

Safer, Stronger Communities: City Plan (2021-2024) ~ Consultation

Date: 13th September 2021

Report of: Chief Officer of Safer, Stronger Communities

Report to: Director of Communities, Housing and Environment

Will the decision be open for call in? Yes No

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? Yes No

What is this report about?

Including how it contributes to the city's and council's ambitions

- This report forms part of the consultation phase with the public on the new '**Safer, Stronger Communities: City Plan**' (2021-2024), as developed by the statutory Safer Leeds partnership.
- This City Plan will contribute directly to the Best Council Plan (2020-2025) specifically in relation to the Safe, Strong Communities element and the overarching ambition that Safer Leeds partnership seeks to achieve: '*People in Leeds are safe and feel safe in their homes, in the streets and the places they go*'.

Recommendations

- a) That the Director of Communities, Housing and Environment authorise a 6-week public consultation on the draft Safer, Stronger Communities: City Plan.

Why is the proposal being put forward?

- 1 Safer Leeds Executive (SLE is the city's community safety partnership) has a statutory requirement to prepare and implement a local Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy. Locally, this strategy will be known as the '**Safer, Stronger Communities: City Plan**', within the next three years cycle.
- 2 Through this delegated decision report and as part of the consultation phase, a 6-week public consultation will be open for feedback specifically in relation to the strategic priorities and shared priorities, as set out in the City Plan, to inform any suggested changes before continuing the formal approval process.
- 3 The draft City Plan sets out the overarching ambition of the Partnership: '**People in Leeds are safe and feel safe in their homes, in the streets and the places they go**'.

The proposed Strategic Priorities are:

- Keep people safe from harm (victim)
- Prevent & reduce offending (offender)
- Create safer, stronger communities (location)

The proposed Shared Priorities are:

- ASB and Public Order
- Domestic Violence and Abuse
- Hate Crime
- Illicit Drugs and Substance Use
- Offending Behaviours
- Organised Crime and Street Gangs
- Exploitation and Radicalisation
- People with multiple needs (Street Users and Sex Workers)
- Violence and Sexual Crime (Inc. Modern Slavery & Human Trafficking)
- Violence Against Women and Girls

- 4 The partnership's strategic priorities of 'victim, offender and location' denotes both a universal and targeted approach to addressing community safety concerns, regardless of the issue, with a recognition that to achieve the desired outcomes the emphasis must be on 'People and Place'.

What impact will this proposal have?

Wards Affected: All

Have ward members been consulted? Yes No

- 5 During the production of the draft City Plan, we have heard how the impact of crime on individuals, families and neighbourhoods can be devastating and we understand how the fear of crime can affect people in their homes, on the streets and the places they go. Some communities will experience crime and anti-social behaviour because of who they are, or where they live and some may not feel comfortable in coming forward and reporting it, this is not right. In turn, peoples' experiences and perceptions can have a detrimental impact on their lives. At the same time, we know the nature and type of crime is changing and evolving; cyber related crime has become more prevalent, and there are a multitude of platforms that are now used to facilitate, exploit, and groom people.

- 6 Recognising that no single agency can address these complex community safety risks, threats, and harms alone, Safer Leeds firmly believes that working in collaboration with communities is fundamental to preventing crime and ASB, and reducing its impact on individuals, families, and communities. Specifically, during this consultation, Safer Leeds wants to hear if the proposed 'step changes' reflect the communities that it serves, and to inform the strategic direction over the next three years.
- 7 Of note, feedback will also inform the application the Safer, Stronger Communities Model (referred to the draft City Plan) which is based around a 'People' and 'Place' approach with an increased emphasis on: i) identification and prevention ii) early intervention and response iii) recovery and resilience. Fundamental to this model will be connecting the wider social and economic determinants that impact on communities, so as a city we can:
 - ❖ Strengthen the safer and stronger elements of partnership working
 - ❖ Address crime and anti-social behaviour to keep people safe from harm, and
 - ❖ Be responsive to local needs, to create thriving, resilient communities that promotes respect

What consultation and engagement has taken place?

- 8 SLE has a statutory requirement to produce an annual 'Joint Strategic Assessment' (JSA) to assess the scale and nature of crime and disorder in the city and to identify medium to long term issues affecting community safety. The JSA includes analysis of a range of both quantitative and qualitative data from across the partnership. This was presented to SLE in March 2021 and partners and representatives from a range of stakeholders (Leeds City Council; West Yorkshire Police; West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service; National Probation Trust; Leeds Clinical Commissioning Group, the Voluntary and Community Sector, West Yorkshire Community Rehabilitation Company; HM Prison Service, Leeds Children's Trust Board; Leeds Health and Wellbeing Board, Leeds Safeguarding Adults Board; Leeds Safeguarding Children Board) have helped shape and contributed to the draft Safer, Stronger Communities: City Plan.
- 9 Evidence from public consultation via the Office of the Crime and Commissioner and intelligence collated from residents accessing services delivered by Community Safety, such as the Leeds Anti-Social Behaviour Team, have also been used to inform the contents of the draft City Plan, along with a number of Outcomes Based Accountability sessions held with operational professionals and service users during 2019 and 2020 on a range of community safety agendas.
- 10 The draft City Plan was formally approved by the SLE on the 5th July 2021 and was shared with the Scrutiny Board (Environment, Housing and Communities) on the 15th July 2021 as part of the early consultation phase with a report on progress made during the last community safety strategy.
- 11 In addition, the consultation on the new West Yorkshire Police and Crime Plan 2021-2024, through the Mayor's Office, is taking currently taking place and findings from this will also inform the local strategic direction, in terms of place-based setting priorities.

What are the resource implications?

- 12 In terms of the consultation, the resource implications are officer time in collating feedback and making any change recommendations to the draft Safer, Stronger Communities: City Plan.

What are the legal implications?

- 13 Community Safety Partnerships have a statutory requirement to prepare and implement a local Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy every 3 years. In doing so, these local

strategies are expected to have regard to the objectives set out in the Police and Crime Plan, for that area.

- 14 This report does not contain any exempt or confidential information. As the proposal is to consult with the public on the draft City Plan and as such, this is a significant operational decision.

What are the key risks and how are they being managed?

- 15 National changes to government legislation and prioritisation will bring both challenges and opportunities for the city. The draft City Plan sets out the local strategic direction and is SLE will remain flexible to adjust to any new or emerging crime and disorder risks where the partnership can add value.

Does this proposal support the council's 3 Key Pillars?

- 16 Inclusive Growth Health and Wellbeing Climate Emergency

Options, timescales and measuring success

a) What other options were considered?

- 17 None, as the Joint Strategic Assessment and feedback from partners consultations have already been included in shaping the draft City Plan.
- 18 This option provides a direct opportunity for the public to inform the final Safer, Stronger Communities: City Plan; and will also inform partnership delivery plans and the work of the local authority, through its ambitions as set out in the Best Council Plan.

b) How will success be measured?

- 19 Consultation will strengthen our collaborative approach of working with communities to create Safer, Stronger Communities in Leeds, ensuring the City Plan is fit for purpose and helps shape the strategic partnership direction over the next three years.

c) What is the timetable for implementation?

- 20 The approval of the Safer, Stronger Communities: City Plan is a matter for full Council and will follow the Budgetary and Policy Framework. The suggested timescale for approval is as follows:
- The Director releases the draft City Plan for a 6-week consultation period
 - This consultation phase will also be open to Environment, Housing & Communities Scrutiny Board on the 23/09 and return with any interim suggestions on the 21/10
 - The Executive Board to recommend final draft of the City Plan to Council 17/11 and included will be an Equality, Diversity, Cohesion and Integration Screening report
 - The City Plan will be presented to full Council for formal adoption 12/01

Appendices

- 1 Draft ***Safer, Stronger Communities: City Plan (2021-2024)***

Background papers

2 None