Report To:	Cabinet
Date:	17th February 2026
Subject:	South & East Lincolnshire Community Safety Strategy
Purpose:	To seek approval of the Community Safety Strategy and to recommend its adoption by Full Council.
Key Decision:	N/A
Portfolio Holder:	Portfolio Holder for Public Protection, Councillor Anthony Casson
Report Of:	Emily Spicer, Assistant Director – Communities & Housing Services
Report Author:	Sarah Cocker, Safer Communities Officer
Ward(s) Affected:	All
Exempt Report:	No

Summary

This report sets out the duties placed on local authorities and other named statutory agencies in relation to crime and disorder (Sections 5-7 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998). It outlines the Community Safety Partnership arrangements across the South and East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership, and more widely in Lincolnshire.

The Community Safety Strategy has been refreshed following a strategic review process and outlines the areas of focus that have been identified by the South and East Lincolnshire Community Safety Partnership. The strategy also demonstrates how the South and East Lincolnshire Community Safety Partnership works with the county Safer Lincolnshire Partnership in addressing crime and disorder and fulfilling the statutory duties placed on relevant authorities. Cabinet is asked to approve the strategy and recommend its adoption by Full Council.

Recommendations

a) Note the contents of the report and the work of partners in addressing crime and disorder in South and East Lincolnshire and Lincolnshire as a whole.

b) That Cabinet recommends Full Council adopt the Community Safety Strategy which sets out the areas of focus identified by the South and East Lincolnshire Community Safety Partnership.

c) That Cabinet requests that the Full Council authorises the executive of the authority to make any future amendments to the Strategy as required to meet emerging needs identified and that subject to Full council authorisation the Cabinet authorises the Assistant Director, Communities and Housing Services, in consultation with relevant Portfolio Holders to amend the Strategy.

Reasons for Recommendations

To communicate the commitment of the South and East Lincolnshire Community Safety Partnership in supporting the Safer Lincolnshire Partnership to meet the statutory duties set out in the Crime & Disorder Act 1998, and address crime and disorder at the local level.

Other Options Considered

Do nothing.

1. Background

1.1. Community Safety Partnerships (formerly known as Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships) were formed under Sections 5-7 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. They are made up of 'responsible authorities' including: local authorities, police, fire and rescue authorities, probation services and health partners. These authorities have a duty to work in co-operation with other 'co-operating bodies' for example Registered Social Landlords and Parish Councils.

1.2. This report outlines the community safety landscape across the geographical area of the South & East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership and Lincolnshire as a whole, setting out the statutory duties placed on responsible authorities and the arrangements for how these are met in Lincolnshire.

2. Report

2.1. To fulfil their statutory duties as a Community Safety Partnership, responsible authorities must undertake a range of coordinated actions[1]. The core responsibilities are to:

[1] Set out in Section 6 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.

2.1.1. Conduct a strategic assessment to review crime patterns and evaluate the effectiveness of previous strategies.
2.1.2. Formulate and implement a strategy to reduce crime, disorder, anti-social behaviour (ASB), substance misuse, and re-offending in the local area.
2.1.3. Engage with the community to ensure local views inform priorities and plans.
2.1.4. Hold one or more public meetings during each year.
2.1.5. Share information effectively through formal protocols to support joint working.
2.1.6. Align with Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) by having regard to their police and crime plans.
2.1.7. Commission Domestic Abuse Related Death Reviews (DARDRs) following notification from the Police of a domestic homicide[2].
2.1.8. Formulate and implement a strategy for preventing people from becoming involved in serious violence and reducing instances of serious violence in the area[3].

2.2. In addition to the above; Section 17 of the Crime & Disorder Act 1998 places a duty on all employees of responsible authorities to take into consideration crime and disorder in everything they do.

2.3. These responsibilities ensure Community Safety Partnerships take a proactive, evidence-based, and collaborative approach to improving community safety.

2.4. Working in partnership at a sub-region and at a county level enables the district councils in the SELCSP to discharge their statutory duties. Examples include:

2.4.1. *Regularly engage and consult with the public* – this had been discharged by the Safer Lincolnshire Partnership to the PCC who has a duty to consult the community before making recommendations on precept levels to the Police and Crime Panel.
2.4.2. *Commission DARDRs* - This duty has been delegated to the Lincolnshire Domestic Abuse Partnership which provides assurance to the Safer Lincolnshire Partnership regarding the commissioning and completion of these reviews.
2.4.3. *Hold one or more public meetings* – This duty is fulfilled by the Safer Lincolnshire Partnership through their Annual General Meeting which is accessible to the general public.

3. Collaboration for effective working

3.1. South and East Lincolnshire Community Safety Partnership

3.2. The South and East Lincolnshire Community Safety Partnership covers the municipal areas of South Holland District Council, Boston Borough Council and East Lindsey District Council, collectively known as the South and East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership. Each local authority offers a range of community safety services to

[2] This duty is set out in Section 9 of the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004, which came into force in April 2011.
[3] This duty was introduced through amendments to Section 6 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, made by the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022.

support a joined-up approach with partners. For example, provision of CCTV, addressing ASB (including coordination of the Anti-Social Behaviour Risk Assessment Conferences and ASB Case Review process), Public Spaces Protection Orders, emergency planning, Vulnerable Adults Panels (South Holland) and a safe at home scheme for victims of domestic abuse (East Lindsey). The South & East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership provides a good grounding to support local community safety work in collaboration with all relevant partners and compliments (not duplicates) the work of the county level Safer Lincolnshire Partnership.

3.3. The Safer Lincolnshire Partnership

3.4. The Safer Lincolnshire Partnership is the multi-agency forum for addressing community safety issues at a county level. Working alongside others such as the South and East Lincolnshire Community Safety Partnership the Safer Lincolnshire Partnership aims to:

3.4.1. Reduce crime and disorder and increase the safety of individuals and communities across Lincolnshire;
3.4.2. Ensure those living, working, or visiting Lincolnshire feel safe and are equipped to cope with any hazards or threats they may encounter;
3.4.3. Improve communication, coordination and cooperation between agencies allowing them to work together more efficiently and effectively.

3.5. The Safer Lincolnshire Partnership conducted a Strategic Needs Assessment to inform its 2025–2028 strategy. Moving away from ‘Core Priority Groups’, the Safer Lincolnshire Partnership have adopted a project-based approach to meet statutory duties. This shift ensures targeted, efficient use of shared resources and aligns activity with local needs. Projects will be evidence-based, time-limited, and focused on prevention, early intervention, and collaboration with community and voluntary sectors. Each will have clear deliverables, allowing the Safer Lincolnshire Partnership to remain agile and responsive.

3.6. Officers from the South and East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership actively participate in the Safer Lincolnshire Partnership to strengthen collaboration and support shared priorities. In turn, the Safer Lincolnshire Partnership contributes to the work of the South and East Lincolnshire Community Safety Partnership.

4. Police & Crime Commissioners

4.1. The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 established elected Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) for each police force area in England and Wales. PCCs are responsible for:

4.1.1. Developing a Police and Crime Plan for their area.
4.1.2. Commissioning services related to community safety and criminal justice.
4.1.3. Appointing and holding Chief Constables to account.
4.1.4. Overseeing police budgets and ensuring public confidence in policing.

4.2. PCCs must have regard to the priorities of Community Safety Partnerships, and the partnerships must consider the objectives set out in the Police and Crime Plan. Both are expected to cooperate and align efforts to reduce crime and antisocial behaviour. Oversight of PCCs is provided by Police and Crime Panels, which include representatives from county and district councils.

4.3. A two-part review of the PCC model was launched in 2020. Part one focused on improving accountability, transparency, and scrutiny of PCCs and Part two explored ways to strengthen and expand the PCC role, including their involvement in fire governance and mayoral devolution.

4.4. Following the PCC review, the Home Office conducted a full review of Community Safety Partnerships (in 2023/24), aiming to: clarify their roles and improve transparency and accountability, strengthen partnership working between Community Safety Partnerships and PCCs, enhance powers to tackle antisocial behaviour, and develop new guidance with minimum standards and best practices.

4.5. A Police Leadership Commission was launched in October 2025 to address cultural issues and leadership challenges in policing. In November 2025 the UK Government announced that PCCs will be abolished by the end of their current terms in 2028 as part of a sweeping reform programme. This change is detailed in the policing white paper *'From Local to National: A New Model for Policing'*, which outlines a new governance model and broader policing reforms.

5. The South & East Lincolnshire Community Safety Strategy

5.1. A strategic review was undertaken to support the development of a revised strategy (see Appendix 1). The review incorporated a range of data and information from several sources including Lincolnshire Police, local health profiles, and the county Strategic Needs Assessment. Findings from public consultations and surveys were also incorporated into the review (for example the PCC's annual crime and policing survey). The strategy is underpinned by an action plan which details the specific pieces of work that support delivery of the strategy (see Appendix 2). The strategy will be reviewed each year by the South and East Lincolnshire Community Safety Partnership to ensure it remains appropriate. The action plan is a dynamic document which will regularly be updated to reflect changing opportunities and intelligence.

5.2. Four areas of focus were identified which are detailed in the strategy, these are:

5.2.1. Tackle ASB in our communities with a focus on neighbour disputes;
5.2.2. Develop our understanding about fear of crime and perceptions to identify underlying causes;
5.2.3. Work with the Safer Lincolnshire Partnership to support a place-based approach to project delivery;
5.2.4. Encourage people to report issues that they see within local communities to build intelligence.

5.3. The strategy provides further information on each of these focus areas and the rationale for why they have been identified.

5.4. The strategy and action plan were reviewed by the Scrutiny Committee in October 2025 as part of the annual Crime and Disorder review. Following this review, the strategy is now being presented to Cabinet to seek support of the recommendation for its adoption by Full Council.

3. Conclusion

3.1. Sections 5-7 of the Crime & Disorder Act 1998 set out the way in which the responsible authorities should carry out their functions as a Community Safety Partnership.

3.2. In Lincolnshire, the responsible authorities work as a combined area to fulfil the statutory duties through the South and East Lincolnshire Community Safety Partnership and the countywide Safer Lincolnshire Partnership. The South and East Lincolnshire Community Safety Partnership is an informally merged Community Safety Partnership covering the South & East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership area. The existing strategy was refreshed following a strategic review to produce a revised strategy. This helps to publicise the dedication and commitment of partners working across the South & East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership to address community safety concerns within the sub-region.

Implications

South and East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership

The Community Safety Strategy has been developed as a cross-partnership strategy aiming to communicate our priorities and aspirations for keeping our communities safe. It highlights the strength of local partnership arrangements; and provides reputational benefits to the South & East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership as a driver of local action to tackle crime and disorder. The proposed Community Safety Strategy will support our delivery against our statutory community safety responsibilities collaborating with key partners.

Corporate Priorities

The area of work detailed in this report supports the following corporate priorities:

Safe and Resilient Communities - work with partners to help reduce domestic abuse and the fear of crime; ensure licensing policies support crime reduction; work with the local community to support community cohesion.

Staffing

Current staffing resource across the partnership will support the delivery of community safety activity. Some roles that support community safety work are funded through external grants and exit management arrangements will need to be put in place towards the end of the funding period.

Workforce Capacity Implications

None

Constitutional and Legal Implications

The Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) (England) Regulations 2000 (Regulation 4 and Schedule 3) set out that the adoption of a Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy (Under Sections 5 and 6 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998) is not to be the responsibility of the Executive.

The Regulations make provision for the function of *amending* this Strategy to be the responsibility of an executive of the authority to the extent that this is authorised by a determination of the authority when approving or adopting the Strategy.

The Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy sits under the Policy Framework in the Council's Constitution. As such, Council has the function to approve, adopt or amend it.

The statutory duties required of Community Safety Partnerships, as set out in the Crime & Disorder Act 1998, are met through working with the county Safer Lincolnshire Partnership which works as a combined area for Lincolnshire. We support the fulfilment of these duties through our own South and East Lincolnshire Community Safety Partnership.

Data Protection

Data Protection will be dealt with under the partnership's information sharing agreements and arrangements.

Financial

None

Risk Management

All risks will be managed as part of the strategy and action plan development as appropriate. At a county level the Safer Lincolnshire Partnership Strategy Board maintains a risk register.

Stakeholder / Consultation / Timescales

Consultation has been undertaken with the Portfolio Holders of each sovereign council, members of the South and East Lincolnshire Community Safety Partnership and with key officers across the South & East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership (Corporate Management and Service Managers). Feedback has been positive and constructive; the version presented incorporates suggested additions and amendments to an initial draft.

Additionally, the Assistant Director – Housing, responsible for South Holland District Council's Housing Revenue Account (HRA), has been consulted. They are supportive of the Strategy and the ongoing improvements aimed at reducing crime, disorder, and anti-social behaviour in the local area. These improvements align with the objectives set out within the HRA's ASB Framework.

Reputation

It is important that the councils demonstrate their commitment to dealing with community safety issues and respond to local concerns. The Community Safety Strategy will have a positive impact on the reputation of the South & East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership as it shows our dedication to improving the safety and wellbeing of our local communities.

Contracts

None

Crime and Disorder

The Councils have a duty under section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to take steps to reasonably prevent crime and disorder in the district. Changes to this legislation were brought in through the Police and Justice Act 2006, with subsequent regulations coming into force in 2007. The regulations set out the minimum requirements for partnership working to ensure effective practice and that all partnerships deliver to a common standard. This report provides evidence of compliance with the Acts and the regulations. The Community Safety Strategy supports delivery of duties placed on responsible authorities in the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.

Equality and Diversity / Human Rights / Safeguarding

An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) of the Community Safety Strategy found it is likely to have a positive impact on most protected and vulnerable groups, particularly through its focus on reducing anti-social behaviour, improving public safety, and strengthening community engagement.

Potential risks identified in the EIA are considered manageable provided that the strategy's planned mitigation—such as inclusive engagement, accessible reporting routes, and targeted outreach—is implemented and monitored. The strategy's commitment to annual review supports its ability to remain responsive and reduce inequalities over time.

It is also noted that CCTV surveillance techniques and investigations need to consider Article 8 of the Human Rights Act, which covers right to privacy. This is also subject to regulation under RIPA and CCTV Codes of Practice.

Health and Wellbeing

The Community Safety Strategy aims to address ASB and crime, which can have a detrimental impact on people's health and wellbeing. Victim engagement and onward referrals to additional support services are an integral part of delivery.

Climate Change and Environment Impact Assessment

Not undertaken

Acronyms

ASB – Anti-Social Behaviour

PCC- Police and Crime Commissioner
DARDRs – Domestic Abuse Related Death Reviews
CCTV - Closed Circuit Television
HRA – Housing Revenue Account
EIA – Equality Impact Assessment
SELCP – South & East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership
SELCSP – South & East Lincolnshire Community Safety Partnership
RIPA – Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act

Appendices

Appendices are listed below and attached to the back of the report:

Appendix 1	South and East Lincolnshire Community Safety Strategy
Appendix 2	South and East Lincolnshire Community Safety Partnership Action Plan V2

Background Papers

Background papers used in the production of this report are listed below: -

Document title	**Where the document can be viewed**
Crime & Disorder Act 1998	Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (legislation.gov.uk)
From Local to National: A New Model for Policing:	Policing white paper January 2026
The Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) (England) Regulations 2000	View

Chronological History of this Report

The Community Safety Strategy and action plan have been reviewed by the Council's scrutiny committee as part of the annual Crime and Disorder review report (in October 2025).

Report Approval

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