Introduction

In accordance with its Protocol the Crime and Disorder (Overview & Scrutiny) Committee is required to report annually to the Council on its work and may make recommendations for its Work Programme.

The Committee performs the overview and scrutiny functions relating to crime and disorder, community safety including anti-social behaviour (ASB), on behalf of the Council in accordance with the guidelines contained in the Committee’s Protocol (Appendix B).

The Committee met twice during the 2012-13 municipal cycle and in accordance with established practice reviewed Key Decisions as published in the relevant Regulation 9 Notices [Forward Plan] and confirmed the Minutes of their previous meeting.

Annual Report 2011-12

At the first meeting in the 2012-13 municipal cycle on 12 September 2012, the Committee noted the contents of the draft Crime and Disorder (O&S) Annual Report for the preceding municipal year and agreed that it be submitted to the next meeting of the General Assembly of the Council for approval without amendment.

The Committee thanked the Strategic Director, CSU Officers and their Kent Police colleagues, for their input and contributions throughout the period under review. The role of the Committee Coordinator in compiling the annual report was also recognised.

Regular Attendees

The Committee renewed their invitation to Councillor Mrs Ann Allen and Councillor David Hammock to attend their meetings, as Lead Members with portfolio responsibilities for Community and Taxpayer Involvement and Licensing and Enforcement respectively.

The Committee also confirmed their standing invitation to the Dartford District Commander and all Dartford CSU staff (Council and Kent Police) to attend any/all Committee meetings.

WORK PROGRAMME REVIEW

In accordance with its Protocol, the Committee agreed the contents of a rolling Work Programme (WP) for the ensuing 2012-13 municipal year and beyond, at its meeting on 12 September 2012.

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Members agreed that the Work Programme should be reviewed at each meeting of the Committee to enable discretionary items to be rescheduled and/ or new items added.

At its meeting on 13 February 2013 the Committee added the following items to the rolling Work Programme:

Summer 2013: To review the outcome of the Temple Hill Dispersal Order, including the proposed exit strategy;

Summer 2014: Review any new legislation addressing anti-social behaviour (ASB).

## WORK PROGRAMME ITEMS

### COMMUNITY SAFETY PLAN (CSP) 2012

At its meeting on 12 September 2012, in accordance with its statutory obligations, the Committee reviewed the Dartford and Gravesham Community Safety Partnership's Community Safety Plan (CSP) for 2012.
Members were briefed on the contents of the Community Safety Plan for 2012 and reminded that the 2012 Plan was informed by the Partnership’s Strategic Assessment (SA) 2011 document, considered by the Committee at their meeting on **25 January 2012**.

Members were advised that the priorities identified and views expressed by CSP agencies, residents and elected Members in the 2011 Strategic Assessment (SA) had been taken forward into the Community Safety Plan for 2012. This would ensure that the Partnership’s agreed priorities were maintained during the 2012/13 fiscal year.

**PERFORMANCE**

Also on **12 September**, Members noted the latest CSP Performance Progress Report, detailing reductions in various crime types and public perception of anti-social behaviour. The report was due to be submitted to the Dartford & Gravesham Community Safety Partnership for approval later that month.

The Performance report gave details of Kent Police Recorded Crime on a rolling year basis, comparing the periods April – March 2011 to April – March 2012. Figures for the end of the 2012 financial year showed a reduction of 5.7% in total recorded crime for Dartford, continuing the downward trend for the Borough and comparing favourably with the Kent-wide fall of 3.6%.

The Chairman and Members congratulated the Dartford District Commander and the joint CSU team on an excellent set of figures which indicated a continued decrease in the overall crime rate for Dartford.

**STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT (SA) 2012**

At its meeting on **13 February 2013** the Committee considered the Dartford and Gravesham Community Safety Partnership’s Strategic Assessment (SA) document for 2012. Following consideration of the Executive Summary of the SA document in open session, Members went into closed session to consider the EXEMPT material.

Members were reminded of the history of the SA and the legal obligation placed on the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) to complete an annual SA document under the provisions of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. The primary purpose of the SA was to provide an analysis of changes in levels of recorded crime and disorder over the previous 12 month period from 1 October to 30 September the following year, and to develop suggested strategic priorities to form the basis of the Community Safety Action Plan for the following 12 month period [October to September].

Members were advised that the 2012 SA document had been agreed by the Dartford and Gravesham CSP at its meeting on 15 January 2013 and would be used to inform the Community Safety Action Plan for the two Boroughs in the 2013-14 cycle. Priorities agreed by the CSP for the 2013/14 Plan, subject to consultation with interested groups were:
• Violent Crime (including domestic abuse);
• Anti-social behaviour (ASB);
• Acquisitive crime;
• Substance misuse;
• Safety on the road;
• Reducing re-offending (as a cross-cutting theme).

The Committee gave further detailed consideration to the exempt data in the report in closed session, noting an overall reduction of 8.1% for recorded crime in Dartford for the period ended 30 September 2012 compared to the previous 12 month period ending 30 September 2011.

The Chairman thanked the CSO and his colleagues in both the Dartford and Gravesham CSUs for compiling the 2012 Strategic Assessment document.

KENT FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

On 12 September Members received a presentation from representatives of the Kent Fire & Rescue Service (KF&RS) covering the Service’s aims and key performance areas.

The Strategic Director paid tribute to the efforts of KFRS on behalf of the Borough and advised Members that KFRS was a key strategic and operational partner within the Dartford and Gravesham Community Safety Partnership (CSP). KFRS’s work with schools and youth organisations was particularly noteworthy, especially the engagement with young people over anti-social behaviour (ASB) issues and road safety. Members were asked to encourage schools in their Wards to invite KFRS officers to give presentations on the wide range of subjects they covered.

The Chairman and Members echoed the views and sentiments of the Strategic Director and expressed their thanks to KFRS for their contribution to the aims of the CSP.

KENT PROBATION (KP)

At their meeting on 13 February 2013 Members received a presentation from Kent Probation representatives giving an overview of the Service and their contribution to the aims of the Community Safety Partnership (CSP).

Members were advised that in addition to supporting the Courts, Kent Probation was responsible for assessing an individual’s likelihood of reoffending and the risk they posed to others. Identifying the factors that led to reoffending behaviour in individuals and deploying appropriate interventions to reduce reoffending and harm, was the key to success in this principal area of work. It was recognised that a multi-agency collaborative approach was crucial to success.

The Reducing Reoffending Sub-Group had been formed in September 2012 to increase co-ordinated activity between Kent Probation, NHS Social Care, Job Centre Plus, the Prison Service, Housing and the local Health and Wellbeing Boards. An example of coordinated multi-agency tackling of crime was the Integrated Offender Management (IOM) partnership process, used to
manage both adult and young individuals causing harm in their communities, to increasing success. Other areas of Kent Probation activity included: the Community Payback Scheme, Troubled Families Group and the supervision of offenders released under Licence to better aid re-integration into society and reduce the risk of reoffending.

The Chairman and Members thanked the representatives from Kent Probation for a comprehensive briefing.

**ONE-OFF INVESTIGATIONS / DRAW DOWNS**

**POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER (PCC) AND POLICE AND CRIME PANEL (PCP)**

On 12 September 2012, Members received an update report on the preparations for the replacement of the Kent Police Authority by an elected Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) and the establishment of a Police and Crime Panel (PCP) for Kent.

Members were briefed by the Strategic Director and the Dartford District Commander, Chief Inspector R. Walford, on the new arrangements, the respective powers of the PCC and the PCP and the relationship between the PCC and CSP going forward.

**LONDON 2012 OLYMPIC GAMES: IMPACT ON DARTFORD**

Members also discussed the impact of London 2012 on crime levels in Dartford and the surrounding district during the period of the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Members were advised by the Dartford District Commander that contrary to predicted scenarios, road traffic on the M25, A2 and at the Dartford Crossing and Tunnel had flowed as normal. Ebbsfleet station had operated effectively as the designated Olympic rail transport hub for Kent and the parking arrangements for spectators using a combination of park and rail facilities to reach Olympic venues in East London from Ebbsfleet had also proved effective. The Games had not impacted adversely on crime levels in Dartford, indeed crime levels for the period as a whole had dropped.

Members congratulated the Dartford District Commander and his team and the joint team in the Dartford CSU for their effective performance during the period of the London Games 2012.

**REGULATION 10 NOTICE: CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY TO DISPERSE GROUPS**

At its meeting on 13 February 2013, the Committee noted the details of a Regulation 10 Notice issued under the General Exception arrangements in accordance with Standing Order 54 (6) (e) relating to a Key Decision – a
decision having a significant effect on communities living in two or more Wards in the Borough.

The Regulation 10 Notice, had been approved by Cabinet on 24 January 2013 and requested authority to issue a Dispersal Order in a designated area in and around Temple Hill, Dartford, to combat a significant increase in anti-social behaviour and low level criminal activity on Temple Hill in the preceding weeks of January 2013.

The Committee received an update on the implementation of the Dispersal Order and the developments leading up to it from the Neighbourhood Inspector (CSU).

**EXPRESSION OF THANKS**

At the conclusion of proceedings on 13 February 2013, the Committee expressed its thanks to the Strategic Director, the Dartford District Commander and the joint CSU staff for attending the Committee's meetings in the municipal year under review and the Committee Coordinator for his administrative support.

The Committee also expressed their appreciation of the informative reports and presentations it had received and the full and detailed responses it had been given in answer to questions.