



## **OFFICER REPORT TO LOCAL COMMITTEE (TANDRIDGE)**

### **COMMUNITY SAFETY IN TANDRIDGE**

**5 OCTOBER 2007**

#### **KEY ISSUE**

The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 places a requirement on Surrey County Council to consider crime and disorder in all the services it provides. This report updates the Local Committee on the community safety work within the district, with a focus on the joint work through the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership.

#### **SUMMARY**

The Local Committee has a role in influencing and contributing to the community safety strategy for Tandridge. The Police and Justice Act 2006 will see the process of developing these strategies change. The Local Committee also has a devolved power for the community safety funding allocated to the crime and disorder partnership, spent in accordance with the community safety strategy. National and local priorities are identified in the Tandridge Community Safety Strategy 2005-2008. Home Office priorities include burglary, violent crime and vehicle crime; local priorities focus on anti-social behaviour, reassurance, road casualties and drug and alcohol issues. This report and annexes set a context for a committee discussion of the issues with partners working on these areas in the district

#### **OFFICER RECOMMENDATION**

##### **The Local Committee is asked to:**

- (i) Note the work of the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership in Tandridge.
- (ii) Consider how the Local Committee and County Council services can support the work of the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership.
- (iii) Agree that the Area Director, in consultation with the Local Committee Chairman, agree the allocation of Surrey County Council community safety funding allocated to the Crime and Disorder Partnership, in accordance with the community safety strategy priorities.

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 places a requirement on Surrey County Council to consider crime and disorder in all the services it provides. The Local Committee and the county council have a role to play in delivering community safety in Tandridge district. This report, therefore, provides an update on the community safety work within the district, with a focus on the joint work through the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP).

## **2 CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION PARTNERSHIP IN TANDRIDGE**

- 2.1 CDRPs are statutory groups established through the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. Surrey County Council is one of the statutory members of the partnership, and is required to work with partners to improve community safety and reduce crime and disorder. Subsequent legislation has impacted on the way the partnership works and expanded the list of statutory organisations.
- 2.2 In Tandridge, the following organisations form the CDRP:
- Tandridge District Council
  - Surrey County Council
  - Surrey Fire and Rescue Service
  - Surrey Police
  - Surrey Police Authority
  - Surrey Primary Care Trust
- 2.3 Representatives from the CDRP partners have provided information on community safety achievements and barriers in the last year. These are attached as Annexes A – D. Representatives will also be attending the Local Committee meeting to highlight key points, answer questions and provide advice as Members consider the report and recommendations.
- 2.4 CDRPs are allocated government funding through the Local Area Agreement (LAA), and are responsible for the delivery of community safety targets within the LAA.

## **3 COMMUNITY SAFETY STRATEGY**

- 3.1 The CDRP is required to produce a three-year Community Safety Strategy, outlining the priorities for the area.
- 3.2 The current Community Safety Strategy covers the period April 2005 – March 2008. The strategy was developed following a full community safety audit and public consultation process.

3.3 The priorities within the current strategy are:

- Overall crime, particularly in burglary, vehicle crime and criminal damage
- Anti-social behaviour, focusing on behaviour that causes harassment, alarm or distress
- Public reassurance, using appropriate publicity and crime prevention initiatives to minimise feelings of insecurity or fear of crime
- Substance misuse, addressing the links between drug and alcohol abuse and acquisitive crime such as burglary
- Road casualties, reducing road casualties making roads safer through good engineering, education and enforcement.

3.4 The CDRP produces regular performance reports against these priorities.

3.5 The Police and Justice Act 2006 will bring significant changes to the way that CDRPs plan and operate. From March 2008, CDRPs will no longer be required to develop a new strategy every three years, nor conduct the community safety audits and consultations that go with that. Instead, the CDRPs are required to adopt an intelligence-led model and develop a rolling three-year strategy. The expectation is that this will enable the CDRPs to be more responsive to the local priorities, by providing flexibility.

3.6 The CDRPs will conduct strategic assessments every six months. These will analyse the local community safety issues, and will be based on the information and evidence available from all the partners. The strategic assessments will then be used as the basis for reviewing the three-year rolling strategy and directing CDRP activity over the coming year.

3.7 There will be an increased expectation on CDRPs to be more accessible to the public. CDRPs will be required to hold public sessions, where residents will be able to ask questions and raise concerns.

3.8 The new legislation will also see the local authority scrutiny committee take a formal role in monitoring the CDRP and holding the partnership to account.

3.9 The CDRP is currently in the process of identifying and collecting the most appropriate evidence for the first of these strategic assessments. Officers would welcome any suggestions on appropriate data and evidence to consider as part of this process.

#### **4 COMMUNITY SAFETY FUNDING IN TANDRIDGE**

- 4.1 The adoption of a Local Area Agreement has resulted in some changes to the way CDRPs are funded. In the past the CDRPs received funding individually from the Government Office for the South East, and reported back to them on achievements. Through the LAA, all funding is paid directly to Surrey County Council. A Safer and Stronger Communities Partnership Board has been established to agree countywide priorities and projects, and agree how to divide the community safety funds across the eleven CDRPs. This Board includes representatives from Surrey County Council, Borough/District Councils, Surrey Police and Primary Care Trust.
- 4.2 CDRP funding, particularly revenue funding, is under increasing pressure. The Local Committee could support the community safety work across the district by continuing to promote community safety projects through their member initiative funding.

#### **5 EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 The CDRP will need to consider equalities and diversity when holding any public forums or consultations, to ensure all residents are able to access and contribute to them.

#### **6 FINANCIAL AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 There are economic and financial benefits to improving community safety in Tandridge.

#### **7 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 The CDRP has been established to improve community safety in Tandridge by prioritising the key issues within the district. These are detailed in the report.

#### **8 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 8.1 The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 places a requirement on Surrey County Council to consider crime and disorder in all the services it provides. The Local Committee has an influencing role in delivering community safety in the borough and is able to monitor the County Council service input to crime and disorder issues within the Borough.

8.2 The officer recommendation is for Members to:

- (i) Note the work of the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership in Tandridge.
- (ii) Consider how the Local Committee and County Council services can support the work of the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership.
- (iii) Agree that the Area Director, in consultation with the Local Committee Chairman, agree the allocation of Surrey County Council community safety funding allocated to the Crime and Disorder Partnership, in accordance with the community safety strategy priorities.

## 9 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 places a requirement on Surrey County Council to consider crime and disorder in all the services it provides. The Local Committee and the county council have a role to play in delivering community safety in Tandridge district. Surrey County Council also contributes funding to the CDRP and is accountable through the Local Committee. The recommendations fully address these functions of the Local Committee.

## 10 WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

If the recommendations are agreed, constructive comments will be fed back into the Crime and Disorder Partnership in Tandridge in order to inform and improve the county council's contribution to the community safety agenda and the proposals for expenditure for 2007/08 will be formally endorsed and processed in conjunction with partner agencies to the benefit of the local community.

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<b>BACKGROUND PAPERS:</b>	Community Safety Strategy 2005-08 Surrey Local Area Agreement Crime and Disorder Act 1998 Police Reform Act 2002 Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003 Police and Justice Act 2006