

CABINET

12 September 2023

MEMBERSHIP OF THE LEICESTERSHIRE SAFER COMMUNITIES STRATEGY BOARD AND DOMESTIC ABUSE LOCAL PARTNERSHIP BOARD

Report of the Portfolio Holder for Highways, Transport, and the Environment

Strategic Aim:	All	
Key Decision: No	Forward Plan Reference: FP/250823	
Exempt Information	No	
Cabinet Member(s) Responsible:	Cllr C Wise, Portfolio Holder for Highways, Transport and the Environment	
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Ward Councillors	NA	

DECISION RECOMMENDATIONS

That Cabinet:

1. Approves the arrangements for Rutland County Council to join the formal membership of the Leicestershire Safer Communities Strategy Board and the Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board.
2. Notes that these arrangements are in addition to the Council's existing Rutland-based arrangements, which will continue.

1 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To seek Cabinet approval for Rutland County Council to join the formal membership of the Leicestershire Safer Communities Strategy Board and the Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Safer Communities Strategy Boards were set up as a result of the Crime and Disorder (Formulation and Implementation of Strategy) Regulations 2007.

- 2.2 These Boards coordinate community safety priorities across the local authority area and includes representatives from the Council and the “responsible authorities” (including, Police, Public Health, Fire and Rescue, Probation Service, and the Police and Crime Commissioner).
- 2.3 Rutland County Council’s body for these purposes is the Safer Rutland Partnership Strategic Board and is chaired by the Portfolio Holder with responsibility for Community Safety.
- 2.4 Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Boards are required as a result of Section 58 of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021.
- 2.5 They provide a governance and consultative role for certain functions including:
 - 2.5.1 Assessing the need for accommodation-based domestic abuse support for all victims.
 - 2.5.2 Supporting the development and publication of the Domestic Abuse Reduction Strategy and giving effect to the Strategy (through monitoring commissioning / de-commissioning needs).
 - 2.5.3 Ensuring representation of marginalised groups and those who are underrepresented in local services.
- 2.6 Rutland County Council’s body for these purposes is the Rutland Local Abuse Partnership Board.
- 2.7 In addition to these arrangements, the Council’s Portfolio Holder with responsibility for Community Safety has attended meetings of Leicestershire’s equivalent bodies as a non-voting observer.

3 PROPOSED MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

- 3.1 It is proposed Rutland County Council’s membership of Leicestershire’s Boards be formalised as voting members, whilst retaining its own arrangements for regulatory purposes.
- 3.2 Crime, anti-social behaviour and domestic abuse matters are not restricted to County boundaries. The proposal will provide opportunities to better share information, intelligence and resources and help reduce duplication of work with many of the stakeholders involved covering both Leicestershire and Rutland, such as Public Health and the Police and Fire Services.
- 3.3 In addition, this will provide greater alignment with the geography of the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Resilience Forum and other sub-regional partnership arrangements for health and children’s services.
- 3.4 Leicestershire County Council’s Cabinet received a report on the matter at their meeting on 23 May 2023 and approved the proposed arrangements.
- 3.5 The Leicestershire Safer Communities Strategy Board and the Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board at their meetings on 29 September will be asked to agree the change of membership and any consequent changes to their respective Terms of Reference.

4 CONSULTATION

- 4.1 There is no statutory requirement to consult on this matter. Initial discussion has taken place and the proposed change to the membership of the Boards is supported by officers from both authorities, and Leicestershire County Council's Cabinet.

5 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 5.1 Rutland County Council could choose not to become a formal voting member of the Leicestershire's bodies. However, this may limit the Council's ability to participate and benefit from strategic developments and initiatives within the sub-region. It may also result in duplication of effort and participation of key stakeholders.

6 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no substantive financial implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

7 LEGAL AND GOVERNANCE CONSIDERATIONS

- 7.1 The Crime and Disorder Regulations 2007 place a duty on each 'County Area' to create a Safer Communities Strategy Board. Required membership is specified, however Section 8(6) of the Regulations allows membership to include "such other persons as the county strategy group invites."
- 7.2 The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 places a duty to create a Domestic Abuse Partnership Board to advise the Council about its functions under s57 and the provision of local authority support in its area. Statutory guidance issued under the Act allows broader membership of the Board where this will enhance its function.
- 7.3 Therefore, it is acceptable under these provisions for Rutland County Council as a neighbouring authority to be represented on Leicestershire County Council's Boards whilst retaining its existing arrangements.

8 DATA PROTECTION IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 A Data Protection Impact Assessments (DPIA) has not been completed as no personal data has been processed in the preparation of these proposals.

9 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 9.1 An equality impact assessment has not been completed because the proposal does not require changes to the Council's policies, procedures, functions and services.

10 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 The proposed changes will have a positive impact and provide mutual benefits to partners in dealing with crime and disorder matters.

11 HEALTH AND WELLBEING IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 The proposed changes will have a positive impact to partners dealing with domestic abuse matters.

12 ORGANISATIONAL IMPLICATIONS

12.1 There are no organisational implications identified, Rutland County Council's arrangements will continue as they are presently constituted.

13 CONCLUSION AND SUMMARY OF REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

13.1 There is already very close alignment of shared community safety priorities across Rutland and Leicestershire and the council has attended Leicestershire's bodies as non-voting observer since their inception. A more formalised arrangement will provide more effective and efficient partnership working and is therefore recommended.

14 BACKGROUND PAPERS

14.1 Rutland Community Safety Strategy 2020 to 2023
(<https://www.rutland.gov.uk/community-safety/community-safety-strategy>)

14.2 Report to Leicestershire County Council's Cabinet on 26 May 2023 –
(<https://politics.leics.gov.uk/documents/s176360/10%20LSCSB%20and%20DALPB%20membership%20FINAL.pdf>)

15 APPENDICES

15.1 There are no appendices to the report.

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