outlines in detail why these areas have been identified as priorities and what residents will see as a result of the partnerships focus on these areas. Please see Appendix A for the full strategy.
- 4.4 Each year of the strategy will be reviewed and a strategic assessment undertaken to refocus on changes that may occur in the year. The strategic assessment will develop an annual plan for the partnership to deliver against. Please see Appendix B for the annual plan for 2011-2012.
- 4.5 The Strategy and the Plan have previously been to the Safer Stronger Scrutiny Committee on 18 May 2011 and to Mayor and Cabinet on 1 June 2011.

#### **5. Legal Implications**

- 5.1 Section 19 of the Police and Justice Act 2006 places an obligation upon Local Authorities to have a committee that scrutinises Crime & Disorder within its area.
- 5.2 Within the context of the powers of this committee, the section provides that it should have the power to “ (a) review or scrutinise decisions made, or other action taken, in connection with the discharge by the responsible authorities for example, police and other relevant partner agencies of their crime and disorder functions; (b) to make reports or recommendations to the local authority with respect to the discharge of those functions.” Further, where this committee makes a report or recommendations it shall provide a copy— (a) to each of the responsible authorities, and (b) to each of the persons with whom, and bodies with which, the responsible authorities have a duty to co-operate under section 5(2) of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (“the co-operating persons and bodies”).

- 5.3 The Local Government Act 1999 places a duty on the local authorities to secure continuous improvement in the way its functions are exercised having regard to the combination of economy, efficiency and effectiveness.
- 5.4 These statutory duties amongst others are relevant to the production of the Council's Safer Lewisham Strategy.

## **6. Financial Implications**

There are no specific financial implications arising from this report. Work described in the strategy and plan will be met from the agreed revenue budgets of the various partner organisations.

## **7. Environmental Implications**

Specific environmental implications of crime and disorder are reviewed annually through the strategic assessment process and appropriate action taken as required.

## **8. Equalities Implications**

Equalities implications will be considered throughout the delivery of this strategy. An Equalities Impact Assessment is produced annually as a result of the development of statutory annual assessments and plans.

## **9. Crime and Disorder Implications**

- 9.1 Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1988, as amended places a duty upon Local Authorities to consider crime and disorder implications and in particular, "to exercise its various functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent, crime and disorder in its area." This statutory obligation is the same for the Authorities "responsible partners" too. The level of crime and its impact is influenced by the decisions and activities taken through the day-to-day functions of local bodies and organisations.
- 9.2 Responsible Authorities are required to provide a range of services in their community from policing, fire protection, planning, consumer and environmental protection, transport and highways. They each have a key statutory role in providing these services and, in carrying out their core activities, can significantly contribute to reducing crime and improving the quality of life in their area.

**For further information on this item please contact Geeta Subramaniam, Head of Crime Reduction and Supporting people on 020 8314 8561.**