

Body: Cabinet

Date: 23 October 2013

Subject: Eastbourne Community Safety Plan

Report Of: Ian Fitzpatrick, Senior Head of Community

Ward(s) All

Purpose To consider the current performance of the Eastbourne Community Partnership (CSP) under the updated Eastbourne Community Safety Plan and to outline issues that may potentially impact future crime and anti-social behaviour (ASB) performance.

Recommendation: That Cabinet notes the CSP's achievements and future risks/opportunities to performance and endorses the updated 2011/2014 Community Safety Plan with continued delegated implementation authority to Senior Head of Community.

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1.0 Background/Introduction

- 1.1 Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships were initially established under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. This required partnerships to be set up to consider and tackle crime at a local level.
- 1.2 Subsequently the Crime Reduction Partnership changed its name to the Community Safety Partnership (CSP), to more accurately reflect its wider remit of community safety in conjunction with national developments.
- 1.3 Cabinet has previously endorsed the successful Crime Reduction performance of the Partnership. In 2005/2006 Eastbourne was subject to around 11,000 crimes. For the performance year 2010/2011 this had dropped to approximately 7,500 crimes⁽¹⁾. For the current rolling year up to the end of June 2013, this has reduced to around 6000 crimes, a further reduction of 9% compared with the same period last year⁽²⁾.

2.0 Eastbourne Community Safety Plan 2011-2014

- 2.1 The current Plan has been developed in consultation with key partners including the Police and other members of the CSP. Version 1.3 is available as Appendix A. It is modelled on a countywide endorsed layout, with a focus on what can realistically be achieved within current resource constraints and

reflects some priorities of the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC).

2.2 It is to be noted that although the Plan is for a three year period, performance targets are reviewed at the end of each performance year. Key performance targets have been incorporated into the relevant sections of Eastbourne Borough Council's Corporate Plan.

3.0 Performance Against Targets

3.1 The following relates to targets and performance of performance year 2012/2013 compared with the baseline performance year 2011/2012⁽³⁾. In other words, last year's performance.

- i) Target - reduce overall crime by 3%
Performance - Overall crime from 6,851 to 6,199
A reduction of 9.5%, 652 crimes.
- ii) Target - reduce shoplifting by 5%
Performance - shoplifting from 966 to 840
A reduction of 13%, 126 crimes
- iii) Target - reduce public place violent crime by 3%
Performance - public place violent crime from 942 to 891
A reduction of over 5%, 51 crimes
- iv) Target - reduce criminal damage by 5%
Performance - criminal damage from 1070 to 989
A reduction of 7.5%, 80 crimes
- v) Target - to be the lowest or second lowest for all crimes against our most similar groups (MSG)⁽⁴⁾
Performance - second lowest for all crime against our MSG

Note: data adjusted by one month to account for Sussex Police system change.

3.2 Current performance compares the period April 2013 to July end 2013 inclusive, compared to the same period last year. This year's CSP performance targets differ slightly from last year to meet PCC requirements and will be compared to the baseline performance year of 2012/2013 on an ongoing basis.

- i) Target - reduce public place violent crime by 3%
Performance - public place violent crime from 328 to 336
An increase of 2.4%, 8 crimes
- ii) Target - reduce serious acquisitive crime, namely burglary dwelling, robbery and vehicle crime by 3%
Performance - serious acquisitive crime from 225 to 179
A reduction of 20%, 46 crimes
- iii) Target - reduce shoplifting by 3%
Performance - shoplifting from 305 to 254

A decrease of 16.7%, 51 crimes

- iv) Target - to remain at least fourth lowest for all crime in our MSG
Performance - second lowest for all crime against our MSG as at June 2013

3.3 It will be noted from paragraph 1.3 above that Eastbourne over the last few years has seen a substantial reduction in crime and despite the recession crime was down further in 2012/2013 with further reduction this year so far. Paragraph 3.1 above shows clearly all five targets met and this reduction pattern is again evident so far this year.

3.4 It is worthy of note that shoplifting has fallen again to 2011 figures but it is essential to continue to remain focused. Reductions in criminal damage and public place violent crime are of note especially in view of the major percentage reductions the year before, 25.3% and 25.2% respectively.

3.5 It may be of interest to note, although not a specific CSP target, overall police recorded anti-social behaviour is down from 5682 to 4732; a reduction of 950 incidents, or 16.7%.

4.0 Police and Crime Commissioner Update

4.1 Elections for a Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) for each police area took place in November 2012. PCC's are responsible for policing and crime performance and to hold Chief Constables' to account. Councillor Ungar is Eastbourne's representative on the Police and Crime Panel (PCP) which has scrutiny powers over the PCC and, in particular, in terms of 'policing plan' and 'budget'. PCC's do not directly control local CSP's but directly impact CSP effectiveness by PCC control of CSP budget allocation and are responsible for monitoring CSP effectiveness.

5.0 Resource Implications

5.1 The CSP's Strategy Group, having agreed the updated Plan and its priorities has matched the priorities with the reduced area based grant funding, smoothed out over a two year period to £43k per annum. This excludes the continued Basic Command Unit funding of approximately £60k for this year, utilised mainly by the District Police in direct support of the Plan's objectives.

5.2 It is established that the Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) will have direct control in determining budget allocation to local CSPs commencing in the 2014/2015 financial year⁽⁵⁾. Eastbourne CSP is working with the East Sussex Community Safety Partnership to highlight the positive benefits for the PCC to retain and increase investment in CSP activity. Without additional funding next year from the PCC the CSP's ability to fund worthwhile local community safety projects may be compromised.

5.3 Central Government's budgetary restrictions placed on Local Authorities and Police Forces in response to central financial deficits have created major challenges for the public sector, of which the policing district of Eastbourne is not immune, and this is coupled with uncertain future funding in 2014/2015. These challenges will require a continued determination and creative

partnership approach to ensure current performance is maintained.

6.0 Staffing

There are no staffing implications arising from this report.

7.0 Other Implications - Environmental, Community Safety, Youth

7.1 **Environmental:** The CSP includes a number of activities within its plan to target environmental crime, supporting Neighbourhood First.

7.2 **Community Safety:** The successful reduction in crime highlighted in the above paragraphs, coupled with our proactive approach in terms of Neighbourhood Management and marketing of such success has, it is contended, made a positive contribution to overall Community Safety in Eastbourne.

7.3 **Youth:** Since 2008 the CSP has consistently made targeted financial contribution to youth initiatives and youth outreach designed to prevent Youth Crime and ASB, which has added value to existing agency work as detailed in the current Youth Strategy.

8.0 Conclusion

8.1 Overall crime has substantially reduced since 2005/2006 performance year. Notable crime reductions have again been achieved in the performance year 2012/2013 and crime performance is again positive within measured criteria of the refreshed plan in the current performance year to date.

8.2 Central Government cut-backs coupled with the introduction of Police and Crime Commissioners may have an adverse impact on local CSP funding from next performance year 2014/2015.

8.3 Further potential countywide changes as a result of a newly 'elected PCC' above have been mitigated by a continued local focus in addition to adding value in developing initiatives, including Neighbourhood Management.

8.4 Cabinet is requested to note the continued Crime Reduction performance, endorse the updated 2011/2014 Community Safety Plan and continue the delegated authority to the Senior Head of Community to implement actions set out.

Bob Gough
Crime Reduction Officer

Background Papers:

The Background Papers used in compiling this report were as follows:

1. *Sussex Police Crime Data*
2. *Sussex Police Crime Data*
3. *Sussex Police and iQuanta Data (Home Office)*
4. *iQuanta Data produced by the Home Office compares Eastbourne against fourteen other similar towns in England on a rolling quarter. Crime Data produced monthly.*
5. *Central Government Legislation and Home Office Guidance*

Appendix A – Community Safety Plan Version 1.3 (available on request)

To inspect or obtain copies of background papers please refer to the contact officer listed above.