

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: Draft Action Plan

Summary

This report proposes an action plan to deliver community safety measures by the Council and that they be subject to public consultation.

Recommendation (s)

The Committee is asked 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.**

1 Reason for Recommendation

- 1.1 The proposals set out in this report will contribute to the delivery of the Council's corporate priorities including helping to support the most vulnerable by providing an effective response to community safety issues that will enhance public confidence.

2 Background

- 2.1 Officers have been requested to prepare an Action Plan to bring focus around the Council's work in the crime and disorder and community safety areas.
- 2.2 Whereas the Council, as part of its role within the Community Safety Partnership (CSP), is committed to actions in partnership with other agencies, this new document provides the opportunity to outline the Council's actions in more depth whilst inviting public comment on the detail.

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- 2.3 The total resource available within the community safety area is 1 FTE split into approximately equal proportions amongst Corporate Safeguarding, CSP administration and work dealing with crime and anti-social behaviour.
- 2.4 Owing to the very limited staff resource, Officers have chosen to base actions within the draft action plan on those the Council is already committed to as part of the CSP priorities. Any expansion of ambitions within this area will need to be matched with a counterpart growth in staffing levels.
- 2.5 The current CSP priorities are
- Focus on the most vulnerable or those at risk of harm
 - Serious Organised Crime and PREVENT
 - Identify and tackle crime and anti-social behaviour
 - Improve Community Engagement
- 2.6 It is proposed that the public be invited to comment on the proposals during a six-week period during October and November 2023 following which the comments will be assessed and revised proposals put to the Committee at its January 2024 meeting.
- 2.7 The measures relate entirely to Epsom & Ewell Borough Council although many of the measures proposed are part of joint working arrangements with other agencies in line with existing duties and expectations in this field.

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 reduction of crime and disorder.

3.3 Safeguarding

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3.3.1 Links between community safety and safeguarding are strong and there is a great deal of cross over. 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 on adoption of the action plan however delivery of the plan is reliant on the present resource allocation remaining.

4 Financial Implications

4.1 There are no additional financial 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:** None arising from the contents of this report

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 is 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.

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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: None

Other papers:

- Epsom and Ewell Community Safety Partnership Community Safety Action Plan 2022-2024