

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

COMMUNITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 22 APRIL 2008

REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

8. COMMUNITY SAFETY STRATEGY (2005-08) FINAL PROGRESS AND INTRODUCTION TO THE COMMUNITY SAFETY PLAN (2008-2011)

WARD(S) AFFECTED: All

'D' RECOMMENDATION – that (A) the Community Safety Strategy 2005-2008 and the Community Safety Plan 2008 – 2011 be received; and

(B) assistance be offered to the Community Safety partnership to inform the consultation process of the Community Safety Plan 2008 - 2011

1.0 Purpose/Summary of Report

1.1 To update Scrutiny Members on the progress made by the Community Safety Partnership on the delivery of the Community Safety Strategy (2005-08).

1.2 To introduce members to the East Herts Community Safety Plan (2008-2011).

2.0 Contribution to the Council's Corporate Priorities/Objectives

2.1 Promoting prosperity and wellbeing; providing access and opportunities.
Priority: Enhance the quality of life, health and wellbeing of individuals, families and communities, particularly those who are vulnerable.

3.0 Background

3.1 The Community Safety Strategy (2005-08) was the third strategy developed by the East Herts Community Safety Partnership.

3.2 The partnership is a multi- agency partnership comprising of six statutory Responsible Authorities;

- East Herts Council
- Hertfordshire Constabulary
- Hertfordshire County Council (Crime and Drugs Strategy Unit)
- Hertfordshire Police Authority
- Primary Care Trusts
- Hertfordshire Fire and Rescue

Other key members of the partnership include:

- National Probation Service
- Youth Offending Team
- Children, Schools and Families

3.3 The partnership also comprises of other non-statutory agencies including organisations from the voluntary sector (for example, drug and alcohol agencies, Victim Support, Age Concern etc) and Registered Social Landlords (the two biggest within East Herts are Riversmead Housing Association and South Anglia Housing).

3.4 The Community Safety Strategy (2005-08) guided the work of the Community Safety Partnership. It set out the key objectives agreed by the partners.

3.5 The Community Safety Plan (2008-2011) will commence April 2008. It is the first Plan to be developed under the new system.

4.0 Report

Community Safety Strategy 2005-08

4.1 Appendix 'A' (Pages 8.6 - 8.20) sets out the three year progress based on the objectives and performance measures set out in the Community safety Strategy 2005-08.

4.2 Data in Appendix 'A' (Pages 8.6 - 8.20) has been gathered up to December 2007/January 2008 awaiting further figures from the Eastern Area Intelligence Unit/MIDAS.

4.3 Members may wish to note the following highlights:

Criminal damage was reduced by 14% from 2005-end of 2007

The number of recorded robberies was significantly reduced where 06/07-Dec07 saw approximately 67% reduction.

Recorded burglaries reduced by at least 4% each year throughout the 2005-2008 strategy.

Community Safety Plan 2008-2011

- 4.4 Appendix 'B' (Pages 8.21 - 8.47) details the new provisions for the Community Safety Plan 2008-2011.
- 4.5 Members should note that the new provisions detail the requirement to carry out annual strategic assessments. The strategic assessments will determine new community safety priorities each year. The result will be the creation and implementation of a community safety action plan to run for 12 months each April (Appendix 'C', pages 8.48 - 8.56).
- 4.6 The focus of the Community Safety Plan 2008-11 rests on annual strategic assessments. Members should note the importance of the information gathering element of the strategic assessment process. The Partnership will be consulting with communities as part of this process. This will allow the community safety issues to be identified on a regular basis by the public. The partnership can therefore evolve to meet community safety needs within East Herts.
- 4.7 Members may like to offer assistance to the community safety partnership to inform the consultation process. This may be through identifying community groups or key community leaders/stakeholders who could participate in community consultation.
- 5.0 Consultation
- 5.1 The Community Safety Strategy 2005-08 was produced in consultation with the lead partners.
- 5.2 A programme of community consultation has been undertaken in support of the Strategic Assessment (08/09) that included the use of the questionnaire developed at county level, direct telephone interviews and research using the minutes and paperwork of Community Voice meetings, and visual audits.
- 5.3 Consultation was carried out from February-March 2008 on the priorities identified within the strategic assessment (08/09). Results are detailed in Appendix 'B' (Pages 8.21 - 8.47).

6.0 Legal Implications

6.1 The Crime and Disorder Act (1998) made it a statutory duty for local authorities to work with the Police and other partners to reduce and address crime and disorder in their area.

6.2 Legislative changes through the Police Justice Act (2006) placed a legal responsibility on Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRPs) or Community Safety Partnerships to produce a plan detailing how they intend to tackle crime and disorder and community safety challenges within their area.

6.3 It is a legal requirement to produce the Community Safety Plan 2008-2011 and East Herts Council should note the partnership guidelines (Appendix 'B', pages 8.21 - 8.47)

7.0 Financial Implications

7.1 Current funding for initiatives, projects and one officer (Community Safety Officer) is provided through the Local Area Agreement Safer Stronger Communities resource budget, administrated through HCC.

7.2 In addition, the BCU (Basic Command Unit) is administrated through the Police.

7.3 East Herts Council provides funding for PCSOs, CCTV monitoring and maintenance and has one officer who co-ordinates the CDRP.

8.0 Human Resource Implications

8.1 None

9.0 Risk Management Implications

9.1 As listed in under legal implications 6.1-6.3 there is a statutory obligation to produce a Community Safety Plan 2008-2011 and adhere to the statutory requirements. If the council failed to implement a Community Safety Plan it could affect service delivery and council and partner reputation. Failure to implement the Community Safety Plan may lead to an unfavourable CAA.

Background Papers

The East Herts Community Safety Strategy 2005-08 is available at http://80.168.51.108/media/pdf/k/6/ComunitySafetyStrategy200508_1.pdf

East Herts CDRP Strategic Assessment 2008-09

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