

CRIME AND DISORDER COMMITTEE

Wednesday 17 January 2024 at 7.30 pm

Place: Council Chamber, Epsom Town Hall

Online access to this meeting is available on YouTube: Link to online broadcast

The members listed below are summoned to attend the Crime and Disorder Committee meeting, on the day and at the time and place stated, to consider the business set out in this agenda.

Councillor Alex Coley (Chair) Councillor Shanice Goldman Councillor James Lawrence Councillor Darren Talbot Councillor Alan Williamson

Yours sincerely

Chief Executive

For further information, please contact democraticservices@epsom-ewell.gov.uk or tel: 01372 732000

EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURE

No emergency drill is planned to take place during the meeting. If the fire alarm sounds continuously, or if you are instructed to do so, you must leave the building by the nearest available exit. You will be directed to the nearest exit by council staff. It is vital that you follow their instructions.

- You should proceed calmly; do not run and do not use the lifts;
- Do not stop to collect personal belongings;
- Once you are outside, please do not wait immediately next to the building, but move to the assembly point at Dullshot Green and await further instructions; and
- Do not re-enter the building until told that it is safe to do so.

Public information

Please note that this meeting will be held at the Town Hall, Epsom and will be available to observe live using free YouTube software.

A link to the online address for this meeting is provided on the first page of this agenda. A limited number of seats will be available on a first-come first-served basis in the public gallery at the Town Hall. If you wish to observe the meeting from the public gallery, please arrive at the Town Hall reception before the start of the meeting. A member of staff will show you to the seating area. For further information please contact Democratic Services, email: democraticservices@epsom-ewell.gov.uk, telephone: 01372 732000.

Information about the terms of reference and membership of this Committee are available on the <u>Council's</u> website. The website also provides copies of agendas, reports and minutes.

Agendas, reports and minutes for this Committee are also available on the free Modern.Gov app for iPad, Android and Windows devices. For further information on how to access information regarding this Committee, please email us at democraticservices@epsom-ewell.gov.uk.

Exclusion of the Press and the Public

There are matters scheduled to be discussed at this meeting that would appear to disclose confidential or exempt information under the provisions Schedule 12A of the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985. The Committee may resolve to exclude the press and public during discussion of these matters by virtue of the private nature of the business to be transacted.

Questions and statements from the Public

Up to 30 minutes will be set aside for questions and statements from members of the public at meetings of this Committee. Any member of the public who lives, works, attends an educational establishment or owns or leases land in the Borough may ask a question or make a statement on matters within the Terms of Reference of the Committee.

All questions must consist of one question only and cannot consist of multiple parts. Questions and statements cannot relate to planning or licensing committees matters, the personal affairs of an individual, or a matter which is exempt from disclosure or confidential under the Local Government Act 1972. Questions which in the view of the Chair are defamatory, offensive, vexatious or frivolous will not be accepted. Each question or statement will be limited to 3 minutes in length.

If you wish to ask a question or make a statement at a meeting of this Committee, please contact Democratic Services at: democraticservices@epsom-ewell.gov.uk

Questions must be received in writing by Democratic Services by noon on the third working day before the day of the meeting. For this meeting this is **Noon**, **Friday 12 January**.

A summary of statements must be received by Democratic Services by noon on the working day before the day of the meeting. For this meeting this is **Noon, Tuesday 16 January**.

For more information on public speaking protocol at Committees, please see Annex 4.2 of the Epsom & Ewell Borough Council Operating Framework.

Filming and recording of meetings

The Council allows filming, recording and photography at its public meetings. By entering the Council Chamber and using the public gallery, you are consenting to being filmed and to the possible use of those images and sound recordings.

Members of the Press who wish to film, record or photograph a public meeting should contact the Council's Communications team prior to the meeting by email at: communications@epsom-ewell.gov.uk

Filming or recording must be overt and persons filming should not move around the room whilst filming nor should they obstruct proceedings or the public from viewing the meeting. The use of flash photography, additional lighting or any non-handheld devices, including tripods, will not be allowed.

AGENDA

1. QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

To take any questions or statements from members of the Public.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members are asked to declare the existence and nature of any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests in respect of any items of business to be considered at this meeting.

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (Pages 5 - 10)

The Committee is asked to confirm as a true record the Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 12 December 2023 (attached) and to authorise the Chair to sign them.

4. **COMMUNITY SAFETY ACTION PLAN** (Pages 11 - 28)

This report presents the responses of the recent Public Consultation and the revised Community Safety Action Plan to the Committee.



Public Document Pack

Agenda Item 3

1

Minutes of the Meeting of the CRIME AND DISORDER COMMITTEE held at the Council Chamber, Epsom Town Hall on 12 September 2023

PRESENT -

Councillor Alex Coley (Chair); Councillors Shanice Goldman, James Lawrence, Darren Talbot and Phil Neale (as a substitute for Cllr Williamson)

In Attendance: Councillor Bernie Muir

Absent: Councillor Alan Williamson

Officers present: Rod Brown (Head of Housing and Community), Oliver Nelson (Public Protection Manager) and Phoebe Batchelor (Democratic Services Officer)

1 AGENDA ORDER CHANGE

The Chair proposed that the order of the agenda was amended to allow any questions pertaining to the Response to Community Safety Partnereship Review Restricted Appendix 2 Document to be received and answered during Part II of the meeting.

The following order was therefore observed:

- 1 Question and Statements from the Public
- 2 Declarations of Interest
- 3 Video Surveillance System Policy
- 4 Community Safety Intervention Policy
- 5 Communtiy Safety Action Plan
- 6 Response to Community Safety Partnership Review

2 QUESTION AND STATEMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

No questions or statements were received from members of the public.

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made in relation to items of business to be discussed at the meeting.

4 VIDEO SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM POLICY

The Committee received a report setting out a policy to govern the use of video surveillance systems (VSS) and noting the work required to bring the Council into compliance with the Biometric and Surveillance Commissioners Code of Practice.

The following matters were considered:

a) Funding for CCTV. A Member of the Committee asked about the cost of updating our CCTV system and queried if there were funds available from Central Government or other routes to ensure we have a robust and working CCTV system in place. The Public Protection Manager confirmed that the CCTV system present in Epsom Town is new as of February this year and the new system was funded by the Home Office. The Chair informed the Committee that the quality of the CCTV system has hugely improved and the grant received from the Home Office was sizeable, at £271,000, and was part of the Safer Streets Initiative, for which CCTV provision is a part. The Public Protection Manager continued to state that funding streams from Surrey County Council for body worn video cameras and CIL funding for schemes in some of the borough's parks have also been used.

Following consideration, the Committee unanimously resolved to:

(1) Agree that the Video Surveillance System Policy be recommended for adoption at Full Council

5 COMMUNITY SAFETY INTERVENTION POLICY

The Committee received a report presenting a policy to ensure the Council's Community Safety resource is effectively targeted at tackling antisocial behaviour and supporting victims.

The following matters were considered:

Anti-Social Behaviour Policy in relation to Councillors. A Member of the Committee asked about the Anti-Social Behaviour Policy and whether that is the policy for dealing with harassment experienced and faced by Councillors or whether there is a different, more prioritised route. The Chair informed the Committee that a definition of Anti-Social behaviour could be found on page 4 of the Appendix document, as set out in the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 and that any instances where Anti-Social Behaviour occurs under that definition, both the Police and Council would take interest. The Public Protection Manager responded to state that there is no impediment if you are an elected member to be subject of this policy as a victim and it certainly applies to any member of society and if Members feel they are being subject to criminal harassment then that is dealt with exclusively by the Police.

Following consideration, the Committee unanimously resolved to:

- (1) Agree the Community Safety Intervention Policy as set out in Appendix 1
- (2) Agree that the Community Safety Intervention Policy is recommended for adoption at Full Council.

6 COMMUNITY SAFETY ACTION PLAN

The Committee received a report proposing an action plan to deliver community safety measures by the Council and that they be subject to public consultation.

Councillor Muir asked the Chair a question and received a verbal response.

Following consideration, the Committee unanimously resolved to:

- (1) Agree the draft Community Safety Action Plan for public consultation.
- (2) Agree to receive the results of the consultation and any resulting revisions to the action plan at the next meeting of the committee.

7 RESPONSE TO COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP REVIEW

The Committee received a report identifying the proposed response to the independent review of the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) in 2023.

The Committee voted to exclude the press and public at 7.47pm.

The debate on this item is recorded in a restricted minute.

Following consideration, the Committee unanimously resolved to:

(1) Agree to recommend to the Epsom & Ewell Community Safety Partnership the proposed responses to the review, as set out in Appendix 3.

The meeting began at 7.30 pm and ended at 8.01 pm

COUNCILLOR ALEX COLEY (CHAIR)

Agenda Iter	m 3
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Agenda Item 3 Appendix 1

Document is Restricted



COMMUNITY SAFETY ACTION PLAN

Head of Service: Rod Brown, Head of Housing & Community

Wards affected: (All Wards);

Urgent Decision?(yes/no) No

If yes, reason urgent decision

required:

Appendices (attached): Appendix 1 – Consultation Responses

Appendix 2 – Officer Commentary

Appendix 3 – Revised Community Safety

Action Plan

Summary

This report presents the responses of the recent Public Consultation and the revised Community Safety Action Plan to the Committee.

Recommendation (s)

The Committee is asked to:

- (1) Note the outcome of the recent consultation exercise.
- (2) Agree to adopt the Community Safety Action Plan for 2024-2025.

1 Reason for Recommendation

1.1 To fulfil the Committee's request for an action plan to be adopted having been subject to public consultation.

2 Background

2.1 At the 12 September 2023 meeting, the Committee considered the draft Community Safety Action Plan and agreed to receive the results of a public consultation and any revisions to the plan at its next meeting.

- 2.2 The consultation took place between the 13 November and 17 December 2023 and was publicised via an update to the Council's consultation webpage, appearing on the website carousel, paid for social media promotion, borough notice boards, a media release, E Borough Insight and by depositing the document in all borough libraries. Additionally, the Chair of the Committee wrote to Surrey County Council, all local political groups, surrounding Councils, parliamentary candidates and the Member of Parliament.
- 2.3 The consultation was responded to by 2 members of the public, the MP, the Business Improvement District and Epsom & Ewell Liberal Democrats.
- 2.4 Appendix 1 contains the consultation responses, redacted as appropriate. Appendix 2 contains the responses and the Officers commentary against points raised. Appendix 3 contains the revised Action Plan as amended by the consultation.

3 Risk Assessment

Legal or other duties

- 3.1 Equality Impact Assessment
 - 3.1.1 It is considered the Council's Public Sector Equalities Duty is met. The action plan places particular attention on vulnerable people, some of whom will have protected characteristics.
- 3.2 Crime & Disorder
 - 3.2.1 There is a clear link with Crime and Disorder. By undertaking the actions outlined, the Council will positively contribute to the reduction of Crime and Disorder.
- 3.3 Safeguarding
 - 3.3.1 Links between Community Safety and safeguarding are strong and there is a great deal of crossover. It is considered that the actions contained within the plan are inherently based around victims and are designed with safeguarding of those victims in mind.
- 3.4 Dependencies
 - 3.4.1 There are no dependencies of adoption of the action plan however delivery of the plan is reliant on the present resource allocation remaining.
- 3.5 Other

3.5.1 The Committee may wish to note that the key member of staff employed to deliver this service area will be leaving the Council's employment at the beginning of February. It is expected therefore that elements of the plan will need to be prioritised over others whilst the position is recruited to.

4 Financial Implications

- 4.1 There are no additional implications arising from the contents of this report.
- 4.2 **Section 151 Officer's comments:** None arising from the contents of this report.

5 Legal Implications

5.1 The Council's responsibilities in relation to Community Safety are principally drawn from the requirement to participate in a CSP and from section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 which states the Council must.

"exercise its various functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonable can to prevent;

- Crime and disorder
- The misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances
- · Re-offending and
- · Serious violence"
- 5.2 **Legal Officer's comments:** Having an up to date Community Safety Action Plan contributes to fulfilling this duty.

6 Policies, Plans & Partnerships:

- 6.1 **Council's Key Priorities**: The following Key Priorities are engaged:
 - Safe and Well, Effective Council
- 6.2 **Service Plans**: The matter not included within the current Service Delivery Plan.
- 6.3 Climate & Environmental Impact of recommendations: None.
- 6.4 **Sustainability Policy & Community Safety Implications:** As detailed in the body of this report.
- 6.5 **Partnerships**: The statutory Community Safety Partnership.

7 Background papers

7.1 The documents referred to in compiling this report are as follows:

Previous reports:

• <u>Community Safety Action Plan, Crime and Disorder Committee 12</u> <u>September 2023.</u>

 From:
 16 November 2023 09:04

 To:
 Consultations Mailbox

Subject: [WARNING EXTERNAL] Stones Road tunnel

Hi. If you want to reduce crime and drug use in Epsom closing the tunnel in Stones Road would be a good start. I have witnessed open drug dealing there many times and it's well know. It's also used as a shortcut for food delivery drivers which should be stopped too. Thanks.

Click here to report this email as spam.

From: Consultations Mailbox
Subject: Community Safety Consultation

From: Karen Pengelly <karen.pengelly@epsombid.co.uk>

Sent: Wednesday, December 20, 2023 11:42 AM

To: Consultations Mailbox < Consultations@epsom-ewell.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: Community Safety Consultation

Epsom BID is please to see the subject of Community Safety being progressed in the Borough. The BID worked closely with Epsom & Ewell Borough Council on last year's Christmas event, bringing in external Counter Terrorism expertise to advise on complying or even going over and above compliance with forthcoming 'Protect legislation. Where the BID, acting on behalf of local businesses, can collaborate with the council to achieve successful outcomes we are always happy to do so.

 From:
 29 November 2023 10:21

 To:
 Consultations Mailbox

Subject: [WARNING EXTERNAL] Pavement safety for pedestrians

Please sweep the pavements and remove the slimy leaves so that we can walk around safely.

Click here to report this email as spam.

1

From: GRAYLING, Chris <chris.grayling.mp@parliament.uk>

Sent: 04 December 2023 17:57

To: Alex Coley

Cc: Consultations Mailbox

Subject: [WARNING EXTERNAL] RE: Consultation - Community Safety Action Plan

Hello Alex

Thanks for this. It's pretty comprehensive, but the piece I would add to this is a particular focus on local parks, which do seem to have become a sometime magnet for drug dealing. I would add a review of the structure of access to the parks, and how they are monitored by Council officers to this.

I hope you are well.

Best wishes

Chris

From: Alex Coley <AColey@epsom-ewell.gov.uk>
Sent: 03 December 2023 14:09
To: GRAYLING, Chris <chris.grayling.mp@parliament.uk>
Subject: Consultation - Community Safety Action Plan

Hi Chris,

I am writing to you because the Council wants to hear your views, and the views of residents you represent, on community safety.

The Council has a public consultation open on our Community Safety Action Plan and I recognise that your constituents are particularly interested in this subject.

I hope you will respond to the consultation, using the details on the link below:

https://www.epsom-ewell.gov.uk/council/consultations

Best Regards, Alex

Clir Alex Coley Chair of the Crime & Disorder Committee Epsom & Ewell Borough Council Ruxley Ward Councillor

this message is confidential and may be legally privileged. The message is intended solely for the addressee(s). If you are not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any use, dissemination, or reproduction is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful. If you are not the intended recipient, please contact the sender by return e-mail

1

From: Sent:

14 December 2023 12:38 To: Consultations Mailbox

Subject: [WARNING EXTERNAL] Community safety action plan

Please note the following in response to your call for comments on the Community Safety Action Plan. It is sent on behalf of Epsom & Ewell Liberal Democrats. Thanks.

General comments

As a standalone consultation document, we found it a little confusing. It is merely a series of statements without numbered sections and would have benefitted from an integral section for comments within each heading, or multiple choice answers, or scores denoting support, plus an additional blank space for comments. The terms of reference of the various partnerships involved would also have been useful in teasing out potential omissions from the proposals. The document implies a degree of knowledge of the topics already in order to contribute sensibly. Overall we have the following to offer re some of the headings within the document. However, we have not commented on all parts of the document.

Ensure Domestic Homicide Reviews are Implemented

To some members of our organisation it is difficult to support EEBC resourcing such a review and appointing (and paying) for a Chair of a review. On the face of it and without further background information which provides more explanatory information, it would seem that this should either be a Police or Social Services responsibility. Why is EEBC to be the financier here? The review within this section is, of course, supported.

Review the Joint Action Group process Supported.

Identify and Tackle Crime & Antisocial Behaviour

We believe there is a strong link between community safety and crime such as car and bike theft, and minor/attempted burglary. Considered for the most part as minor crime and in many cases not followed up by the Police, this kind of crime can strongly contribute to a feeling that an area is unsafe and generally targeted by criminals. Where does crime such as this lie? Are there any plans or proposals or actions which could be included here (doubtless they are mentioned by other partners) which would specifically address and potentially reduce/tackle crime involving cars, bikes and theft generally? We believe that this kind of minor crime can eventually take its toll on mental health. We believe much greater attention given to minor crime is not only of huge benefit in terms of wellbeing but also adds to a feeling of safety within the locality and the community. Although how much time and effort should be required of any local authority on such matters, when the Police themselves should be at the forefront, is debatable.

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute toward your Plan. Epsom & Ewell Liberal Democrats

What's happening in Epsom and Ewell? Epsom Lib Dems (Facebook) Local news, weekly (sometimes daily) updates, and more ...

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Click here to report this email as spam.

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	Response	Officer Comment
1.	Hi. If you want to reduce crime and drug use in Epsom	Officers have visited the
1.	closing the tunnel in Stones Road would be a good start. I have witnessed open drug dealing there many times and it's well know. It's also used as a shortcut for food delivery drivers which should be stopped too. Thanks.	location and confirm it is appropriately lit and does not suffer from a particular poor design. Closing the footpath would not be the first preferred option since it is one of the few pedestrian routes across the
		railway line. The respondent doesn't say whether the food deliveries are using mopeds or not but generally, the Council would promote lawful use of this passageway as a means to reduce the attractiveness to illicit behaviour.
2.	Epsom BID is please to see the subject of Community Safety being progressed in the Borough. The BID worked closely with Epsom & Ewell Borough Council on last year's Christmas event, bringing in external Counter Terrorism expertise to advise on complying or even going over and above compliance with forthcoming 'Protect legislation. Where the BID, acting on behalf of local businesses, can collaborate with the council to achieve successful outcomes we are always happy to do so.	Officers have adjusted the action plan to reflect the contribution from the Business Improvement District
3.	Please sweep the pavements and remove the slimy leaves so that we can walk around safely.	This is not a community safety issue.
4.	Thanks for this. It's pretty comprehensive, but the piece I would add to this is a particular focus on local parks, which do seem to have become a sometime magnet for drug dealing. I would add a review of the structure of access to the parks, and how they are monitored by Council officers to this.	ASB taking place in local parks and open spaces feature on Joint Action Groups (JAGs) to bring particular focus to an area.
5.	General comments	The consultation was
	As a standalone consultation document, we found it a little confusing. It is merely a series of statements without numbered sections and would have benefitted from an integral section for comments within each heading, or multiple choice answers, or scores denoting support, plus an additional blank space for comments. The terms of reference of the various partnerships involved would also have been useful in teasing out potential omissions from the proposals. The document implies a degree of knowledge of the topics already in order to contribute sensibly. Overall we have the following to offer re some of the headings within the document. However, we have not commented on all parts of the document.	deliberately left open and free text to avoid stakeholders being forced down a particular route, however the comments are noted.
	Ensure Domestic Homicide Reviews are Implemented	

Agenda Item 4 Appendix 2

To some members of our organisation it is difficult to support EEBC resourcing such a review and appointing (and paying) for a Chair of a review. On the face of it and without further background information which provides more explanatory information, it would seem that this should either be a Police or Social Services responsibility. Why is EEBC to be the financier here? The review within this section is, of course, supported.

Review the Joint Action Group process Supported.

Identify and Tackle Crime & Antisocial Behaviour We believe there is a strong link between community safety and crime such as car and bike theft, and minor/attempted burglary. Considered for the most part as minor crime and in many cases not followed up by the Police, this kind of crime can strongly contribute to a feeling that an area is unsafe and generally targeted by criminals. Where does crime such as this lie? Are there any plans or proposals or actions which could be included here (doubtless they are mentioned by other partners) which would specifically address and potentially reduce/tackle crime involving cars, bikes and theft generally? We believe that this kind of minor crime can eventually take its toll on mental health. We believe much greater attention given to minor crime is not only of huge benefit in terms of wellbeing but also adds to a feeling of safety within the locality and the community. Although how much time and effort should be required of any local authority on such matters, when the Police themselves should be at the forefront, is debatable.

The duty to hold a domestic homicide review fall to the Community Safety Partnership. Epsom & Ewell Borough Council provide the administrative resource to the partnership including all the CSP related infrastructure such as CHaRMM, JAG and DHR.

Officers have chosen to base the action plan around the existing strategic CSP priorities which police continue to contribute to. However specific queries around policing priorities are best asked of the police direct via the Surrey Police and Crime Commissioner or the force direct.

Community Safety Action Plan 2024-2025

Epsom and Ewell has long been a safe place compared with neighbouring areas, a place where residents, workers, students and visitors can feel confident in going about their daily lives and enjoy all that the borough has to offer.

However, when issues do occur, they create significant public concern and if not addressed at an early stage, can escalate quickly and attract further, more serious problems. There is also the aspect of hidden crime where the victim may not have a voice and where vulnerable people are subject to coercion, exploitation and abuse. The pattern of crime and anti-social behaviour across the country is changing, and Epsom and Ewell's proximity to London as well as its excellent transport links means that community safety is a high priority for the Borough Council and is seen as central to the borough's future success.

As part of the Epsom & Ewell Community Safety Partnership, we have already committed to playing our part in the following themes:

- 1. Focus on the most vulnerable or those at risk of harm
- 2. Serious organised crime and PREVENT
- 3. Identify and tackle crime and anti-social behaviour
- 4. Improve Community Engagement

This action plan sets out what we intend to do to deliver improvements within our resource for the benefit of the community.

Focus on the most vulnerable or those at risk of harm

Community Harm and Risk Management Meetings

Focussing on both victims and perpetrators, the Community Harm and Risk Reduction Meetings (CHaRMM), are regular multiagency meetings aimed at planning interventions with perpetrators and supporting victims.

For example:

Over the course of a year, in the region of 65 victims and perpetrators are case managed with actions being assigned to appropriate agencies.

We will:

Aim to attend all monthly CHaRMM meetings for the purposes of recording action plans per individual and contribute to joint problem solving with both our community safety and housing teams.

As part of our wider CSP responsibilities, we will maintain the administrative duties associated with CHaRMM.

Ensure Domestic Homicide Reviews are implemented

In circumstances where someone over 16 dies as a result of violence, abuse or neglect by someone they are related to, or in the same household the Community Safety Partnership (CSP), is required to hold a review known as a Domestic Homicide Review Epsom & Ewell Borough Council is responsible for resourcing the review and appointing the Chair.

For example:

The first ever DHR held in the borough reached conclusions of national significance around cyber stalking and these findings were sent to the Home Office for consideration.

We will:

Ensure the current DHR, established in 2023 following an incident in the borough, and any future DHRs, are properly resourced to give the CSP the necessary space to examine any of the learning and conclude where recommendations for improvement ought to be made. This will include making sufficient officer time available to operate the formalised panel meetings and funding the costs of the independent Chair.

Carry out Antisocial Behaviour Case Reviews

ASB case reviews, previously known as the Community Trigger are a formalised way for a victim of ASB to request a review of their case and for the main responsible agencies (police, housing, local authority etc), to undertake an evaluation of the case to determine whether any further action is required.

For example:

We have processed 7 reviews in three years all of which have resulted in recommendations to progress cases of ASB.

We will:

Continue to operate the ASB case review process on behalf of the CSP raising the support for victims and ensuring no one falls between the cracks. We will provide the necessary officer time to administer the progress and use our network of contacts to locate an independent chair where appropriate so as to be able to challenge the responsible agencies, including the Council in their assumptions and case handling.

Revise our Joint Action Group process

A Joint Action Group is an area based intervention approach looking at locations such as an individual property, road, estate or other definable geographic location and problem solving viable solutions using targeted interventions. A JAG will normally involve the main agencies for the area such as Council, Landlord, Police, Childrens or Adult Services and utilise available assets such as police Design out Crime Officer or joint Environmental Visual Audits

For example:

The Joint Action Group project to address scrambler bikes in the Hook Road Arena identified physical measures which were deployed to reduce the occurrence of this type of behaviour in this open space.

We will:

Move to a standing JAG arrangement away from an ad-hoc approach to ensure there is always a forum for partner agencies to ask for help with a joint approach to area based issues. We will hold these meetings once every 8 weeks and ensure that each part of the JAG is followed through with agencies being held to account for their actions.

Serious Organised Crime and PREVENT

Ensure our intelligence is reported via appropriate routes

Our staff are in a strong position to be able to detect the hidden signs of crime. For example our Environmental Enforcement team are out and about daily, our Environmental Health Team are visiting homes and businesses in the borough, often without warning, and our street cleansing and refuse collection staff are in the community at times of day many others are still in bed.

For example:

Our reporting of suspicious circumstances in commercial and residential properties, detected by our staff during the course of their work have led directly to police interventions around modern day slavery.

We will:

Provide our staff with Serious Organised Crime awareness sessions and invite our partners to participate. We will use appropriate intelligence submission methods such as the agreed partnership intelligence form or the national intelligence model process to record and submit suspicious behaviour and observations to police.

Deliver ACT Awareness training to key members of staff and ensure major events benefit from formal counter terrorism considerations.

Our role both as landowners, events organisers and chairing of Safety Advisory Groups puts us in a strong position to effect change in considering counter terrorism where it can be achieved simply, safely and pragmatically.

For example:

The Christmas light switch on in 2022 was the first event, planned and organised by the Business Improvement District and the Council where direct input from a Counter Terrorism Security Advisor was sought and event staff received awareness training.

We will:

Roll out more wider training to relevant staff and promote the same to the organisers of larger events.

Serious Organised Crime Joint Action Groups

These police briefings advise partners on the current investigations into organised crime gangs, the identity of persons of interest and the contribution sought from other agencies.

For example:

The county line drug operation leading to an estate in the Borough was traced back to a London based dealer using information from the SOC JAG process.

We will:

Distil the SOC JAG information and ensure key members of staff have access to appropriately screened material to allow their teams to make a contribution to the fight against organised crime.

Identify and tackle crime and anti-social behaviour

In consideration of the cross over between this priority and supporting the vulnerable, our actions around CHaRMM and JAGS also apply here. In addition:

Review of Town Centre Data

Owing to its density and popularity as a destination, Epsom Town Centre does feature as one of the borough locations which experience higher than average reports of ASB and other activity.

For Example:

Our work with partners identified a hot spot for ASB within the town centre associated with a particular locality which brought focus around appropriate actions.

We will:

Although we do not employ data analysts, we will continue to use tools such as the Police D10 Partnership Product and other available techniques to identify trends and behaviours that ought to be tackled. Where possible we will draw upon the data analysis carried out by partner agencies to further the targeting of measures.

Improve Community Engagement

Joint initiatives to engage with the public

We have relationships with a variety of other enforcement agencies which allows each to support joint action days and joint initiatives including "Meet the Beat", Violence Against Women And Girls day of action and Roadside Education and Enforcement (REED), events.

For example:

During ASB Awareness week in 2023, we helped organise and participated in outreach events spread over three days at three separate locations in the borough.

We will:

Continue to seek opportunities to work with partners in the promotion of community safety priorities including further REED days, ASB Awareness Week, County Lines Intensification week and Safeguarding Adults Week.

Social Media Messaging

The Council has a variety of social media accounts with many borough residents following and using social media to engage with us.

For example:

Our outreach events during ASB Awareness Week in 2023 were covered by the social media accounts of the Council and our partners attracting engagement from members of the public who were not able to visit the physical event.

We will:

Ensure that our partners messages are amplified and that our own social media messaging is targeted and informative to allow members of the community to see what we do and the results we are delivering.

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