



Report from Safe & Sustainable Neighbourhoods Portfolio Holder

Subject: South Nottinghamshire Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnership Merger

Date: 5th June 2008

1. Purpose of the Report

To seek Cabinet agreement on progressing towards a formal merger of the three South Nottinghamshire Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnerships of Broxtowe, Gedling and Rushcliffe to form The South Nottinghamshire Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnership, (SN-CDRP)

2. Background

- Section 5 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (CDA) as amended by section 97(3) of the Police Reform Act 2002 (PRA) sets out the circumstances in which the responsible authorities for each Crime & Disorder Partnership area can join together to work as a combined partnership in order to carry out their audit and strategy functions under sections 6 to 7 of the Act.
- It is recognised that there are clearly benefits for some partnerships, particularly in two tier areas, to work together in this way.
- Merged CDRP areas may also help overcome the practical barriers to integration/closer working between the County Drug Action Teams (DATs) and the District CDRP.
- In July 2006 the three Borough Crime & Disorder reduction Partnerships (CDRP) of Broxtowe, Gedling and Rushcliffe began working much closer together on a strategic level holding joint quarterly meetings.
- The commencement of joint working at a strategic level followed closer working at a tactical level through the Community Safety Officers.
- Bringing together the three partnerships was viewed as an interim measure allowing for future discussions on a formal merger.
- The aims of bringing the 3 partnerships together were;
 - Efficiency savings including reduction in the number of meetings and joint commissioning of projects
 - Co-terminosity of the CDRP working with the Police D Division (South Nottinghamshire).
 - Development of a single Strategy and Strategic Action Plan for South Nottinghamshire.

- Pooling of expertise, knowledge, skills and resources to more effectively tackle crime and disorder and the misuse of drugs at local level
- Increased joint working between the three Boroughs on crime and disorder.
- Closer working with Nottingham City Crime & Drugs Partnership (CDP).
- The recent work of SN-CDRP has resulted in a Partnership Improvement Plan, Strategic Assessment, Strategic Action Plan and there is ongoing work around the long term development of the partnership over the coming 12 months.
- There are six stages to progress towards a formal merger of the three partnership;

Stage 1 - A proposal to merge must be agreed by all of the responsible authorities across the areas wishing to merge and discussed with the relevant Home Office Regional Director.

Stage 2 - CDRPs pilot working together as a merged partnership.

Stage 3 - After piloting working arrangements as a merged partnership, an application to merge is made to the Home Office Regional Director that draws upon evidence from a joint Self Assessment completed by the 'informally merged' partnership during the pilot phase and joint improvement planning reflecting evidence of performance improvement during the pilot period, setting out any benefits already gained or expected to be achieved and how these impact on reducing crime and disorder or combating the misuse of drugs and clearly show that all of the responsible authorities for all relevant areas are in agreement with the merger

Stage 4 - The Home Office Regional Director for the region will consider the application and make a recommendation supporting the application submitted to the Home Office Community Safety and Local Government Unit (CSLGU).

Stage 5 - CSLGU recommend to the Secretary of State that the application be approved.

Stage 6 - Recommendation is approved and Home Office Legal Advisers arrange for an Order (the formal instrument authorising the merger) to be made

- The SN-CDRP is currently at Stage 3 in the process and is seeking to place an application before the Home Office Regional Director in June 2008.

3. Proposal

It is proposed that Cabinet agrees to progress to Stage 4 and apply to the Home Office Regional Director to merge and form the South Notts Crime and Disorder Partnership.

4. Resource Implications

There are no additional resource implications identified.

5. Equality Implications

South Nottinghamshire CDRP works together not only to reduce crime and disorder across South Nottinghamshire but also to improve quality of life for all

residents in the area in response to community concerns. The formal merging of the CDRPs will pave the way to significant future planned development towards improving performance in reducing crime and disorder, improve community cohesion and will significantly contribute to addressing social inequalities

6. Sustainability Implications

The work of the South Nottinghamshire CDRP, working with internal and external partners and local residents in the development of the South Nottinghamshire Strategy will contribute significantly to the creation of a sustainable approach to reduction in crime and disorder. The work of the partnership will be monitored and evaluated by through local processes and also through the Local Area Agreement.

7. Recommendation

It is RECOMMENDED that Cabinet agree the proposed merger of the South Nottinghamshire CDRPs to form the South Nottinghamshire Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnership.