CARLISLE CITY COUNCIL

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REPORT TO EXECUTIVE

PORTFOLIO AREA: ENVIRONMENT INFRASTRUCTURE AND TRANSPORT

Date of Meeting:	**7th July 2003**		
Public/Private*			
Key Decision:	**Yes/No**	**Recorded in Forward Plan:**	**Yes/No**
Inside/Outside Policy Framework			

Title: **FORMAL MERGER OF CARLISLE AND EDEN CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION PARTNERSHIPS**

Report of: **Head of Economic and Community Development**

Report reference: **ECD 17/03**

Summary:

Carlisle and Eden Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships are preparing to request a formal merger under the Police Reform Act 2001. This involves submission of a business case and approval from the Home Secretary. The merger would be the first of its kind in the country and would formalise the existing informal arrangements which enable joint working to continue.

Recommendations:

That members support the Carlisle and Eden Crime and Disorder Partnership in pursuit of formally merged status.

Contact Officer: Paul Musgrave **Ext:** 7011

1. BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND OPTIONS

The Carlisle and Eden Crime and Disorder Partnership (CDRP) has been a joint partnership since its first meeting in May 2001. This arrangement is informal and owes

its existence to the wider closer working which resulted from Foot and Mouth Disease (see appendix 1). Many of the members were attending both partnerships which led to unnecessary duplication and the geographical area of the two districts has co-terminosity with the North Cumbria Police Division.

The arrangement has progressed to the stage where Government Office for the North West recognise and support joint working and are allowing the partnership to handle funding on a joint basis which also cuts down on duplication of administration for all parties.

Crime and criminals do not acknowledge local authority boundaries and therefore many of the issues around criminal activity and criminals are shared across the two areas.

In addition to this the Local Strategic Partnership operates on the same geographic level and formal adoption of the merger would help to strengthen CDRP links to the LSP.

(See appendix 2)

2. CONSULTATION

1. Consultation to Date.

   Consultation was a large part of the preparation of the Carlisle and Eden Joint Strategy in early 2001. Among practitioners, there was universal approval for merging. Communities continue to be reassured that any initiatives are directed at specific problem areas or hotspots and rural issues are routinely considered.

   The consultation process ensured that there was equal representation from Carlisle City Council and Eden District Council at officer and member level to maintain equal distribution of resources.

2. Consultation proposed.

A report similar to this will be presented to Eden District Council.

In addition, consultation will also take place with other key signatories: North Cumbria Police Area Commander, Cumbria County Council Chief Executive and Chair of Cumbria Police Authority.

3. STAFFING/RESOURCES COMMENTS

None

4. HEAD OF FINANCE'S COMMENTS

5. LEGAL COMMENTS

6. CORPORATE COMMENTS

7. RISK MANAGEMENT ASSESSMENT

8. EQUALITY ISSUES

9. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

None anticipated

10. CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

The formal merger would clarify many anomalies currently experienced in terms of handling external funding, dealing with Government Office and the actual running of initiatives. It would also be an opportunity to be at the forefront of new legislation which

has been specifically created to enable closer working between authorities on Crime and Disorder.

11. RECOMMENDATIONS

That members support the Carlisle and Eden Crime and Disorder Partnership in pursuit of formally merged status.

12. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

The present informal arrangements have been working well and formalisation of this would provide greater clarity for all those involved in the Partnership.

Appendix 1

CARLISLE CITY COUNCIL

Report to:-	**Corporate Strategy and Performance Review Sub Committee**	
Date of Meeting:-	29th January 2001	**Agenda Item No:-**

Public	**Policy**	**Delegated No**

Accompanying Comments and Statements	**Required**	**Included**
Environmental Impact Statement:	No	No
Corporate Management Team Comments:	No	No
City Treasurers Comments:	No	No
City Solicitor & Secretary Comments:	No	No
Head of Personnel Services Comments:	No	No

Title:-	**APPROVAL OF A JOINT COMMUNITY SAFETY STRATEGIC GROUP FOR CARLISLE AND EDEN DISTRICTS.**
Report of:-	TOWN CLERK AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE
Report reference:-	TC 18/01

Summary: - This report sets out the proposed structure for a joint Community Safety Strategic Group with Eden District and seeks Committee approval for its adoption. The structure allows coterminosity with the North Cumbria Constabulary operational area, reduces the time demands on partner organisations, and facilitates the pooling of resources to tackle common areas of concern and rural crime and disorder particularly.

Recommendation: - That Committee approve the adoption of a joint Community Safety Strategic Group as outlined in the report.

Contact Officer: Bob Bolton **Ext:** 7011

P Stybelski
Town Clerk and Chief Executive
09 January 2001

Note: in compliance with section 100d of the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 the report has been prepared in part from the following papers: None

BACKGROUND:

The 1998 Crime and Disorder Act placed a responsibility on Local Authorities and the Police to develop a local strategy to tackle crime and disorder. Carlisle launched its Crime and Disorder Strategy in April 1999 and conducted a mid term review in September 2000 setting out clear objectives for the ensuing 18 months. These objectives identified the

- inclusion of the rural perspective recognised by the Government
- the more active participation of partner organisations

as key to the further successful delivery of the Strategy.

In order to address both these issues the Carlisle Community Safety Strategic Group has considered joint working with the Eden District Leadership Group and concluded that a merger of the two groups would be beneficial as it would

- Allow joint working on rural issues
- Reduce the number of meetings for key partners
- Allow coterminosity with the North Cumbria Police Area and that of other Countywide Partners e.g.Youth Offending Team

Each District would continue to set and work to its own priorities reflecting local needs but corporate where in both interests.

PROPOSED WORKING STRUCTURE:

In recent months the Eden District Crime and Disorder Partnership has moved to adopt a similar working structure to that of Carlisle, forming a number of 'Task Groups' to take forward initiatives listed within the Strategy. Given the newness of these groups and the integration of some with other bodies no change is proposed to their composition. In time, with the development of a follow on strategy, it may be possible to merge these groups also.

The revised and merged working structure for the Eden and Carlisle Partnerships can therefore be shown as in Figure 1. Other working arrangements pertaining to the Group include

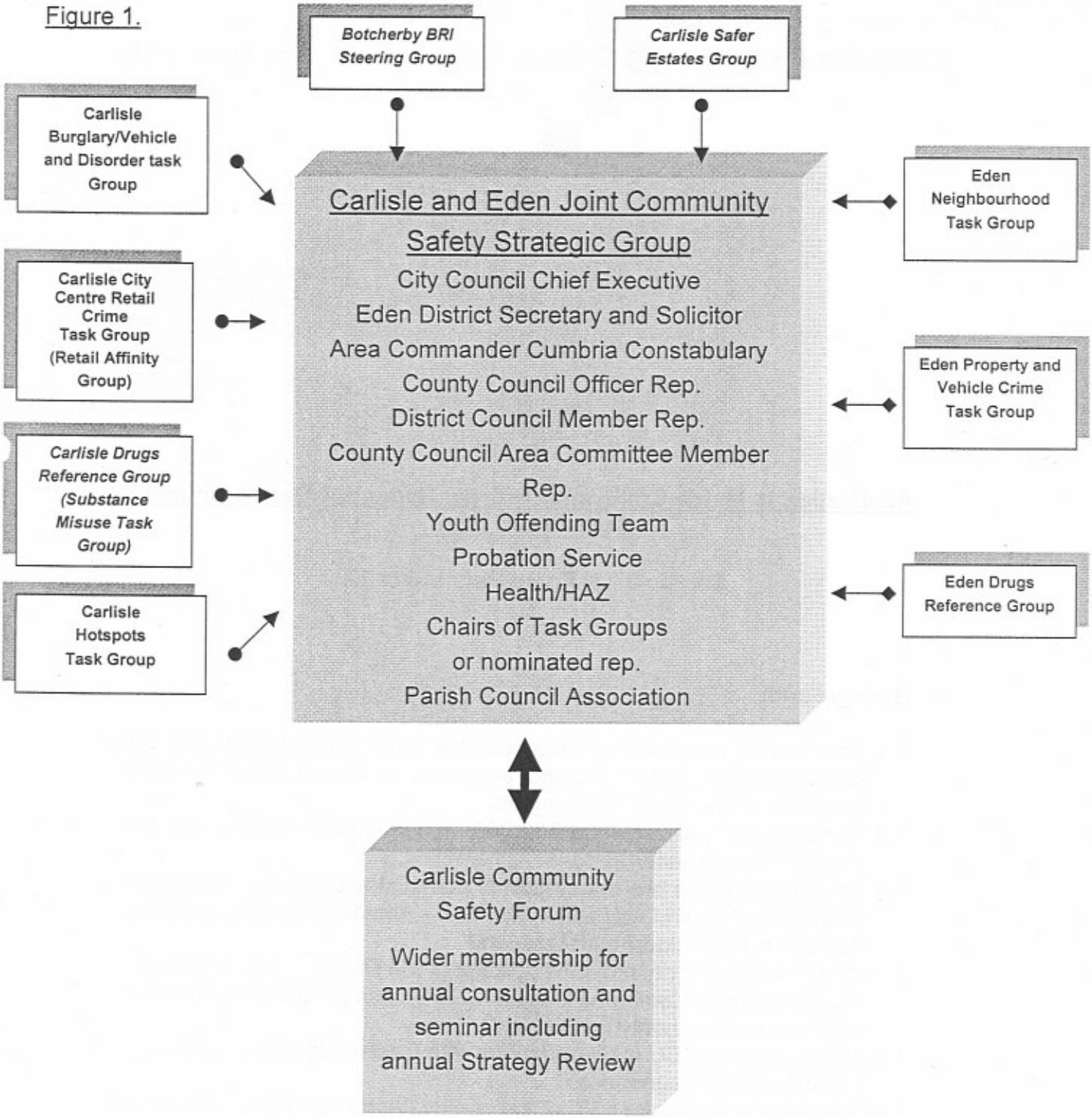
Frequency of Meetings: These should continue on a monthly basis, as practised in Carlisle, in order to maintain the current impetus of delivery.

Location of Meetings: To alternate between District Authorities.

Chair Person: To be conducted through a period of 'Presidency' (6 months) and rotated between Police and District Authorities.

Administrative Support: Compilation of agendas to be co-ordinated via the respective officer representatives with minutes to be taken by the host Authority.

Figure 1.



RECOMMENDATION:

That Committee approve the adoption of a joint Community Safety Strategic Group as outlined in the report.

Appendix 2

CARLISLE+EDEN Crime Reduction Partnership

Carlisle & Eden CDRP
5th Floor Civic Centre
CARLISLE
Cumbria
CA3 8QG

Application to Merge Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships – Carlisle and Eden.

Section 97(3) Police Reform Act 2000

1 **Background**;

1.1. The County of Cumbria is situated in the North West of England, is the second largest shire in England, and contains almost half of the whole land area of the North West region.
1.2. The population is just under 500,000, with very low density – less than one person per hectare.
1.3. The County has a two-tier system of administration, there being one County Council and six local authorities – Allerdale, Barrow, Carlisle, Copeland, Eden and South Lakeland.
1.4. One Police Authority provides policing of the County. This is divided into three Basic Command Units (BCU's). Each BCU is co-terminous with two local authority boundaries.
1.5. North Cumbria BCU is co-terminous with Carlisle and Eden District Local Authority boundaries.
1.6. This area accounts for 43% of the county (land mass), and 31% of the population (150,639 / 487792).
1.7. In regional terms, North Cumbria is a fairly safe place to live – see table below – crimes per 1000 population (per 1000 households for burglary):

North Cumbria		North West Region	
Domestic Burglaries	**10.75**	Domestic Burglaries	**27.5**
Offences Against the Person	**9.85**	Offences Against the Person	**12.4**
Robberies	**0.25**	Robberies	**2.4**
Vehicles Crimes	**19.9**	Vehicles Crimes	**23.4**

1.8. Crime in North Cumbria knows no boundaries. 70% of the areas population reside within the boundary of Carlisle City, where the majority of crime is recorded. However, many of those responsible for committing crime travel between the districts. Whilst levels of crime vary drastically throughout North Cumbria, the problem is undoubtedly a shared one.

2 History of co-operation;

2.1. In April 1999, the Local Authorities of Carlisle and Eden produced separate strategies, in co-operation with the police and other co-operating bodies.

2.2. Carlisle held monthly partnership meetings to progress actions arising from that strategy. More identifiable crime and disorder problems, and a dedicated resource (full time Community Safety Officer), set Carlisle apart from Eden in the early stages.

2.3. Eden held less frequent meetings, but many of the participants were the same as twenty miles up the road in Carlisle – Police, Probation service, fire service, Youth Offending team, etc.

2.4. As the partnerships developed it became evident that there were significant benefits to merging the Crime and Disorder Partnerships. Not only would single meetings reduce the call upon many of the participants, but it also provided the platform for sharing best practice and avoiding duplication of effort.

2.5. In mid 2001 the first Carlisle and Eden Crime and Disorder Reduction partnership meeting was held. This built upon the co-operation of these two local authorities that were together dealing with the outbreak of foot and mouth.

2.6. Following the devastation inflicted by this outbreak, the areas formed the Carlisle and Eden Local Strategic Partnership (LSP).

2.7. The principle strand of the LSP is to:

- To agree a vision for the economic, environmental and social advancement of the Carlisle & Eden areas based upon the Carlisle City Vision and Eden Futures processes.

2.8. The Carlisle and Eden CDRP have representatives on the LSP and have co-operated on initiatives which contribute to delivery of partnership objectives –

- Children's Fund bid - Anti Social Behaviour
- Carlisle South Regeneration programme - Crime Hotspots

2.9. Since June 2001, Carlisle and Eden CDRP have '*pooled*' their Crime Reduction budgets (CAD / SCI / PDF / SRIDA), producing shared plans that deliver initiatives across both districts.

2.10. In April 2002 the second Crime and Disorder Strategies were required to be produced. Legal advice was sought on the requirements of the Crime and Disorder Act, specifically in relation to the conduct of audits and the production of strategies. There was a will to conduct one audit, but legal opinion led to the production of two audits, duplicating effort, and adding not insignificant extra expense –Eden paid £9,000 for their audit / Carlisle conducted their own at similar cost

2.11. One joint Strategy was produced, and has strengthened the co-operation of the partners on addressing Crime and Disorder issues across the district.

3 **Case for merger;**

3.1. The Police Reform Act s.97 (3), allows the Home Secretary to merge two local authorities areas where;

3.1.1. The application has been made jointly by all responsible authorities, AND

3.1.2. The Home Secretary considers it would be in the interests of reducing crime and disorder, or of combating the misuse of drugs, to make the order.

3.2. Carlisle and Eden CDRP submit that the following provide compelling grounds for the Home Secretary to make such an order;

3.2.1. Cost effectiveness

- The partnership will require only one audit (local context will be retained but only one set of statistics need be produced)
- Performance measurement will be for one area not two, and
- Accounting practices will be eased by removal of the legal requirement to account for two sets of funding to one partnership.

3.2.2. Removal of barriers

- Legal framework for partnership activity will remove political barriers between districts.
- Provides legal acknowledgement of existing working practices – coterminosity with BCU and LSP.

3.2.3. Improved potential to access funding streams

- Low crime rates, coupled with relative prosperity (the area only has one ward in the *10% most deprived wards* category), reduce the opportunities to attract wide-ranging funding streams. Cost effective partnership activity provides a more attractive framework to attract external funding.

We the below, being Responsible Authorities under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (as amended by the Police Reform Act 2000), agree to the merger of the Carlisle and Eden Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships. It is submitted that it will be in the interests of reducing crime and disorder, and of combating the misuse of drugs within that area.

Ian Bruce
Chief Executive
Eden District Council

Peter Stybelski
Chief Executive
Carlisle City Council

Brian Horn
Area Commander
North Cumbria BCU

Louis Victory
Chief Executive
Cumbria County Council

Reg Watson
Chair of Cumbria Police Authority