

COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

Head of Service:	Damian Roberts, Chief Operating Officer Rod Brown, Head of Housing & Community
Wards affected:	All Wards
Urgent Decision?(yes/no)	no
If yes, reason urgent decision required:	
Appendices (attached):	Annex 1: draft Terms of Reference

Summary

This report sets out proposals to establish a local statutory Community Safety Partnership for Epsom and Ewell.

Recommendation (s)

The Committee is asked to:

- (1) **Agree that its preference is for a statutory Community Safety Partnership to be established in Epsom and Ewell;**
- (2) **authorise Officers to consult with statutory partners including the Police and Crime Commissioner about establishing a new Community Safety Partnership in Epsom and Ewell;**
- (3) **subject to the feedback from statutory partners, authorise Officers to take appropriate steps to establish the new Community Safety Partnership.**

1 Reason for Recommendation

- 1.1 Community Safety have become a bigger priority for the Council in recent years and is reflected in the new vision for Epsom and Ewell which was approved by Council on 20 January 2020. Having a local statutory Community Safety Partnership will enable the Council and its partners to focus its attention and resources on this borough's needs.

Environment and Safe Communities Committee

16 July 2020

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).
- 2.2 All the other boroughs and districts in Surrey have a Community Safety Partnership focused on their own local authority area. The exception is in East Surrey where in 2017 the Council took a decision to operate a combined arrangement for the operation of the Community Safety Partnership with Reigate and Banstead Borough Council, Tandridge District Council, Mole Valley District Council.
- 2.3 The combined arrangement in East Surrey has been in place for just over three years. The meetings have generally taken place in Tandridge District Council and have been chaired by their then Chief Executive. The Partnership have not met since September last year.

The large geographic area the current combined Community Safety Partnership has not enabled partners to focus on and address the needs of specific areas like Epsom and Ewell. As a relatively small borough in terms of geography, Epsom and Ewell accounts for less than 10% of the combined geographic area of the current partnership. Yet, Epsom and Ewell is the most urban borough in the group and the one that is closest to London and has experienced higher rates of crime than the other three Councils, https://www.police.uk/surrey/SHSV/performance/compare-your-area/?section=msg_comparison#msg_comparison. This means that Community Safety is potentially a greater priority for Epsom and Ewell. The joint arrangements for the Community Safety Partnership across East Surrey was put in place before Epsom and Ewell Borough Council agreed a new approach to Community Safety and Enforcement which was approved by Strategy and Resources in 2018 and before the creation of a dedicated Community Safety and Enforcement post. The Council's new approach seeks to take a stronger and more coordinated approach to the Council's community safety role, including its approach to tackling antisocial behaviour and environmental crime in the borough.

Environment and Safe Communities Committee

16 July 2020

3 Proposals

- 3.1 Rather than continuing with the combined Community Safety Partnership, this paper recommends re-establishing a local Community Safety Partnership just serving Epsom and Ewell. This is the model that exists in the rest of Surrey, with each Borough or District having their own local Community Safety Partnership, focused entirely on working with local partners to address community safety issues in their local area. A draft terms of reference for the new Partnership is included in Annex one. The final terms of reference will need to be approved by the Partnership itself in consultation with the statutory partners. .
- 3.2 A local Community Safety Partnership would also create the opportunity to bring together statutory partners that operate in the local area who may have better local knowledge and are better placed to deploy local resources.
- 3.3 These proposals also align with the Council's new approach to Community Safety and Enforcement which was agreed by Strategy and Resources in 2018.

4 Options Appraisal

4.1 Option 1 - Status Quo – East Surrey Community Safety Partnership

4.1.1 Advantages

- Established arrangements in place although will need to find a new chair/chairman following the departure of the Chief Executive of Tandridge District Council.
- Each of the statutory agencies only have to identify one member of staff to attend the combined East Surrey Community Safety Partnership across all four Council areas.

4.1.2 Disadvantages

- The geographic area covered by the combined geography of Mole, Valley, Reigate and Banstead, Tandridge and Epsom and Ewell is too large to provide sufficient focus on Epsom and Ewell's needs.
- Statutory attendees do not necessarily have local knowledge of community safety issues taking place in Epsom and Ewell as their role in the current group has to cover a much larger geographic area.

Environment and Safe Communities Committee

16 July 2020

- Local accountability for delivery in Epsom and Ewell is more difficult to achieve in a group operating across four different Council areas and with representatives who may not have a role in this borough.

4.2 Option 2 – A local Community Safety Partnership for Epsom and Ewell

4.2.1 Advantages

- A direct and exclusive focus on Epsom and Ewell will allow community safety improvements to be targeted to Epsom and Ewell residents, business, students and visitors.
- Local Statutory attendees and other local partners are more likely to have local knowledge of the borough and the remit to provide practical help.
- A local Partnership reflects the Council's greater priority and more robust approach to Community Safety and Enforcement
- Potentially less travel time for the Council and statutory partners including associated positive climate change implications.

4.2.2 Disadvantages

- Potentially less opportunity for early sharing of ideas and good practice between Councils in East Surrey.
- Some statutory agencies will have to identify a local representative to attend the Community Safety Partnership meeting in Epsom and Ewell.

5 Risk Assessment

Legal or other duties

5.1 Impact Assessment

- 5.1.1 The proposals set out in this paper will enable the Council to better focus its resources on the needs of Epsom and Ewell and ensure that all parts of the Community experience the borough as a safe and welcoming place.

5.2 Crime & Disorder

Environment and Safe Communities Committee

16 July 2020

5.2.1 The proposals set out in this report will make a positive contribution to tackling crime and disorder in the borough and help ensure that Epsom and Ewell is seen as a safe place to live, work study and visit.

5.3 Safeguarding

5.3.1 Safeguarding is a central part of the Council's approach to Community Safety, including raising awareness of safeguarding, ensuring that effective reporting arrangements are in place, and that staff are properly trained.

5.4 Dependencies

5.4.1 The on-going support of other statutory and non-statutory partners.

6 Financial Implications

6.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report. The Council already participates in the East Surrey Community Safety Partnership and therefore participating instead in a local Community Safety Partnership in Epsom and Ewell and held in the Council offices, could be accommodated through existing staffing resources.

6.1 **Section 151 Officer's comments:** : any resource required to administer a local Community Safety Partnership will be met from existing revenue budgets.

7 Legal Implications

7.1 The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 places a statutory responsibility on named organisations to form a Community Safety Partnership.

7.2 **Monitoring Officer's comments:** *there are none for the purposes of this report*

8 Policies, Plans & Partnerships

8.1 **Council's Key Priorities:** Improving community safety is reflected in the Council's key priorities.

8.2 **Service Plans:** This matter is included in the current Service Delivery Plan.

8.3 **Climate & Environmental Impact of recommendations:**

Environment and Safe Communities Committee

16 July 2020

- 8.3.1 Environmental crime such as fly tipping of hazardous waste, countryside fires, unauthorised discharge of harmful chemicals into the air or rivers etc can have a significant impact on the environment, including bio diversity and climate change.

8.4 **Sustainability Policy & Community Safety Implications**

- 8.4.1 The proposals set out in this report are intended to improve Community Safety in Epsom and Ewell. Having Community Safety Partnership meetings in the borough and inviting local partners may prove to be more sustainable than having partner agencies travel across the County to Tandridge where the current combined Community Safety Partnership is based.

8.5 **Partnerships:**

- 8.5.1 A local Community Safety Partnership will enable better partnership working at a local level, because it will seek to engage with partners that operate or who have a direct local interest in Epsom and Ewell.

9 **Background papers**

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

Previous reports:

Community Safety and Enforcement Plan 2020, Environment and Safe Communities 28 January 2020.

Community Safety and Enforcement Plan, Strategy and Resources Committee 17 April 2018

Long term vision for Epsom and Ewell, full Council 20 Jan 2020

Other papers: None