



## CITY OF PLYMOUTH

# Scrutiny Report on Reducing Crime in Plymouth

**Select Committee  
Community Cohesion and Equalities Overview and Scrutiny  
Panel**

**June 2004**

'Overview and scrutiny is potentially the most exciting and powerful element of the entire local Government modernisation process. It places members at the heart of policy-making and at the heart of the way in which Councils respond to the demands of modernisation. In addition, overview and scrutiny is the mechanism by which Councils can achieve active community leadership, good governance and by which Councillors can become powerful and influential politicians.'

Office of the Deputy Prime Minister: 'The Development of Overview and Scrutiny in Local Government', September 2002

## CITY OF PLYMOUTH

<b>Portfolio and Holder:</b>	The Leader Councillor Evans
<b>CMT Member:</b>	Director of Strategic Projects and Service Change
<b>Subject:</b>	Reducing Crime in Plymouth – Towards a More Integrated Approach
<b>Committee:</b>	<b>Community Cohesion and Equalities Overview and Scrutiny Panel</b>
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<b>Part:</b>	I

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### **Executive Summary:**

The purpose of this report is to submit recommendations to the Community Cohesion and Equalities Overview and Scrutiny Panel following meetings of a Select Committee appointed by the Community Wellbeing Committee and completed as part of the work programme of this Panel.

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### **Implications for Medium Term Financial Plan and Resource Implications: Including finance, human, IT and land:**

None arising from this report.

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### **Recommendations:**

1. the implementation of the recommendations contained in the Crime Concern report “Reducing Crime in Plymouth: Towards a More Integrated Approach” be endorsed;
2. with reference to recommendation 15 of the report, the Pairing inform the Director of Strategic Projects and Service Change of their concern at decisions made on behalf of the 2020 Partnership being made by one individual;

3. the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund establish a Business Plan for a two year period with regard to funding as soon as possible;
  4. local spending with reference to Central Government Grants should be at least at the national level;
  5. good practice as used in Croydon, West Cornwall and other areas be adopted in Plymouth;
  6. the Neighbourhood Renewal Team be informed in writing of the Committee's support of the project team's offer of liaison and surprise that the offer had not hitherto been accepted;
  7. a progress report be produced by 1 January, 2005;
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**Background papers:**

Reducing Crime in Plymouth: Towards a More Integrated Approach  
Plymouth Crime Reduction Strategy

## SELECT COMMITTEE

### REDUCING CRIME IN PLYMOUTH – TOWARDS A MORE INTEGRATED APPROACH

#### 1.0 Introduction

The Overview and Scrutiny Commission agreed on 9 July, 2003 that a Select Committee (pairing) would be appointed from the Community Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee to scrutinise the crime report “Reducing Crime in Plymouth – Towards a More Integrated Approach”.

The Overview and Scrutiny Commission resolved on 15 January, 2004 that the established Select Committee complete its work as part of the Work Programme of the Community Cohesion and Equalities Overview and Scrutiny Panel.

#### 2.0 Committee Structure

##### Councillors

Councillor Kerswell, in the Chair  
Councillor Fry

##### Co-opted Member

Tom Miller (former Chair of the Plymouth Magistrates Bench)

##### Witnesses

Keith Halsey	-	Community Safety Co-ordinator
Mike Robinson	-	Chief Executive
Chief Superintendent John Isaac	-	Devon and Cornwall Constabulary
Inspector Paul Chudley	-	Plymouth 2020 Partnership

Administrator – Kevin Ross, Democratic Support Officer.

#### 3.0 Objective

To scrutinise the crime report ‘Reducing Crime in Plymouth – Towards a More Integrated Approach’.

#### 4.0 Hearings

The Committee met on four occasions (2 October, 2003; 25 November, 2003; 4 February, 2004; and 17 May, 2004) to consider –

- 1) the report of the Director of Strategic Projects and Service Change ‘Report and Recommendations arising from “Reducing Crime in Plymouth Towards a More Integrated Approach” ‘ (CWB 23 03/04) presented to Cabinet on 7 October, 2003;
- 2) the report of the Director of Strategic Projects and Service Change ‘Reducing Crime in Plymouth – Progress Report’ (CCE 7 03/04);
- 3) the report of the Director of Strategic Projects and Service Change ‘Revised Crime Reduction Strategy’ (CCE 8 03/04) presented to Cabinet on 27 January, 2004 (Appendix 1);
- 4) the report of the Community Safety Co-ordinator ‘Progress against Recommendations contained in Crime Report “Reducing Crime in Plymouth” ’ (CCE 22 03/ 04);

and to hear from witnesses and to formulate a report of recommendations to Cabinet.

## **5.0 Background**

At its meeting on 2 October, 2003, the Chief Executive and Chief Superintendent Isaac outlined the background to the Crime Concern report “Reducing Crime in Plymouth: Towards a More Integrated Approach” (CWB 23 03/04) which was to be considered by Cabinet at its meeting on 7 October, 2003.

The Select Pairing was advised that -

- (i) Crime Concern had been jointly commissioned by Plymouth City Council and the Regional Director of Community Safety (Government Office South West) to -
  - (a) review the structures and processes of the following partnerships within the City, which were not adjudged to be running at maximum capacity and efficiency:-
    - Plymouth Community Safety Partnership
    - Drug Action Team
    - Youth Offending Team
    - Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership
    - Local Strategic Partnership (Plymouth 2020)
  - (b) investigate the feasibility of a closer alignment of the work of these partnerships;

- (ii) the aim was to use the report findings and recommendations to stimulate the planning and delivery of joined up services in and across the City in the hope that this new joint approach would assist in reducing crime and easing the fear of crime in the areas of greatest need;
- (iii) all of the organisations concerned agreed that the report was as accurate and comprehensive as could be expected given the timescale involved;
- (iv) it had been recommended that a Steering Group be established by the Local Strategic Partnership to progress partner response to the Crime Concern report and agreement had been given to the inclusion of a Police representative on that group who would be responsible for driving it forward with the co-operation and consultation of all the partners;
- (v) in order to provide some impetus to the initiative, the recommendations contained in the report were being assessed to identify those which, if carried through, could provide swift results.

## **6.0 Action Being Taken by Partners**

The Committee heard from the Community Safety Co-ordinator and Inspector Chudley on the work being undertaken by Partners as follows -

### **6.1 *Plymouth 2020***

The 2020 Partnership had established a Steering Group, which included the Neighbourhood Renewal Team Leader and the Director of Strategic Projects and Service Change.

37 recommendations had been made in the crime report, of which 35 were substantive: some combine a small number of additional amendments, giving a total of 38. However, a number were unable to be progressed until the 2020 Partnership Board held on 4 December, 2003 confirmed the structure of the 2020 Partnership, its Terms of Reference, and the names of the relevant Officers.

At the meeting, it was agreed to restructure the Board, which would now consist of 5 each from the public, private and community/voluntary sectors. It was also agreed that the Chair would rotate on an annual basis (starting with Councillor Evans of the public sector).

The partnership also now had an officer's group substructure to oversee policies.

Structures supporting the 2020 Board were the subject of further recommendations to the 2020 Board at its meeting on the 30 January, 2004.

Effective communication and co-working at appropriate levels took place within the 2020 Partnership, which included a paper trail of follow-up papers.

On 4 December, 2004 the 2020 Board accepted the City Strategy, and it was approved on 30 January, 2004.

The City Strategy is linked to the Crime Reduction Strategy, incorporating national targets on crimes of violence, burglary and car crime, and addressing the issue of safer and cleaner streets.

The City Strategy was launched on 5 July, 2004.

The recommendations of the Plymouth 2020 Crime Concern report fell within the broad spectrum of social inclusion, diversity, housing, health, education, employment, crime and youth. The purpose of the 2020 Project Team is to oversee consultation, negotiation, and proper integration leading to adoption of the recommendations.

The operational planning involving all statutory agencies and is supported through the role of the Community Safety Strategy Team. The rationale is to promote wider understanding of the different organizations, roles and responsibility and the sharing of strategic action plans developed in collaboration to reduce duplication and wasted resources.

The project team had developed an office base acting as a point of contact. The administration systems and IT support is provided partly through the City Council and Devon and Cornwall Probation Area.

The advancement in terms of the recommendations has taken the form of prioritising all racial diversity issues and has included contact with the local Racial Equality Council. There is some commissioning and correspondences between these offices and work is currently being negotiated. There is a draft strategy statement from the Local Strategic Partnership for crime reduction within Plymouth and the project team has incorporated this into the framework of the recommendations.

A number of the tasks have been achieved with little and in some cases no effort whatsoever. These include the appointment of the Local Strategic Partner Chair. Several recommendations were tied into local area reviews and could not be actioned until the summer. A number of the recommendations have been graded and timed against criteria of cost implication and what is achievable over the 12 months timescale. These have been applied to a priority order list. Equally there have been some recommendations where it has been decided that they are currently not achievable or possibly desirable given other considerations. The team have been involved in various meetings throughout the period October to January recently engaging the support of the author of the crime concern report.

The 2020 Team had also finalised some of its social inclusion activities in the assisted launch of a local Neighbourhood Renewal Funding area community workshop and community punishment centre. This establishment had recently received an endorsement from Lord Falconer, Minister for Criminal Justice when he visited the planned activity centre. The Project Team would be starting to advance the youth and health drugs recommendations.

One of the key pieces of work during the first quarter of 2004 has involved obtaining baseline information for the City Strategy targets and issues surrounding the performance management and monitoring by the Local Strategic Partnership Executive Team.

## **6.2 Plymouth Community Safety Partnership**

A meeting of the Plymouth Community Safety Partnership Responsible Officers Group was held on 19 December, 2003, and clarified the position of the existing partners in the Community Safety Partnership / Drug Action Team, and expanded the Partnership to include the Commission for Racial Equality and minority groups;

The Responsible Officers Group has been designated as the Community Safety Neighbourhood Renewal Fund commissioning body. It is currently unclear what funding allocation will be made up till April 2006.

The Community Safety Co-ordinator informed that the three projects the Plymouth Community Safety Partnership considered essential were:

- Plymouth Woman's Aid – all Neighbourhood Renewal Fund (NRF) areas have high incidents of domestic violence
- Homesafe – most NRF areas have higher than average levels of burglary
- Harbour – a majority of drug misusers live in NRF areas

Between 80% and 90% of acquisitive crime can be linked to drug misuse, and drug treatment services need to improve in order to reduce crime;

The Plymouth Community Safety Partnership (as the Community Safety Neighbourhood Renewal Fund commissioning body) would be likely to recommend the continued funding of Plymouth Woman's Aid and Harbour at the same rate and extend Homesafe to the five areas of the city wherein live 80% of the city's drug users and thereby have an increased risk of burglary;

The Frederick Street Youth Inclusion scheme and Turn Your Life Around were to be reviewed by the Youth Offending Team but it was not clear how other NRF schemes were to be reviewed and which projects would be funded after 1 July, 2004;

It is not clear at present if the proportion of NRF funding 2004-2006 will reach the national average;





The Devon and Cornwall Probation Area has undertaken a strategic local crime offenders' head count and has applied a range of measures to the total offender probation grouping including gender, age, crime type and specifically address by postcode. This work is seeking to identify the crime residences of known offenders to determine accurately indicators and commonalities if they exist within the 5 neighbourhood renewal funders areas. Where correlations are identified it is likely activity planning will involve some development planning and that the Neighbourhood Renewal Funders should provide funding for these plans within the Neighbourhood Renewal Funders target zones. Currently there is some question over the accurate budgetary spends currently being achieved in Plymouth although the reporting indicates a substantial underspend.

Developments have continued to maximise the potential for crime prevention work and alternative support activities with partner agencies to be delivered locally, led by the Devon and Cornwall Probation Area Team, by gathering information on the home address of over 1,000 offenders. Mapped against crime type, age and gender. Additional work is being undertaken to provide interventions and support for prison leavers returning to live in the Plymouth area.

Drug users were targeted and offered drugs services by Police or drug treatment workers. Courts may impose Drugs Treatment and Testing Orders and this has had some success; the Community Safety Co-ordinator reported that Judge Taylor's preference was for targeted Policing schemes as users of such schemes had greater motivation.

#### **6.4 *Neighbourhood Renewal Funders***

The Neighbourhood Renewal Funding Allocation Strategy 2004-2006 was considered by Cabinet on 16 December 2003.

See also paragraph 6.3 above.

#### **6.5 *Youth Offending Team***

The City Council's Youth Offending Team had established a Youth Inclusion Support Project, which undertook preventative work with younger children.

#### **7.0 *Best Practice***

West Cornwall and Croydon were good examples of areas where partner agencies work together effectively, from which Plymouth might learn.

## 8.0 Implementation of the Recommendations of the Crime Report

A list of the ten recommendations of the crime report that were considered to be the most important recommendations was submitted:

<b>TOP TEN RECOMMENDATIONS</b>
<p><b>R13:</b> The 2020 Partnership should work with GOSW to ensure that its membership, structure and focus enable it to successfully undertake the core tasks of a Local Strategic Partnership, in particular its responsibility to secure more jobs, better education, improved health, reduced crime and better housing.</p>
<p><b>R34:</b> The resources of the statutory, community and voluntary sectors, building on the expertise of the Anti-Racism Task Force, should be harnessed to put in place a racist incidents reporting system, initially within the City Council and subsequently on a multi-agency basis.</p>
<p><b>R35:</b> In the light of the Race Relations (Amendment ) Act, the Plymouth and District Race Equality Council should be asked to undertake a health check of the Community Safety Partnership/DAT/H and CSP to see whether they are delivering safer communities and drug action to all ethnic communities equally.</p>
<p><b>R17:</b> 2020 should seek to develop a single performance management approach to be applied to all relevant strategies and plans, adopting a common format and terminology so that managers, practitioners and community representatives can easily understand what is required of them, and planning and monitoring systems can be cross-referenced from one partner to another.</p>
<p><b>R15:</b> Consideration should be given to increasing the size of 2020's executive team, through secondments from partner organisations, increased financial contributions from partner agencies and/or the pooling of resources from other partnerships, to enable 2020 to take an active role in overseeing the development and implementation of strategies, the identification of gaps and overlaps, and the scope to achieve economies of scale through the merging of partnerships and delivery groups.</p>
<p><b>R29:</b> The 2020 Partnership has the overall responsibility, shared with those responsible for drawing up strategies, to ensure that all strategies relevant to crime reduction and drug action take account of and reflect each others' priorities, objectives and targets, in particular the City Strategy; the Crime Reduction Strategy; the DAT Annual Plans; the Youth Justice Plan; the Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy; Our City's Health; the Policing Plan; the Area Probation Plan; and the priorities of the Devon and Cornwall Criminal Justice Board.</p>
<p><b>R8:</b> Responsibility for the Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy should be clearly located within the Plymouth 2020 Partnership, and the Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership seen as the body accountable to the 2020 Partnership for the delivery of the Strategy.</p>
<p><b>R7:</b> The Plymouth 2020 Partnership should take responsibility for overseeing the production and implementation of the three-year Crime Reduction Strategy and the Drug</p>

Action Team Annual Plans, ensuring that they complement and reflect the content of other relevant strategies.

**R6:** Plymouth City Council should maintain its current programme of work to mainstream community safety in accordance with section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act, ensuring that elected members, managers and practitioners are fully aware of their responsibilities under the Act, and reflect that awareness in their day-to-day practice and their involvement in the work of the Community Safety Partnership.

**R10:** Good communication and co-working is needed between those working in the fields of neighbourhood renewal, crime reduction and drug action to ensure that full account is taken of the experiences and priorities of local communities; the city-wide priorities of the thematic partnerships; the Government's 'floor targets'; and evidence of what works in reducing crime and tackling drug misuse.

The following progress was reported:

8.1 with reference to recommendation 6 and to the draft pamphlet 'Safer and Smarter Plymouth City Council – Mainstreaming Community Safety' submitted by the Community Safety Coordinator:

- under section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act, Local Authorities have a duty to consider the crime and disorder implications of any decision;
- elected members were to receive training on the implications of this legislation on 29 March, 2004;

8.2 with reference to recommendation 7:

- this recommendation be viewed in tandem with recommendation 29;
- under the three year crime reduction strategy there would be an annual review;

8.3 with reference to recommendation 8, the Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership had been replaced by a Neighbourhood Renewal Sub-Group, accountable to the 2020 Board;

8.4 with reference to recommendation 10:

- the 2020 Board had requested good communication and co-working with partner agencies, for which training had been provided;
- there was a possibility that the size of the 2020 Executive Team would be increased through secondments of representatives of partner agencies;

- 8.5 with reference to recommendation 13, the recommendation was being progressed and the 2020 Partnership had been re-organised on the London Borough of Croydon model;
- 8.6 with reference to recommendation 15, the 2020 Partnership was reducing the size of its executive team, although the recommendation remained valid. The Select Pairing emphasised the importance of decisions being made by a team and not by one individual;
- 8.7 with reference to recommendation 17, there was no likelihood of there being one single management system within the 2020 Partnership, but the 2020 Executive Team would be linked to the QPR process and performance management system;
- 8.8 with reference to recommendation 29, this recommendation had been acknowledged and adopted;
- 8.9 with reference to recommendation 34, the recommendation had been discussed at a meeting of the Community Cohesion Group held on 3 February, 2004, as the number of racially motivated attacks was a measure of community cohesion. It was established at that meeting that:
- the City Council would create a system to record racially motivated attacks; the software for this was easily obtainable but training would be required;
  - there was a need to create a system that recorded the age of the person making a complaint, as the older generation was more fearful of crime than the young;
  - if any individual from an ethnic minority complained of a racially motivated crime or of being treated badly because he or she was of an ethnic minority, these complaints were to be recorded, acted upon, the individual provided with feedback, and the data collected;
  - the Community Cohesion Group were also focusing on homophobic incidents, as this was also an index of community cohesion;
  - racist or sexually offensive graffiti was photographed, recorded and cleared within 24 hours;

It was acknowledged that the collection of statistics on racially motivated crime was problematic: under the 'McPherson Guidelines' if an incident was perceived by the victim as being racially motivated, it must be recorded as such, although an objective assessment may have concluded that the motivation had not been racist.

It was also acknowledged that anything that happened to members of a minority ethnic group must be balanced against anything that happened to

members of the white population, in order that statistics do not become skewed.

This year's Crime and Disorder Audit, to be published in October, would include racist incidents provided by the Police. This, and the figures for the following Audit would provide a basis for review and comparison;

8.10 with reference to recommendation 35:

- a health check would be linked into this year's Crime Audit;
- the Race Equality Council had been invited to join the re-launch of the 2020 Partnership;

8.11 As at 17 May, 2003 half of the 38 recommendations had been marked as finalised with another nine marked as 'holding' pending other work that is taking place;

8.12 Regular updates on progress against the recommendations have been made to representatives at GOSW, the Police, and the Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnership lead. Additionally, the author of the original report has commenced an interim evaluation of progress, funded by GOSW, against his original report and recommendations, and has reported that there was a good indication of significant progress from last year.

## **9.0 Revised Crime Reduction Strategy**

Following consideration of the report submitted to Cabinet (CCE 8 03/04) on 27 January 2004, the Committee heard from the Community Safety Co-ordinator and Inspector Chudley who advised that:

- (i) if Police were unable to address a problem (because no crime had been committed), the problem could be brought to the attention of the Anti-Social Problem Solving Group, whose ultimate remedy was the issue of an Anti-Social Behaviour Order;
- (ii) the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund had considered the impact of the fear of crime on local shops and their customers, and the Home Office Retail Crime Initiative funding via the Plymouth Community Safety Partnership had offered sums totaling £38,000 to local late-opening shop owners in order to address this matter;
- (iii) research had shown that where local people were aware of the name of their Police Beat Manager, the fear of crime was lessened: however, only 4% of people were aware of their Beat Manager's name;

## **10.0 Training**

At its meeting on 17 May, 2004 the Committee was informed that the training on the implications of the section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act, (with regard to the duty of Local Authorities to consider the crime and disorder implications of any decision) held on 29 March, 2004 had taken place and had been well-attended by Members and officers.

## **11.0 Committee's Findings**

- 11.1 It was recognised that a Steering Group had been established, that recommendations contained in the crime report "Reducing Crime in Plymouth – Towards a More Integrated Approach" were being assessed and prioritised, and that partner agencies were working towards a more closely aligned service;
- 11.2 Following evidence from the Community Safety Co-ordinator and Inspector Chudley it was established that work and some decisions made on behalf of the 2020 Partnership were being made by one individual and having considered recommendation 15, the Committee advised the Director of Strategic Projects of their concern at decision making by one individual;
- 11.3 The gap between the risk and the fear of crime was acknowledged;
- 11.4 It was recognised that the fear of crime had had an impact on people's lifestyle, in that many no longer left their homes during certain periods. This change in lifestyle was often not reported, and therefore no statistics had been available.

## **12.0 Recommendations**

- 12.1 the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund establish a Business Plan for a two year period with regard to funding as soon as possible;
- 12.2 local spending with reference to Central Government Grants should be at least at the national level;
- 12.3 good practice as used in Croydon, West Cornwall and other areas be adopted in Plymouth;
- 12.4 the Neighbourhood Renewal Team be informed in writing of the Committee's support of the project team's offer of liaison and surprise that the offer had not hitherto been accepted;
- 12.5 a progress report be produced by 1 January, 2005;
- 12.6 there be no further formal meetings of the Select Pairing.

## APPENDIX 1

### CITY OF PLYMOUTH

**Portfolio and Holder:** The Leader  
Councillor Evans

**CMT Member:** Strategic Director

**Subject:** *Revised Crime Reduction Strategy*

**Committee:** Cabinet

**Date:** 27 January 2004

**Author:** Keith Halsey, Community Safety Coordinator

**Contact:** [Keith.Halsey@plymouth.gov.uk](mailto:Keith.Halsey@plymouth.gov.uk) ; Tel: 01752 790983

**Ref:**

**Part:** I

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#### **Executive Summary:**

The City's Crime Reduction Strategy (CRS) 2002-05 has been reviewed, by Plymouth City Council working with Police and other agencies, and reprioritised to improve the alignment with the City Strategy and the delivery of crime reduction as part of the regeneration agenda.

The review (Appendix 1) also included changes to the structure of the Plymouth Community Safety Partnership (PCSP). The revised PCSP will be launched on 12 February to include Drug Action Team (DAT) and Youth Offending Team (YOT) representation. The PCSP will be supported by a Responsible Officers Group, consisting of key officers from partner agencies and the Community Safety Unit to ensure implementation of the Crime Reduction Strategy.

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#### **Strategic Choices (Corporate Plan) :**

Strategic Choices 2002-2006.

The Crime Reduction Strategy is a key component in:

- Improving the health, social well-being and safety of local people.
- Promoting social inclusion through neighbourhood renewal.

The CRS also includes 2 LPSA targets of car crime and drug treatment.

The Community Safety Strategy contributes to the Corporate Priority of 'Improving Customer Focus'.

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**Implications for Medium Term Financial Plan and Resource Implications:  
Including finance, human, IT and land:**

In 2003/04 the PCSP allocated approximately £1.1m to CRS actions. The majority of this funding is from the Home Office but includes £90,000 Plymouth City Council and £30,000 police secondment.

In addition various SRB, NRF and NDF and Objective II activity contributes to crime reduction, but are not necessarily aligned to the CRS. Plymouth City Council (Housing) funds the Housing Enforcement Relations Officer team £165,000 pa and £110,000 Anti-Social Behaviour legal costs and support services eg. Mediation and Homesafe. CCTV running costs are shared by the Council and Police. The DAT treatment budget (PCT) is approximately £3m per annum.

The following activities do not currently have budget provision from Community Safety Partnership resources -

- Expansion of Housing Enforcement Relations Officers team to improve Anti Social Behaviour service. Appendix 2 outlines the potential cost of this activity, with an annual cost of £144,000
- Provision of 'Community Safety Wardens'
- Rental cover of £40,000 for 2004/5 for Drug Action Team, Community Safety Unit and HERO's, which was previously paid from Home Office resources.

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**Other Implications: S17**

The PCSP has supported the Council in the development of S17 Training for Members and Officers 2003/04.

The (Plymouth Safer and Smarter) (SAS) group has championed crime reduction and community safety and is improving the Council's ability to respond.

The Community Safety Strategy describes the authority's commitment to provide a contribution to the safety, well-being and safety of local people.

The SAS model will also assist in the development of a Racist/Homophobia incident monitoring system.

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**Recommendations & Reasons for recommended action:**

- That Members note and agree the revised Crime Reduction Strategy and restructuring of the PCSP.
- That Members agree the Council's role and participation in the Community Safety Strategy, and continue to support the Section17 initiative and to participate in its mainstreaming across the Council.

- That Members consider the financial implications of the following Crime Reduction activities in the context of budget setting for 2004/5 financial year, and whether the Council should seek to secure Single Regeneration Budget and/or Neighbourhood Renewal Funding to support them.

1. Expansion of Housing Enforcement Relations Officers team to improve Anti Social Behaviour service.
2. Provision of 'Community Safety Wardens'
3. Office rental (previously paid by Home Office) for Drug Action Team, Community Safety Unit and HERO's

**Reasons:**

Crime Reduction and Community Safety are key aspects of Strategic Choices, City Strategy and renewal in the City.

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**Alternative options considered and reasons for recommended action:**

The revised CRS has been developed by the Council, Police, PCT, Probation and Fire & Rescue Services with support from the Community Safety Unit, DAT and YOT. It is therefore represents the partners current considered view on the best way of tackling crime and community safety issues in the City.

Delay would disadvantage progression on these issues.

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**Background papers:**

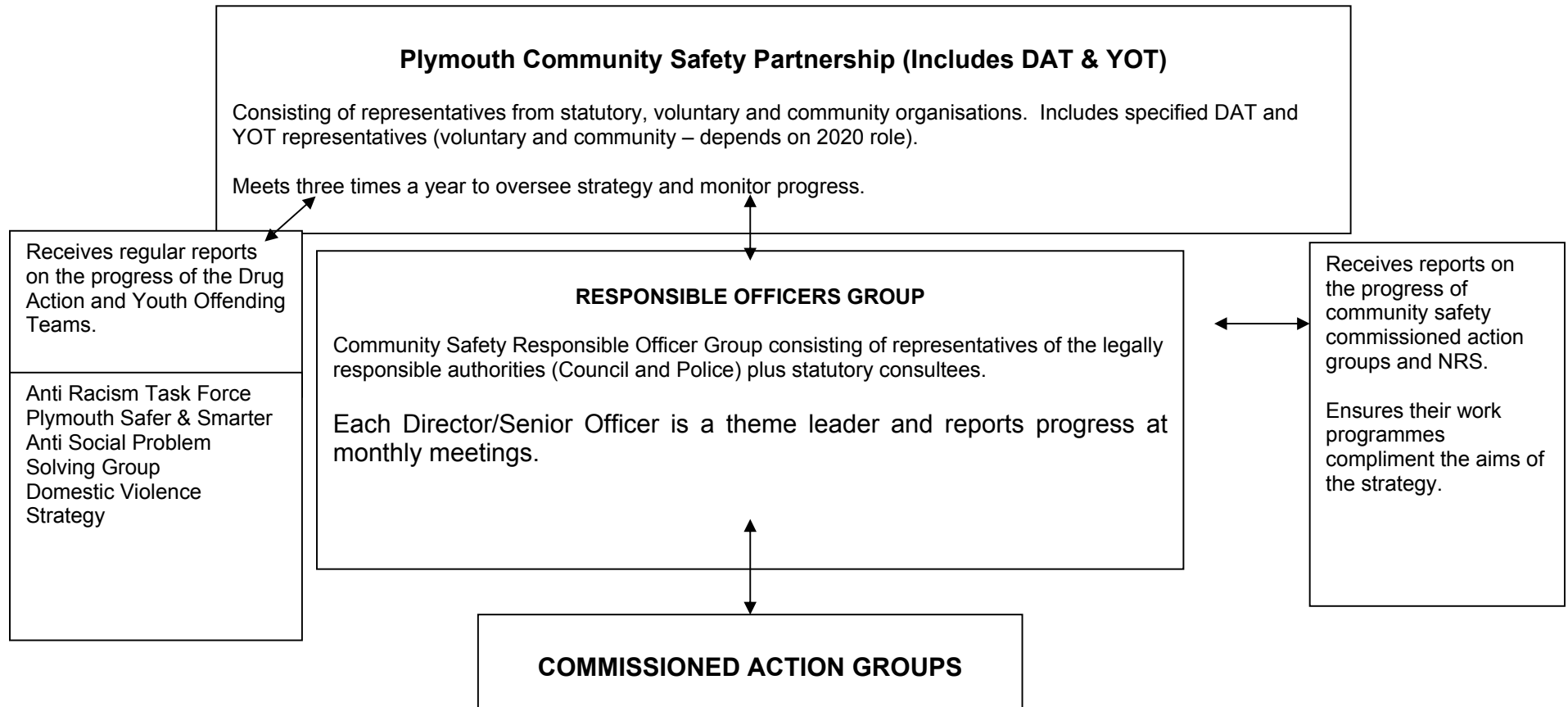
Revised Crime Reduction Strategy – Cabinet Briefing Paper.

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**Sign off:**

Fin		Leg		HR		L.P.		IT	
Originating CMF Member									

# FRAMEWORK FOR DELIVERY OF PLYMOUTH COMMUNITY SAFETY STRATEGY



## Appendix 2

### PROPOSAL TO DEVELOP THE HOUSING ENFORCEMENT TEAM

January 2004

#### Summary

##### Introduction

Anti-social behaviour (ASB) high priority for Gov't.

ASB Orders, new ASB Act 2003, Initiative 'Together' an Action Plan for tackling asb giving LA and police more powers to deal with nuisance neighbours, begging environmental crime and witness support, putting victims first.

Plymouth's priority – Safer Smarter City accords well with above.

This proposal sets out how Plymouth can respond to above challenges whilst building on existing work and expertise.

##### Current position

Specialist Housing Enforcement Unit within Social and Housing Services. Est 2002.

1 Manager (P2) 3x Enforcement officers 1x Enforcement Assistant

Uses multi agency, problem solving approach within escalation process.

Considerable experience/expertise but generally confined to ASB on council estates.

2002            5 Anti-social behaviour orders,

2002/03        8 successful court actions.

2003/04        12 successful court actions.

Average cost per action £5-£10 k.

Approx 50 serious cases of anti-social behaviour /year, 84% resolved without need to go to court.

HET not yet lost a case taken to court. Orders obtained include ASBOs, injunctions possession

Good links with police, YOT YISP, Social Services Mental Health Services etc.

##### Proposal

- Expand team to ensure ASB tackled in all tenure types, and public spaces.
- Police officer secondments/Information exchange officer, providing very close cooperation/co-ordination of effort.
- dedicated solicitor (essential) within legal practice focused on ASB
- social care support officer ensures 'social' needs considered by all
- cases/expert link to agencies/focused on ASB and preventing homelessness
- + support staff
- will ensure ASB tackled consistently, effectively using all available interventions from support measures to enforcement.
- ASB tackled in RSL, private rented sector housing, owner occupied sector and public spaces.
- Unit used for problem solving ASB activities eg public disorder/street drinking
- RSLs can buy into and/or second staff to unit
- Engage private sector landlords to be more proactive in tackling ASB reduce homelessness
- Work around violence towards council staff, injunctions etc.
- Identify hotspots and problem solve with other agencies.

- Single point of contact ref anti-social behaviour will ensure better communication co-ordination of effort

Additional staff requirements

1 x Team Leader post	P1
3 x Enforcement Officer post	SO1
1x Enforcement Assistant	Sc 1-4 Career grade
1 x Social care and support officer	SO1

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£144k + on costs

Police contribution

- 1 x Police officer secondment
- 0.5 information exchange officer
- 2 x admin support officers

These posts will enhance the existing team and will ensure anti-social behaviour is dealt with appropriately, expeditiously and consistently throughout Plymouth and meeting the aims of reducing anti-social behaviour and the risk of crime but also contributing to the need to reduce homelessness and have sustainable communities.