

<b>REPORT TO:</b>	<b>CABINET 19 October 2020</b>
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>Developing Croydon's new Community Safety Strategy</b>
<b>LEAD OFFICER:</b>	<b>Executive Director Place – Shifa Mustafa Director of Croydon's violence reduction network – Sarah Hayward</b>
<b>CABINET MEMBER:</b>	<b>Cllr Hamida Ali, Cabinet Member for Safer Croydon and Communities</b>
<b>WARDS:</b>	<b>All wards</b>
<p><b>CORPORATE PRIORITY/POLICY CONTEXT/ AMBITIOUS FOR CROYDON</b></p> <p><i>Include here a brief statement on how the recommendations address one or more of the Council's Corporate Plan priorities:</i></p> <p><i>Everyone feels safer in their street, neighbourhood and home</i></p> <p><a href="#">Corporate Plan for Croydon 2018-2022</a></p>	

<p><b>FINANCIAL IMPACT</b></p> <p>The development of a new strategy requires community engagement, outreach and consultation. Planned spend for in the financial year 2020/21 will now be delayed until 2021/22 meaning a small in year saving.</p> <p>The engagement proposal was in its early stages of development and so was not fully costed but unlikely to be more than £15k when it takes place.</p> <p><b>FORWARD PLAN KEY DECISION REFERENCE NO.:</b> Not a key decision</p>
--

<p>The Leader of the Council has delegated to the Cabinet the power to make the decisions set out in the recommendations below</p> <p><b>1. RECOMMENDATIONS</b></p> <p>The Cabinet is recommended to</p> <p>1.1 Recommend to Full Council that it agree to extend the current community safety strategy until the end of calendar year 2021 for the reasons detailed in the report</p>
--

## 2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1 Since 1998, Councils have been required to have a community safety partnership that oversees the development and delivery of a community safety plan or strategy. The strategy requires regular review and updating in light of evidence and trends in safety.

- 2.2 The current community safety strategy runs from 2017 to 2020. Prior to Covid, we were in the very early stages of developing the public collaboration needed to develop a new strategy. The pandemic and associated events meant that we have had to delay that work. We had originally hoped to be able to develop the strategy through autumn this year and spring next year, but it is now clear we will need to delay this work and therefore extend our current strategy to cover the full calendar year 2021.
- 2.3 We have produced the annual strategic assessment of crime in the area and so can update some of our work under the existing strategy.

### **3. COMMUNITY SAFETY STRATEGY**

- 3.1 The council is required to have a Community Safety Partnership Board and a plan that the board is responsible for overseeing. That plan is what we refer to here as the community safety strategy. The existing plan was developed and came in to effect in 2017 and covers the period to 2020.
- 3.2 In Summer 2019, the Council committed to taking a public health approach to violence reduction. In early 2020, the Council started to plan and develop a new community safety strategy, as a result of both the existing strategy coming to an end and to realign our community safety work with our public health approach to violence reduction. This work was paused as a result of the Covid pandemic.
- 3.3 In late May, the Council was able to focus more efforts on business as usual and started to explore how to develop a new strategy in light of ongoing restrictions and the timescales for doing so. It quickly became clear that we would need to extend the existing strategy. We had originally hoped to conclude the development work by early summer 2021.
- 3.4 However it has now become clear that this won't be possible. A particular challenge for this work is the vulnerability and excluded nature of some of the people who most need effective community safety and violence reduction work. There have also been sharp changes in some types of crime, violence and antisocial behaviour during the Covid pandemic. We need to take the time to understand which of these changes are likely to be lasting and therefore need a different level of consideration in the new strategy.
- 3.5 The current strategic priorities in The Safer Croydon Community Safety Strategy 2017/2020 are:-
- Reduce the overall crime rate in Croydon; focus on violent crime and domestic abuse
  - Improve the safety of children and young people
  - Improve public confidence and community engagement.
  - Tackle anti-social behaviour and environmental crime
  - Improve support and reduce vulnerability for all victims of crime; focus on hate crime

## **4. CONSULTATION**

- 4.1 The decision to extend the current strategy doesn't require formal public consultation. However we have consulted strategic partners on this approach through the Safer Croydon Partnership Board (Croydon's Community Safety Partnership).
- 4.2 Developing a new strategy will require both engagement to develop the content, priorities and a formal period of consultation on the strategy. Our normal methods of consultation, including face to face meetings and outreach have been severely impacted by the Covid pandemic and are a major reason for the delay in the developing our new strategy.

## **5. PRE-DECISION SCRUTINY**

- 5.1 The proposal to extend the current strategy has not been to scrutiny as it is not a substantive change to current policy or priority. We do intend to fully involve scrutiny in the development of our new strategy.

## **6. FINANCIAL AND RISK ASSESSMENT CONSIDERATIONS**

- 6.1 There will be a small in year saving due to not completing this work in this financial year. This is cost delay rather than cost avoidance. The development of the strategy is estimated to cost £15k when it takes place will be met from the existing revenue budget.

Approved by Lisa Taylor, Director of Finance, Investment and Risk and S151 Officer

## **7. LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS**

- 7.1 Under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, as amended, responsible authorities are required to work together through Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships which have, since 2010 been referred to as Community Safety Partnerships. The Safer Croydon Partnership (SCP) acts as the statutory Community Safety Partnership for Croydon. In this respect Section 6 requires responsible 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. The SCP is responsible for coordinating the development and implementation of Croydon's Community Safety Strategy. The partnership comprises police, council, fire, probation and health agencies, as well as businesses, community and voluntary sector organisations.
- 7.2 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.

7.3 Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (as amended) 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.

7.4 The function of agreeing, amending or modifying the Community Safety Strategy is a matter reserved to Full Council under the Constitution.

Approved by: Sandra Herbert, Head of Litigation and Corporate Law on behalf of the Director of Law and Governance and Deputy Monitoring Officer

## **8. HUMAN RESOURCES IMPACT**

8.1 There is no HR staffing impact in this report. If any should arise these will be managed under the Council's policies and procedures.

Approved by: Jennifer Sankar, Head of HR Place, for and on behalf of Sue Moorman, HR Director.

## **9. EQUALITIES IMPACT**

9.1 The decision to extend the current strategy will not have any direct equalities impacts. There are a number of equality considerations and impacts pertaining to community safety and how we respond and address these will be considered as part of the process of developing the new strategy.

Approved by: Yvonne Okiyo, Equalities Manager

## **10. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT**

10.1 There is no environmental impact

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

11.1 Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 says that without prejudice to any other obligation imposed on it, it shall be the duty of the Council to exercise its various functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent crime and disorder in its area.

11.2 By Section 6 of the same Act the Council and its partners are required to formulate and implement a strategy for the reduction of crime and disorder in the area.

11.3 Therefore there are two duties. The first is to formulate and implement a crime reduction strategy. This is about crime which already exists. The second is crime

and disorder prevention. Every function shall be exercised to prevent crime and disorder.

11.4 The current strategy was based on evidence at the time and its actions and outcomes are monitored against the best available current evidence of crime trends in the borough.

11.5 Delaying the development of the new strategy will allow us to better understand the medium and longer term impacts of Covid on the borough and better reflect these trends in a new strategy.

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

12.1 As explained above, the council is required to have a community safety plan but has been unable to develop a new plan as a consequence of Covid.

## **13. OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED**

13.1 It was considered whether we could develop a new plan to the original timetable. This was quickly rejected due to the timescales and Covid restrictions.

13.2 We also considered developing the plan from now through to next year, but the impact of Covid on the Council has meant we've now had to delay development starting until the new financial year.

## **14. DATA PROTECTION IMPLICATIONS**

### **14.1 WILL THE SUBJECT OF THE REPORT INVOLVE THE PROCESSING OF 'PERSONAL DATA'?**

No

### **14.2 HAS A DATA PROTECTION IMPACT ASSESSMENT (DPIA) BEEN COMPLETED?**

No

Approved by Sarah Hayward, Director of Violence Reduction Network

---

**CONTACT OFFICER:** Sarah Hayward, Director of Violence Reduction Network  
Email: sarah.hayward@croydon.gov.uk

**APPENDICES TO THIS REPORT:** Appendix 1 – Safer Croydon Community Safety Strategy  
Appendix 2 – Strategic Assessment

**BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:** None