

TEWKESBURY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to:	Overview & Scrutiny
Date of Meeting:	13 December 2011
Subject:	Review of Crime & Disorder Strategic Assessment
Report of:	Val Garside, Housing Options Manager
Director:	Verna Green, Director of Community
Lead Member:	Councillor Mrs C Wright
Number of Appendices:	1

Executive Summary:

The Police and Justice Act 2006 placed a duty on Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRP) to produce an annual Strategic Assessment to inform a three year Partnership Plan.

Members of Overview & Scrutiny were invited to a workshop which took place on 25th October, where they were invited to contribute to the draft Strategic Assessment and consider priorities for action.

Recommendation:

To CONSIDER the outcomes from the Review of the Crime & Disorder Strategic Assessment and to make any recommendations to the Community Safety Partnership (CSP).

Reasons for Recommendation:

To allow Members to contribute to the Strategic Assessment

Resource Implications:

No resource implications arising directly out of this report. .

Legal Implications:

Section 19 of the Police and Justice Act 2006 requires the Council to have a Crime & Disorder Committee with power:

1. to review or scrutinise decisions made, or other actions taken, in connection with the discharge of its crime and disorder function; and
2. to make reports or recommendations to the Council with respect to the discharge of those functions.

This Act also amended the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to enable such Committees to operate jointly with the Committees of other neighbouring Councils.

Regulation 4 of the Crime and Disorder (Overview and Scrutiny) Regulations 2009 requires that such Crime & Disorder Committees shall meet to review or scrutinise decisions made, or other action taken, in connection with the discharge by the Council of its crime and disorder functions as the Committee considers appropriate but no less than once in every twelve month period.

Risk Management Implications:

Failure to address community safety issues in the Borough would mean that the Council is failing to meet its statutory duties under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. The Community Safety Partnership (CSP) is a significant partnership and has developed its own risk register.

Scrutiny of the CSP is required by regulation. 'Safe' is one of the Council's 5 aims, which is delivered in major part through an effective CSP.

As a result of the recent budget announcements changes to the funding arrangements will lead to uncertainty of future funding.

Performance Management Follow-up:

The CSP has mechanisms in place to review regularly its progress in addressing crime and disorder across the Borough. The Overview & Scrutiny Committee and the Executive Committee both receive quarterly reports on progress through the Service Plan reviews.

Issues arising from this Scrutiny Review of the Community Safety Partnership will be addressed and reported back to the Committee.

Environmental Implications:

None

1.0 INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The Police and Justice Act 2006 placed a duty on Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRP) to produce an annual Strategic Assessment to inform a three year Partnership Plan. The current plan ends this year; hence a new 3 year plan is required.
- 1.2 Members of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee were invited to a workshop which took place on 25 October, where they were invited to contribute to the draft Strategic Assessment and consider priorities for action. Comments from the Overview & Scrutiny Committee workshop have been included in the future plans section.

2.0 PURPOSE OF REVIEW

- 2.1 The Community Safety Partnership was formed as a result of the Crime & Disorder Act 1998, which placed a statutory duty on the Council and the Police to work as equal partners to tackle and prevent crime and disorder.
- 2.2 The remit and membership of the partnership has evolved considerably since then. Statutory partners include Tewkesbury Borough Council, the Police, Gloucestershire County Council, Fire and Rescue, Probation and the Primary Care Trust. As well as statutory members the partnership has a number of business and voluntary sector representatives who are able to contribute to improving community safety in the Borough. In Community Safety, it has become more evident that a range of organisations and agencies working together deliver more effective and long lasting solutions than any one agency working alone.

2.3 The changes in Government have led to the removal of central targets and National Indicators and have led to a new focus on what matters to local people as detailed in the Public Confidence Route Map. This is an opportunity to embrace the new definition of community safety, which is no longer restricted to reducing crime and disorder. It is ultimately about quality of life, which requires partners to address a much broader range of issues. Work to prevent community safety issues occurring is paramount, at a time when partners have to make difficult decisions with regard to available resources.

2.4 The Strategic Assessment details how the partnership intends to address the five confidence themes with evidence based activities.

2.5 In order to provide as full and accurate a picture as possible, a wide range of data from many partner agencies and open sources has been used. The purpose of this process is to provide retrospective inferences about trends occurring in the past years but also to make predictions about how emerging issues may affect the Borough over the next 3 years. The intention is that specific recommendations generated through this process will help to inform the planning processes of partner agencies so that they can direct resources to best target the priority issues identified.

3.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

3.1 As the Strategic Assessment is a partnership document, the partnership alone could decide on the final document.

4.0 CONSULTATION

4.1 The final draft of the Strategic Assessment has been circulated to partners for their input.

5.0 RELEVANT COUNCIL POLICIES/STRATEGIES

5.1 Tewkesbury Community Safety Partnership Strategic Assessment

6.0 RELEVANT GOVERNMENT POLICIES

6.1 Police & Justice Act 2006

Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007

The Criminal and Disorder (Overview and Scrutiny) Regulations 2009

http://www.opsi.gov.uk/acts/acts1998/ukpga_19980037_en_1

http://www.opsi.gov.uk/Acts/acts2006/ukpga_20060048_en_1

7.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (Human/Property)

7.1 Covered in the report.

8.0 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS (Social/Community Safety/Cultural/ Economic/ Environment)

8.1 The Community Safety Partnership focuses on addressing issues of crime, disorder and anti social behaviour in the Borough.

9.0 IMPACT UPON (Value For Money/Equalities/E-Government/Human Rights/Health And Safety)

9.1 Considerations have been given to the impact on Value for Money, Equalities, Human Rights and Health and Safety. The actions, within budgets, to improve Community safety and reduce anti-social behaviour, will help to improve the quality of life for all residents in the Borough.

10.0 RELATED DECISIONS AND ANY OTHER RELEVANT FACTS

10.1 None

Background Papers: None

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Appendices: Appendix 1 - Strategic Assessment