

# Culture and Communities Committee

**10.00am Tuesday 26 March 2019**

## **Community Safety Strategy 2020-2023**

Item number	9.2
Executive/routine	
Wards	
Council Commitments	

### **1. Recommendations**

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- 1.1 To note the recommendation from the Edinburgh Community Safety Partnership to develop an overarching city-wide Community Safety Strategy that will include an effective response to antisocial behaviour.

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## Community Safety Strategy 2020-2023

### 2. Executive Summary

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- 2.1 There are currently an array of strategies and plans in place that seek to tackle a range of community safety issues including antisocial behaviour (ASB).
- 2.2 Governance can be complex and gaps in provision as well as duplication in effort can occur.
- 2.3 The current ASB Strategy will conclude at the end of 2019 thus creating an opportunity for a comprehensive analysis to be carried out to assist in the formulation of a new strategy; reviewing the current community safety landscape, in terms of presenting issues, activity and governance.
- 2.4 The Edinburgh Community Safety Partnership (ECSP) has recommended that an overarching city wide Safety Strategy that focuses on key priorities and includes an effective response to ASB is developed.

### 3. Background

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- 3.1 Under the Antisocial Behaviour etc. (Scotland) Act 2004, each Local Authority and relevant Chief Constable are required to act jointly, to prepare and publish a strategy to deal with ASB in the authority's area.
- 3.2 Under the governance of the ECSP it has been agreed that a new Community Safety Strategy will be developed to include an effective response to antisocial behaviour and replace the former ASB Strategy that will conclude at the end of 2019.
- 3.3 This report provides a brief overview of the actions that will be taken in partnership with Police Scotland and other key agencies and stakeholders to take forward the development of the new overarching Community Safety Strategy.

Other key agencies/partners include:

- Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
- Third Sector
- Edinburgh Tenants Federation

- Youth Services
- Community organisations

## 4. Main report

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- 4.1 Community safety is essential to the quality of life for people in Edinburgh. It embraces a broad range of issues including ASB, the protection of children and adults as well as the public's general safety.
- 4.2 Currently many of the issues that traditionally fall under community safety are addressed through city wide strategies related to the subject area such as the Violence Against Women strategy or through Locality Improvement Plans.
- 4.3 Priorities around community safety including ASB that are found within the locality plans, have been informed by the community's perception of crime in their area, as well as the objectives outlined in the Police Scotland's Edinburgh Division local plan.
- 4.4 Other strategies such as the Drug and Alcohol or Homelessness strategies do not directly focus on specific community safety issues, however they do sit alongside any effective response in addressing community safety and promoting the health, wellbeing and safety of those living in Edinburgh.
- 4.5 With such a vast array of strategies and plans; governance arrangements are often complex which can lead to duplication in effort and gaps in key priorities and services.
- 4.6 In the current climate of reduced capacity and resources there is a need for a more focused, coordinated and strategic approach to addressing community safety.
- 4.7 Recent discussions with the Scottish Community Safety Network and the Antisocial Behaviour Officers Forum (ASBOF) have highlighted that many Local Authorities have developed an overarching community safety strategy that focuses on key priorities (including ASB) that are not directly being addressed under any other plans or strategies.
- 4.8 Advice has therefore been sought from the Scottish Government and it has been agreed between key partners that under the governance of the Edinburgh Community Safety Partnership an overarching city-wide Community Safety Strategy that will include an effective response to ASB will be developed to replace the current ASB Strategy.
- 4.9 The Council with Police Scotland and other key agencies will work in partnership to develop a strategic assessment that will be used to inform a set of strategic priorities and future activity that will be focused around effective early intervention, prevention, enforcement and community engagement and participation.
- 4.10 By working in partnership there will be access to improved data thus helping us to develop a better understanding of the current community safety landscape both in

terms of scale and scope of the issues Edinburgh experiences, as well as the current ways in which we coordinate our response.

- 4.11 Importantly the assessment will highlight any gaps in areas that need an effective city wide response.
- 4.12 The Community Safety Strategy alongside the Community Justice Improvement Outcome Plan will be governed by the Edinburgh Community Safety Partnership.
- 4.13 This reporting structure will provide an opportunity to promote and support the development of the shared outcomes between Community Safety and Community Justice to deliver early intervention and preventive work to reduce opportunities for offending.

## **5. Next Steps**

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- 5.0 The size and scope of the assessment is still to be determined. A small working group is currently reviewing all community safety issues with a view to identifying possible areas of concerns.
- 5.1 The Council in partnership with the Police and other key partners will develop the assessment throughout 2019.
- 5.2 Draft priorities will be consulted on with key stakeholders throughout the process.
- 5.3 The new 2020-2023 Community Safety Strategy will be presented to this Committee in early 2020.

## **6. Financial impact**

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- 6.1 There are no financial implications associated with this report. All activities are undertaken and managed through existing budgets.

## **7. Stakeholder/Community Impact**

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- 7.1 Consultation with key stakeholders was not necessary for this update report; however consultation with key stakeholders will be carried out as part of the development of the new Community Safety Strategy.

## **8. Background reading/external references**

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- 8.1 [Antisocial Behaviour Strategy 2016-2019](#)

## 9. Appendices

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9.2 None.