1. Summary

To consider a report of the work carried out by the Crime and Disorder (Overview and Scrutiny) Committee during the last Municipal Year.

2. RECOMMENDATION

That, subject to any amendments made by the Committee, the Committee’s Annual Report for 2010/11 is submitted to the next meeting of the General Assembly of the Council.

3. Background and Discussion

3.1. In accordance with the Committee’s Protocol, the draft Crime and Disorder (O&S) Committee Annual Report 2010/11 is attached for consideration at Appendix A.

4. Relationship to the Corporate Plan

The work of the Committee supports the aim of creating Safer Communities and a safer Borough in which to live, work and socialise.

5. Financial, legal, staffing and other administrative implications and risk assessments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Financial Implications</th>
<th>None</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Legal Implications</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staffing Implications</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrative Implications</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Risk Assessment</td>
<td>No uncertainties and/or constraints</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

6. Details of Exempt Information Category

Not applicable.

7. Appendices

Appendix A: Crime and Disorder (O&S) Committee Annual Report 2010/11
Appendix B: Crime and Disorder (O&S) Protocol (May 2011)
Appendix C: Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Dartford & Gravesham Community Safety Partnership (CSP) (June 2010)
## BACKGROUND PAPERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Documents consulted</th>
<th>Date / File Ref</th>
<th>Report Author</th>
<th>Section and Directorate</th>
<th>Exempt Information Category</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Crime and Disorder (O&amp;S) Protocol (May 2011), MoU with D&amp;G CSP, Annual Report 2009/10, Committee Agendas and Minutes for 23 June 2010 and 26 January 2011.</td>
<td></td>
<td>David Hook Committee Coordinator Member Services (01322 343276)</td>
<td>Member Services/Executive Directorate</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CRIME AND DISORDER (OVERVIEW and SCRUTINY) COMMITTEE
06 July 2011

APPENDIX A

DARTFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL

CRIME AND DISORDER (OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY) COMMITTEE

Draft Annual Report 2010/11
In accordance with its Protocol, the Crime and Disorder (Overview & Scrutiny) Committee is to report annually to the Council on the Committee’s work.

The Crime and Disorder (O&S) Committee performs the overview and scrutiny functions relating to crime and disorder and community safety on behalf of the Council, in accordance with the guidelines contained in the Committee’s Protocol (Appendix B).

The Committee met twice during the Annual Report period.

In accordance with established practice, the Committee reviewed the published Forward Plan at each meeting and confirmed the Minutes of the previous meeting.

WORK PROGRAMME REVIEW

The Committee’s Terms of Reference (Appendix D), reconfirmed at the Annual meeting of the Council on 25 May 2011, provide that the Committee is required to approve an annual Crime and Disorder (O&S) Work Programme.

At its meeting on 23 June 2010, the Committee reviewed, in general terms, the Work Programme for the 2010/11 Municipal Year.

The Strategic Director advised that, as had been the case for 2009/10, the Committee’s Work Programme for 2010/11 would be dictated to an extent by the legislative requirement and timetable for agreement of the annual Strategic Assessment (SA) and the Community Safety Plan (CSP). Members were due to consider the 2010 -11 Refresh document to the existing CSP later in the agenda.

In addition to considering the performance of the Community Safety Partnership (formerly the CDRP), as captured in the annual Strategic Assessment and Community Safety Plan Refresh documents, the following topics would be carried forward from the 2009/10 Work Programme:

- Community involvement;
- PACT;
- Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB);
- CCTV (Update).

Members were reminded that the overview elements of the Committee’s Work Programme had to be agreed with the Community Safety Partnership in advance, but that ad-hoc scrutiny of performance areas (Draw-downs) were not subject to prior CSP approval.
Annual Report 2009/10

The Committee approved the Annual Report for 2009/10 and expressed their gratitude to the Committee Coordinator for compiling the report and for his assistance during the Committee’s inaugural year of operation.

Regular Attendees

Members agreed that Councillor Ann Allen as Cabinet Member for Community Wellbeing and the joint CSU Managers (Council and Kent Police), should have an open invitation to attend meetings of the Committee.

Community Safety Partnership (formerly CDRP)

Members were advised that on 7 June 2010, the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) had been renamed as the Community Safety Partnership (CSP), in line with new legislation and to make it easier for the public to understand what the CSP was trying to achieve.

WORK PROGRAMME ITEMS

DARTFORD and GRAVESHAM COMMUNITY SAFETY PLAN REFRESH DOCUMENT - 2010/11

On 23 June 2010 the Committee considered the 2010 -11 Refresh document to the Dartford and Gravesham Community Safety Plan (CSP) for 2008 – 2011.

The Strategic Director advised Members that the draft annual Strategic Assessment (SA) document considered by the Committee in December 2009 had subsequently been approved by the CDRP (now the CSP) at its meeting in January 2010. The priorities and themes identified in the final 2009 SA had been used to inform the 2010/11 Community Safety Plan Refresh document. She confirmed the following points for Members in subsequent discussion:

- Dartford was represented on the CSP by the Leader of the Council, who alternated as Chairman with the Leader of Gravesham Council on an annual basis. Councillor Kite was Chairman of the CSP for 2010/11. In addition Councillor Hunnisett represented Dartford on the CSP Support Group where he alternated as Chairman with the Gravesham lead Member on an annual basis. Councillor Hunnisett was Vice-Chairman of the Support Group for 2011/11. Dartford was represented on these bodies at senior officer level by the Managing Director and the Strategic Director;
Dartford utilised the Community Payback scheme run by Kent Probation, whereby people sentenced by the Courts undertook unpaid community work including: litter picking, painting, graffiti removal and allotment work. Future payback works could be requested by local Members and through public consultation;

Offenders released back into the Dartford community were monitored using a multi-agency holistic approach, utilising the IOMU and PPO frameworks, designed to dissuade offenders from further criminal activity and prosecuting them if they did re-offend.

PERFORMANCE

Also on 23 June 2010, the Committee discussed the Community Safety Partnership’s Performance Progress Report (PPR).

The Strategic Director advised Members that the PPR detailed CSP performance in relation to recorded crime levels, in addition to recording changes in public perception concerning crime and anti-social behaviour. The report also summarised key actions and works being undertaken to address CSP priorities identified in the 2010/11 Refresh document.

Members expressed concern that Dartford’s recorded crime rate was the highest in Kent. Members acknowledged that total crime in Dartford had fallen by 28% in the previous 5 years, but also noted that a 47% reduction had been achieved in Gravesham during the same period. Members asked what measures were proposed by the CSP to redress the apparent imbalance in performance between the Boroughs.

Members were assured by the Strategic Director that Dartford’s crime figures had been discussed by the CSP on 7 June. Discussion had focussed on Dartford’s proximity to the Essex and Metropolitan borders and the issue of cross-border crime. The siting of a major retail complex within the Borough’s precincts was an additional linked factor with implications for acquisitive crime. The Partnership also supported the Kent Police policy on early intervention to police Dartford’s town centre and the night time economy. All these factors served to drive up crime and statistics for Dartford, in comparison to more rural and prosperous Kent communities.

North Kent Police representatives confirmed their intention to continue with their early intervention policy for policing Dartford town centre and the night time economy. The policy was proving successful and would, in the long-term, impact positively on crime figures for the Borough. Police representatives endorsed the Strategic Director’s concerns over acquisitive and cross-border crime in the Borough. However, despite these factors Members were advised that crime statistics for Dartford continued to improve in comparison to its Kent peers in the Five Year Comparison tables.
Members were assured that police and other partner agency resources within the Community Safety Partnership were targeted appropriately between Dartford and Gravesham.

ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR (ASB): TOOLS, POWERS and PROCESSES

Finally on 23 June 2010, Members received a presentation from the Senior Enforcement Officer (SEO), detailing government legislation aimed at tackling anti-social behaviour (ASB).

Members were advised of the Home Office definition of ASB, of the powers open to the Council to address ASB, together with details of the processes used by the Community Safety Unit (CSU) for dealing with reported incidents of ASB in the community. Members also received copies of the ASB Charter leaflet and the “Information pack for Councillors” on ASB, adopted by authorities across Kent.

The Committee welcomed the presentation and guidance material and noted the importance of getting good news stories about successfully combating Anti Social Behaviour into the local press; both to improve public confidence and to deter criminals. Members were advised that the CSP website was updated every Thursday, and that Neighbourhood Watch magazines also included updates and good news stories.

DARTFORD and GRAVESHAM COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP (CSP) STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT (SA) 2010 PARTS I AND II

On 26 January 2011 the Committee considered, for overview purposes, the Strategic Assessment (SA) document for 2010. Members were advised that the CSP had agreed the document without amendment on 17 January 2011.

Members welcomed the headline figures in the SA recording an overall reduction in crime for Dartford of minus 6.4% for the period October 2009 to September 2010 over the corresponding period for 2008/09.

Detailed discussion of the Executive Summary and the In-Depth Analysis sections of the SA was subsequently undertaken by the Committee in closed session, under Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended). Member discussion focussed on measures to combat Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB), Shoplifting, Domestic Violence, Violent Crime and Youth Re-offending, including the use of Referral Orders.

PACT / NEIGHBOURHOOD PANELS and COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Also on 26 January 2011, the Committee received an update from Kent Police on the new arrangements for PACT meetings proposed by the new Coalition Government.
Members were reminded that previously PACT meetings had been held monthly and were often poorly attended. Future meetings would be quarterly as the new Coalition Government favoured a greater police presence on the streets engaging the public on a daily basis. During this on-street engagement Kent Police had surveyed 8,500 residents by BlackBerry questionnaire for views. Police forces were also being encouraged to identify more effective and better attended forums to engage the public.

Members welcomed the new proposals which should help to raise public confidence and give a positive perception of effective police performance. Improved publicity for the quarterly PACT meetings would help, also regular electronic updates to Members on crime statistics for inclusion in their Ward Newsletters.

The Acting Area Commander informed Members that the new operational measures were due to be considered by the Kent Police Authority on 9 February 2011 and were fully supported by Kent’s Chief Constable.

CCTV: ANNUAL UPDATE REPORT

In addition on 26 January, Members considered an update report on the Council’s CCTV operation.

The Strategic Director and attending CSU officers clarified the following points for Members in relation to the report:

- CCTV cameras were replaced at a rate of 4 - 5 per annum, in a rolling programme which included an element for repairs. The programme was some 50% towards completion;
- The Council owned 54 permanently installed CCTV cameras with 44 strategically placed in the Town Centre;
- The siting of CCTV cameras in Dartford was based on need and analysis of previous crime patterns. The areas presently subject to CCTV surveillance continued to retain the highest levels of concentrated crime;
- The Council’s new mobile ‘Stryker’ CCTV cameras had been funded by the Dartford and Gravesham CSP (CDRP) as was;
- Deployment of the mobile ‘Stryker’ CCTV cameras to new crime “hotspots”, was made on the basis of reported crime and incidents of ASB: resident support and cooperation was essential to enable CSU staff to make informed decisions and effectively re-deploy resources.

The Committee welcomed the update and noted the further points of clarification.
POLICING of the NIGHT TIME ECONOMY: IMPACT on the TOWN CENTRE

At its meeting on 23 June 2010 the Committee were briefed by North Kent Police officers on the measures being undertaken to police Dartford’s night time economy and the town centre.

Members expressed general satisfaction with the policing arrangements in the town centre at night but expressed concern with the policing arrangements for the main exit routes from the town, which suffered a high degree of vandalism after 1 a.m. and noted the disparity in the concentrations of police resources between town centre and the adjacent residential areas where most acts of vandalism occurred.

Members were advised that the police operation in the town centre, including the supervision of Dartford’s night time economy, had been developed over a three year period and addressed the specific areas of:

- Violent Crime
- Anti Social Behaviour (ASB)
- Criminal Damage and
- Increasing Public Confidence and Safety.

North Kent Police had adopted a high profile interventionist approach to make the town centre safer, with offenders removed at an early stage. The interventionist policy had led to an increase in police reported crime but produced marked reductions in instances of serious assault, criminal damage and ASB and produced a rise in public confidence and safety.

Members were further advised that police manning levels and patrol strategies outside the town centre had been adjusted during the preceding 12 month period to place increased emphasis on patrolling the main exit routes from the town centre and Grabbacab patrons. Patrol strategies reacted to short-term problems, whilst maintaining progress towards long-term goals and remained subject to review based on officer feedback and weekly intelligence gathering. However, a critical mass of officers and resources would always be required in the town centre to deal with flashpoints.

CROSS– BORDER POLICING with ESSEX and METROPOLITAN FORCES

On 26 January 2011 the Committee received a presentation from the Acting Area Commander on cross-border policing arrangements with the Essex and Metropolitan forces.
CRIME AND DISORDER (OVERVIEW and SCRUTINY) COMMITTEE

06 July 2011

Members were advised that cross-border cooperation with the Metropolitan and Essex police forces had been ongoing for some 2 years with regular meetings held with Metropolitan colleagues.

Collaboration with Essex concentrated on the major areas of Serious Crime, Forensics and Intelligence gathering. Some Essex colleagues were in the process of co-locating to North Fleet police station to further enhance joint working.

Members subsequently relayed a number of examples of cross-border crime suffered by residents in their Wards. Police and CSU officers in attendance undertook to respond to Member’s concerns and advise them of any outcomes outside of the meeting.

POLICING OF THE TOWN CENTRE: UPDATE FROM KENT POLICE

Also on 26 January, Members received an update from the Acting Area Commander on the new strategies and resources being deployed to police the town centre and exit routes during the Night Time Economy.

Given the confidential nature of the information, discussion took place in the absence of the press and public under the Exempt Agenda, in accordance with Standing Order 46 (1)(B) Annex 1 Paragraph 7.

Members were advised by the Strategic Director that funding for the Grabbacab scheme had been secured for the next 6 months and that further funding for Grabbacab was being pursued with Kent Police and NHS West Kent. Further long-term sustainable funding for Grabbacab might arise in the future, if the new Government decided to introduce mooted legislation allowing Council’s to impose a levy on late night establishments to help fund community safety initiatives.

CHANGES TO THE COMMITTEE’S TERMS OF REFERENCE

On 7 June 2010 the Dartford and Gravesham Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) resolved to change its name to the Dartford and Gravesham Community Safety Partnership (CSP). Also on 7 June, the General Assembly of the Council adopted a new Petitions Scheme. Under the new Scheme it is possible for members of the public to petition the Council for an officer “to be held to account”. Where such petitions (which must contain at least 1,500 valid signatures) relate to crime and disorder issues, they will be referred to the Crime and Disorder (Overview and Scrutiny) Committee for consideration. The Committee’s Protocol was amended to reflect these changes.
In addition, the Committee’s Protocol was amended to reflect the inclusion of Kent Probation as a “responsible body” on the CDRP (now CSP), from 1 April 2010, under the provisions of the Policing and Crime Act 2009.

THANKS

The Committee wishes to express it’s thanks to Officers and Kent Police representatives for attending its meetings, for providing informative reports and presentations, and for giving such full and detailed responses to Member’s questions during the municipal year under review.