

Report of	Meeting	Date
Corporate Director (Neighbourhoods) (Introduced by the Executive Member for Neighbourhoods)	Executive Cabinet	26 June 2008

## **PROPOSED PILOT MERGE OF CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION PARTNERSHIP**

### **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1. To report feedback from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee following the extended period of consultation on the proposed pilot merge of the Chorley, South Ribble and West Lancashire Community Safety Partnerships, and to recommend implementation of the revised pilot project to create a strategic Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership for Chorley and South Ribble.

### **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

2. That, following the Overview and Scrutiny Committee's support of the pilot proposal to merge the Community Safety Partnerships of Chorley and South Ribble into a strategic Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership, approval be given to the implementation of the 12 months pilot project, including the proposed framework for local arrangements for Chorley.
3. That finalisation of the Constitution and membership of the pilot body be delegated to the Executive Leader and the Executive Member (Neighbourhoods).

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF REPORT**

4. Further consultation has now taken place on the proposed pilot merge of the Chorley, South Ribble and West Lancashire Community Safety Partnerships. During this period of consultation, it has been established that West Lancashire will not be included in the pilot proposal to merge at this point in time. Executive Cabinet support has been confirmed for South Ribble to proceed with the proposed pilot.
5. The consultation included a special meeting of the Chorley Community Safety Partnership (22<sup>nd</sup> April 2008), a subsequent period of submission for comments by all members of the Community Safety Partnership (14<sup>th</sup> May 2008) and discussion at the Chorley Partnership Executive meeting (23<sup>rd</sup> April 2008).
6. Feedback received has focused on the need to ensure local representation for Community Safety in Chorley and, importantly, that the community/voluntary sector can be actively engaged in Community Safety in Chorley. In addition, the need for assurances that funds would be spent across the strategic partnership area and that Chorley would not be disadvantaged.

7. A proposed local framework has been developed to respond to the comments received and to provide for a transition period to replicate the period proposed for the pilot of the merge, i.e. 12 months.
8. Success criteria, upon which to measure the progress of the pilot, has also been established based on research of those strategic partnerships who have already formally merged.

## **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION(S)**

### **(If the recommendations are accepted)**

9. The issues and concerns raised throughout the consultation process have been considered and reflected in a proposed revised local framework for Community Safety in Chorley.
10. Whilst objections to the proposal to merge have been made, it is considered that the associated points of objection have been redressed through the proposed local framework and considered further through the adoption of a 12 month pilot period of the merge of the Community Safety Partnerships of Chorley and South Ribble.
11. The report to the Executive Cabinet on 27 March 2008 referred to the substantial reduction in the level of funding likely to be awarded to the Chorley Community Safety Partnership in 2008/09. The new system of funding Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships across the County to be introduced by the Lancashire County Council will see a 25% reduction in the revenue budget allocation for the Chorley CS Partnership in 2008/09. There is a need therefore to develop more strategic joined up activities to increase the capacity of resources and secure more opportunities to access 'partnership' funding through a Strategic Partnership approach.
12. Many of the issues around community safety impact across both the Chorley and South Ribble Districts and collaboration at a strategic level by the pooling of resources, knowledge, skills and resources to tackle crime and disorder will help to prevent duplication of effort and resolve problems more effectively.
13. Whilst West Lancashire have indicated that they are not currently prepared to pilot a merge, it would still be prudent to take for the pilot proposal to merge with South Ribble.

## **ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED**

14. To maintain the existing Chorley Community Safety Partnership is an option. However, the benefits provided for via a strategic partnership arrangement are significant, not least of all in respect to future funding resources and funding opportunities, the planning and execution of joint operations operated on a strategic standpoint and the sharing of best practice.

## **CORPORATE PRIORITIES**

15. 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	√
Involving people in their communities	√	Ensure Chorley Borough Council is a performing organization	√

## BACKGROUND

16. Recommendations were made at the Overview and Scrutiny Meeting of 25<sup>th</sup> March 2008 and subsequently supported by the Executive Cabinet meeting of 27<sup>th</sup> March 2008 to undertake further consultation and actions in regards to the pilot proposal to merge the Chorley, South Ribble and West Lancashire Community Safety Partnerships into a Lancashire.South Strategic Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership.
17. These recommendations were as follows:
- 1. That implementation of the proposals be delayed by 6 weeks, to allow for greater consultation.**
  - 2. That the proposal be brought back to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its 22 May meeting.**
  - 3. That the suggested pilot runs for a period of 12 months.**
  - 4. That success criteria be developed against which the project can be measured.**
  - 5. That an interim review be done 6 months after implementation of the pilot.**

## CONSULTATION

18. A special meeting of the Chorley Community Safety Partnership was convened on 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2008 and during which members were asked to comment on the proposals for the Strategic Partnership. Whilst there was no objection in principle to the proposed pilot to merge, some key valuable views were raised and are summarised as follows:
- Several partner representatives expressed their strong concern at the lack of earlier consultation on the proposals.
  - The current Partnership arrangements allow the practical participation of several community and voluntary groups active in the Borough (e.g. Neighbourhood Watch Association; PAiCE; SWITCH; Clayton Brook Together). The Groups are anxious to contribute to the community safety agenda and remain part of the new arrangements.
  - The Chorley Community Safety Partnership also acted as one of the LSP's Thematic Groups, responsible for the delivery of five priority targets. Questions were raised as to the replacement arrangements for the LSP, in order to ensure that another body or group to supersede the Chorley CS Partnership would be capable of accessing funding sources, delivering priority objectives and reporting back periodically to the LSP.
  - The Chorley Community Safety Partnership has always benefited from the contribution made by the active community groups, which were anxious to retain a responsible role and strategic endorsement.
  - Each Authority or organisation represented on the proposed Responsible Authorities Group should have equal voting rights on the new strategic Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership.
  - A suggestion put forward was that the Council investigates the means by which the existing four merged CDRP's address and undertake community engagement.
19. Further views were sought via written response from members of the Partnership and which largely reflected those captured at the Community Safety Partnership meeting.

These included submissions from Neighbourhood Watch, Lindsay Hoyle MP, Councillor Mark Perks and Voluntary and Community Sector (PAICE; SWITCH; CB2gether; COPF). In particular the need to ensure continued action of local community groups in crime reduction activities; representation of Neighbourhood Watch on any future Community Safety Partnership; appropriate and equal allocation of jointly secured funds across the strategic partnership, ensuring Chorley is not financially disadvantaged; improving the partnership working at senior statutory body levels; consider the setting up of local Community Safety sub partnerships; and, ensuring mechanisms are in place for elected members to be able to influence and to receive information on strategic actions.

20. At a meeting of the Chorley Partnership Executive on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2008, the partnership supported the proposed pilot merge of the Community Safety Partnerships.

## **LOCAL FRAMEWORK STRUCTURE**

21. Comments received during the initial presentations to Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Executive Cabinet and through the extended consultation period have been taken on board to develop a local framework structure which supports both the intended strategic profile of a joint strategic group and the need to ensure local action and community engagement in Chorley.
22. It is proposed that the future structure, as presented within the original proposal, is amended to initially include a Local Delivery Partnership, which sits above the MATAAC, PPO and Prevent and Deter meetings. This would ideally function as a Community Safety Partnership for Chorley but with revised membership to reflect the representation on the joint strategic 'Responsible Authorities Group' and representation on MATAAC, PPO and Prevent and Deter.
23. This Local Delivery Partnership would perform the role of thematic sub group for the Chorley Partnership and would take forward the governance role for the Chorley Community Safety Local Action Plan.
24. It is suggested that this Local Delivery Partnership is established for a 12-month period, to de-establish the current Community Safety Partnership and to replicate the pilot period of the merge. It will be the objective over this period of time to ensure that key voluntary and community groups are represented on an appropriate Community Safety forum.
25. Actions to be taken during this period will include the review of the current membership of MATAAC and to ensure it continues to drive forward multi agency activity. This review will include the potential to recruit appropriate voluntary and community groups to be members of this forum. In addition, the potential establishment of seven 'Mini MATAAC' meetings will be considered in the Neighbourhood Areas to ensure co-ordination of activity at the local level.
26. Membership of the Local Delivery Partnership would include local representation from Chorley Council (officers and elected members), Lancashire Constabulary, Lancashire Fire & Rescue Service, Lancashire Primary Care Trust and existing voluntary and community groups.
27. Further discussions on the practicalities of the strategic framework will be held between members of the proposed Responsible Authorities Group – from South Ribble and Chorley – in advance of the commencement of the pilot. During the consultation, comments were also received on the operation of the joint strategic group and in particular the need to ensure each member of the Responsible Authorities Group was given equal voting rights on the new strategic body. This will be raised during these further discussions.

28. It is proposed that the pilot will commence, at the earliest, on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2008 and a further meeting of the Chorley Community Safety Partnership will also be held at the beginning of July to progress review actions.

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## SUCCESS CRITERIA

29. It was agreed that, in order to measure the success or otherwise of the proposed pilot, measurable factors should be established. Investigation of the Strategic Partnerships who have already formally merged, has assisted in developing simple, yet effective measures, which are proposed to be adopted for the Lancashire South Strategic Crime and Disorder Partnership.
30. These measure are as follows:
- Agreed Strategic Partnership Plan based on the joint strategic assessment with key milestones for 6 months
  - Agreed combined targets for the Strategic Partnership for both aspects of performance and funding
  - Developed structure (local) to reflect review of MATAC, PPO and Prevent and Deter
31. As recommended at Executive Cabinet, a review of the pilot will be undertaken following the first six months of the implementation of the pilot and included during this process is the reporting of progress on the delivery of the measures as set out above.

## IMPLICATIONS OF REPORT

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

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

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There are no background papers to this report.

Report Author	Ext	Date	Doc ID
Ishbel Murray	5720	19 <sup>th</sup> May 2008	***

Background Papers			
Document	Date	File	Place of Inspection
Report to Executive Cabinet of 27 <sup>th</sup> March 2008 – Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership	27 <sup>th</sup> March 2008		

Proposal to merge Chorley, South Ribble and West Lancashire Community Safety Partnerships	February 2008		
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