

# CABINET

21 FEBRUARY 2025

## REPORT OF THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR ASSETS AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

### **A.6 CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF A CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION STRATEGY 2025 - 2028**

#### **PART 1 – KEY INFORMATION**

##### **PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

To present to Cabinet the Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy 2025 - 2028 for approval for recommendation onto Full Council for adoption, as part of the Council's Policy Framework.

##### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

At its meeting of 21st October 2024 Cabinet received a report by the Monitoring Officer issued under Section 5A of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 in respect of the position in relation to Council's historical omission regarding the formulation and implementation of a Crime and Disorder Strategy for the Council, as required under Sections 5 and 6 of the Crime and Disorder Act.

Following on from that report a strategy is now presented to Cabinet as part of the process to resolve the historical omission to have in place a Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy for recommendation onto Full Council for adoption.

This report presents the Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy 2025 – 2028 for approval. The strategy set out 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.

As a community leader the Council is proud of these achievements that have been possible only through partnership working. In order to build upon previous work and to understand the challenges that continue to arise we will continue work with partners 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, as set out below, that feed into the CSP priorities. We recognise 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.

#### **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

**That Cabinet:**

- (a) **notes the success of the Community Safety Partnership to date and the outcome of consultation and engagement with the Partnership and its constituent members in respect of the proposed Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy 2025-28;**
- (b) **notes the individual recommendations from the Community Leaderships Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2025, and considers whether to endorse the Portfolio Holder's proposed responses to those five recommendations;**
- (c) **notes the findings of the strategic assessment to inform the Crime and Safety Partnership's four priorities for the District of Tendring and agrees that these priorities, as set out below, should form the Council's strategic priorities;**
  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)**
- (d) **approves the Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy 2025 – 2028, as set out in Appendix A, in accordance with Section 6 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, for recommendation onto Full Council for adoption as part of the Council's Policy Framework.**

#### **REASON(S) FOR THE RECOMMENDATION(S)**

The recommendations are to ensure that the strategy is appropriately adopted, in accordance with the Council's Constitution and to evidence compliance with The

Crime and Disorder Act 1998, as amended by section 97 and 98 of the Police Reform Act 2002, that places a requirement on Community Safety Partnerships (CSP) to develop a Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy.

#### **ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

The strategy is designed to assist the Council in meeting the statutory duty in the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. The only alternative option considered was to not produce the Strategy which would mean that the statutory requirements would not be met.

Failure to adopt the strategy makes the day-to-day operation of the partnership more difficult with the potential for inconsistencies in approach and increases the likelihood of complaints across all partners in the partnership.

## **PART 2 – IMPLICATIONS OF THE DECISION**

#### **DELIVERING PRIORITIES**

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

#### **OUTCOME OF CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT**

Consultation and engagement has been undertaken with members of the Community Safety & Health and Wellbeing Board (where the Strategic Assessment and Strategy was ratified on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2025). Members of the CSP will monitor the outcomes in the strategy.

The Strategy was considered by the Community Leadership Overview and Scrutiny Committee (CLOSC) on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2025 and the minute recommendations) of the meeting is included below:

- (a) the Crime and Disorder Strategy presented to the Committee be supported and Cabinet advised of this support for delivery by the appropriate partners including Essex Police;
- (b) the Committee -
  - (i) commends the Strategy authors for ensuring that the language and format and use of graphics to create what is an accessible document for most readers;
  - (ii) urges the Cabinet to ensure that all reasonable and appropriate steps are taken to care for the health, safety and wellbeing of all staff involved in enforcement activities and community safety;
  - (iii) recognises the increasing levels of violence against the person, shoplifting, possession of weapons, personal robbery, hate crime and domestic abuse and the need for robust action to address these growing crime problems in the District;
  - (iv) urges the Community Safety Partnership to adopt, as a priority, the need to educate and encourage confidence in the reporting of crime by the public and

business managers to reduce significantly the current levels of under reporting by victims; and

- (v) expresses its concern for delivery of the priorities on the basis of the plans announced on the day of the meeting for all 99 PCSOs in Essex to be made redundant.

The response of the Portfolio Holder for Assets and Community Safety will be circulated as soon as it is available. Failing that, it will be tabled at the Cabinet Meeting.

**LEGAL REQUIREMENTS (including legislation & constitutional powers)**

<b>Is the recommendation a Key Decision (see the criteria stated here)</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>If Yes, indicate which by which criteria it is a Key Decision</b>	<b>X Significant effect on two or more wards</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Involves £100,000 expenditure/income</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Is otherwise significant for the service budget</b>
		<b>And when was the proposed decision published in the Notice of forthcoming decisions for the Council (must be 28 days at the latest prior to the meeting date)</b>	<b>31<sup>st</sup> October 2024</b>

Community Safety Partnerships are statutory bodies which exist in all local authorities. 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

fire and rescue service

probation service

health service.

**Section 6 Crime and Disorder Act 1998 - formulation and implementation of strategies:**

(1) The responsible authorities for a local government area shall, in accordance with [section 5](#) [with subsection (1A)] and with regulations made under subsection (2), formulate and implement—

- (a) a strategy for the reduction of crime and disorder in the area (including anti-social and other behaviour adversely affecting the local environment); and
- (b) a strategy for combatting the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances in the area; and
- (c) a strategy for the reduction of re-offending in the area; and
- (d) a strategy for—
  - (i) preventing people from becoming involved in serious violence in the area, and
  - (ii) reducing instances of serious violence in the area.

Regulation 3.— Functions in respect of the formulation and implementation of a strategy (1) For each area there shall be a strategy group whose functions shall be to (a) prepare strategic assessments; and (b) prepare and implement a partnership plan, for that area on behalf of the responsible authorities.

The Council has to adopt the Strategy within its Policy Framework.

<b>X</b>	<b>The Monitoring Officer confirms they have been made aware of the above and any additional comments from them are below:</b>
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Pursuant to Section 6 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, we have a statutory duty to approve and adopt a Crime and Disorder Strategy. Section 6(2) of the 1998 Act, refers to the Crime and Disorder (Formulation and Implementation of Strategy) Regulations 2007 which set out the requirements for the Formulation and Implementation of the Strategy, and uses the terminology Partnership Plan (Regulation 3).

Approval of the Strategy/Partnership Plan is a function which must go to Full Council for approval, and whilst this is set out in our Constitution, as part of the Policy Framework, this is because it's a statutory requirement under Regulation 4(1) and Schedule 3 (Functions not to be the Sole Responsibility of an Authorities Executive) under the Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) (England) Regulations 2000).

**FINANCE AND OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

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.

<b>X</b>	<b>The Section 151 Officer confirms they have been made aware of the above and any additional comments from them are below:</b>
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I do not have any comments to make over and above those already set out in the report.

**USE OF RESOURCES AND VALUE FOR MONEY**

The following are submitted in respect of the indicated use of resources and value for money indicators:

A) Financial sustainability: how the body plans and manages its resources to ensure it can continue to deliver its services;	The Council has an adopted Financial Strategy.
B) Governance: how the body ensures that it makes informed decisions and properly manages its risks,	The Council has a constitutional structure and framework for decision-making.
C) Improving economy, efficiency and effectiveness: how the body uses information about its costs and performance to improve the way it manages and delivers its services.	The Council has an adopted Financial Strategy.

**MILESTONES AND DELIVERY**

The Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy 2025 – 2028 sets out the vision of the Council and how it aims to work together, with partners, 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 Tendring Community Safety 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.

**ASSOCIATED RISKS AND MITIGATION**

A failure to adopt this strategy would mean that the statutory requirements in the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 are not met.

Failure to adopt the strategy will also make the day-to-day operation of the partnership more difficult with the potential for inconsistencies in approach and increases the likelihood of complaints across all partners in the partnership.

The main mitigation to the risks highlighted above is to adopt the strategy.

**EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS**

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 Equality Impact Assessment has been carried out in connection with this strategy.

**SOCIAL VALUE CONSIDERATIONS**

Creates healthier, safer and more resilient communities: To build stronger and deeper partnership working arrangements whilst continuing to engage and empower communities. The strategy will benefit our communities in relation to building confidence that the Partnership are dealing with issues that matter to them and reduce the fear of crime in the community.

**IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S AIM TO BE NET ZERO BY 2030**

The implementation of these policies does not present a direct impact on the Council's target for net zero greenhouse gas emissions from its business operations by 2030. The Council will be mindful of energy efficiency measures, wherever relevant, in the implementation of its policies and strategies.

**OTHER RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS OR IMPLICATIONS**

**Consideration has been given to the implications of the proposed decision in respect of the following and any significant issues are set out below.**

<b>Crime and Disorder</b>	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.
<b>Health Inequalities</b>	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 Tendring Community Safety Health and Wellbeing Board.
<b>Subsidy Control (the requirements of the Subsidy Control Act 2022 and the related Statutory Guidance).</b>	The Council will follow subsidy control legislation and regulations, where applicable, in relation to the content and implementation of this strategy.
<b>Area or Ward affected</b>	All

**PART 3 – SUPPORTING INFORMATION****BACKGROUND**

Every Community Safety Partnership (CSP) is required by the Crime & Disorder Act 1998 ([Statutory Instrument 1830](#)) to prepare a three year Strategy and an annual Strategic Assessment, in order to assist the group in revising its partnership plan.

The strategic assessment should include:

- Analysis of the levels and patterns of crime and disorder and substance misuse in the Tendring.
- Analysis of the changes in those levels and patterns since the previous Strategic Assessment.
- Analysis of why those changes have occurred.
- The matters which the responsible authorities should prioritise when each are exercising their functions to reduce crime and disorder and to combat substance misuse in the Tendring.
- The matters which the persons living and working in the Tendring consider the responsible authorities should prioritise when each are exercising their

functions to reduce crime and disorder and to combat substance misuse in the Tendring.

- An assessment of the extent to which the Partnership Plan for the previous year has been implemented.
- Details of those matters that the strategy group considers should be brought to the attention of the county strategy group to assist it in exercising its functions under these Regulations.

In order to inform the Strategic Intelligence Assessment and Partnership Plan, the Strategy Group is expected to obtain the views of those who live or work in the Tendring District about:

- The levels and patterns of crime and disorder and substance misuse in the Tendring District.
- the matters which the responsible authorities should prioritise when each are exercising their functions to reduce crime and disorder and to combat substance misuse in Tendring.

The views of residents are taken from community consultation and engagement events throughout the year and from the Community Safety survey 2024.

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.

In collaboration with all partners' Tendring Council has produced a comprehensive strategic assessment for 2024 - 2025. The purpose of the assessment is to understand the trends, patterns and drivers relating to crime and anti-social behaviour so that the partnership can set clear priorities, develop intelligence-led activity and deploy resources effectively. The strategy has been informed primarily by this strategic assessment. That has identified the five key elements of the strategy.

## **CURRENT POSTION**

The proposed strategy and annual strategic assessment are attached.

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.

Whilst the Council has a key community leadership role, 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:

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

## **APPENDICES**

**Appendix 1 – Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy 2025 - 2028**

**Appendix 2 – Strategic Assessment (not for publication as it is a restricted document)**

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