

Community Safety Plan Timetable

Final Decision-Maker	Council
Lead Head of Service	Alison Broom Chief Executive
Lead Officer and Report Author	John Littlemore Head of Housing & Community Services
Classification	Public
Wards affected	All

Executive Summary

This report sets out the proposed timetable and process to enable Maidstone Borough Council to adopt a new 3-year Community Safety Plan 2022-25.

Purpose of Report

Decision

This report makes the following recommendations to this Committee:

1. That the Committee approves the timetable and process to enable the Council to adopt a new Community Safety Plan 2022-25 and provides direction on Member engagement.

Timetable

Meeting	Date
CHE Committee	31 August 2021
CHE Committee	30 November 2021
CHE Committee	1 March 2022
Council	13 April 2022

Community Safety Plan Timetable

1. CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES AND IMPLICATIONS

Issue	Implications	Sign-off
Impact on Corporate Priorities	<p>The four Strategic Plan objectives are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Embracing Growth and Enabling Infrastructure • Safe, Clean and Green • Homes and Communities • A Thriving Place <p>Accepting the recommendations will materially improve the Council's ability to achieve the corporate priority of a 'safe, clean & green place'.</p>	Head of Housing & Community Services
Cross Cutting Objectives	<p>The four cross-cutting objectives are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heritage is Respected • Health Inequalities are Addressed and Reduced • Deprivation and Social Mobility is Improved • Biodiversity and Environmental Sustainability is respected <p>The report recommendation supports the achievement of the cross-cutting objectives.</p>	Head of Housing & Community Services
Risk Management	Approving the recommendation in the report minimises the risk of the Council and the Maidstone Community Safety Partnership not having an up-to-date Community Safety Plan.	Head of Housing & Community Services
Financial	Producing the updated proposed Community Safety Plan can be undertaken within existing resources. The Community Safety Plan 2022-25 will provide the foundation for the Community Safety Partnership to prioritise and apply partner resources and bid for additional resources to achieve the outcomes identified	Section 151 Officer & Finance Team

Staffing	We will deliver the Community Safety Plan document with our current staffing.	Head of Housing & Community Services
Legal	Accepting the recommendations will fulfil the Council's duties under Section 6 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. The Council has a duty under Section 6 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to formulate and implement strategies for the reduction of crime and disorder in the area (including anti-social and other behaviour adversely affecting the local environment); and for combatting the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances in the area and for the reduction of re-offending in the area	Team Leader (Contentious)
Privacy and Data Protection	Accepting the recommendations will not impact on the volume of data held by the Council. We will hold that data in line with our retention schedules.	Policy and Information Team
Equalities	The recommendations do not propose a change in service therefore will not require an equalities impact assessment an equalities impact assessment will be completed as part of strategy development	Policy & Information Manager
Public Health	By adopting a new Community Safety Plan we recognise that the recommendations will have a positive impact on population health or that of individuals.	Public Health Officer
Crime and Disorder	The recommendation will have a positive impact on Crime and Disorder. The Community Protection Team have been consulted and mitigation has been proposed	Head of Housing & Community Services
Procurement	Not applicable	Head of Housing & Community Services
Biodiversity and Climate Change	The implications of this report on biodiversity and climate change have been considered and are; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are no implications on biodiversity and climate change. 	Biodiversity and Climate Change Officer

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This aligns with action(s) (number and quote action) of the Biodiversity and Climate Change Action Plan 	
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2. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

2.1 The Council is under a statutory requirement (Crime and Disorder Act 1998) to produce and adopt a Community Safety Plan in conjunction with its local Community Safety Partnership (CSP). Under the Crime and Disorder Regulations 2007, local authorities and borough CSPs in England and Wales are required to:

- Produce an annual strategic assessment
- Produce a three-year rolling partnership plan setting out partnership priorities, with actions to deliver these priorities
- Have a dialogue with communities to both inform these processes and explain the outcomes

2.2 The data gathered from the annual Community Safety Assessment will assist in developing the priority areas for the Community Safety Plan (CS Plan) to focus on. This draws on recorded crime data. However, the data extracted from this source does not provide the sole intelligence for the CS Plan. In addition, this can be supplemented by relevant national data, the Police Crime & Commissioner's findings, data held by health organisations and information arising from public engagement.

2.3 The process of putting the refreshed Community Safety Plan in place includes

- Assessment of the national and local context including relevant national priorities and data and the strategic priorities adopted by the Kent Police and Crime Commissioner
- Review of the results from the previous plan
- Analysis of data including reported crime held by Kent Police and data relating to anti-social behaviour held by the council, data held by health organisations including that relating to violence and mis use of drugs
- Analysis of qualitative information obtained via surveys for example by the Police and Crime Commissioner
- Engagement with councillors to better understand concerns expressed by the public
- Engagement with the public – to better understand concerns and obtain feedback on proposed priorities and actions
- Engagement with partners

2.4 Set out in the table below is the proposed timetable to enable adoption of the refreshed Community Safety Plan by Council by April 2022:

Date	Activity	Comment
August/September 2021	Initial data analysis	Collation of key partner quantitative data concerning crime and disorder in Maidstone borough
09 Sept 2021	Member engagement event if needed	Proposed date for all member engagement
Sept – Nov 2021	Public consultation	6-week consultation period
23 Sept 2021	Safer Maidstone Partnership meeting	Initial engagement on developing Plan
September-November	Analysis of data and survey feedback	Preparation of initial feedback to CHE Committee
30 Nov 2021	CHE Committee	Update report to CHE on consultation responses
November 2021-January 2022	Development of objectives and areas of focus for the refreshed plan in collaboration with partners	Preparation of draft Plan and programme of actions
TBC Feb 2022	Safer Maidstone Partnership	Review of the draft CS Plan 2022-25
01 Mar 2022	CHE Committee	Report proposing CS Plan for CHE Committee to recommend to Council
13 Apr 2022	Council	Adoption of the CS Plan 2022-25

2.5 The CHE Committee also has the role of an Overview and Scrutiny Committee for Community Safety and in undertaking this role it can assist in:

- Improving what the partnership does by focusing on the outcomes and outputs of partnership activity.
- Improving how the partnership operates by reviewing its membership, strategies, objectives and service delivery.
- Reviewing performance management arrangements to ensure that they are robust and effective, e.g. in measuring and monitoring performance at a district level.
- Reviewing policy development to ensure that the partnership remains focused on those areas of greatest local concern.

2.6 There is no statutory requirement to consult with the public and therefore no prescription as to how a consultation should be undertaken, although good practice documents exist including one produced by the Local Government Association. It is recommended that public consultation is undertaken because it is important that public perception concerning community safety

issues and concerns is taken into consideration in identifying priorities for the plan and that this information is up to date.

- 2.7 As part of having oversight of the development of the CS Plan, the CHE Committee is asked to provide a member perspective on engagement with the wider public and stakeholders in developing the draft new CS Plan. Members could take the view that debate within CHE Committee in relation to this report could suffice. Alternatively, a date could be set aside to enable broader engagement with all elected members through a briefing workshop that could focus on developing the key issues for the public survey.
- 2.8 It is proposed to carry out a 6-week public consultation period to better understand the public perception of crime and disorder within the Maidstone Borough area. The last time a specific community safety consultation was undertaken was the Community Safety Survey 2016, which was linked to the CCTV Review at the time and focused on feelings of safety in Town Centre and participants' local area.
- 2.9 The timetable set out in Paragraph 2.4 is indicative at this stage, as the development of the CS Plan is dependent on when the data that forms the Community Safety Assessment is released. This data set is formed of police data together with information collated by the Kent Community Safety Partnership. The development of the local CS Plan must also have regard to the Kent Police & Crime Commissioner's own Strategic Plan, as future grant funding from the PCC's office is reliant on there being a synergy between the local CSP's and PCC's priorities.

3. AVAILABLE OPTIONS

- 3.1 The Committee is asked to adopt the outline timetable set out in Paragraph 2.3 and endorse a Member Briefing in early September 2021 to scope the public engagement to be undertaken during a 6-week period commencing in September 2021.
- 3.2 The Committee could decide not to engage with the public in the development of the new CS Plan but this is not recommended, as members have previously indicated a desire to do so and public consultation will provide an important element in the formulation of the new CS Plan.
- 3.3 The Committee could choose to do nothing but this is not recommended, as the Council is under a statutory duty to provide an up to date Community Safety Plan.

4. PREFERRED OPTION AND REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 The option set out in Paragraph 3.1 is preferred, as this will enable the Council to develop a robust CS Plan and for the Council to fulfil its statutory duties in relation to the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.

5. RISK

- 5.1 The recommendation if adopted will reduce the risk of the Council not being compliant with its statutory duties and will assist in reducing crime and disorder within the Borough.

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Local Government Association Councillor Guidance

<https://www.local.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/community-safety-1e2.pdf>