

**For General Release**

<b>REPORT TO:</b>	<b>CABINET 30 June 2014</b>
<b>AGENDA ITEM:</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>Community Safety Strategy for Croydon 2014-2017</b>
<b>LEAD OFFICER:</b>	<b>Jo Negrini, Executive Director Development and Environment</b>
<b>CABINET MEMBER:</b>	<b>Councillor Mark Watson, Cabinet Member for Safety and Justice</b>
<b>WARDS:</b>	<b>All</b>

**CORPORATE PRIORITY/POLICY CONTEXT:**

This strategy aligns closely with the Caring City strand of the council's corporate priorities. It sets out the council's partnership approach to tackle community safety, which includes, tackling the overall crime rate in Croydon, including violent crime, domestic violence, serious youth violence, property crime, reducing re-offending rates, ASB, drugs and alcohol. The strategy also focuses on increasing community confidence and addressing issues of environmental crime.

**FINANCIAL IMPACT**

Include here a brief summary of the costs or other financial issues arising from the recommendations and how these will be addressed within the budget strategy.

The main resource for delivering the strategy will be the partners themselves. Partner agencies include, Police, Probation, Courts, NHS, Prisons, and the Fire Authority. The Safer Croydon Partnership is responsible for commissioning projects from the London Crime Prevention Grant. Croydon were awarded £605k in 2013 for a 4 year period so this strategy ensures that clarity about local priorities and that this grant is allocated to the right projects.

**FORWARD PLAN KEY DECISION REFERENCE NO.:**

This is not a key decision. This strategy is reserved to Council for approval.

The Leader of the Council has delegated to the Cabinet the power to make the decisions set out in the recommendations below

**1. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 1.1 That the Cabinet recommend to Full Council that it agree the Community Safety Strategy for Croydon 2014-2017.

## **2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

2.1 This report presents an overview of the Community Safety Strategy for Croydon 2014-2017 (the strategy) and seeks agreement for its sign off. The strategy has been developed following extensive research and consultation so that the Safer Croydon Partnership has a full understanding regarding crime trends and public perception. Following the development process the 4 main priorities of the strategy have been agreed as:

- ◆ Reduce the overall crime rate in Croydon with a focus on violent crime;
- ◆ Improve the safety of children and young people;
- ◆ Tackle ASB and environmental crime;
- ◆ Improve public confidence and community engagement.

## **3. Community Safety Strategy Detail**

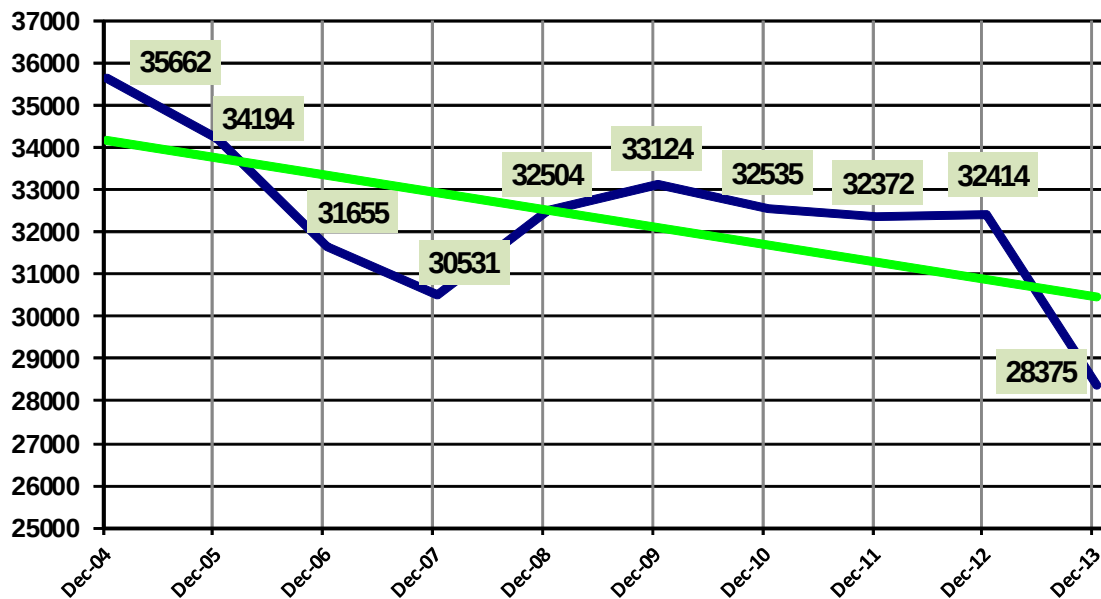
3.1 The Safer Croydon Partnership (the Partnership) has a statutory duty in relation to reducing crime and ASB, including the misuse of drugs and alcohol and tackle re-offending. The Partnership comprises of the Council, Police, NHS, Fire Authority, Probation businesses and the voluntary and community sector. The statutory duties include producing a three-year Community Safety Strategy, undertaking annual reviews, regular assessments and consultation to ensure priorities and actions are clearly identified and based on good evidence.

3.2 The development of the strategy has taken place following the production of a Strategic Assessment, which analyses crime and anti-social behaviour trends together with extensive consultation with the public and partners. All of this information is then used to enable the Partnership to agree its priorities.

3.3 The Strategic Assessment interprets and presents the summary findings of an intelligence analysis of data provided by the police, the council and partner agencies. The product identifies current and possible future issues from sound evidence and robust analysis. Its purpose is to help inform the Partnership work programme. The key findings from the most recent Strategic Assessment are as follows:

- ◆ Overall crime for the past 10 years has been going down from a base line figure of 35662 offences in 2004 reaching a low of 28375 offences in 2013;
- ◆ The biggest reductions in crime numbers when compared to the previous year (2012) have been seen in robbery and gun crime offences, with 26% and 30% reductions respectively. Burglary is down by nearly 8% and there was a 5% reduction in motor vehicle crime;
- ◆ Domestic violence continues to see an upward trend in the number of offences. Croydon has the highest volume of Domestic Violence incidents in London but the 19th highest rate (per 1,000 population). The rate of increase over the 12 months up to August 2013 was lower at 4% than for all of London (6%) and lower than in those boroughs with similar characteristics to Croydon (5.5%);
- ◆ Environmental crime has also increased and become more of a concern;
- ◆ Offenders are getting younger, 15% of all robbery offenders (commercial and personal) were aged 10 to 14 years old;

- ◆ Current trends also show that ASB continues to fall and has dropped by 10.46% (1883 incidents) compared with the previous year;
- ◆ During the financial year 2012/13 residential burglary, violence with injury, theft from a motor vehicle and domestic violence made up 50% of all crime in Croydon with assault with injury and personal robbery contributing a further 19%;
- ◆ Comparing calendar year 2012 to 2013 there has been a 12.46% reduction and by 20.43% over the past decade.



3.4 Although significant progress has been made as identified above the Partnership has experienced some challenges over the last three years. The most significant and wide ranging was the riots in August 2011, which saw widespread civil disorder across the borough. Progress since then is as follows:

- ◆ Croydon has developed and implemented an Integrated Offender Management model to provide a single coherent structure for the management of repeat offenders;
- ◆ Implemented the Croydon connected gang model to further strengthen early identification, prevention and enforcement opportunities across partnership organisations;
- ◆ Youth Support Services have been focused on responding to local needs and building a strong relationship with the community;
- ◆ £1,412,304 grant funding from GLA was awarded to the London Borough of Croydon to deliver the new West Croydon Investment Programme in the areas most affected by the public disorder events of the summer of 2011. This includes specific interventions to improve the safety and security of businesses in West Croydon;
- ◆ Croydon were also successful in securing £23m of the Mayor's Regeneration Fund. £18m is allocated to infrastructure and public realm

- improvements, while £5m has been earmarked to support businesses through office renewal, inward investment and business retention. Much of this regeneration is targeted at the areas most affected by the riots including West Croydon, Old Town and South Croydon;
- ◆ The Safer Croydon Partnership was successful in securing £603,520 London Crime Prevention Funding in 2013/14 and allocated funding for a further 3 years.
- 3.5 Other challenges include burglary, robbery and domestic violence. Although the three year trend for burglary is down it remains a key challenge for the Borough and will continue to be a focus for this new three year strategy. The Safer Croydon Partnership established a multi-agency burglary project 'Operation No Entry' in 2012 which included a variety of measures to deal with the issue including:
- ◆ Crime prevention advice and a discounted offer for locks from local locksmiths.
  - ◆ Targeted enforcement activity against known burglars in the Borough.
  - ◆ Engagement with second hand goods retailers and the development of a code of practice.
- 3.6 The Anti Robbery Campaign (ARC) has now been run three times in response to robbery offences around the West Croydon area targeted at young people after school who have been the victim of these crimes. ARC operated at the Borough's hotspot area where the Police, Council officers, volunteers, Croydon BID and other partners were all involved in high visibility patrols around the town centre and West Croydon and engaged with the community to provide reassurance and enforcement activity. A notable decrease in robbery was seen during the operations.
- 3.7 Domestic Violence incidents have remained high in the Borough for the last few years. A complete review of the partnerships response to domestic violence has been undertaken at both an operational and strategic level. There is a new governance structure and a new Domestic Violence Strategic Group has been established which is chaired by the Chief Executive of Croydon Council. There is now a co-ordinated action plan in place to prevent and tackle domestic and sexual violence, links with the voluntary sector have been strengthened and the services available have been firmly embedded within the 'Think Family' model of intervention.
- 3.8 Engagement with the public, businesses and partners shows that Croydon continues to experience negative perceptions in relation to crime and ASB. The results present some challenges as, despite significant reductions in overall crime and ASB in the last three years, there is a perception that things have not improved. It is particularly important to improve perceptions and confidence given the significant regeneration of the Borough and opportunities to attract new residents, visitors and businesses to the area. Confidence is a key strand of the 2014-17 strategy. Detail of the consultation undertaken is detailed in section 4.
- 3.9 In relation to crime affecting children and young people, the Safer Croydon Partnership has agreed a joint protocol for working with the Children and Families Partnership to ensure that the local priorities for children and families

are included in this strategy and to avoid duplication.

3.10 Based on all the data gathered for the 2013 Community Safety Strategic Assessment, feedback from public consultation, and input from all partner agencies the Safer Croydon Strategic Priorities for 2014-2016 are:

**Reduce the overall crime rate in Croydon; focus on violent crime**

- ◆ Domestic Violence and Abuse
- ◆ Violent Crime; including violence on the streets and personal robbery
- ◆ Reduce Reoffending
- ◆ Burglary, particularly domestic burglary
- ◆ Take note of the Mayoral (Crime Commissioner) priorities as expressed in the Neighbourhood crimes (MOPAC 7)

**Improve the Safety of children and young people**

- ◆ Reduce Serious Youth Violence
- ◆ Reduce Robbery and Knife Crime
- ◆ Continue to tackle Gangs

through enforcement and providing early intervention and prevention measures

**Tackle ASB and environmental crime; specifically**

- ◆ Drug and Alcohol related antisocial behaviour and crime
- ◆ Rowdy and inconsiderate behaviour
- ◆ Noise nuisance
- ◆ Fly tipping
- ◆ Arson
- ◆ Street drinking and begging

## **Improve public confidence and community engagement**

- ◆ Develop communication and marketing strategies that improve positive perceptions of the Borough
- ◆ Encourage community groups to help themselves e.g. through Neighbourhood Watch, Community Asset Based Approach, Pathfinders etc.
- ◆ Target activity to tackle the fear of crime, particularly in West Croydon and the Town Centre.

### **4. CONSULTATION**

4.1 Two major consultation exercises were undertaken during 2013 to help inform the development of the Community Safety Strategy. These were an online survey and a face to face survey conducted around the town centre and West Croydon area.

#### **4.2 The key points from the on-line survey (sample size of 581 respondents) were:**

- ◆ There was a 10% increase in awareness of the Safer Croydon Partnership compared with previous consultation;
- ◆ The top 5 crimes of most concern are:
  - Violent crime; Anti-social behaviour; Youth crime; Robbery; and Burglary;
- ◆ Close to 72% of respondents think ASB in Croydon town centre is a problem;
- ◆ Close to 70% of respondents think crime in Croydon town centre is a problem;
- ◆ Close to 54% of respondents think Croydon town centre is not safe for young people;
- ◆ Close to 76% of respondents think the number of police patrols including Area Enforcement Officers (AEO) has increased or not changed in the last 12 months;
- ◆ Close to 74% of respondents think the levels of anti-social behaviour in their local area has not changed or improved compared with last year;
- ◆ Top 5 issues of most concern are:
  - Graffiti; Abandoned vehicles; Vehicle related nuisance; Noise nuisance; and Nuisance behaviour;
- ◆ Top 5 comments concerned the following topics:
  - More police patrols; Praise for the police, council and Partnership; Fear of crime; Lack of police resources; and Fly tipping.

4.3 The Safer Croydon Partnership notes that although crime and ASB are reducing, the fear of crime remains a concern for residents. In addition, the top 5 issues of most concern are not consistent with an understanding of the facts i.e. graffiti is not widespread and it is removed immediately and records do not indicate that abandoned vehicles and vehicle related nuisance are a concern.

4.4 The Safer Croydon Partnership targeted the West Croydon area as part of its work to tackle Robbery. The findings from the survey are consistent with our understanding of the level of street crime experienced at this location which is a

major transport hub (West Croydon Mainline Station, Tramlink stop and a Bus terminus). During the coming year this location will receive extensive public realm improvements as part of the West Croydon Improvement Plans. **The key points from the West Croydon Face to face on the street survey (sample size of 294 respondents) were:**

- ◆ Close to 71% of respondents feel very or fairly safe in West Croydon during the day;
- ◆ Close to 30% of respondents feel very unsafe in West Croydon during after dark;
- ◆ Close to 47% of respondents feel very unsafe in West Croydon from 9pm till 11pm, rising to 53% after 11pm;
- ◆ West Croydon bus station was the top location where respondents do not feel safe;
- ◆ Close to 82% of respondents feel very and fairly safe using public transport (buses, trams and trains) in the West Croydon area;
- ◆ Close to 30% of respondents think the police are doing a good job to tackle robbery, close to 34% didn't know;
- ◆ Close to 30% of respondents think the police dealt with their crime problem satisfactorily;
- ◆ More police was the most popular comment when asked what would make you feel safe.

## **5 FINANCIAL AND RISK ASSESSMENT CONSIDERATIONS**

### **1 Revenue and Capital consequences of report recommendations**

There are no direct consequences as a result of this report

### **2 The effect of the decision**

The decision approves the wider strategy in relation to crime reduction but does not commit the council to any additional spend. The Safer Croydon Partnership is responsible for commissioning projects from the London Crime Prevention Grant. Croydon were awarded £605k in 2013 for a 4 year period so this strategy ensures that we are clear about our local priorities and that this grant is allocated to the right projects.

### **3 Risks**

The main resource for delivering the strategy will be the partners themselves. This will include in particular the Police, Council, Probation, Courts, NHS and Prisons. All public sector services continue to face significant challenges in meeting budget cuts. The strategy takes into account these challenges and details a number of new ways of working in partnership to ensure that we provide efficient and effective services.

### **4 Options**

No options have been identified

## **5 Future savings/efficiencies**

None have been identified which arise directly from the report recommendations.

Approved by: Dianne Ellender, Head of Finance and Deputy Section 151 Officer

## **6. COMMENTS OF THE COUNCIL SOLICITOR AND MONITORING OFFICER**

6.1 The Solicitor to the Council advises that Section 4 of the Local Government Act 2000 imposes a duty on local authorities to prepare a community strategy for promoting or improving the economic, social and environmental well-being of their areas and contributing to the sustainable development in the United Kingdom.

6.2 Under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (as amended by Section 22 of the Police and Justice Act 2006) responsible authorities are required to work together through Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships. In this respect Section 6 requires these authorities to formulate and implement a Strategy for the reduction of crime and disorder in their area (including anti-social behaviour adversely affecting the local environment) and for combating the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances in the area

6.3 Regulations made under S.6 provide that the Strategy must be published and include the objectives to be pursued and the long term and short term performance targets for measuring the extent to which these objectives have been achieved.

6.4 Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (as amended by Section 22 of the Police and Justice Act 2006) imposes a duty on local authorities and police authorities to exercise their functions with regard to effect on crime and disorder. They are required to do all they can to prevent crime and disorder in the area (including anti-social and other behaviour adversely affecting the local environment) & the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances.

6.5 Approved by: Gabriel MacGregor, Head of Corporate Law on behalf of the Council Solicitor & Monitoring Officer

## **7. HUMAN RESOURCES IMPACT**

7.1 There are no human resources considerations arising out of this report or the Community Safety Strategy.

7.2 (Approved by: Approved by Adrian Prescod, HR Business Partner, for and on behalf of Interim Director of Human Resources, Chief Executive department).

## **8. EQUALITIES IMPACT**

8.1 All activities in the Community Safety Strategy have been subject to an Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA) which highlights a range of potential positive impacts arising from the new strategy and the approach of the Safer



Croydon Partnership. Positive impacts include improved services for victims of crime, which disproportionately affect young people and women, such as robbery and domestic violence. Furthermore, the strategy sets out actions to positively impact other protected groups including reducing hate crime, trafficking, violent extremism and honour based violence.

8.2 It also highlights the potential negative effect on young people with regard to enforcement action to tackle ASB, which should be mitigated through our work with Children's Services and community engagement generally prior to and during such an intervention. However, overall the strategy will have a positive impact on protected groups.

## **9. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT**

9.1 This is contained within the Community Safety Strategy and includes activities to deal with a range of environmental crimes such as graffiti and fly tipping. The Community Safety Partnership also engages with the development of the Local Development Framework and works closely with the regeneration projects in and around the town centre.

## **10. CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION IMPACT**

10.1 The Community Safety Strategy is influenced by the strategic assessment, an audit of crime and disorder in the Borough and sets out a range of priorities and activities aimed at reducing the impact of crime and disorder in the community.

## **11. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS/PROPOSED DECISION**

11.1 Under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (as amended by Section 22 of the Police and Justice Act 2006) Local Authorities are required to work together through Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships to formulate and implement a Strategy for the reduction of crime and disorder in their area (including anti-social behaviour adversely affecting the local environment) and for combating the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances in the area. The agreement of the Community Safety Strategy is therefore a statutory requirement.

## **12. OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED**

12.1 There are no other options available

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**CONTACT OFFICER:** Andy Opie, Head of Community Safety

**BACKGROUND PAPERS – none**

**Appendix: Community Safety Strategy 2014-2017**