

Report of	Meeting	Date
Director of People and Places (Introduced by the Executive Member for Places)	Executive Cabinet	3 June 2010

CHORLEY AND SOUTH RIBBLE PILOT MERGED COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP - UPDATE REPORT.

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. To inform Members of the outcome of the pilot Merged Chorley and South Ribble Community Safety Partnership.

RECOMMENDATION

2. It is recommended that a collaborative model of the merged Chorley and South Ribble Community Safety Partnership be adopted.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF REPORT

3. The report outlines the progress made and the outcomes achieved with respect to the Chorley and South Ribble Pilot Merged Community Safety Partnership. The report proposes a continuation of the merged arrangements between Chorley Council and South Ribble Council. The report provides detail on the performance of the pilot merger against agreed evaluation criteria and crime levels and makes recommendations relating to the future arrangements for delivering community safety across the Chorley and South Ribble Borough footprints with our partners and includes an outline of the proposed model of collaboration.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION(S)

(If the recommendations are accepted)

4. To ensure that the successful collaborative partnership work, efficiency savings and synergies are maintained for the partner organisations involved in the Chorley and South Ribble Community Safety Partnership.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

5. An official merger of Chorley and South Ribble Community Safety Partnership using the process outlined in the Home Office document "Merging Crime and Disorder Partnership Areas under Section 5 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998" was considered but is deemed to be too prescriptive for the needs of this partnership arrangement.
6. Discontinue the Chorley and South Ribble Community Safety Partnership and revert back to two single Community Safety Partnerships. This was rejected due to the efficiencies already gained in the management arrangements for the merged partnership and the established practices that are now in place for partners.

CORPORATE PRIORITIES

7. This report relates to the following Strategic Objectives:

Put Chorley at the heart of regional economic development in the Central Lancashire sub-region		Develop local solutions to climate change.	
Improving equality of opportunity and life chances		Develop the Character and feel of Chorley as a good place to live	x
Involving people in their communities	x	Ensure Chorley Borough Council is a performing organization	x

BACKGROUND

8. Members will recall that on the 26 of June 2008 they received a report and subsequently approved a recommendation for the piloting of a merged Crime Disorder and Reduction Partnership (CDRP) between Chorley Council and South Ribble Borough Council for a period of twelve months. Due to the late ratification of the merger governance arrangements the pilot duration was extended and has now been in place for 22 months.
9. The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 promotes the practice of partnership working to reduce crime and disorder and places a statutory duty on police and local authorities to develop and implement a strategy to tackle problems in their area. In doing so, responsible authorities are required to work in partnership with a range of other local public, private, community and voluntary groups and with the community itself.
10. The Safer Chorley and South Ribble Partnership (the name given to the pilot merged partnership) formally commenced in July 2008 and has been in operation for a period of 22 months. A new structure and full governance arrangements have been put in place for the pilot partnership which sits as a thematic group of the two separate Chorley and South Ribble Local Strategic Partnerships. During the past 22 months the pilot merged partnership has been working towards the delivery of the original success criteria agreed by the partnership. The pilot partnership continues to benefit from a joint strategic assessment and CDRP plan. In September 2009 a partnership 'away day' was conducted and a business improvement plan developed which is currently being delivered to further improve the partnerships performance and working arrangements.
11. The pilot Safer Chorley and South Ribble Partnership has been subject to two Overview and Scrutiny Committee reviews. Firstly, one undertaken through the Councils own overview and scrutiny arrangements and a second through an innovative joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee with South Ribble Borough Council. The first scrutiny review recommended that the merged arrangements be subject to a joint Member (Chorley and South Ribble) scrutiny review which was undertaken on 31 March 2010 and a report will have been received by Chorley Council Overview and Scrutiny Committee prior to this meeting, at which, it is anticipated will have responded favourably to the view that the collaborative model is the preferred basis of continuing the Safer Chorley and South Ribble partnership arrangements.

MERGED PARTNESHIP SUCCESS CRITERIA

12. At the outset of the pilot merger it was agreed with partners what criteria should be set to determine success of the merged arrangements. These are set out below with the associated outcomes:
13. Criteria 1 – Pooling of expertise, knowledge, skills and resources to more effectively tackle crime and disorder

14. Since the implementation of the pilot merged Community Safety Partnership levels of crime across Chorley and South Ribble has continued to fall and the partnership is on track to deliver against LAA targets. The Place Survey results indicate Chorley and South Ribbles communities are confident police and partners are working well together to reduce crime. In addition to this as a partnership we have reduced further our communities' perceptions of crime and disorder. The partnership has a shared Community Safety Manager, DV coordinator a Policy and Projects officer and Multi Agency Problem Solving team (MAPS) team police Sergeant. The partnership has Joint Strategic Assessment and Partnership Plan which allows partners to align resources to meet joint strategic community safety priorities.
15. Best practice has been shared across the partnership with examples including but not limited to the introduction of projects to tackle violent crime, Serious Acquisitive crime and ASB across both boroughs. Projects of note include Mini MATACs which are integral to the delivery of community safety within neighbourhood working, days of action events, alcohol consequences campaign and auto number plate (ANPR) days. Operationally information is communicated better and the CDRP has a greater presence and influence at a grass roots level. Both boroughs also benefit from the recommendations of two overview and scrutiny functions, and share the hosting and administration of the partnership
16. Progress has been made into the of pooling of expertise, knowledge, skills and resources however further benefit would be gained by developing a multi agency problem solving team structure. A robust information sharing document has been introduced but some difficulties still arise when data needs to be shared across partners. Whilst this is cause for concern as intelligence led business processes can sometime be hindered, problems with data sharing existed in Chorley and South Ribbles stand alone Community Safety Partnerships and data sharing is a problem for many partnerships nationally.
17. Whilst the merging of targets can be achieved locally, Chorley and South Ribble are unable to officially merge targets. Due to this and as not to disadvantage Chorley and South Ribble communities the pilot partnership continues to financially apportion core area based grant and basic command unit resources on the geographic area for which the funds were intended. However several joint initiatives have been commissioned using pooled resourcing.
18. Criteria 2 – Co ordinated approach to funding and commissioning work
19. There is clearly a more joined up, transparent and coordinated approach to funding bids across the pilot merged partnership. Several bids have been supported and delivered over both areas including but not limited to Fire Break, Smart Response and the purchase of a vehicle crime sting car. Whilst some minor benefits have been realised relating to savings as a result of economies of scale, the main advantages in the merger have been the success in joint bids such as the £60k gained to support the alcohol consequences campaign, and the £20k provided by both Chorley and South Ribbles respective LSPs for the delivery of the Smart Response program. A further £50K has also been granted to each of Chorley and South Ribbles Children's Trust to support the continued delivery of the Families' First project.
20. Whilst we can demonstrate success in this area there is room for improvement and the partnership will be focussing on sustainable long term solutions to funding and its commissioning processes including consideration of mainstreaming initiatives and the development of exit strategies.
21. Criteria 3 – Reduction in the number of meetings attended by partners and statutory agencies
22. The reduction of meetings has been realised at a strategic level. The pilot merged Community Safety Partnership now has one strategic group meeting and one officer

steering group meeting compared to the two respective groups and sets of meetings prior to the pilot merger.

23. The partnership also benefits from a number of other joint meetings including the Central Alcohol Group which operates on a divisional level, the Families First, Domestic Violence and the Positive Activity Groups, which operate over both Chorley and South Ribble, and the Joint Commissioning Group (JCG) which operate on a Central Lancashire Primary Care Trust (PCT) footprint. There is further discussion which needs to be had to consider whether such groups as the alcohol strategy group need to be operated over a PCT footprint or indeed potentially merged with the JCG.
24. Whilst the reduction of partnership meetings has been realised at a strategic level, many of the operational meetings continue to operate separately. The main reasons for this is due to the localised nature of some of the issues faced and that many of the individuals involved in these meetings work to either a Chorley or South Ribble geographic area. Such meetings include the Multi Agency Tasking and Coordinating (MATAC) and Mini MATAC meetings, the Multi Agency Licensing Team (MALT), the prevent and deter groups and prolific priority offender groups. A decision has also been taken to continue to hold the statutory 'face the public' events separately in each of the boroughs so as not to disenfranchise Chorley and South Ribble residents.
25. Criteria 4 – More efficient working practices
26. In addition to the reduction of strategic meetings, together the merged partnership arrangements have seen a continued reduction in crime and disorder as well as other efficiencies being made.
27. South Ribble Borough Council has realised a saving of £23,500 relating to the implementation of joint management arrangements and a reduction of staffing. Chorley has recorded a saving of £64,837 relating to the implementation of joint management arrangements and an associated reduction of staffing. Lancashire Constabulary have recorded a saving of £54,997 relating to the implementation of joint management arrangements with the merging of some of the police MAPs team posts.
28. In addition to the criteria outlined above it is important to recognise that Chorley and South Ribble have both experienced continued reductions in crime during the period of the pilot merged partnership. Specifically Chorley Council has continued with reductions in all crime and further reductions have been recorded against both local and Local Area Agreement (LAA) crime targets, including serious acquisitive crime i.e. robbery, vehicle crime, burglary, violent crime, assault with less serious injury, criminal damage and anti social behaviour.
29. The collaboration model will continue to enable a wider involvement of the voluntary, community and faith sector at a strategic and operational level, with representation both at the Responsible Authority Group as well as operational groups such as MATAC. Partners within the Community Safety Partnership are well represented at community safety target area groups such as PAICE, SWITCH and Clayton Brook Together. In addition the collaborative model supports the Councils Neighbourhood Working agenda insofar as VCF sector groups can influence multi agency initiatives and service delivery at a local level.

MODEL OF COLLABORATION

30. In March 2010 the strategic management group (Responsible Authority Group) of the pilot merged Safer Chorley and South Ribble Partnership agreed the adoption of a collaborative model of working rather than an officially merged home office approved arrangement. The collaborative model is based on the following principles:
- Shared strategic assessment and annual drafting of partnership priorities
 - Shared Community Safety Manager
 - Shared administrative structure for partnership meetings and project work
 - Shared performance management and governance arrangements
 - Joint response to shared threats and service delivery
 - Joint projects developed to tackle joint strategic threats
 - An approach to partnership working that ensures that neither local authority partner is disenfranchised by keeping budgets and funding streams separate, except where joint funding of projects and initiatives is of mutual benefit to both local authorities.
 - Separate crime targets will be maintained

COLLABORATIVE MERGER TIMETABLE

31. Should approval be granted for pursuing the collaborative model the following collaborative merger timetable is envisaged:
32. 12th July 2010: - A report recommending the adoption of a collaborative model of working rather than a Home Office approved officially merged Community Safety Partnership be submitted to South Ribble Borough Council Executive Cabinet
33. 22nd June 2010: - A report recommending the adoption of a collaborative model of working rather than a Home Office approved officially merged Community Safety Partnership be submitted to Chorley Borough Council Local Strategic Partnership meeting.
34. 15th July 2010: - A report recommending the adoption of a collaborative model of working rather than a Home Office approved officially merged Community Safety Partnership be submitted to South Ribble Borough Council Local Strategic Partnership meeting.
35. August/September 2010: - the collaborative model is further developed to ensure the administrative and efficiency savings are embedded into the merger arrangement.
36. October 2010: - implement model of collaboration across Chorley and South Ribble.

IMPLICATIONS OF REPORT

37. This report has implications in the following areas and the relevant Directors' comments are included:

Finance		Customer Services	
Human Resources		Equality and Diversity	
Legal		No significant implications in this area	x

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DIRECTOR OF PEOPLE AND PLACES

There are no background papers to this report.

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