

Body: Cabinet

Date: 22 October 2014

Subject: Eastbourne Community Safety Plan

Report of: Senior Head of Community

Ward(s) All

Purpose To consider the current performance of the Eastbourne Community Partnership (ECSP) 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 ECSP's achievements and future risks/opportunities to performance and endorses the updated 2014/2017 Community Safety Plan with continued delegated implementation authority to the 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 (ECSP), 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⁾ and to the end of June 2014, this has reduced to around 5,700 crimes, a further reduction of 5% compared with the same period last year⁽²⁾.

2.0 Eastbourne Community Safety Plan 2014-2017

- 2.1 The current Plan has been developed in consultation with key partners including the Police and other members of the ECSP. Version 1.2 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 priorities of the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) and Sussex Police, as well as addressing key local issues.

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 2013/2014 compared with the baseline performance year 2012/2013⁽³⁾. In other words, last year's performance.

- i) Target - reduce overall crime by 3%
Performance - Overall crime from 6,261 to 5,680
A reduction of 9.3%, 581 crimes.
- ii) Target - reduce shoplifting by 5%
Performance - shoplifting from 855 to 807
A reduction of 5.6%, 48 crimes
- iii) Target - reduce public place violent crime by 3%
Performance - public place violent crime from 871 to 878
An increase of 0.8%, 7 crimes
- iv) Target - reduce criminal damage by 5%
Performance - criminal damage from 991 to 893
A reduction of 9.9%, 98 crimes
- v) Target - to be the lowest or second lowest for all crimes against our most similar groups (MSG)⁽⁴⁾
Performance - lowest for all crime against our MSG

3.2 It will be noted from paragraph 1.3 above that Eastbourne over the last few years has seen a substantial reduction in crime and overall crime was down further in 2013/2014. Serious acquisitive crime was down by 14.2% during this period as was overall theft and handling by 8.7%.

3.3 It is worthy of note that shoplifting has fallen again but it is essential to continue to remain focused. Reduction in criminal damage is also worthy of note especially in view of the major percentage reduction the year before, 7.5%. It is disappointing that public place violent crime has not met target but was down by 5% the year before. Serious violence is, although small in number, down this year by 10.5%.

3.4 A main PCC priority in the performance year of 2014/15 is to actively promote increased reporting of vulnerable victim crime types, including domestic violence, serious sexual assaults, hate crime and anti-social behaviour. This initiative coupled with new administrative procedures for recording crime has impacted crime reduction this performance year so far. Whilst overall crime is still down 4.5% this rolling twelve month period up to July 2014 end, compared to the same period last year, upward pressure on crime is apparent in a number of categories including PPVC and shoplifting.

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 ECSP's but directly impact ECSP effectiveness by PCC control of ECSP budget allocation and are responsible for monitoring ECSP effectiveness.

5.0 Resource Implications

5.1 The ECSP's Strategy Group, having agreed the updated Plan and its priorities has matched the priorities with the reduced overall budget. This excludes the continued Basic Command Unit funding of approximately £30k 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 PCC now has 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 ECSP activity. Without additional funding next year from the PCC the ECSP's ability to fund worthwhile local community safety projects may be compromised. It is worthy of note that the PCC's allocation this financial year was increased by £10k to £26.5k. Since 2010/11, ECSP has seen a reduction of approximately £20k per annum in grant revenue to allocate.

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 2015/2016. These challenges will require a continued determination and creative partnership approach to ensure current performance is maintained.

5.4 The ASB Crime and Policing Act 2014 will come into operation in October 2014; it is designed to simplify ASB powers and tools to make implementation of the tactics more timely and effective. Partners are working together to share best practice and consistency of use and the ECSP is working closely with the office of the PCC to ensure best use of Community Trigger and Community Remedy. A briefing paper on the subject as Appendix B is attached for information.

6.0 Staffing

There are no staffing implications arising from this report.

7.0 Other Implications - Environmental, Community Safety, Youth

7.1 **Environmental:** The ECSP 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 ECSP 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 2013/2014 and taking account of the PCC positively increasing reporting certain crime types and changes in recording procedures, the ECSP is still targeting future reductions in 2014/15.
- 8.2 Central Government cut-backs coupled with the introduction of Police and Crime Commissioners may have an adverse impact on local ECSP funding in financial year 2015/2016.
- 8.3 Further potential countywide changes have been mitigated by a continued local focus in addition to adding value in developing initiatives, including Neighbourhood Management. ECSP is working closely with the office of the PCC to implement the new ASB legislation.
- 8.4 Cabinet is requested to note the continued Crime Reduction performance, endorse the updated 2014/2017 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 1.2 (available on request)

Appendix B – ASB Crime and Policing Act 2014, Briefing Paper

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