

**Brief for Scrutiny – Proposed Development of a Safer and Stronger Communities Strategy for Newcastle-under-Lyme**

<p><b>Topic to be Scrutinised</b></p> <p>The proposed development of a Safer and Stronger Communities Strategy for the Borough of Newcastle-under-Lyme.</p>
<p><b>Questions to be Addressed</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) What priorities should a Safer and Stronger Communities Strategy focus on and what should be included in the Strategy?</li> <li>(2) How should such a Strategy be developed and who should play a part in this development?</li> <li>(3) What critical success measures should be included in any proposed Strategy?</li> <li>(4) How will the Strategy be delivered and what are the major obstacles to effective delivery?</li> <li>(5) What other strategies, plans and approaches link in with a proposed Safer and Stronger Communities Strategy?</li> <li>(6) What should be the period covered by the Strategy and what should be the process for renewal or refreshment to reflect changes at the national level and elsewhere?</li> </ol>
<p><b>Outcomes</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) A clear understanding of the main drivers behind the development of a Safer and Stronger Communities Strategy for the Borough, including a knowledge of the key statistics and indicators connected to this area of work.</li> <li>(2) A developed and agreed Strategy, which sets out the key areas of priority and focus for the Borough Council, its partners and communities and a clearly articulated set of outcomes underpinning the Strategy.</li> <li>(3) A clearly developed set of measures and milestones to order the areas of focus set out in the Strategy, in order to be able to evaluate progress against outcomes and the impact of work being done as part of the delivery of the Strategy.</li> <li>(4) Clear links between the Strategy and existing/planned areas of work both at the local level and also beyond, including the developing localism agenda as set out in the Decentralisation and Localism Bill and elsewhere, and also the other key strategies being developed by the Borough Council – in the areas of health and economic development.</li> <li>(5) Input into the development of approaches designed to deliver the main aspects of the Strategy – including ongoing work with partner organisations under the main headings of the Strategy.</li> <li>(6) A clearly developed evaluation approach in order to review and challenge the Strategy and also to ascertain the levels of impact of the actions resulting from delivery of the Strategy.</li> <li>(7) A clear approach to communication and engagement with key stakeholders in the Borough both in order to better understand need and perception and also to work with stakeholders closely in delivering the Strategy.</li> <li>(8) An understanding and appreciation of any barriers to delivery or further development and an ability to work on approaches to mitigate or remove these barriers, together with an ability to recognise further opportunities and develop approaches based on these opportunities.</li> <li>(9) To develop and implement horizon scanning approaches which allow the Strategy to be dynamic and which also allow for changes to be made where relevant and which recognise changes to the external environment which impact on the Strategy’s ongoing development.</li> </ol>

<p>(10) A knowledge of work being done elsewhere and an appreciation of how applicable other examples are in terms of developing and delivering the Strategy.</p> <p>(11) An evaluation of the capacity for existing mechanisms – e.g. Locality Action Partnerships (LAPs) to deliver key areas of this work.</p>
<p><b>Background Materials</b></p> <p>(1) Existing Community Safety Strategies, including the Borough’s Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy and other key documents.</p> <p>(2) The Decentralisation and Localism Bill and other key pieces of existing or planned legislation.</p> <p>(3) The existing Corporate Plan, Sustainable Community Strategy and the ‘Story of Our Place’ (drafted as part of the ongoing review of Locality Action Partnerships).</p> <p>(4) Previous Cabinet and Scrutiny reports relating to the LAPs review (see above) and the work being done in Community Safety in the Borough by the Borough Council and key partners.</p> <p>(5) Other key documents produced either locally or nationally – e.g. relating to Community Budgets.</p>
<p><b>Evidence and Witnesses</b></p> <p>(1) Representatives from partner organisations – e.g. Staffordshire Police, NCVS. Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Safer &amp; Stronger Communities.</p> <p>(2) Other Cabinet Members.</p> <p>(3) Relevant Heads Of Services &amp; Business Managers.</p> <p>(4) EMT.</p> <p>(5) Offices from Business Improvement &amp; Partnerships.</p> <p>(6) Other local authorities and local government agencies (where relevant).</p>
<p><b>Method of Scrutiny</b></p> <p>(1) It is suggested that the role of the Cleaner, Greener and Safer Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee is to continue its existing role in terms of scrutiny, but receive updates on progress of ongoing work on developing a Safer and Stronger Communities Strategy for the Borough.</p> <p>(2) The Scrutiny Committee may wish to examine this Brief and suggest particular areas of focus, which can be progressed through a Task and Finish Group, if the Committee so wishes</p>
<p><b>Timetable</b></p> <p>Start Date: Initial brief to the Cleaner, Greener and Safer Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 9 November 2011.</p> <p>Presentation of the initial draft to Cleaner, Greener, Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 29 February 2012.</p> <p>Presentation to Cabinet: 14 March 2012.</p> <p>Progress Reports: to be arranged.</p>
<p><b>Constraints</b></p> <p>No immediate constraints, although ‘localism’ picture is still emerging and also developing picture in terms of future Community Safety work.</p>
<p><b>Members to Undertake the Scrutiny</b></p> <p>Members of the Cleaner, Greener, and Safer Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee.</p>

<p><b>Support</b></p> <p>Chief Executive EMT Head of Business Improvement &amp; Partnerships Partnerships Manager/Community Safety Manager Other Heads of Service &amp; Business Managers</p>
<p><b>Newcastle Borough Council Corporate Plan Priority area(s)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Creating a cleaner, safer and sustainable Borough</li><li>• Creating a Borough of opportunity</li><li>• Creating a healthy and active community</li><li>• Transforming our Council to achieve excellence</li></ul>
<p><b>CfPS Objectives:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Provides and critical friend challenge to executive policy makers and decision makers</li><li>• Enables the voice and concerns of the public to be heard</li><li>• Is carried out by independent governors who lead and own the scrutiny role</li><li>• Drives improvement in public services</li></ul>
<p><b>Brief Approved by Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee</b></p> <p>Signed Date</p>