

3 March 2009

Report of the Chief
Executive

A PARTNERSHIP STRATEGY FOR HUMBERSIDE POLICE AUTHORITY

PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT

1. This report seeks to introduce a strategy for the way Humberside Police Authority will engage in partnerships.

BACKGROUND

2. Working in partnerships is fundamental to the effective delivery of services and achieving the best outcome for communities. In the field of crime, disorder and community safety, Police Authorities have an important role to play, for example, in ensuring appropriate alignment of priorities, targets and resources and overseeing the effective contribution of the Police service.
3. Humberside Police Authority has provided valuable contributions to a number of partnerships in recent years. Despite this there has been, on occasion, a lack of clarity of role by both the Police Authority and partnerships, as well as a lack of a consistent approach by the Authority. The reason for this has been, to some extent, due to the Police Authority not being operational, not holding large financial resources it can contribute to partnerships and not providing direct services to the public, other than through Humberside Police.
4. Some partnerships demand our inclusion and participation by statute others whilst not directly connected with the primary functions of Police Authorities are still relevant in terms of what value the Authority can provide by way of support to partnership activity and by what the authority can gain through participation.

WHY A STRATEGY

5. The primary reasons for the development of a strategy for partnerships are:
 - To provide clarity and consistency of approach to partnership working.
 - To ensure that the limited resources of the Authority are used to best effect by participating in the right partnerships.
 - To respond to the growing demands on Police Authorities to engage effectively with new partnerships (e.g. Local Strategic Partnerships and Children's Trusts and Boards).

- To adopt and adapt national guidance to Police Authorities on improving partnership working (e.g. “Delivering Safer Communities - A Guide to Effective Partnership Working” and recent APA guidance.)
- To ensure Police Authorities capitalise on opportunities to coordinate and align plans and targets, across the Humberside Police area with the objective of delivering the best possible service to our communities.

WHAT WILL THE STRATEGY DEFINE

6. The strategy (Appendix A) will contain:

- The overall strategic aim for the Authority.
- A set of guiding principles which will establish a framework under which the Authority will operate.
- The role of Humberside Police Authority in partnerships and its strategic objectives.
- Clearly define how the Authority will effectively contribute to partnerships including a ‘Pledge’, which will clarify the commitment of the authority.
- Redefine the role of members and officers of Humberside Police Authority within partnerships.
- Include a bespoke “Statement of Intent” to those partners the authority have identified. This will define opportunities that the authority will offer to partnerships through its participation.

WHO WILL BE OUR PARTNERS

7. Currently the dominant partnerships have been identified as:

Local strategic Partnerships

Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships

Children’s Boards or Trusts

The Local Criminal Justice Board

Force Independent Advisory Group

The Business Community

8. The strategy also explains how the Authority will effectively use its resources and how it will create a robust governance and evaluation and review process. As part of the development of the strategy there will be further consultation with the partners to highlight the step change in partnership working to be undertaken by the Authority.

We will take into account partners own views on how the authority can positively contribute.

9. The strategic document is currently in draft format and will require further definition after this consultation process.

OPTIONS/RISK

10. There is a requirement that the authority asserts itself in the arena of partnership working. To do nothing would weaken its influence. It would become marginalised and if replicated nationally this would represent a threat to the long term viability of Police Authorities.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

11. None identified

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

12. There are legal implications if the authority fails to become partners in certain partnerships which place statutory obligations on us, for example the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships.

EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

13. None identified

CHILDRENS ACT 2004

14. Police Authorities are Statutory Partners and defined as such within the Children's Act.

RECOMMENDATIONS

15. It is recommended that Members:
 - a. Discuss, approve and adopt this strategy
 - b. Approve the proposal to further consult with partners on the strategy
 - c. Receive further reports on the implementation, evaluation and review of the strategy.

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