

RESPONSE TO COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP REVIEW

Head of Service:	Rod Brown, Head of Housing & Community
Wards affected:	(All Wards);
Urgent Decision?(yes/no)	No
If yes, reason urgent decision required:	Appendix 1 Epsom & Ewell Community Safety Partnership Plan 2022-24 Appendix 2 Review of Community Safety Partnership (2023) Appendix 3 Proposed Action Plan

Summary

The report identifies the proposed response to the independent review of the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) in 2023

Recommendation (s)

The Sub-Committee is asked to:

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

1 Reason for Recommendation

- 1.1 The safety and wellbeing of those living and working within the borough is a key issue for the Council and is reflected in the Council's strategic 4-year plan. The Council is a statutory partner in the Epsom and Ewell CSP, and it is important the CSP is effective in its leading role in local community safety.

2 Background

- 2.1 The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 placed the strategic governance of crime and disorder reduction work in a local authority area with the local statutory Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs)

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- 2.2 In July 2020 the Environment and Safer Communities Committee agreed to establish a local Epsom and Ewell CSP (EECSP), replacing an East Surrey CSP which had included Mole Valley Borough Council, Reigate and Banstead Borough Council and Tandridge District Council.
- 2.3 The key advantages of creating a local CSP were seen to be the ability to target this borough exclusively, make better use of local community safety knowledge and more closely reflecting the Council's commitment to community safety.
- 2.4 The 2020 report acknowledged that a possible disadvantage of not working as an East Surrey CSP might be fewer opportunities for sharing good practice across boroughs. The Surrey-wide Community Safety Forum is an officer group which has been established to share good practice across community safety teams.
- 2.5 The Crime and Disorder Act 1998, as amended by the Police Reform Act 2002 and the Police and Justice Act 2006, requires responsible authorities to work together alongside the community and voluntary sector to develop and implement strategies for reducing crime and disorder in their area. The EECSP has published the Community Safety Action Plan 2022-24 which is included in Appendix 1.
- 2.6 The EECSP Community Safety Action Plan 2022-24 identifies those statutory and non-statutory partners currently forming the EECSP and sets out the four priorities for the CSP along with a programme of actions, which are regularly updated along with their RAG status.
- 2.7 The Council's involvement in community safety has increased substantially in the last four years. There has been a considerable increase in daily operational demands relating to community safety issues, outside the EECSP. There is a well-developed pattern of partnership working across other council services, the Police and Rosebery Housing Association.
- 2.8 The increase in community safety activities includes:
 - Created and co-ordinated the Epsom and Ewell CSP,
 - Introduced Joint Action Groups (JAGS) a multi-agency group that focuses on geographical areas associated with crime and Anti-Social behaviour (ASB) meeting every 8 weeks
 - Introduced monthly Community Harm and Risk Management meetings (CHaRMM), to focus on individuals at risk,
 - Developed and promoted the ASB Case Review process, formally known as Community Trigger, enabling residents to utilise the formal review mechanism for Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) complaints and,

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- Sadly, have had to support two Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) panels, including a current on-going high profile DHR.
- 2.9 The work of the partnership relies on input from all partners. The co-ordination of the partnership's work, including community safety activity referenced in 2.8 above, is delivered by the Council's Community Safety and Enforcement Officer's (CSEO) role.
- 2.10 In response to a growing desire to lead on community safety issues, the council created the new CSEO role in 2018. This new role has been very successful in co-ordinating a growing demand for community safety involvement. However, we have reached a position where there is no additional capacity within the Council's CSEO role or indeed other EEBC roles, involved with the CSP, to grow the support of the EECSP. Many partners are in similar positions and no further significant additional resources have been identified from CSP partners.
- 2.11 The council's CSEO currently provides all administrative support to the EECSP and also provides all administrative support to every JAG, CHaRmm, ASB Case Review and DHR
- 2.12 The current level of performance that the EECSP achieves, including the activities outlined in 2.8 above, is considered to be significant, considering the limited resources available.

3 CSP review 2023

- 3.1 In April 2023 an independent review of the EECSP was commissioned, to explore the co-ordination of community safety work, including the governance and oversight arrangements, and strategic coordination of the CSP.
- 3.2 In May 2023 a review report was produced which is attached as Appendix 2.
- 3.3 The review is composed of four sections and two appendices:
- Introduction and context
 - Objective, scope and methodology
 - Summary and recommendations – containing 16 recommendations.
 - Detailed findings - (scrutiny and oversight, structure and governance, shared objectives, leadership and action planning and coordination and resource allocation.)
 - Crime data
 - CSP partners' self-assessment scorecards

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- 3.4 The recommendations contained in the review have been welcomed by the EECSP. The review identified 16 recommendations, drawn from each area of the detailed review.
- 3.5 Many recommendations rely on additional capacity within the partnership or anticipate partners contributing more funding to strengthen the co-ordination of the partnership. A small number of recommendations are associated with improved processes and practices.

4 Draft responses

- 4.1 The draft responses to the review are attached as Appendix 3 to this report. This outlines the proposed responses that the EECSP will be considering as a response of the review together with suggested actions that will be subject to approval of the EECSP.
- 4.2 This committee has been asked to consider the draft responses as set out in Appendix 3 and recommend it to the EECSP.

5 Risk Assessment

Legal or other duties

5.1 Equality Impact Assessment

- 5.1.1 Addressing community safety needs within the borough is considered to have a positive impact on equality.

5.2 Crime & Disorder

- 5.2.1 This report sets out how the EECSP can make improvements in response to this review and as such the report is considered to have a positive impact on crime and disorder.

5.3 Safeguarding

- 5.3.1 The report is considered to have a positive impact on safeguarding. Those who are marginalised, vulnerable or disabled are considered to be at increased risk of crime and disorder.

Dependencies

- 5.4 The EECSP depends on the continued involvement of existing partners and the effective participation of any new partners.
- 5.5 Further financial support for the EECSP will depend on identifying sources of additional funding.

Other

- 5.6 None

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6 Financial Implications

- 6.1 The responses set out in this report are not considered to have additional financial implications on the council. The source for any growth in the council's community safety budget would need to be identified.
- 6.2 **Section 151 Officer's comments:** None arising from the contents of this report.

7 Legal Implications

- 7.1 The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 established the principle of partnership working on a formal basis, and through several legislative adjustments this is now achieved in Epsom and Ewell through the EECSP.
- 7.2 Under the Police and Justice Act 2006, Councils are required to allocate the scrutiny of the local CSP to one of their committees so as to provide public accountability of the CSP. This Council has delegated this function - Carry out the council's responsibilities under Section 19 of the Police and Justice Act 2006, to scrutinise the work of the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) annually to its Audit and Scrutiny Committee.
- 7.3 **Legal Officer's comments:** None arising from the contents of this report.

8 Policies, Plans & Partnerships:

- 8.1 **Council's Key Priorities:** The following Key Priorities are engaged:
- 8.2 **Service Plans:** The matter is not included within the current Service Delivery Plan.
- 8.3 **Climate & Environmental Impact of recommendations:** None
- 8.4 **Sustainability Policy & Community Safety Implications:** Increasing the effectiveness of the EECSP will enhance community safety work performed by the council and partners across the borough.
- 8.5 **Partnerships:** The EECSP is strongly based on partnership working with the organisations involved in the partnership.

9 Background papers

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

Previous reports:

- Community Safety Partnership Environment and safe Communities 16th July 2020

Other papers:

- Future 40 vision Full Council 20th January 2020