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To: County Council – 13 September 2012

Subject: Community Safety Framework 2012-2015

Classification: Unrestricted

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**Summary:** This report seeks approval for the Kent County Council's Framework for Community Safety 2012 - 2015.

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## **1. Introduction**

This Community Safety Framework describes the contribution made by a wide range of services delivered by the County Council which make a tangible difference in preventing and deterring crime and which provide support particularly to vulnerable households in Kent, in terms of crime and disorder.

## **2. Financial Implications**

None, all services are currently mainstreamed within existing revenue budgets.

## **3. Bold Steps for Kent and Policy Framework**

- (1) The Community Safety Unit and many County Council services associated with community safety delivery are major contributors to ambitions two and three of the Bold Steps 'to tackle disadvantage' and 'to put the citizen in control', particularly through provision of strong partnership engagement and at an operational level through services such as the Kent Community Warden Service.
- (2) The Community Safety Framework supports many of the priorities identified in the Delivery Framework for Bold Steps for Kent (The Medium Term Plan until 2014/15).

## **4. Community Safety Framework**

- (1) The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and subsequent amendments created a statutory duty on local authorities to work together with the Police, Fire and Rescue Services, Police Authority, Probation and Health Authorities to reduce crime and disorder. Over the subsequent 14 years, Kent County Council has been working in increasingly closer and complex partnerships with a wide range of agencies and community organisations to make communities safer. This has resulted in frontline practitioners successfully tackling a wide range of problems.
- (2) Crime, community safety and anti-social behaviour issues remain a high priority for Kent County Council and the public, and the Authority must continue to move forward to ensure we stay ahead of the game.
- (3) The framework is not a statutory document but KCC does have legal responsibilities in terms of the 1998 Crime and Disorder Act and the Police and

Justice Act 2006 and also a legal duty under Section 17 of the 1998 Act to consider community safety implications in all our operations.

- (4) This overarching framework illustrates Kent County Councils compliance with its legal responsibilities and its commitment to the community safety agenda, and provides a road map through the complex environment in which it sits.
- (5) The Kent County Council Framework for Community Safety document covers the period 2012 to 2015 and is intended to provide a clear roadmap of how the numerous and complex services within KCC contribute towards the Community Safety landscape in Kent through prevention, protection and intervention.

## **5. Conclusions**

It is intended to be a handbook for County Councillors and senior and operational managers to help raise awareness of community safety issues within County Council service areas and clarifies:

- An overview of who does what in community safety;
- How all the different agencies work together;
- What has been achieved so far; and
- What the policies and plans and key issues are for the future.

This document will also be used as a key reference document during discussions with the incoming Police and Crime Commissioner after the election in November.

## **6. Recommendation**

The County Council approves the adoption of the Community Safety Framework 2012 – 2015.

## **7. Background Documents**

A Framework for Community Safety in Kent 2012 – 2015.

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