

## COUNCIL – 25TH MARCH 2019

### ITEM 8      POSITION STATEMENTS

#### Crime in Charnwood

The Labour Group has requested that a Position Statement on the following issue is presented at the meeting:

The Labour Group requests a position statement, following the recent report on the work of the Community Safety Partnership submitted to the Scrutiny Management Board, on rising crime within Charnwood. The report states that overall crime in Charnwood has increased by 12.7%, which itself masks differences in certain crimes which have risen by over 600%. The Labour Group would like to ask what the administration is doing towards making Charnwood a safer place for its residents to live in.

*The Leader, or his nominee, has produced the following position statement:*

*The Charnwood Community Safety Partnership (CSP) is committed to making the Borough a safer place for its residents to live by proactively identifying and positively responding to key crime and disorder issues in the Borough, by working in partnership to find solutions to local problems and providing appropriate challenge where necessary.*

*The role of the CSP is to bring together all of the responsible authority organisations (Police, fire, health, probation and local authorities) that have statutory responsibilities to tackle crime and disorder. The CSP recognises the importance of the specific roles each agency plays under their own obligations. Whilst the Police are the main organisation responsible for tackling crime, others play key roles in prevention, enforcement and community reassurance.*

*The CSP approved amendments to its 2019/20 CSP plan, at its meeting on 24th January, to ensure it is reflective of the current issues and priorities. A copy of the approved plan can be found at:*

*<http://www.charnwoodtogether.com/events.html?month2331211=1&year2331211=2019#item2331211-2337550>.*

*These amendments were tabled following extensive analysis undertaken in the preparation of the annual Partnership Strategic Assessment (PSA). The PSA looks at crime pattern analysis, hot spot crime and disorder locations, offender profiling and victim profiling. The PSA also examines community intelligence and tension indicators within Charnwood's communities. This approach ensures that use of the resources at the Partnership's disposal is intelligence led and proactive in tackling emerging issues, as opposed to simply being reactive in tackling crime and disorder.*

*At the Scrutiny Management Board meeting held on 6th March 2019, the CSP reported a 12.7% increase in overall crime, for the period 1st April 2018 – 31st January 2019. For context, the increases in crime in Charnwood are mirroring both regional and national trends. Further analysis has shown that from 2016/17 to*

2018/19 the overall increase in crime within the Borough places Charnwood third out of a total of 9 in the table of CSPs across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland (LLR). Hence, it is always important to review trends in crime over a number of years as opposed to a 12 month comparative period.

Furthermore, the overall increase in crime during 2018/19 is mainly attributable to 3 key crime domains, those being:

- *Public order*
- *Assault without injury*
- *Harassment.*

These 3 crime domains alone account for 793 out of 1,263 additional crimes. As reported at SMB, the significant increase within these specific crime domains is as a direct result of the changes in the National Crime Recording Standards (NCRS) as implemented by the Home Office in 2018. These changes have resulted in cases that would have been previously recorded as anti-social behaviour, now being classified as crimes under the above 3 categories. This fact was corroborated by the Police who reported that they had seen a 23.1% decrease in reported anti-social behaviour.

The 600% increase referred to relates to theft of motor vehicles in one Police Beat alone, where the number of crimes increased from 2 to 14 over a 12 month period.

Finally, the Community Safety Partnership Plan has been translated into specific actions plans aimed at tackling the crime and disorder issues. These are governed by the multiagency Joint Action Group (JAG) and subgroup structure, which sits every 4 weeks, to review progress in terms of tackling crime and anti-social behaviour patterns. These action plans are detailed and contain tactical activities and initiatives aimed at Enforcement, Prevention, Intelligence gathering and increasing Community Confidence. Through the JAG structure partners identify solutions and action to tackle the issues discussed.

The approach of Charnwood CSP has been held up as best practice across the county and specific mention has been made of the governance and effectiveness of the Charnwood CSP delivery structures.