

EXCERPT OF MINUTE OF MEETING OF THE POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE HELD ON
8 DECEMBER 1998

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COMMUNITY SAFETY STRATEGY

21. **C** With reference to paragraph 2 of the Minute of the Environmental Services (Community Safety) Sub-Committee held on 10 February 1998, when that Committee had agreed to establish a Community Safety Task Group, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 27 November 1998 by the Chief Executive (1) advising of the development of the Community Safety Strategy for North Lanarkshire highlighting the commitment to tackle the priority issues of home safety, transport safety, domestic violence, opportunities for young people, alcohol and drug abuse, as detailed in the leaflet attached as Appendix 1 of the report; (2) highlighting the importance of the role of the Area Committees and the continuing of the partnership approach to heighten the profile of community safety issues.

Decided:

- (1) that the development of North Lanarkshire Community Safety Strategy be noted;
- (2) that the terms of reference of the Policy and Resources (Community Development) Sub-Committee be extended to incorporate also the terms of reference of the former Environmental Services (Community Safety) Sub-Committee;
- (3) that Area Committees be requested to consider the Community Safety Strategy issues and seek the views of the Community Forums;
- (4) that it be agreed that Strathclyde Police and Strathclyde Fire Brigade be invited to attend Area Committees as appropriate, and
- (5) that the contents of the report be otherwise noted.

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

REPORT

To: Policy and Resources Committee	Subject: North Lanarkshire Community Safety Strategy
From: Chief Executive	
Date: 27 November 1998	Ref: CE012/002/001

1.0 Introduction

1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise the Committee of the development of the Community Safety Strategy for North Lanarkshire.

2.0 Background

2.1 At its meeting of 10 February 1998 the Environmental Services (Community Safety) Sub Committee approved the establishment of a Community Safety Task group. The remit of the task group was to develop an integrated Community safety strategy for North Lanarkshire. In establishing the Task Group it was fully recognised that the Council alone could not develop an integrated strategy and clearly recognised the need to work in partnership with public and voluntary bodies. The Community Safety Task Group involves representatives from Lanarkshire Health Board, Strathclyde Police, Strathclyde Fire Brigade, British Transport Police, RoSPA, Procurator Fiscal and North Lanarkshire CCTV Ltd.

2.2 Since its establishment the work of the Community Safety Task Group has been the identification of priority issues and the development of appropriate structures which address these issues.

2.3 On 2 November 1998 the North Lanarkshire Community Safety Strategy was launched with the signing of the partnership agreement pledging full support to promote Community Safety within North Lanarkshire and a commitment to tackle the priority issues of Home Safety, Transport Safety, Domestic Violence, Opportunities for Young People, Alcohol and Drug Abuse. These issues are detailed in the leaflet attached as Appendix 1.

3.0 Future Development

3.1 Across North Lanarkshire the statutory and voluntary agencies regularly consider and address community safety issues and it is recognised that work is already ongoing by Council departments and partner agencies to improve community safety in the local areas. By continuing with a partnership approach each agency will bring the benefits of its own experience and knowledge of the issues and all of the benefits of a combined approach.

3.2 The Task Group will now focus its activities on continuing to heighten the profile of Community Safety issues and a further examination of needs and resources in the context of the five priority issues as well as the development of a multi agency strategy to tackle violence against women.

3.3 In launching the Strategy, the commitment to corporate working on community safety is clearly stated. Strathclyde Police and Strathclyde Fire Brigade are keen to develop regular dialogue with the Council on Community Safety and have expressed an interest in participating in Area Committees and Community Forum structures.

3.4 A key strand of the strategy is without doubt the input from local communities and Area Committees have an important role to play in involving local communities on Community Safety issues and priorities.

4.0 Recommendations

4.1 It is recommended that the Committee:

(i) note the development of North Lanarkshire Community Safety Strategy;

(ii) request that Area Committees consider the Community Safety Strategy issues and seek the views of the Community Forums;

(iii) agree that Strathclyde Police and Strathclyde Fire Brigade are invited to attend Area Committees as appropriate; and

(iv) otherwise note the contents of the report.


Chief Executive

Safety All-Round Safety All-Round Safety All-Round

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NORTH LANARKSHIRE
**Community
Safety
Partnership**





NORTH LANARKSHIRE COMMUNITY SAFETY

Community Safety is all about improving the quality of life for people by reducing crime and the fear of crime, providing support to vulnerable groups, reducing instances of injuries as a result of accidents, and creating a safe and secure environment in which to live and work.

In recognition of this, North Lanarkshire Council, in partnership with Strathclyde Police, Lanarkshire Health Board, Strathclyde Fire Brigade, the Procurator Fiscal, British Transport Police, RoSPA and North Lanarkshire CCTV Ltd is committed to developing a North Lanarkshire Community Safety Strategy.

This unique partnership approach to local problems aims to provide practical solutions and advice to all those who live and work in this area. Each of the participating organisations will bring the benefits of its own experience and knowledge and its specific area of expertise. Working jointly in partnership will bring the benefits of a combined approach.

PRIORITIES

The Partnership has agreed priority issue

- Home Safety**
 Odd as it may seem the most dangerous environment in which we live is the home. More accidents happen in the home than in the workplace. The very young and elderly are particularly vulnerable. We need to work together to raise awareness of potential dangers and offer practical help and guidance.
- Transport Safety**
 We are more at risk of having an accident driving work or crossing the road than in the workplace. We need to make our roads safer and make pedestrians and motorists more aware of their responsibilities to each other.
- Domestic Violence**
 Even although public awareness of domestic violence is higher than ever, it still happens. The true extent is only now becoming apparent as this very private form of violence happens behind closed doors. We need to offer support to its victims, both children and adults.
- Opportunities for Young People**
 Young people 'hanging about the streets' are often cited as one of the causes of anti social behaviour and crime, however young people are more likely to be the victims of street crime and often feel unsafe. As a priority we need to ensure that North Lanarkshire's young people have access to good education, employment, training and leisure opportunities and that the potential of young people is maximised and not threatened by crime and unsafe environments.
- Alcohol and Drug Abuse**
 The serious effects of alcohol and drug abuse are widely acknowledged. Too often lives are ruined and the physical and mental health of abusers and their families is adversely affected. By working together we will develop services and respond to their needs, those of their families and work together to minimise alcohol and drug abuse in North Lanarkshire.