

**COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE  
(ACTING IN ITS CAPACITY AS THE COUNCIL'S DULY DESIGNATED STATUTORY CRIME  
AND DISORDER COMMITTEE)**

**28<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2025**

**REPORT OF CORPORATE DIRECTOR – OPERATIONS AND DELIVERY**

**A.1 CONSIDERATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF A CRIME AND DISORDER  
REDUCTION STRATEGY 2025 - 2028**

**PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

To provide the Committee with the latest position in respect of a proposed new Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy and to invite the Committee's input into the development of the strategy.

**SCOPE - THE AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE REPORT**

To ensure that there is an opportunity for the Council's designated Crime and Disorder Committee to consider the proposed Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy and provide feedback on that draft strategy having heard from some of the key partners working with the Council through the Community Safety Partnership.

**INVITEES**

The following parties will be in attendance to respond to the questions raised by the committee.

Tim R Clarke – Assistant Director Housing and Environment

Councillor Gina Placey – Joint Chair of the Community Safety Partnership Board

Councillor Peter Kotz – Joint Chair of the Community Safety Partnership Board

Chief Inspector Ella Latham – Essex Police District Commander for Tendring

Inspector Aaron Homatopolous – Essex Police – CPT and partnership Inspector

Other partners invited as part of the statutory Community Safety Partnership:

David Messam – National Probation Service

Quentin Sage / Karl Amoss - Essex County Fire and Rescue Service

**BACKGROUND**

As set out in Article 6 of the Council's Constitution, the Community Leadership Overview & Scrutiny Committee will act as the Council's designated "crime and disorder committee" for the purposes of Section 19 of the Police and Justice Act 2006 and will have the power –

(a) to review or scrutinise decisions made, or other action taken, in connection with the discharge by the responsible authorities[\*] of their crime and disorder function;

(b) to make reports or recommendations to the local authority with respect to the discharge of those functions.

\* *“The responsible authorities” means the bodies and persons who are responsible authorities within the meaning given by section 5 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (c.37) (authorities responsible for crime and disorder strategies) in relation to the local authority’s area.*

In fulfilling that function the Community Leadership Overview & Scrutiny Committee will have the power (whether by virtue of section 9F(2) or 21(2) of the Local Government Act 2000 or regulations made under section 9JA(2) or 32(3) of that Act or otherwise) to make a report or recommendation to the local authority with respect to any matter which is a local crime and disorder matter in relation to a member of the authority.

In accordance with the Council’s Constitution and The Crime and Disorder Act 1998, as amended by section 97 and 98 of the Police Reform Act 2002, there is a requirement on Community Safety Partnerships (CSP) to develop a Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy

The strategy was ratified by the Community Safety Partnership Strategic Board on 9 January 2025. The strategy will be presented to Cabinet on 21<sup>st</sup> February 2025.

In presenting the strategy to Cabinet we are seeking the recommendation that Cabinet considers and agrees to adopt the Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy 2025 – 2028; and delegates authority to the Corporate Director for Operations and Delivery to make future updates or amendments to the Strategy in consultation with the Portfolio Holder responsible for Partnerships.

The strategy will go to the Full Council meeting at the end of March for adoption by the Council.

**RELEVANT CORPORATE PLAN THEME/ANNUAL CABINET PRIORITY**

This strategy contributes to a number of Corporate Plan 2024-28 themes:

- Pride in our area and services to residents
- Raising aspirations and creating opportunities
- Working with partners to improve quality of life

**DESIRED OUTCOME OF THE CONSIDERATION OF THIS ITEM**

To enable committee members to raise any questions they have in relation to the strategy and have the opportunity to input into its development.

**DETAILED INFORMATION**

This report presents the Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy 2025 – 2028 for discussion by the committee. The strategy set outs the overarching framework for the Council and its partners in the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) to reduce crime and disorder by formalising the work that will be undertaken with the CSP and the Council's Community Safety Team over the next three years.

It sets out our priorities for reducing crime and disorder and Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB), whilst protecting vulnerable people across Tendring over the next three years.

Through working together, the CSP has achieved many successes in reducing crime and disorder and ASB, protecting those who are vulnerable and making Tendring safe and secure for residents, businesses and visitors.

We are proud of these achievements. In order to build upon previous work and to understand the challenges that arise we will work with partners to address the challenges to ensure a safer Tendring for our residents.

The strategy is based upon a wide range of data and information, from public consultation to crime and disorder information that are brought together in our annual Strategic Assessment. Through the assessment we have identified four key themes within the strategy that feed into the CSP priorities. We recognise that the challenges facing our children, young adults and families that have evolved and continue to do so. For example, criminal gangs are targeting children to move drugs in and out of towns and other areas, including in Tendring. This is a national issue, but we need to be aware of criminal gangs, and to be able to spot the signs that our children may be being targeted.

1. Tackling violence against women and girls is at the forefront of the CSP's agenda and reflects the Government's priority in tackling this issue, following the tragic deaths of Sarah Everard, Balvinder Gahir, Bibaa Henry, Nicole Smallman and Julia James, and an increase in reports of domestic abuse.
2. Our ambition is to increase support for victims and survivors, increase the number of perpetrators brought to justice and reduce the prevalence of violence against women and girls.
3. We will work in partnership across the CSP & Health and Wellbeing Board and with our partners and communities to achieve progress on our priorities during the lifetime of this strategy and seek to bring about real change for residents and visitors to Tendring.
4. The CSP brings the opportunity for organisations and groups to come together to improve crime and disorder and ASB in Tendring and create an environment where people and communities can flourish, the CSP remains committed to making Tendring safe.

Community Safety Partnerships are statutory bodies which exist in all local authority areas. They were established by the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 with the aim of creating "*An alliance of organisations which generates strategies and policies, implement actions and interventions concerning crime and disorder within their partnership area*".

Whilst their responsibilities have developed over time, they remain statutorily responsible for identifying local community safety priorities through the production of an annual strategic assessment which as a minimum must cover:

- Crime and disorder by local area (including anti-social behaviour and other behaviour adversely affecting the local environment) and,
- The misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances.

There are also statutory requirements for CSPs regarding sharing information and engaging and consulting with the community about their priorities, and monitoring progress in achieving them. Each CSP is required to develop a plan setting out how Crime and ASB will be tackled in their area.

There are five responsible authorities that make up a CSP:

the local authority

Police

The local fire and rescue service

Probation Service

The local health service.

The Crime and Disorder Act 1998, as amended by section 97 and 98 of the Police Reform Act 2002, places a requirement on Community Safety Partnerships (CSP) to develop a Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy. This document sets out how crime, anti-social behaviour and the fear of crime will be reduced and resolved.

The Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy 2025 – 2028 sets out the vision of the Council and how it aims to work together, with the Community Safety Partnership, to deliver community safety outcomes for the residents of the district and to achieve compliance with the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.

This strategy supports the work of the partnership in understanding the patterns and trends relating to crime and disorder, anti-social behaviour and community safety issues in the district, enabling it to respond to its strategic priorities, ensuring focus and the appropriate allocation of resources to tackle the crime and anti-social behaviour having the most impact on our residents, visitors and businesses.

Collaborating with our partners is crucial in delivering our aims and this strategy sets out the range of responsibilities and governance by which we will ensure effective delivery.

Whilst this strategy outlines the priorities for the coming three years and it's not envisaged for these to vary significantly during this time, as mentioned earlier in the report, the partnership will undertake an annual strategic assessment, looking at data, patterns and trends to provide assurance that the strategy remains focused on the key issues and remains fit for purpose.

It is an ambitious strategy that confronts difficult issues that cannot be resolved by any single agency, including serious violence and knife crime, drugs and gangs, domestic abuse, the criminal exploitation of young children, young people and vulnerable adults, modern slavery and hate crime and the impact of these on our local communities, town centres and businesses.

The strategy highlights the partnerships ambitions for the 3 years, it uses reported crime and ASB data, residents survey data, and other data from the strategic assessment to ascertain what the priorities should be in the forthcoming year. The strategy also outlines how the partnership will tackle / deliver against its priorities and target resources effectively to address the issues (priorities).

The findings of the strategic assessment have informed the decision to select the CSP Priorities for Tending which will be:

1. Tackling ASB and the root causes of ASB
2. High Harm Violence (with a focus on Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) and Domestic Abuse)
3. Drug and knife enabled Serious Violence (Gangs and County Lines)
4. Emerging threats and Trends (i.e.: Shoplifting, Vehicle Crime, Arson & Criminal Damage)

There are no financial implications associated with the adoption of this strategy as the strategy formalises existing arrangements which are currently fully funded via the Police Fire and Crime Commissioner Annual Grant.

In line with the Public Sector Equality Duty, within this strategy the Council has due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation, to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between those who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

An effective strategy and partnership plan can contribute to a better quality of life for our communities and can act as a deterrent to anti-social behaviour.

People living in poverty are more likely to experience domestic abuse and domestic abuse may lead to poverty with this reducing the ability to escape a situation of abuse. Poverty also increases the likelihood of various mental health conditions. An effective Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy aims to improve both the safety and wellbeing of our residents, through the Tending Community Safety Health and Wellbeing Board.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

That the Committee determines whether it has any comments or recommendations it wishes to put forward the relevant Portfolio Holder or Cabinet.

## **PREVIOUS RELEVANT DECISIONS**

The Strategic Assessment and Strategy have been agreed by the Council's Senior Management Team, the Portfolio Holder for Partnerships and the Community Safety Partnership Strategic Board.

**APPENDICES**

1. Strategic Assessment 2025 ( RESTRICTED) not for publication
2. Crime and Disorder Strategy 2025 - 2028

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