

	
Cabinet Member for Crime and Community Safety	4 th October 2011
Report from the Assistant Director – Housing and Public Protection	

CRIME SUMMIT 2012

Summary

1. This report sets out proposals for the development of a Crime Summit for the City of York to be held on an annual basis from 2012 onwards.

Background

2. As part of their manifesto commitments the current administration set out a commitment to hosting an annual Crime Summit to provide residents with the opportunity to meet with police and council staff responsible for tackling crime and anti-social behaviour in York.
3. The Police and Justice Act 2006 comprehensively revised the founding legislation (Crime and Disorder Act 1998) placing a new duty on Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) to join together to form a strategy group at top tier local authority level. This group must undertake frequent strategic assessments of levels and patterns of crime and disorder in their area and produce three year rolling community safety plans.
4. Contained within the Statutory Instruments of the Police and Justice Act was a set of minimum standards. One of these standards was to increase community engagement through an annual “face the public session.” Safer York Partnership has met this requirement for the last two years by hosting a community safety market within the city centre.
5. The Government is currently developing a programme of reforms which will impact on the way in which community safety partnerships deliver their programmes of crime and disorder reduction in England

and Wales. This programme is contained within the Police and Social Responsibility Bill which is due to receive Royal ascent in October 2011. Whilst the minimum standards have been repealed within the new Bill as part of a decentralised approach by the Government, there is an expectation that effective practice should be retained and community engagement forms an important part of that process.

Consultation

6. In considering the format of any crime summit, examples of good practice which have seen significant resident engagement have been considered. The main focus of these events have seen the police, residents, council, businesses, charities and voluntary groups come together to identify local community safety problems and jointly develop actions to tackle them.
7. York and North Yorkshire CSPs are currently undertaking their annual Joint Strategic Intelligence Assessments in order to redefine the community safety plans for 2012-13. It would be timely to link this process with a crime summit to ensure that action plans aligned to the Community Safety Plan demonstrate a balance between meeting the priority issues identified directly by communities as well as working toward addressing the high level priorities identified through multi-agency data analysis.
8. In order to maximise the potential for marketing the event as well as gaining commitment within the diaries of the key local stakeholders involved in community safety, it would be timely to hold a crime summit in spring 2012 in line with the planning cycle of Safer York Partnership. This would have the added benefit of having a robust plan in place which both meets the statutory requirements of a CSP and also demonstrates an understanding of localism prior to the appointment of a Police and Crime Commissioner for York and North Yorkshire.
9. The key to a successful community consultation event is to maximise the opportunity for residents to attend. This would best be achieved through a mixture of rigorous marketing, hosting the event in an easily accessible venue within the city and arranging the event at a time that will encourage attendance. Learning from experience of other local authorities, the most successful ones have held their crime summit on a Saturday.

Options

10. Option 1 - Host a one day market in Parliament Street in the format of previous Face the Public events.
11. Option 2 – Host an event on a Saturday aimed at attracting all age groups and involving a range of stakeholders engaged in work to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour within York.

Analysis

12. Option 1 is a tried and tested model within York which has achieved a high level on interest from the public. However, the city centre location has meant that the majority of those with whom agencies engaged were not from York. Whilst this has generated some excellent feedback in terms of visitor safety, it does not facilitate the identification and debate around local issues.
13. Option 2 is based on the experience from other local authorities of hosting successful crime summit events. Through organising a range of activities designed to attract all ages and hosting the event on a Saturday, it is likely to be more appealing to York residents to attend and result in a clear picture of local priorities around crime.

Council Priorities

14. The holding of an annual crime summit support the wider set of priorities set out within the Council Plan. However it would specifically support a number of actions under the 'Build Strong Communities' theme, in particular the community engagement and safer inclusive communities actions. A crime summit would create an opportunity for increased dialogue and debate between key stakeholders engaged in community safety across the city, and local residents.

Implications

15. The implications arising from this report are:
 - (a) **Financial** There are financial implications attached to hosting a crime summit. However, Safer York Partnership would be engaging with the community as part of the Joint Strategic Intelligence Assessment. Therefore the costs can be met by the partnership.

- (b) **Human Resources (HR)** Staff across a range of Council directorates would be required to be involved in a crime summit to ensure that relevant services are available and able to engage with residents attending. The administration and organisation of the event can be met from resource with the Safer York Partnership team.
- (c) **Equalities** Diversity and social inclusion play a key role within all aspects of community safety. Therefore it is crucial to involve the equalities team within the planning and running of the event to ensure that all communities have equal access.
- (d) **Legal** Not applicable
- (e) **Crime and Disorder** This is a crime and disorder related event and therefore requires substantial input from the SYP team to organise and host.
- (f) **Information Technology (IT)** Not applicable
- (g) **Property** Not applicable
- (h) **Other** Not applicable

Risk Management

16. There are no known risks associated with this proposal.

Recommendations

17. The Cabinet Member is asked to approve:

Option 2, to host an annual Crime Summit in the spring of each year aimed at attracting all age groups and involving a range of stakeholders engaged in work to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour within York.

Reason: To ensure the best opportunity to gain maximum attendance and ensure that resident's priorities and concerns feature within the future delivery plans of the community safety partnership. It also demonstrates recognition of the value of localism in determining community safety service provision.

Contact Details

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For further information please contact the author of the report											

Background Papers: None

Annexes: None