

Body: Cabinet

Date: 21st August 2015

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 (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 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 the previous year⁽²⁾.
- 1.4 However police recorded crime has seen a considerable increase since the last report. Up to the end of June 2015 overall crime has gone up from 5,753 crimes to over 6,800 an increase of 18.5%, compared with the same period last year. This increase is due to two factors; (i) Sussex Police strict adherence to Home Office Crime Recording Procedures and (ii) the PCC led initiative to increase crime reporting in a number of categories including,

domestic abuse, hate crime and sexual offences.

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 1.5 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. Priorities for 2015/16 and measurement criteria are attached as Appendix B.

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 performance of the performance year 2014/15 compared with the baseline performance year 2013/14⁽³⁾. In other words, last year's performance.

- i) Target – reduce Public Place Violent Crime (PPVC) by 3%.
Performance – PPVC from 881 crimes to 1,292 an increase of 411 crimes or 46.7%
- ii) Target - reduce serious Acquisitive Crime by 3%.
Performance – Serious Acquisitive Crime from 557 to 624. An increase of 67 or 12%.
- iii) Target - reduce Shoplifting by 3%.
Performance – Shoplifting from 810 offences to 881. An increase of 71 offences or 8.8%.
- iv) Target – to increase the number of Drug Supply offences.
Performance – Possession with intent to supply from 42 to 38. A reduction of 4 or 9.5%.
- v) Target – to remain the 4th lowest or better in crime per 000 population compared to our most similar groups (MSG) ⁽⁴⁾. Performance – 3rd lowest in our most similar group.

3.2 It will be noted from paragraph 1.3 above that Eastbourne has seen a substantial reduction in crime and overall crime was down further in 2013/2014. However last performance year saw a substantial increase, mainly due to changes in recording procedures by Sussex Police. It is anticipated this will increase will smooth out and we should see reductions in 2015/16 in a number of categories ⁽¹⁾.

3.3 When referring to the Home Office iQuanta data, which compares numerous categories of crime with other towns in our most similar group (MSG) by 000 population, Eastbourne compares favourably ⁽⁴⁾:

June 2015 Quarterly Data shows:

- i. 3rd lowest – overall crime
- ii. 2nd lowest – burglary
- iii. 1st lowest – robbery
- iv. 3rd lowest – shoplifting
- v. 2nd lowest – vehicle crime
- vi. Below median – violent crime

4.0 Police and Crime Commissioner

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 ECSP effectiveness by PCC control of ECSP budget allocation and are responsible for monitoring CSP 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 Crime Commissioner (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 remains at £26.5k.

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 2016/2017. These challenges will require a continued determination and creative partnership approach to ensure performance is back on track.

5.4 The Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015, places a duty on all specified authorities (EBC is such an authority) in exercise of their functions to have due regard to the need to "prevent" people from being drawn into terrorism. The current threat level remains at "severe". Prevent is a strand of work aligned to 3 other strands, namely, Protect, Pursue and Prepare, which make up central governments counter-terrorism strategy. Whilst Prevent is a priority of the CSP, the legal duty now placed on EBC has led to developing a separate EBC Prevent Duty Action Plan for implementation over the next several years by the Eastbourne Crime Reduction Officer. Reporting

structures will include, Corporate Management Team, local CSP as well as the newly constituted East Sussex Prevent Board. The relevant legislation came into effect on the 1st July 2015, and although classified as a low risk area, EBC may have to report on progress direct to the Home Office.

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:** Continued delivery of the 40 point action plan, 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 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 Whilst overall crime has substantially reduced from 2005/06 to 2013/14, owing to Sussex Police changing recording procedures in response to national guidelines, a substantial increase in overall crime was experienced in 2014/15 performance year. However performance still compares favourably when crime levels per 000 population are measured against similar towns in our Most Similar Group (MSG). Early analysis of this performance year's crime suggests a move to a reducing crime trend for 2015/16, more consistent with crime reduction experienced over the last decade.

8.2 Central Government cut-backs continue to change local delivery structures. This may impact policing and Police & Crime Commissioner funding of Eastbourne CSP in 2016/17 performance year. Enhanced work at a local level for Prevent is essential to respond to EBC'S new legal duty.

8.3 Eastbourne CSP is responding to the challenges by continued focus on partnership working to deliver the CSP Action Plan and improve crime reduction.

8.4 Cabinet is requested to note the reasons for a crime increase in 2014/15, endorsed the updated CSP 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 1.5 (available on request)

Appendix B – CSP Priorities and Measurement Criteria 2015/16

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