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## THANET COMMUNITY SAFETY PLAN FOR 2014 – 2015

To: **Cabinet – 3 April 2014**

Main Portfolio Area: **Community Services**

By: **Martyn Cassell, Community Safety and Leisure Manager**

Classification: **Unrestricted**

Ward: **All wards**

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**Summary:** This report details the process undertaken by Thanet Community Safety Partnership to develop the Thanet Community Safety Plan for 2014-15.

The report asks for the principles of the Community Safety Plan including its priorities, emerging issues and proposed actions, to be agreed.

The report highlights the need for the Plan to be flexible and dynamic and as such makes a proposal for the measure of success column in the action plan to be decided in April when partners meet in specific task and finish groups. Measures of success can then be agreed and monitored by the cross party CSP working group throughout the year on behalf of Overview and Scrutiny Panel.

### **For Decision**

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#### **1.0 Introduction**

- 1.1 The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (updated in various other legislation since) placed a number of obligations on the Council and other 'responsible authorities' (County Council, Police, Fire, Probation, Health via Clinical Commissioning Groups) to form a Community Safety Partnership (CSP) that would enable agencies to work together to help impact upon crime and disorder, substance misuse and reduce re-offending in the local area. Thanet District Council facilitates the CSP on behalf of these agencies.
- 1.2 Each CSP is required to do a strategic needs assessment of all of the relevant data that partners collate and then pull this together into a strategy (the Community Safety Plan) that identifies priority issues and actions to try and resolve/reduce them.
- 1.3 The last year has seen further big changes proposed to the police and community safety landscape with a new draft 'Anti-social Behaviour Bill' currently going through the royal assent process, wholesale changes to the Probation Service and the commissioning of victim support services to be undertaken by Police and Crime Commissioners. The Community Safety Plan makes due reference to these changes in the industry.

1.4 This report identifies the process undertaken to develop the Community Safety Plan and asks members to agree the priorities, emerging issues and proposed actions for 2014-15.

## **2.0 Thanet Community Safety Plan 2014/15 – development and detail**

2.1 Each year the partnership undertakes a number of processes to get to the final Community Safety Plan. This year they were;

- Produce a strategic assessment
- Consult with partners and the public
- Produce an action plan to detail what we will do over the next year

2.2 The purpose of a strategic assessment is to provide knowledge and understanding of community safety issues to the members of the Thanet Community Safety Partnership (TCSP).

2.3 Kent County Council community safety unit collated a range of data sets from county organisations. District Council Community Safety Officers then co-ordinated an assessment of this data. This was done considering patterns, trends and shifts in order to identify the priorities. Data was also compared to other districts in Kent and areas similar to Thanet. All key agencies supplied a representative to input into this process.

2.4 Once the initial data analysis was completed, the crime types were ranked using a set county criteria and a more detailed analysis was then undertaken on shortlisted priorities. A summary of the strategic assessment is provided within the draft Community Safety Plan found at annex 1. The priorities identified are shown below;

- Acquisitive Crime
- Anti-social Behaviour
- Domestic Abuse
- Public and Agency Engagement
- Road Safety
- Substance Misuse
- Violent Crime

2.7 Over 50 staff from agencies in the CSP then attended a 'Community Safety Conference' to discuss the priorities and identify 'emerging issues' that would fall under one or more of the priorities. This was slightly different approach to last year which looked for specific actions under each of the priority headings. This was decided on the basis that the action plan needs to be a fluid document and is able to change direction throughout the course of the year to ensure resource is directed to the most pressing issues. Furthermore many actions could contribute to more than priority and therefore forcing it into one priority would not give it justice. The draft Community Safety Plan including the list of emerging issues is found at Annex 1.

2.8 Responsibility for delivery of the Community Safety Plan is shared amongst the statutory members of the CSP Executive Group. The Executive group agreed the draft Community Safety Plan principles at their meeting of 20<sup>th</sup> February 2014, with understanding that the 'proposed actions' column may change either prior to the final publication of the plan or throughout the year as new trends/issues arise that outweigh the previously considered ones. The measure of success column is also left blank as these will be decided at the initial partner working groups and the aim is to

then agree and monitor them through the cross party CSP member working party process.

- 2.9 Alongside the partner consultation, an online survey for residents to comment on whether they support the priorities closed on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2014. Feedback from this will be used to amend the plan in-line with resident opinions, alongside suggestions received from specific community representatives including resident association chairs, neighbourhood watch co-ordinators and ward Councillors at the community safety forum held on 17<sup>th</sup> February 2014. Further consultation was also done through the four Neighbourhood Engagement Meetings which encourage residents to comment on community safety issues in their local area.
- 2.10 The CSP Working Party received a presentation of the draft plan at the meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2014 and made a recommendation to Overview and Scrutiny to agree the principles of the plan and the suggested priorities/emerging issues.
- 2.11 Overview and Scrutiny discussed the recommendation at the meeting on 11 March 2014 and agreed to approve the principles, emerging issues and proposed actions.

### **3.0 Options**

- 3.1 To approve the Draft Thanet Community Safety Plan 2014/15 principles, priorities and emerging issues to focus on as set out in Annex 1.
- 3.2 To make suggestions for improvement and then approve the Draft Thanet Community Safety Plan 2014/15 principles, priorities and emerging issues to focus on s as set out in Annex 1.

### **4.0 Corporate Implications**

#### **4.1 Financial**

- 4.1.1 District Council Community Safety staff facilitate the Community Safety Partnership alongside their TDC function of anti-social behaviour case management. Salaries for these staff are covered within the budget for 2014-15.
- 4.1.2 The Kent Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) has confirmed that Thanet Community Safety Partnership will be awarded a grant of £34,317 to assist in the delivery of the CSP functions. This will be used for commissioning organisations, distributing to local groups for specific crime prevention projects and the development of publicity material to better inform residents of the help available to them.

#### **4.2 Legal**

- 4.2.1 In relation to any decision or project implemented by any department in the local authority, under section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, the local authority has a duty to do all that it reasonable to prevent crime and disorder.
- 4.2.2 This Community Safety Plan provides evidence of compliance by the District Council and other responsible authorities of the statutory functions contained within the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and subsequent updates in other legislation.

#### **4.3 Corporate**

- 4.3.1 The strategic assessment recommendations and Community Safety Plan priorities in 2014-15, coincide with the corporate plan objectives set in the 2012-2016 plan

(mainly priority 4 'To make our district a safer place to live' and priority 10 'To influence the work of other agencies to ensure the best outcomes for Thanet').

## **5.0 Recommendation**

- 5.1 That Cabinet recommends to Council that it approves the priorities, emerging issues and proposed actions in the Thanet Community Safety Plan 2014/15 as set out in Annex 1 of the officer's report.

## **6.0 Decision Making Process**

- 6.1 As the Community Safety Plan is a policy framework document, final approval is reserved to Council.

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## **Annex List**

Annex 1	Draft Community Safety Plan 2014-2015
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## **Corporate Consultation Undertaken**

Finance	Matthew Sanham, Financial Services Manager Clive Bowen, External Funding Officer
Licencing	Philip Bensted, Licencing Manager
CCTV	Phil Snook, Environmental Enforcement Officer
PR	Hannah Thorpe, PR and Publicity Manager