

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

COMMUNITY SCRUTINY - 26 OCTOBER 2010

REPORT BY EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY SAFETY AND PROTECTION

PROGRESS ON COMMUNITY SAFETY PLAN 2008 -11

WARD(S) AFFECTED: All

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**Purpose/Summary of Report**

To update Members on the progress made by the Community Safety Partnership on the delivery of the Community Safety Plan (2008 -11).

**RECOMMENDATION FOR COMMUNITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE:**

(A)	To note and comment on the progress made against the Community Safety Plan 2008 to date.

1.0 Background

1.1 The Community Safety Partnership is a multi- agency partnership comprising of six statutory responsible authorities;

- East Herts Council
- Hertfordshire Constabulary
- Hertfordshire County Council
- Hertfordshire Police Authority
- Hertfordshire Fire and Rescue
- Hertfordshire Probation
- Health

The role of East Herts Council within the partnership, is wide ranging. The council helps facilitate the many statutory obligations, such as compiling the strategic assessments, to the more practical aspects of partnership working through providing venues for meetings. The council also administers the partnership funds, in the form of a central government grant.

- 1.2 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 (such as Riversmead and South Anglia).
- 1.3 The Community Safety Plan (2008-11) is the policy document detailing the strategic obligations for the partnership over a three year period. It details how the partnership will address crime and disorder, measure performance and engage with communities on community safety issues.
- 1.4 The plan is revised annually through strategic assessments which detail the evidenced based partnership priorities which are the focus of the partnership for each 12 month period.
- 1.5 Annual action plans are produced as a result of the emerging priorities from each annual strategic assessment.
- 1.6 The final quarters of the 2008-9 and 2009-10 action plans and the first 6 months of 2010-11 action plan are attached in the appendices.
- 1.7 A key component of the strategic assessment evidence base is public consultation.

## 2.0 Report

- 2.1 Strategic assessments establish current and future crime, disorder and substance misuse issues within the district and makes comparisons with other areas within the county, region and nationally, where appropriate. For the full report on the current strategic assessment go to:

[http://www.eastherts.gov.uk/media/pdf/p/b/East\\_Herts\\_Community\\_Safety\\_Strategic\\_Assessment\\_2010-11.pdf](http://www.eastherts.gov.uk/media/pdf/p/b/East_Herts_Community_Safety_Strategic_Assessment_2010-11.pdf)

- 2.2 The strategic assessment informs the six responsible authorities who sit on the community safety partnership board of the current and future community safety trends, which enables strategic priorities to be indentified. The partnership responds to these priorities through the creation of annual action plans, which are delivered through the Joint Action Group.

- 2.3 As part of the priority setting process, the partnership carries out regular consultation with the public to ensure resources and attention is paid to where they are needed the most.
- 2.4 The partnership has carried out the following consultations (2008 – to date)
- Priority preference, March 2008: The consultation asked the people of East Herts to rank the priorities in the order the partnership should consider as extremely important to the least important. For the full report refer to:  
[http://www.eastherts.gov.uk/media/pdf/9/f/Consultation\\_results\\_March\\_2008.pdf](http://www.eastherts.gov.uk/media/pdf/9/f/Consultation_results_March_2008.pdf)
  - Workshop, September 2008: A workshop was held with 4 community safety topics for the public to comment on. The aim was to consult with communities about the community safety priorities the partnership should tackle. For the full report refer to:  
[http://www.eastherts.gov.uk/media/pdf/9/6/Consultation\\_September\\_2008.pdf](http://www.eastherts.gov.uk/media/pdf/9/6/Consultation_September_2008.pdf)
  - Community Safety survey: From September – December 2009 1500 survey forms were made available to the public via Community Safety Partnership reception areas and websites, Town and Parish Councils, sent to community groups and distributed at public events. Respondents were asked to list their top three community safety concerns. For the full findings refer the current strategic assessment:  
[http://www.eastherts.gov.uk/media/pdf/p/b/East\\_Herts\\_Community\\_Safety\\_Strategic\\_Assessment\\_2010-11.pdf](http://www.eastherts.gov.uk/media/pdf/p/b/East_Herts_Community_Safety_Strategic_Assessment_2010-11.pdf)
  - During January – February 2010 members of the Community Safety Partnership Board presented at five public meetings across the district (Community Voice). The presentation was structured “you said, we did” providing a summary of last years consultation and the work the partnership carried out in response to it, followed by “what next” enabling a summary of the most recent crime trends and community safety issues to be shared. For the full findings refer the current strategic assessment:  
[http://www.eastherts.gov.uk/media/pdf/p/b/East\\_Herts\\_Community\\_Safety\\_Strategic\\_Assessment\\_2010-11.pdf](http://www.eastherts.gov.uk/media/pdf/p/b/East_Herts_Community_Safety_Strategic_Assessment_2010-11.pdf)
- 2.5 Due to the annual evaluations and consultations each strategic assessment can have different priorities. The following have been identified since 2008 (to date):

## 2.6 Priorities covering 2008 – 2009

- Improve feelings of safety by reducing fear of crime
- Anti-social behaviour
- Reduce serious acquisitive crime
- Offender management
- Youth engagement
- Reduce violent crime
- Cross cutting theme – alcohol and drugs

## 2.7 Priorities covering 2009 - 2010

- Improve public confidence through reassurance and crime prevention measures
- Address issues of anti-social behaviour
- Reduce burglaries, in particular residential
- Reduce criminal damage
- Reduce vehicle crime
- Reduce theft from a shop
- Raise awareness of domestic violence and reduce repeat incidents

2.8 The most recent strategic assessment confirms that East Herts is a safe place to live, work and visit as demonstrated through the low levels of crime compared to our Hertfordshire neighbours and against national trends. For the full findings refer the current strategic assessment:

[http://www.eastherts.gov.uk/media/pdf/p/b/East\\_Herts\\_Community\\_Safety\\_Strategic\\_Assessment\\_2010-11.pdf](http://www.eastherts.gov.uk/media/pdf/p/b/East_Herts_Community_Safety_Strategic_Assessment_2010-11.pdf)

2.9 The following trends (covering 1 September 2009 – 31 August 2008 and 1 September 2007 – 31 August 2006) demonstrate the overall low levels of crime:

- There were 1247 serious acquisitive crime offences between 1st September 2008 and 31st August 2009. This equates to a reduction in 27 (1.3%) crimes compared to the same period the previous year.
- There were 860 vehicle crimes of which 206 were theft of motor vehicle and 618 thefts from a motor vehicle. Theft from motor vehicle has seen a reduction of 2.4 % compared to last year.

- There were 555 burglary other offences (including attempts) in East Herts over the 12 month period. This is an increase of 10.7% on the same period last year.
- Street drinking equates to 1% of anti social behaviour (59 incidents) which was an increase of just 2 incidents when compared with the previous year.
- Alcohol related violent crime currently stands at 44.6% (649 offences) compared with 42.5% (614 offences) the previous year.
- There were 5,711 incidents of ASB across the district, which is a reduction of 3.6% (n215)
- There were 1446 criminal damage offences committed over the period covered. This is a reduction of 11.6% and equates to 19.3% of all crime.
- There were a total of 216 deliberate fires compared with 188 in 2007/2008. The majority of which were classed as secondary fires (65.7%) followed by vehicle fires (17.6%).
- East Herts features in 1st position in Hertfordshire with the majority of residents (64.5%) responding that they feel very or fairly safe after dark. When asked how safe residents felt during the day, 93% felt very or fairly safe, which ranked 3rd position in Hertfordshire.
- Twenty three percent of East Herts residents felt that people using or dealing in drugs is a big problem, which 6% feel that it is a very big problem.
- People being drunk or rowdy was scored by 9% of East Herts residents as a very big problem and by a further 20% as a fairly big problem.

2.10 Despite these low crime levels, recent surveys and partnership consultation suggests that people in East Herts have high perceptions of crime when compared to the reality. As a consequence, the partnership chose a single priority: Keep crime levels low and improve public confidence through reassurance and crime prevention measures.

- 2.11 The Community Safety Partnership is therefore currently focusing its attention on actions aimed at addressing issues relating to reassurance.
- 2.12 Performance is measured through the crime trends evaluated within the strategic assessments, the endorsement of annual priorities and the successful completion of 12 month action plans. See appendices A-C for full action plans.
- 2.13 The partnership supports and introduces many projects and initiatives to help deliver the annual action plans. The following is a list of some of the completed projects funded or endorsed by the Community Safety Partnership. These are strictly monitored by the partnership board.

<b>Community safety project (grant funded)</b>	<b>Managing partner</b>
Crime prevention projects	Crime prevention panels
Taxi marshalling - Hertford	East Herts Council
Summer diversionary activities	East Herts Council
Hertford and Ware Town Watch Coordinators	East Herts Council
Hartham Fence (ASB)	East Herts Council
CCTV upgrade	East Herts Council
Partnership pull up publicity banners	East Herts Council
Feel Safe Cotton Bags (5000)	East Herts Council
Contribution to taxi cameras	East Herts Council
East Herts and Broxbourne DV Forum initiatives	East Herts Council
Partnership newsletter	East Herts Council
Arson letter boxes Duke of Edinburgh Equipment	Fire and Rescue
Rural patrolling initiative (signs and night vision equipment)	Hertford and Ware Town Coordinators
Signs for Designated Public Place Orders	Hertford and Ware Town Coordinators
CCTV Evidence Locker (database)	Hertford and Ware Town Coordinators
Body worn camera	Hertford and Ware Town Coordinators
Horsewatch (Equipment to mark property)	Hertford and Ware Town Coordinators

Environmental Week	Hertford and Ware Town Coordinators
Radio Link (shopwatch)	Hertford Town Coordinators
BMX day, Hertford	Hertford Town Council
Town Watch Mountain Bikes	Hertfordshire Constabulary
King George activity week	Hertfordshire Constabulary
Third Party Hate Crime Boxes	Hertfordshire Constabulary
Signs (S59 & CCTV warning signs) in Jackson Square multi-story car park	Hertfordshire Constabulary
Neighbourhood push bikes	Hertfordshire Constabulary
Cat bells and mobile phone tags for vulnerable people	Hertfordshire Constabulary
S59 & CCTV warning signs (ASB, Hartham Common)	Hertfordshire Constabulary
Sign for Archers Spring (ASB)	Hertfordshire Constabulary
A frame boards and posters for street briefings	Hertfordshire Constabulary
PCSO bike clothing kits, Bishop's Stortford	Hertfordshire Constabulary
Portable knife arch	Hertfordshire Constabulary
Memo Cams (hidden camera in residential property)	Hertfordshire Constabulary
Sele Activity Week	Hertfordshire Constabulary
Bottle Watch (to mark bottles before sale at off licenses)	Hertfordshire Constabulary
Personal attack alarms	Hertfordshire Constabulary
Rehab Assistance Fund for offenders	Hertfordshire Constabulary
Sele Football project (Equipment)	Hertfordshire Constabulary

Rural Intelligence Gathering System - pagers and signs	Hertfordshire Constabulary
Contribution to PSCOs	Hertfordshire Constabulary
Taxi Marshals and Police Radio	Hertfordshire Constabulary, East Herts Council
Covert Cameras	Hertfordshire Constabulary, East Herts Council, Fire and Rescue
Street Pastors - Bishop's Stortford	Street Pastors
Street Pastors - Hertford & Ware	Street Pastors
Hertford and Ware Street Pastors Training	Street Pastors
Contribution to Good Guys Project (shorten length of time for sale of fireworks)	Trading Standards

2.14 Public sector finances and a review of community safety standards present an uncertain future. Grant funding has been drastically reduced and as a result a number of actions aiming to promote the feeling of public safety have been curtailed. As a consequence the partnership faces challenges in delivering the reassurance priority for the remainder of the year.

2.15 Organisations will naturally focus more upon their own immediate challenges, but to mutually benefit all, there is a need for more partnership working not less. As such the Community Safety Partnership Board has recognised the difficulties and is reviewing the structure of the partnership and partnership working in December 2010.

### 3.0 Implications/Consultations

Information on any corporate issues and consultation associated with this report can be found within Essential Reference Paper 'A' attached to the report now submitted.



## Background Papers

East Herts Strategic Assessment 2010/11:

<http://www.eastherts.gov.uk/index.jsp?articleid=10446>

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## ESSENTIAL REFERENCE PAPER 'A'1

<p>Contribution to the Council's Corporate Priorities/ Objectives <i>(delete as appropriate):</i></p>	<p><b>Promoting prosperity and well-being; providing access and opportunities</b> <i>Enhance the quality of life, health and wellbeing of individuals, families and communities, particularly those who are vulnerable.</i></p> <p><b>Fit for purpose, services fit for you</b> <i>Deliver customer focused services by maintaining and developing a well managed and publicly accountable organisation.</i></p> <p><b>Pride in East Herts</b> <i>Improving standards of the built neighbourhood and environmental management in our towns and villages.</i></p> <p><b>Shaping now, shaping the future</b> <i>Safeguard and enhance our unique mix of rural and urban communities, ensuring sustainable, economic and social opportunities including the continuation of effective development control and other measures.</i></p> <p><b>Leading the way, working together</b> <i>Deliver responsible community leadership that engages with our partners and the public.</i></p>
<p>Consultation:</p>	<p>Partnership has carried out statutory consultations completed throughout the 2008-11 plan. See appendices.</p>
<p>Legal:</p>	<p>None</p>
<p>Financial:</p>	<p>The council administers the partnership funds, in the form of a central government grant.</p>
<p>Human Resource:</p>	<p>None</p>
<p>Risk Management:</p>	<p>Public sector finances and a review of community safety standards present an uncertain future. Grant funding has been drastically reduced and as a result a number of actions aiming to promote the feeling of public safety have been curtailed. As a consequence the partnership faces challenges in delivering the priority for the remainder of the year.</p>