



OFFICER REPORT TO LOCAL COMMITTEE (TANDRIDGE)

COMMUNITY SAFETY IN TANDRIDGE

4 December 2009

KEY ISSUE

Surrey County Council is required by legislation to consider crime and disorder in all the services it provides. The County Council is also a statutory 'responsible authority' of the Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) in Tandridge. This partnership is required to produce a three year Community Safety Plan, which runs from 2008-2011, and to carry out a Strategic Assessment of the area and its community safety needs and priorities. The Strategic Assessment is currently underway and new action plans will be agreed to deliver targets to reduce crime and the fear of crime in Tandridge.

SUMMARY

The Local Committee has a role in influencing and contributing to the community safety strategy for Tandridge. 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 plan.

This report updates the Local Committee on the community safety plan and provides a summary of the partnership work within the district over the past year.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

The Local Committee (Tandridge) is asked to:

- (i) Note the work of the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership;
- (ii) Consider community safety projects when allocating funding from its devolved budgets.

1 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and subsequent legislation places a requirement on Surrey County Council to consider crime and disorder in all the services it provides.
- 1.2 Surrey County Council is one of the statutory “responsible authorities” 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 which now includes the county and district councils, police and police authority, health and Fire and Rescue service representatives.
- 1.3 This report, therefore, provides an update on the community safety work within the borough, with a focus on the joint work through the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP).
- 1.4 Representatives from the CDRP partners have provided information on community safety achievements and barriers in the last year. These are attached as Annex A. 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.
- 1.5 The CDRP is required to produce a Community Safety Strategy, outlining the priorities for the area. The 2008-11 Community Safety Plan was developed following a full community safety audit and public consultation process.
- 1.6 In order to identify any emerging issues of concern and assess progress against the initial assessment of 2007, analysis is carried out on an annual basis and action plans are kept relevant and focused, with a greater focus on the police national intelligence model, to allow the partnership to be more responsive to the local priorities as issues may change over the life of the plan. The partnership plan then directs how the CDRP manages its resources and activities.

2 COMMUNITY SAFETY PLAN 2008-11

- 2.1 Certain characteristics of Tandridge impact on the nature of the community safety concerns in the district. Covering 110 square miles, Tandridge is over 90% Green Belt land, with over a third of the district designated as being either an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty or of Great Landscape Value.
- 2.2 The district’s neighbouring areas are Reigate and Banstead in Surrey to the west, Croydon to the north, Sevenoaks in Kent to the east and Mid-Sussex and Wealdon to the south. The proximity to areas such as Croydon where crime levels are significantly higher and the transport

links of two motorways, M25 and M23, cutting through Tandridge have an impact on actual crime figures and 'perception' of crime.

- 2.3 Tandridge sees generally low levels of crime and low increases in crime across the district. There can occasionally be 'spikes', sometimes caused by one or two individuals or cases. Decreases have recently been seen in serious acquisitive crime, domestic burglary, vehicle crime, criminal damage and drug offences. Cross-border work with London in particular is having a positive impact on domestic crime in Tandridge. Hotspot issues relating to places or individuals are picked up and solutions found through the operational partner Community Incident Action Group (CIAG).
- 2.4 The CDRP in Tandridge has agreed the following priorities within the new plan are:
- Serious Violent Crime
 - Domestic Abuse
 - Serious Acquisitive Crime
 - Burglary dwelling
 - Distraction burglary
 - Theft of fuel
 - Community Reassurance
 - Rural crime
 - Anti-social behaviour
 - Environmental crime
 - Traffic related issues
 - Speeding
 - Anti-social behaviour
 - Parking
 - Substance misuse
 - Drugs misuse and supply
 - Alcohol misuse
- 2.5 Lead agencies have been nominated for each priority. These agencies are working on annual partnership action plans to tackle each priority.
- 2.6 The Strategic Assessment has also identified gaps in available information and areas for improvement in service delivery. Local Authorities have a duty to incorporate a community safety foundation into all their services, the work of the CDRP extends and develops this focus. Further information is to be sought on accident and emergency data, drug and alcohol related crime, recording of 'suspicious incidents'

in relation to distraction burglaries and the recording of suspicious fires data.

3 COMMUNITY SAFETY FUNDING IN TANDRIDGE

- 3.1 CDRPs receive funding through the Safer and Stronger Communities strand of the Local Area Agreement. The Safer and Stronger Communities Partnership Board sets countywide priorities and projects, and agrees how to divide the community safety funds across the eleven CDRPs.
- 3.2 The Safer & Stronger Partnerships Board adopted a new formula, based on a population/crime split, for distributing funding to CDRPs in 2008/09. As a result, Tandridge CDRP has seen its funding decrease but as many of the posts are funded divisionally, the east area CDRPs have agreed to fund the posts on a proportional basis, effectively absorbing any decrease.
- 3.3 Funding and governance processes are undergoing some review and CDRPs may well see further changes in the future. Partners are working together in east Surrey to secure streamlined and efficient processes that deliver against local and strategic crime reduction targets wherever possible.
- 3.4 The Local Committee allocated resource from Member Local Allocation funds in 2008/09 to projects with community safety benefits including support to the Fire and Rescue Service Youth Engagement Scheme (YES Scheme), Safe Drive, Stay Alive. Members have also actively supported community safety events in other ways - such as a Community Safety Partnership Days for example.
- 3.5 CDRP funding, particularly revenue funding, is under increasing pressure. The Local Committee could support the community safety work across Tandridge by continuing to promote community safety projects through their member initiative funding, having a direct impact on neighbourhood priorities.

4 CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS

- 4.1 CDRPs in the east of Surrey have for some time found pragmatic solutions to work more efficiently, share resources and tackle concerns together wherever possible. There are joint posts covering several districts to work on alcohol and drugs concerns, CCTV, road safety and speeding priorities and anti-social behaviour. Good practice is shared and learned from as a matter of course.

- 4.2 A review of further joint CDRP approaches is underway, with plans to produce a single Strategic Assessment for the division, with district-based action plans set up to deliver the local priorities. Partner organisations are also exploring governance arrangements with a view to improved efficiencies for the future.
- 4.3 Recent Government legislation has required district/borough councils to scrutinise the work of the CDRP on an annual basis. The Local Committee has received an update and opportunity to scrutinise this work from all partners in a public committee meeting on an annual basis for sometime. Some boroughs and district are putting in place a process where the district and council function are brought together in one meeting, which may prove to be the most effective way of addressing this requirement on one annual occasion for all relevant partners.

5 OPTIONS

- 5.1 The Local Committee has a monitoring role for the County Council's financial contribution to the CDRP, and the achievements against the community safety strategy. As part of this role, the Local Committee can:
- Note the report and agree the recommendations;
 - Note the report and agree the recommendations, but request further information on any aspect of the report;
 - Defer the recommendations and request further information on any aspect of the report.

6 CONSULTATIONS

- 6.1 As a result of recent legislation, the CDRP will be subject to greater scrutiny by councillors and members of the public. Processes are still to be agreed by both authorities.

7 FINANCIAL AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 The financial implications for the CDRP are set out in this report. There are also wider economic and financial benefits to improving community safety by making Tandridge a safer place to live and work.

8 EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 The partnership will need to continue be aware of engaging with 'hard to reach' and minority groups within the community, ensuring access to all relevant information by the whole community.

9 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 The CDRP has been established to improve community safety in Tandridge by prioritising the key issues within the Borough.

10 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.1 Surrey County Council is required by legislation to consider crime and disorder in all the services it provides. In Tandridge, the County Council is a 'responsible authority' of the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership.
- 10.2 Together with key local partners, the CDRP has been working to tackle crime and disorder in the Borough, focusing on key priorities within the community safety strategy.
- 10.3 The new Community Safety Plan covers the period 2008-11 and sets the priorities for the Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnership. These priorities will direct how the CDRP manages its resources and activities.
- 10.4 The Local Committee (Tandridge) is asked to:
- (i) Note the work of the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership;
 - (ii) Consider community safety projects when allocating funding from its devolved budgets.

11 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 11.1 Under Part 3, Section 1 of the County Council's constitution, the Local Committee is responsible for monitoring services provided locally and contributing to the district based community safety strategy.
- 11.2 The Local Committee's service monitoring role and devolved budgets provide an excellent opportunity for supporting the work of the CDRP.

12 WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

- 12.1 The CDRP is reviewing the current Strategic assessment to pick up on emerging issues and updating partnership action plans for each priority within the Community Safety Plan accordingly.

- 12.2 The CDRP will be working with neighbouring CDRPs in the division to be more efficient and streamlined whilst still focusing on local priorities; new governance structures will be explored in the coming year to this end.
- 12.3 The CDRP will also be considering how it can engage more with local communities as part of the requirements of the Police and Criminal Justice Act 2006. The new arrangements for overview and scrutiny of the community safety work will be established with both local authorities and other partners in the coming months.
- 12.4 The Local Committee will receive regular update reports on the CDRP's progress against the Community Safety Plan.

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BACKGROUND PAPERS:	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

