



REPORT TO THE MEETING OF CABINET – 17 JULY 2024

PORTFOLIO: PEOPLE AND COMMUNITY – CLLR R SAVAGE

REPORT FROM ASSISTANT DIRECTOR HOUSING, HEALTH & PARTNERSHIPS

SUBJECT: COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP UPDATE

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 For Cabinet to receive an update concerning future plans for the delivery of community safety functions by the Council and its ongoing strategic work with partners.

2 LINKS TO COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES AND OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 This report impacts on the Corporate Plan objectives - Economy and Growth, Place and Environment.

3 RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 To note the update on matters relating to the Rochford and Castle Point Community Safety Partnership.

4 INTRODUCTION

- 4.1 The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 places a statutory duty on the Police and Local Authorities to work together in partnership with key partners and agencies to formulate and implement local crime reduction strategies. The partners are required to:

- identify, through local crime and disorder audits and consultation, key local crime and disorder priorities;

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- formulate strategies to assist in tackling these key priorities and reduce crime at the local level; and
 - monitor and evaluate those strategies.
- 4.2 In the new target operating model of the Council, Community Safety now sits within the Place and Communities Directorate and will be part of a wider Housing, Health and Partnerships team. This provides an opportunity to review the service, our resources and partner relationships with fresh eyes.
- 4.3 Since November 2023, the Council has been working with partners to establish a future direction for the Rochford and Castle Point Community Safety Partnership to ensure that the Council is resourced to meet its obligations under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. This has been against the backdrop of the loss of key members of staff across both organisations.
- 4.4 In addition to the work already undertaken, the new Assistant Director Housing, Health and Partnerships has begun a more detailed review of the community safety workstream, as well as continuing to develop the Council's partnership links.

5 UPDATES ON COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP ENGAGEMENT

Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner (PFCC)

- 5.1 The Director Place and Communities and the Assistant Director Housing, Health and Partnerships met with colleagues from the PFCC office.
- 5.2 Positive discussions took place in relation to the Council's plans for the community safety workstream/partnership, including the general direction of the Community Safety workstream.
- 5.3 The Council has been allocated £15,000 from the PFCC for the purposes of delivering initiatives and projects which deliver against the community safety priorities of the Borough.

Essex Police

- 5.4 The Assistant Director Housing, Health and Partnerships has had initial meetings with Rochford and Castle Point Community Policing Officers to discuss ways to improve the current partnership working arrangements.
- 5.5 Some of the discussions have also included details on how the Council can strengthen its position as one of the Responsible Authorities for community safety activities, as well as playing a more active role in supporting the Policing hub based at Kiln Road.

Southend City Council – Community Safety Support

- 5.6 The Council has entered into partnership with Southend City Council to carry out a Section 17 audit of its community safety functions.
- 5.7 The findings of this audit will form the basis of the work being undertaken to improve the delivery of the Council's community safety service. The scope includes the following activities, some of which have been progressed:
- a) Preparing, reviewing, and making an application to the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner Safer Streets Fund;
 - b) Carrying out the strategic intelligence assessment to compile an evidence base, review the community safety needs and identify priorities for the next 12 months with recognition of the customer's obligation to formulate a strategy for:
 - the reduction of crime and disorder in the area;
 - combatting the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances in the area;
 - the reduction of re-offending in the area;
 - preventing people from becoming involved in serious violence in the area; and
 - reducing instances of serious violence in the area.
 - c) Conducting an audit in line with Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 ("the Act") to understand and map what the Council is currently delivering around crime and disorder across all its service areas.
 - d) Using the collated results of paragraphs 1b and 1c of this schedule to prepare a Community Safety Plan, with proposed actions for the customer to address the gaps and priorities identified. This plan is to address the customer's statutory duty under section 6 of the Act.
 - e) Representing the customer at relevant crime and disorder/community safety meetings.
 - f) Provide access to a CCTV vehicle through bookings to be requested via email. Agreement to the booking will be subject to the vehicle's availability at the requested times.
 - g) Additional support regarding the customer's community safety needs as may be requested from time to time, which will be subject to agreement by the supplier.

Rochford District Council

- 5.8 The Assistant Director Housing, Health and Partnerships will be meeting with the Council's Community Safety partners at Rochford District Council (who also work across Brentwood Borough Council) on 8 July to discuss the current partnership arrangements.

CCTV

- 5.9 Council officers, along with the Portfolio Holder for People & Community, visited the Southend City Council CCTV hub to look at their set-up.
- 5.10 Officers were shown the comprehensive CCTV system which acts as an essential source of information for preventing, managing and controlling community safety across Southend.
- 5.11 Discussions also took place regarding the Council's own CCTV systems and opportunities for improvement, as well as regional and local benefits of a shared system which could both track and target anti-social elements moving across local authorities' boundaries.

6 RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 None.

7 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 Failure of the Council to fulfil its role as a Responsibility Authority, as set out in the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, represents a breach of our statutory obligations. This report highlights the work being done to enable us to fulfil our obligations.

8 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 None.

9 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 In the short term, the costs of the service level agreement (SLA) to be entered into with Southend City Council can be met from the budget for the vacant Community Safety Officer post. Longer term funding and delivery of the service will need to be considered as part of the service review to be conducted by the new Assistant Director, identifying the expected costs and recommended method of delivery in ensuring the Council meets its responsibilities.

10 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 The SLA will set out terms and conditions between the parties and also ensure any GDPR and Data Protection obligations are complied with in terms of use of CCTV operations.

11 HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 The Council is seeking to recruit a new Community Safety Officer who will be responsible for day-to-day matters.
- 11.2 The audit referred to in paragraph 5.7 (c) in the main report will highlight how community safety matters are dealt with across all Council services and with partners.

12 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 12.1 There are none as no decision is being made.



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Background Papers:-

None.

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