

Body: Cabinet

Date: 1 September 2010

Subject: Eastbourne Crime Reduction Partnership Plan – including outcome of East Sussex Community Safety Review

Report Of: Senior Head of Community

Ward(s) All

Purpose To consider the performance of Eastbourne’s Crime Reduction Partnership (CRP) during the past year, the results of East Sussex Community Safety Review and potential implication for Eastbourne.

Decision Type: Key Decision

Recommendation: That Cabinet endorses the CRP performance achievements and the proposed re-structure recommendations.

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1.0 Background/Introduction

- 1.1 The current structures for Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships were established under the 1998 Crime and Disorder Act, as amended.
- 1.2 Central Government has not made any official announcement in relation to the future of, or future structure of, Crime Reduction Partnerships nationally.
- 1.3 However with the potential for future funding stream cuts for Crime Reduction Partnerships, most notably, Basic Command Unit (BCU) and Area Based Grants (ABG) – now a reality for 2011/12 – the Cabinet on 10 February 2010, in principle agreed to an East Sussex-wide Community Safety Review proposed by Superintendent Tony Blaker of East Sussex Policing Division ⁽¹⁾.
- 1.4 On 13 July 2010 the East Sussex Community Safety Steering Group endorsed the Project Team’s recommendations which included having only one Administration Co-ordinator for Eastbourne, Lewes and Weald in relation to Crime Reduction ⁽²⁾.
- 1.5 It is anticipated that new structures for Crime Reduction Partnerships in East Sussex will be fully embedded by 1 April 2011⁽²⁾.
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1.6 The Resource and Performance Sub-Group of the East Sussex Safer Communities Steering Group has released appropriate funds for the remainder of this performance year ⁽³⁾.

2.0 Performance

2.1 The Eastbourne Crime Reduction Partnership's Plan (required by statute) was endorsed by Cabinet in September 2008 ⁽⁴⁾.

2.2 The implementation of the Crime Reduction Partnership Plan and co-ordinated through the Co-ordinator and Strategy Group of the Partnership has led to further substantial crime reductions – over and above reductions from 2005-2008 – which have been already recognised by Cabinet ⁽⁵⁾, the Audit Commission ⁽⁶⁾ and Place Survey results ⁽⁷⁾.

2.3 Eastbourne is compared with fourteen similar districts/boroughs nationally, known as 'Most Similar Group' (MSG) utilising crime data per 000 population. This 'i Quanta' data is measured quarterly and currently ⁽⁸⁾ of the twenty six crime categories measured, Eastbourne has the lowest crime in seven of the categories; Eastbourne is in the lowest 30% in seventeen categories and is below the median in twenty five of the twenty six crime categories.

2.4 Since the beginning of the 2008/09 performance year overall crime is down 20% up to end of June 2010; the target was set at 15% in the three year plan ⁽⁹⁾. Utilising the same measurement criteria Burglary Dwelling is down by 30% (target -15%); Violent Crime is down by 25% (target -7% for year 2 and 3); Public Place Violent Crime is down by 32% (target -20%) and Criminal Damage is down by 26% (target -20%). However, there are some risks developing, robbery is up 19% with a target reduction of -15%, though actual numbers of these offences remain low and Eastbourne is second lowest for this crime category in its 'Most Similar Group' (MSG) ⁽⁸⁾. Increased risk pertains to the number of drugs possession and drugs supply offences which are down 45% and 29% respectively compared to a percentage no change target and this issue may have future implications for anti-social behaviour (ASB) and general crime, whilst police recorded. ASB is currently down by 21% and on target.

3.0 Consultation / Future Structure

3.1 As previously stated, the future structure of Crime Reduction Partnerships in East Sussex was agreed by the East Sussex Safer Communities Steering Group on 13 January 2010 ⁽²⁾ after consultation, including at a district/borough level.

3.2 A letter sent by Cllr Bob Tidy, Chair of the East Sussex Safer Communities Partnership on 23 July 2010 to Partners, seeks agreement to the recommendations by the 27 August 2010. Attached to the letter is a summary of the recommendation and both letter and summary are attached as Appendix A to this report. Senior Head of Community will respond by the due date.

4.0 Resource Implications - Financial and Staffing

Implications for Eastbourne include:

- 4.1 Centralised control by East Sussex of CRP finance.
- 4.2 A move to one Administrative Co-ordinator to cover Eastbourne, Weald and Lewes managed by Police. Eastbourne currently has a dedicated CRP co-ordinator (P/T) and support officer (P/T) directly employed on fixed term contracts. The Council contributes approximately £30k per annum to support the existing structure. This is essentially recovered to meet Eastbourne CRP action plan costs and staffing costs associated with the old structure. The proposal will require the Council to make a contribution of circa £8k per annum to support the new structure. The Council will be able to retain the balance of £22k to support locally determined initiatives and/or capacity within Eastbourne subject to Service & Financial Planning decisions.
- 4.3 Eastbourne CRP Strategy Group to continue and focus on scrutiny.
- 4.4 CRP Strategy Group responsible for development of a local plan.
- 4.5 Joint Action Group to continue and meet monthly with composition development, including neighbourhood panel representation.
- 4.6 Further development of county-wide thematic groups, including Integrated Offender Management and Anti-Social Behaviour.
- 4.7 Future review of East Sussex Safer Communities Team.

5.0 Other Implications - Community Safety

- 5.1 It has been recognised ⁽⁵⁾ that under existing structures crime and anti-social behaviour has experienced major reductions since 2005 and the potential gaps with the new structures may expose risks to future performance.
- 5.2 However, it is recommended that Cabinet endorse the review on the basis that the new proposal provides a more streamlined 'value for money' core level of service, maintains links within an East Sussex structure retaining the benefits attributable from cross boundary working (i.e. links with specialist East Sussex Thematic groups) and that the Senior Head of Community will make compensatory arrangements (for 20011/12 onwards) at a local level to minimise any negative impact.

6.0 Conclusion

- 6.1 Over the last five years Eastbourne Crime Reduction Partnership has been seen as a major success and a leader on crime reduction within East Sussex and beyond.
- 6.2 Financial constraints and the desire to spread good practice thematically throughout East Sussex led to a comprehensive review of local partnerships in East Sussex.
- 6.3 It is recommended that Cabinet endorses the CRP performance achievements.

- 6.4 It is also recommended that Cabinet endorse the review on the basis that the new proposal provides a 'value for money' core level of service, maintains links within an East Sussex structure retaining the benefits attributable from cross boundary working (i.e. links with specialist East Sussex Thematic groups) and that the Senior Head of Community will make compensatory arrangements (for 20011/12 onwards) at a local level to minimise any negative impact.

Bob Gough
Crime Reduction Partnership Co-ordinator

Background Papers:

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

- (1) Cabinet meeting papers 10 February 2010.
- (2) East Sussex Safer Communities Steering Group meeting 13 July 2010. Attended by Senior Head of Community at Eastbourne Borough Council.
- (3) Minutes from the Resource and Performance Sub-Group dated 15 July 2010. Senior Head of Community attended.
- (4) Eastbourne Borough Council Cabinet minutes dated 3 September 2008.
- (5) Eastbourne Borough Council Cabinet minutes dated 2 September 2009.
- (6) Audit Commission letter – Annual audit and inspection of Eastbourne Borough Council. Audit 2007/08 dated March 2009.
- (7) Ipsos Mori – Place Survey 2008/09.
- (8) i Quanta Data. Most Similar Groups (MSG) given per 1000 residents – Eastbourne – 1 April 2010 to 30 June 2010.
- (9) CRP Performance Against Plan Data from 1 April 2008 to 30 June 2010, provided by East Sussex Safer Communities Team Analysts July 2010.

Appendices

Appendix A – Letter from Cllr Bob Tidy, Chair of the East Sussex Safer Communities Partnership dated 23 July 2010 and Review Summary Recommendation.

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

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