



**Body:** Scrutiny

**Date:** 5<sup>th</sup> September 2011

**Subject:** Eastbourne Community Safety Plan

**Report Of:** Senior Head of Community

**Ward(s)** All

**Purpose** To comment on the success of Eastbourne Crime Reduction Partnership 2008-2011 (now Eastbourne Community Safety Partnership) current performance under the new Eastbourne Community Safety Plan; early local implications of the county-wide review, including enhanced local arrangements and to outline issues that may potentially impact future crime and anti-social behaviour performance.

**Recommendation:** That Scrutiny notes the Community Safety Partnership's achievements and future risks-opportunities to performance and the new Community Safety Plan.

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## **1.0 Background/Introduction (as desired)**

- 1.1 Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships were initially established under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.
- 1.2 The current central government reduced the regulatory framework for the structures of how such partnerships operate and loosened central control with the demise of the Government of the South East.
- 1.3 In March of this year the Eastbourne Crime Reduction Strategy Group determined to adopt a change of name reflecting the regulatory changes to the Eastbourne Community Safety Partnership (ECSP) in line with other partnerships in the county.
- 1.4 On 1 April this year, as a result of a countywide review, a new administrative post of Community Safety Partnership Support Officer was appointed to support the administration of the Community Safety Partnerships of Lewes, Weald and Eastbourne.
- 1.5 Eastbourne Borough Council via Senior Head of Community arranged to retain the Eastbourne Crime Reduction Officer post, to smooth transition to

the new countywide structure and to minimise any negative impact and loss of value in line with other Districts/Boroughs, notably Hastings and Rother. This decision was subsequently endorsed by Cabinet.

1.6 Cabinet has previously endorsed the successful crime reduction performance of the partnership, as has the now defunct Audit Commission.

## **2.0 Past Performance**

2.1 In the 2005/2006 performance year, Eastbourne was subject to approximately 11,500 police recorded crimes. For the performance year 2010/2011 that had dropped to around 7,500 <sup>(1)</sup>.

2.2 The Crime Reduction Plan of 2008/2011 set out key priorities for the three year period which were endorsed by Cabinet in April 2008 <sup>(2)</sup>. The Plan detailed comprehensive strategies and tactics to achieve the demanding targets agreed by the Strategy Group.

2.3 Some of the success highlights in crime reduction by the end of March 2011 compared with the baseline performance year of 2007/2008 include <sup>(3)</sup>:

- Overall crime down 18% (target -15%)
- Burglary dwelling down 39% (target -15%)
- Vehicle crime down 15% (target -15%)
- Criminal damage down 28% (target -20%)
- Arson down 36% (target -25%)
- Devonshire Ward crime down 23% (target -20%)
- Public place violent crime down 22% (target -20%)

2.4 Some of the comprehensive targets were not met, however the Strategy Group agreed <sup>(4)</sup> was still credible performance and these include:

- i) Shoplifting down 10% (target -20%)
- ii) Anti-social behaviour down 15% (target -20%)

2.5 Some notable targets were not met and these include:

- i) Robbery up 17% (target -15%)
- ii) Burglary other than dwelling up 11% (target -15%)

2.6 Over the last 12 months robbery has not increased further and is a very low volume offence at around 70 offences per annum. Eastbourne is the fourth lowest in robbery offences per 1000 population in comparison with its Most Similar Group (MSG) of 15 towns and is well below the median of the MSG.(5). This offence category will continue to be monitored by the CSP.

2.7 Burglary Other Than Dwelling has continued to increase and is up 18.5% over the rolling 12 months to June 2011. The actual number of offences is currently around 400 per annum, which constitutes approximately 6% of total crime in Eastbourne. The Strategy Group will consider various options to reduce this crime at its next meeting in early September.

### **3.0 Current Eastbourne Community Safety Plan 2011/2014 Performance**

3.1 The new current plan has been developed in consultation with key partners, including the Police and other members of the CSP. Attached as Appendix 'A'. It is modelled on a countywide endorsed layout and the focus is on what can realistically be achieved within the constraints of more limited resources (see below).

3.2 It is to be noted, that although the plan is for three years, performance targets relate to an initial one year period 2011/12 compared with the base line performance year of 2010/2011. These performance targets have been, as previously, incorporated into the relevant section of Eastbourne Borough Corporate Plan.

		<b>July 2011 (end)</b>
i)	Reduce overall crime by 3%	-7%
ii)	Reduce shoplifting by -5%	-2%
iii)	Reduce public place violent crime by -3%	-19%
iv)	Reduce criminal damage by -5%	-23%

		<b>June 2011 (end)</b>
v)	To be the lowest or 2 <sup>nd</sup> lowest for all crime against our most similar groups (MSG) <sup>(5)</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup> lowest

3.3 Current performance, in the areas measured, are looking positive a third of the way through the performance year, except for shoplifting. Year 2 and 3 targets will be developed as the current year progresses when the full effects of funding availability and associated partner resource reductions are known.

### **4.0 Resource Implications**

4.1 The Community Safety Partnership's Strategy Group, having agreed the 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 Basic Command Unit funding of £70k this year, utilised mainly by the District Police in direct support of the plan's objectives. It is not yet known whether this grant will be allocated by Central Government next financial year.

4.2 It is anticipated that the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) due to be appointed in May 2012 will have a direct involvement in determining budget allocation to local Community Safety Partnerships commencing in the 2013/2014 financial year <sup>(6)</sup>.

4.3 Central Government's budgetary restrictions placed on Local Authorities and Police Forces in response to central financial deficits have created challenges for the public sector, of which the policing district of Eastbourne is not immune and this is coupled with uncertain future funding 2013/2014. These challenges will require determined and creative approach to ensure current performance is maintained.

4.4 Senior Head of Community perceived the local risks inherent in the countywide restructure of community safety, including budget reduction opportunities, evolving to meet the challenges as at paragraph 4.3 above.

The retention of a Crime Reduction Officer advising and focusing on local initiatives, including anti-social behaviour and neighbourhood management have added value and assists continued efforts of crime reduction. This decision was endorsed by Cabinet in September 2010 <sup>(7)</sup>.

## **5.0 Staffing**

There are no direct staffing implications arising from this report.

## **6.0 Other Implications - Environmental, Community Safety and Youth**

6.1 **Environmental:** The CSP includes a number of activities within its plan to target environmental crime, including fly tipping.

6.2 **Community Safety:** The successful reduction in crime and ASB as highlighted in the above paragraphs, coupled with a consistent, proactive marketing of such success has, it is contended, made a positive contribution to community safety in Eastbourne

6.3 **Youth:** Since 2008 the CSP has made a number of targeted financial contributions to youth initiatives and youth outreach designed to prevent youth crime and ASB and which has added value to existing agency work detailed in the current Eastbourne Youth Strategy.

## **7.0 Conclusion**

7.1 Overall crime has substantially reduced since 2005/2006 performance year. Notable reductions have been achieved as a result of the previous co-ordinated plan 2008/20011. Indications are that, in categories measured, crime is continuing to reduce under the new plan which is an auspicious start.

Central Government cut-backs and the introduction of a Police and Crime Co-ordinator in May 2012 may have an additional adverse impact on Community Safety Partnership funding from the 2013/2014 performance year.

The local risk of the countywide administrative restructure of Community Safety Partnerships has been mitigated by the retention of a local Crime Reduction Officer, in addition to adding value in developing initiatives, including Neighbourhood Management.

Scrutiny is asked to comment on the new Community Safety Partnership Plan and give delegated authority to the Senior Head of Community to implement the actions as set out.

**Bob Gough**  
**Crime Reduction Officer**

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## **Background Papers:**

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

- 1) *Sussex Police Crime Figures*
- 2) *Report to Cabinet by Crime Reduction Partnership, April 2008*
- 3) *Crime Reduction Three Year Performance Figures presented to CRP Strategy Group, March 2011*
- 4) *Community Safety Strategy Group meeting, March 2011*
- 5) *iQuanta Data produced by Central Government compares Eastbourne against fourteen other similar towns on rolling quarterly crime data produced monthly*
- 6) *Home Office Official Publications via Home Office website*
- 7) *Report to Cabinet and subsequent minutes, September 2010*

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