

## Governance Directorate

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TO: THE LEADER AND MEMBERS  
OF THE EXECUTIVE

Please ask for:

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MD

1 April 2014

Dear Member

### EXECUTIVE

**MONDAY 7 APRIL 2014 AT 4.00 PM**

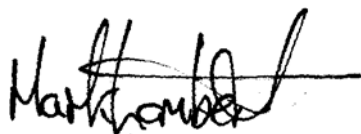
I refer further to the Agenda and papers recently circulated for the meeting of the Executive to be held on **Monday 7 April 2014 at 4.00 pm in the Flensburg Room.**

Please find enclosed copies of the undernoted documentation which was marked "to follow" on the Agenda:

Agenda item A.1      Minute Excerpt COSP.24/14 – Carlisle and Eden Community  
Safety Partnership Annual Plan 2014/15

Agenda item A.6      Minute Excerpt COSP.23/14 – Hate Crime Task and Finish Group

Yours faithfully



Director of Governance



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## **EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL HELD ON 27 MARCH 2014**

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### **COSP.24/14    CARLISLE AND EDEN COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP ANNUAL PLAN 2014-15**

The Contracts and Community Services Manager submitted report SD.03/14 presenting the Carlisle and Eden Community Safety Partnership (CSP) Annual Plan for 2014/15. The Plan had been developed by the CSP's Leadership Group with input from the City Council Officers and the communities and Housing Portfolio Holder. The Plan was drafted using data from the Community Safety Strategic Assessment and Strategic Assessment.

The Contracts and Community Services Manager gave an overview of the Strategic Assessment which the Panel had considered at their previous meeting.

The report presented the work of the CSP for the coming year in the form of their Partnership Plan. The Contracts and Community Services Manager explained that the document was a live working programme which would develop throughout the year and could be influenced and shaped through the City Council's representation on the CSP Leadership Group. Comments from the Panel would be offered to the Executive and subsequently full Council.

The Communities Development Officer reiterated that the Plan was a broad overview and that Anti Social Behaviour continued to be the top priority. She gave an overview of each of the priorities drawing particular attention to Hate Crime and the promotion of reporting methods.

In considering the Carlisle and Eden Community Safety Partnership Plan Members raised the following comments and questions:

- Would the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) continue funding the CSP?

The Communities Development Officer explained that the PCC would hold the funding and the CSP would have to bid for funding for projects. It was understood that long term projects such as Best Bar None would continue to be funded and other projects would require the submission of a bid.

- Were the priorities of the CSP in line with the PCC priorities?

The Contracts and Community Services Manager confirmed that the priorities of both were aligned to secure funding opportunities.

- Would the CSP be working with the Cumbria Gateway project to reduce re-offending?

The CSP would work closely with the Integrated Offender Management Scheme to reduce re-offending.

- A Member asked for more details with regard to the Carlisle and Eden Leadership Group, the CSP Task Group and the Problem Solving Groups.

The Contracts and Community Services Manager responded that the Carlisle and Eden Leadership Group dealt with strategic matters, the Task Group managed district wide projects and Problem Solving Groups addressed emerging issues on the ground before they escalated.

Members supported the work being carried out by the Problem Solving Groups and asked that details of the Groups and their meetings be circulated to all Members to encourage their participation and the opportunity to report issues.

RESOLVED: 1) That report SD.03/14 – Carlisle and Eden Community Safety Partnership Annual Plan 2014-15 – be noted.

2) That details of the Problem Solving Groups and their meeting dates be circulated to all Members of the City Council.

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## EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL HELD ON 27 MARCH 2014

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### **COSP.23/14    HATE CRIME TASK AND FINISH GROUP**

The Overview and Scrutiny Officer submitted report OS.08/14 which included the final report of the Hate Crime Task and Finish Group.

The Lead Member of the Hate Crime Task and Finish Group reminded the Panel of the background to the Task and Finish Group and the importance of raising the awareness of what Hate Crimes are and how they could be reported. She felt that the Task Group had given great consideration to what they wanted from the Group and witnesses were very honest about the subject.

The Group wanted to ensure that the right protocols were in place and that they were up to date and relevant to ensure the Council had completed policies on Equality and Diversity and Hate Crime.

The Lead Member reminded Members that Hate Crime covered a wide variety of crimes in local communities and the profile of Hate Crimes needed to be raised.

She summarised the reasons for each of the Task and Finish Group's recommendations as set out in the report:

#### *Recommendation 1*

It was essential that the City Council worked in partnership, Cumbria Constabulary had carried out a review of the hate incident reporting scheme which they would re-launch in the near future.

#### *Recommendation 2*

Carlisle City Council had been the only District Council not to attend a Cumbria Multi Agency event in March 2013. The Task Group felt that this sent out the wrong message.

The Contracts and Community Services Manager informed the Panel that Hate Crime had been included as a priority for the Carlisle and Eden Community Safety Partnership for 2014/15. He added that the City Council always had an indirect representative at Multi Agency events, however, moving forward the Council would have a direct representative.

#### *Recommendation 3*

The Task Group asked the Portfolio Holder to take this recommendation forward.

#### *Recommendation 4*

The Task Group were aware that training could not be made mandatory but they wanted to encourage more Members and staff to attend training. They wanted to ensure that the Senior Management Team understood that there was a problem and that refresher training should be made available.

Councillor J Mallinson, Leader of the Opposition, suggested that the Panel change the wording in recommendation 4. He felt that Group Leaders would not be able to ensure all Member attended training and that encourage would be a more achievable and realistic term.

#### *Recommendation 5*

It was felt that the Informal Council sessions were an ideal opportunity to brief Members on Hate Crime issues.

#### *Recommendation 6*

Cyber bullying had not been in the initial remit of the Task Group but it had emerged as a real issue for young people and it was vital that the authority knew how to deal with it.

The Policy and Communications Manager explained that it would be very difficult for the authority to maintain separate policies for each of the emerging media tools. The Council had a staff Code of Conduct, a Members Code of Conduct, a Dignity and Respect Policy and disciplinary policies which were robust as long as people were aware that they would be used to deal with cyber bullying. In response to a question the Policy and Communications Manager advised that if the cyber bullying was carried out anonymously then those experiencing the bullying would be directed to the service provider to identify the bully.

Members highlighted the low turn out by Members for training and asked how this could be addressed. The Policy and Communications Manager reminded the Panel of the Council's E-Learning Modules which staff and Members could access whenever was suitable for them.

The Chairman had raised the issue of Hate Crime at full Council and had asked the Portfolio Holder how Carlisle City Council events could be used to promote Hate Crime reporting.

The Communities and Housing Portfolio Holder responded that the matter fell within the Culture, Health, Leisure and Young People Portfolio Holder's remit. She had attended the Violent Crime Task Group meeting in which Hate Crime had been discussed. The City Council had been congratulated on the speed in which offensive graffiti was removed once reported. She felt that the key issue for the Council was to raise awareness so that the incidents were reported.

She stressed the personal responsibility that each Member had to raise awareness, the Council had a part to play but ultimately the responsibility lay with each Member.

A Member highlighted 6.10 of the report and asked if there would be costs involved in reintroducing in house training. The Policy and Communications Manager responded that discussions were being undertaken with other District Councils and the County Council to find the most efficient way of providing joint training to all authorities.

**RESOLVED:** That the Panel endorse the recommendations of the Hate Crime Task and Finish Group as set out in report OS18/14 with the following amendment:

Recommendation 4 – change ‘ensure’ to ‘encourage’

and refer it to the Executive for a formal response to the recommendations.