

SAFER EPSOM AND EWELL BUILD PHASE UPDATE

Head of Service:	Rod Brown, Head of Housing & Community
Report Author	Rod Brown
Wards affected:	(All Wards);
Urgent Decision?(yes/no)	No
If yes, reason urgent decision required:	
Appendices (attached):	Appendix 1 Clear Hold Build data profile Appendix 2 Surrey police CHB survey summary Appendix 3 Safer Epsom and Ewell Build phase plan

Summary

An update on content and progress of the Build phase of Safer Epsom and Ewell programme.

Recommendation (s)

The Committee is asked to:

- (1) Note content and progress of the Safer Epsom and Ewell programme.**

1 Reason for Recommendation

- 1.1 The Council has an important role in working with police and other partners to support a safe environment for residents and businesses.
- 1.2 This Committee has a remit to manage anti-social behaviour and tackle crime.

2 Background

- 2.1 The Safer Epsom and Ewell is a multiagency programme aimed at tackling Serious Organised Crime (SOC) and reducing anti-social behaviour (ASB) within a specified area of the borough

Crime and Disorder Committee

24 February 2026

- 2.2 This programme is structured around a Home Office approach to tackling SOC known as Clear Hold Build (CHB). CHB is a place based operational framework which provides a multi-agency model for uniting the resources of the police, councils, partner agencies and the local community to tackle both the underlying causes and enablers of SOC, as well as the manifestation of harm it causes in a single joined up approach.
- 2.3 CHB is composed of three discrete phases (abridged from Home Office guidance):

Phase	Activities	Objectives	Period covered
Clear	Interventions targeting members of Organised Criminal Gangs (OCG)s, County Lines, their networks and business interests and criminality	Arrest and relentlessly disrupt OCGs and use regulatory powers to disrupt and impede.	July 2025 to November 2025
Hold	Interventions and counter measures and contingency plans to consolidate and stabilise Clear phase	Stop OCGs and county lines and capitalise on vacuum created. Improve and sustain increased community confidence	December 2025
Build	Single whole system approach delivering community empowered interventions tackling drivers of crime	Community more assertive, improved environment for residents with greater resilience and greater partner connectivity.	January 2026 – March 2026

- 2.4 Clear phase is typically led by enhanced police activities with Hold being significantly police led with partner support. Build phase tends to be more community focussed with council and partners having more significant input.

3 Safer Epsom and Ewell

- 3.1 The geography for the Epsom and Ewell programme was developed considering recorded criminal data and with the recognition of the interplay between different areas across the borough.

Crime and Disorder Committee

24 February 2026

- 3.2 The Safer Epsom and Ewell area centres on Epsom town extending to Watersedge and Longmead estates and NESCOL college. The crime types being focussed on are acquisitive crime (burglary, vehicle crime and theft) ASB and possession and supply of drugs.
- 3.3 Prior to the launch of Safer Epsom and Ewell, Surrey police produced a profile of the borough highlighting the areas subject to recorded criminal activity. This profile is attached as Appendix 1.
- 3.4 Also prior to safer Epsom and Ewell, Surrey police completed a survey of residents and those visiting the area about their concerns about crime and ASB and their feelings of safety in the borough. This survey is attached as Appendix 2.

4 Build plan

- 4.1 The police led on the earlier phases of Safer Epsom and Ewell with the council and partners being currently involved in the final build phase. This final phase of the programme is intended to conclude with the end of the current financial year.
- 4.2 Informed by the survey results and the borough profile, the Build phase is developed around six key themes. Each theme is led by a significant partner active in that area.
- 4.3 The six themes and their respective leads are:

Theme	Lead
Housing	Kirsten Pavitt (Town and Country Housing)
ASB	Sgt Pegg/Insp Pearson (Surrey police)
Environmental	Sam Whitehead (EEBC)
Youth Voice	Holly Ashby (SCC Adolescent Services)
Women and Girls	Sarah McLeod (North Surrey Domestic Abuse Service)
Employment	Sarah Watson (NESCOL)

- 4.4 Progress is currently still underway on the Build phase. There are many different activities underway or planned which underpin the objectives set for each theme.

Crime and Disorder Committee

24 February 2026

- 4.5 This phase is supported by a Build Phase Plan which identifies objectives for Safer Epsom and Ewell and the strategic aims for Hold and Build along with objectives and headline performance measures for each theme. The Build Phase Plan is attached as Appendix 3.
- 4.6 Performance towards these objectives will be reported after the end of the financial year along with a repeated survey by Surrey police to gauge the impact of Safer Epsom and Ewell.
- 4.7 In addition to the partners work during Build phase, the office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) has funded two projects which are intended to avoid young people becoming involved in SOC and ASB.
- 4.8 The two projects funded are an allocation to New Era Academy Training (NEAT), based in Court Recreation Ground to facilitate a further 12 months of activities for youth diversion purposes and, subject to final agreement, Engage Lime who are recommended by the Home Office to operate programmes to develop skills in younger people so as to promote positive behaviour change and build better futures.

5 Risk Assessment

Legal or other duties

5.1 Equality Impact Assessment

- 5.1.1 The build stage of the Safer Epsom and Ewell project is aimed at providing opportunities to younger people to develop skills aimed at an overall positive impact on themselves and their community. This is likely to have a positive impact on the protected characteristic of age.

5.2 Crime & Disorder

- 5.2.1 Inherently this project is aimed at positively contributing to the reduction of crime and disorder in the borough.

5.3 Safeguarding

- 5.3.1 Through targeted youth work and structured supervision, additional opportunities are presented for the identification of safeguarding concerns and for these to be acted upon.

5.4 Dependencies

- 5.4.1 The Build stage of the programme is dependent on the delivery of the Clear and Hold stages including effective partnership with members of the Community Safety Partnership and wider.

Crime and Disorder Committee

24 February 2026

6 Financial Implications

- 6.1 The Council's involvement in Safer Epsom and Ewell has been mainly through officer time in assisting the police in planning, developing and participating in programme activities. The OPCC has made provision to fund the Council up to £5,000 as a contribution towards the costs to the role the Council has had in this programme.
- 6.2 Other officer involvement will be met by existing budget provision for the services involved.
- 6.3 **Section 151 Officer's comments:** Financial implications are included in the body of the report.

7 Legal Implications

- 7.1 The Build stage does not require the Council to exercise any of its legal powers.
- 7.2 **Legal Officer's comments:** None for the purposes of this report

8 Policies, Plans & Partnerships:

- 8.1 **Council's Key Priorities:** The following Key Priorities are engaged:
- Safe and Well
- 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: Set out in the body of this report**
- 8.5 **Partnerships:** The existing Community Safety Partnership is key to this project augmented by additional organisations as necessary.
- 8.6 **Local Government Reorganisation Implications:** None

9 Background papers

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

Previous reports:

- None

Other papers:

Crime and Disorder Committee

24 February 2026

- Home Office (2025), Evaluation of Clear, Hold, Build: A local response to serious and organised crime [online]
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/evaluation-of-clear-hold-build/evaluation-of-clear-hold-build-a-local-response-to-serious-and-organised-crime>