

**Agenda Item No:** 9.5

**Report Title:** Lewes District Community Safety Partnership Annual Report

**Report To:** Cabinet **Date:** 5 February 2018

**Cabinet Member:** Cabinet Member for Customers and Partners

**Ward(s) Affected:** All

**Report By:** Director of Regeneration and Planning

**Contact Officer(s)-**

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**Purpose of Report:**

To enable Cabinet to note the current performance of the Lewes District Community Safety Partnership (LDCSP) and seek Cabinet's endorsement of the proposed Community Safety Plan for 2018/19 and the formal merger of the Eastbourne and Lewes District Community Safety Partnerships, subject to consultation with Partners and approval from the Police and Crime Commissioner.

**Officers Recommendation(s):**

- 1** That Cabinet note the performance of the Lewes District Community Safety Partnership during 2016/17.
  - 2** To endorse the Community Safety Plan for 2018/19, set out at Appendix A and recommend to Full Council for approval.
  - 3** To note the completion of the Eastbourne and Lewes District Community Safety Partnership 'Soft Merger' and endorse the full merger of the two Partnerships.
  - 4** That Cabinet note the points raised by the Scrutiny Committee as set out in the attached minute of meeting 9 November 2017 in Appendix B.
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**Reasons for Recommendations**

- 5.** For Cabinet to endorse the Community Safety Plan for 2018/19 and merger of the Eastbourne and Lewes District Community Safety Partnership.

## **Information**

### **6.0 Community Safety Partnerships**

- 6.1** Community Safety Partnerships (CSP) were established by the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. They are formed from a number of responsible authorities, such as the police, fire and rescue service and local authorities.
- 6.2** CSPs have a statutory duty to reduce crime and disorder, substance misuse and re-offending in their local authority area. Lewes District Council has a key role in coordinating partners of the LDCSP and contributing towards the delivery of local community safety priorities.
- 6.3** The LDCSP works in partnership with the County CSP (namely the East Sussex Safer Communities Partnership) to address pan-county issues such as offender management and domestic abuse.

### **7.0 Lewes District Community Safety Plan & Priorities**

- 7.1** CSPs have a statutory duty to set out a partnership plan and monitor progress. The 2018/19 Community Safety Plan has been developed to fulfil this duty. It has been developed in consultation with key partners including Sussex Police and other members of the LDCSP at a priority setting workshop held 5<sup>th</sup> October 2017.
- 7.2** A copy of the Draft 2018/19 Community Safety Plan is set out at Appendix A. It uses a standard countywide format, with a focus on what can realistically be achieved within current resource constraints. The priorities of the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC), Sussex Police and East Sussex Safer Communities Partnership have been taken into account in developing this plan, as well key local issues.
- 7.3** The plan was approved by the Eastbourne and Lewes District Community Safety Partnership Strategy Group on 15 November 2017, subject to Cabinet endorsement and approval from Full Council.
- 7.4** Cabinet is asked to endorse the Community Safety Plan for 2018/19 and recommend to Full Council for approval.

### **8.0 Performance**

- 8.1** Looking back to 2009/10, 4701 crimes were recorded in the Lewes District within that year compared with 3638 crimes in 2013/14 - a reduction of 22.6%.
- 8.2** By the end of 2016/17 4871 crimes were recorded. It should be noted that:
  - (i) strict adherence to Home Office Crime Recording Procedures by Sussex Police and
  - (ii) the PCC-led initiative to increase crime reporting in a number of

categories including, domestic abuse, hate crime and sexual offences

contributed to a notable increase in police recorded crime. Moreover, the Office of National Statistics (ONS) identified a national rise of 13% in police recorded crime in the year ending June 2017.

- 8.3** Whilst it is difficult to identify why there has been an increase in police recorded crime, Home Office data demonstrates that Lewes District compares favourably against its Most Similar Group (see Appendix C for grouping), ending 2<sup>nd</sup> lowest in overall crime in the year ending March 2017.

## **9.0 Progress in Priority Areas**

- 9.1 Locality Based Responses:** Actions agreed and carried out by the local Lewes District Joint Action Group have made a positive contribution to Community Safety in the district.

- 9.2** Officers of Lewes District Council have been working closely with Sussex Police to address anti-social behaviour issues in Peacehaven and Lewes Town. Work has also been carried out to identify and address an emerging concern around the Street Community in Lewes, leading to the formulation of the Eastbourne and Lewes Street Community Partnership.

- 9.3** Other achievements in priority areas include:

- continuing to develop the Lewes District Road Safety Action Group to reduce the number of killed or seriously injured on the district's roads
- introducing Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPO) to replace existing control orders in Lewes District, aimed at addressing alcohol and dog related anti-social behaviour
- installing 'no cold-calling' signs in East Saltdean to help prevent scams and rogue trading
- increasing the membership of 'Paws on Watch' with 77 active members working to improve community safety in their areas by reporting unusual or suspicious activity to Sussex Police
- raising awareness of Child Sexual Exploitation in children and practitioners by supporting the Chelsea's Choice production.

## **10.0 Prevent**

- 10.1** The Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015, places a duty on all specified authorities (LDC is such an authority) in the exercise of their functions to have due regard to "prevent" people from being drawn into terrorism. Over recent months we have seen the national threat level rise to "critical" but this has been quickly reduced back to "severe" as it is likely that the risk of individuals being radicalised, usually through the internet, will be with us for some time.

- 10.2** Although East Sussex is a low risk area, Prevent forms a standing Agenda item for the Eastbourne and Lewes District Community Safety Partnership

Strategy Group and LDC is an active member of the East Sussex Prevent Board. The legal duty placed on LDC has led to the development of a separate joint LDC and EBC Prevent Duty Action Plan and activity in this area has so far involved training for front line staff, incorporating Prevent into safeguarding mechanisms and improving online safety when using LDC owned equipment.

- 10.3** The Home Office is launching a national pilot named Dovetail to test local authorities' capability on taking overall responsibility for Prevent from the police. It is intended that this will position Prevent activity closer to local communities and link more effectively with Safeguarding and other partnership activity.
- 10.4** Whilst it is not likely that we shall see any changes until summer 2018, a 'light touch' review by the end of 2017 has been proposed by the East Sussex Prevent Board and this includes reviewing the levels of awareness and training within other agencies, such as LDC.

#### **11.0 Liaison with the Police and Crime Police and Crime Commissioner**

- 11.1** The Cabinet member for Customers and Partners, Councillor Nicholson is Lewes District's representative on the Police and Crime Panel (PCP) which has the power to scrutinise the PCC and, in particular, her 'policing plan' and 'budget'. PCCs do not directly control local CSPs but directly impact LDCSP effectiveness by control of budget allocation and their responsibility for monitoring CSP effectiveness.
- 11.2** During this performance year, the PCC has launched a review of CSPs which focuses on accountability and funding arrangements. The objective of the review is to assess how community safety funding can be most appropriately apportioned to support the Police and Crime Plan. Currently CSPs are awarded an annual grant by the PCC, broadly based on population density and crime formula. LDCSP has received £21.9k per annum from the PCC over the last five years.
- 11.3** The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner has indicated that the results of the review will be announced by the end of performance year 2017/18. Whilst it is likely that the outcome will have an impact on the CSPs ability to deliver local community safety priorities, it is understood that CSPs will not see any significant changes until 2019/20.

#### **12.0 Proposed Eastbourne and Lewes District Community Safety Partnership**

- 12.1** In late 2015 the Police and Crime Commissioner for Sussex recommended that it would be appropriate for individual District and Borough Community Safety Partnerships to investigate merging options to reflect the new policing district boundaries and make efficiency savings.
- 12.2** As a result of deliberations within the existing Eastbourne, Lewes and Wealden CSPs, it was agreed that we should work towards a new Strategy Group encompassing all three districts whilst maintaining and enhancing the

individual Joint Action Groups. Work began and a 'soft merger' year was completed between 1<sup>st</sup> April 2016 and March 2017.

**12.3** In February 2017 Safer Wealden Partnership decided to withdraw from the shared Strategy Group. Following this, the Chairs of the Eastbourne and Lewes District CSPs agreed to continue with the 'soft merger' with a view to formally combining the two Partnerships by the end of performance year 2017/18, subject to a Business Case and approval of the Police and Crime Commissioner.

**12.4** The main benefits identified during the soft merger period include:

- Efficiency savings gained through the reduction of membership and meeting frequency, totalling 126 hours of members' time saved.
- Enhanced Joint Action Groups having a role in identifying and delivering local priorities
- The merged Partnership having more influence regionally and with the PCC
- An opportunity to share potential risks and benefits in light of the PCC's review of CSP funding arrangements by jointly funding projects and services that meet shared priorities.

**12.5** In line with Local Government Association (LGA) guidance, consultation with relevant authorities will now be undertaken to gain consent to a formal merger of the two CSPs. Following final approval from the Strategy Group, an application will then be submitted to the PCC to approve the merger. Officers are aiming to complete the process of the merger by end of performance year 2017/18 with the new CSP operating from April 2018/19.

**12.6** Cabinet is asked to note the completion of the Eastbourne and Lewes District Community Safety Partnership 'Soft Merger' and endorse the full merger of the two Partnerships.

### **13.0 Staffing**

**13.1** There are no additional staffing implications arising from this report.

### **14.0 Financial Appraisal**

**14.1** Finance have made the following comments:

**14.2** There are no direct financial implications for the Council arising from the recommendations set out in this report.

### **15.0 Legal Implications**

**15.1** The Legal Services Department have made the following comments:

**15.2** Relevant legislation is cited in the appropriate sections of this report.

**15.3** Lawyer consulted 13.10.17. Legal ref: 005971-LDC-OD

## **16.0 Equality Screening**

- 16.1** The merger of the two Community Safety Partnerships was subject to its own Equality Analysis which was completed and signed off by the partnership at its first meeting in July 2016<sup>(1)</sup>.
- 16.2** An Equality and Fairness Analysis has been carried out on the proposed Community Safety Plan 2018/19<sup>(2)</sup>.

## **Background Papers**

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

- (1) *Equality Analysis of the Merger of the Eastbourne and Lewes District Community Safety partnership*
- (2) *Equality and Fairness Analysis of the Lewes District Community Safety Plan 2018/19*

## **Appendices**

Appendix A – Draft Lewes District Community Safety Plan 2018/19

Appendix B – Minute extract from the Scrutiny Committee meeting on 9 November 2017

Appendix C – iQuanta Most Similar Group (MSG) grouping for Lewes District