

Maidstone Borough Council

Communities Overview & Scrutiny Committee meeting as the Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee

Tuesday 13 September 2011

Update: New Operational Policing Model and the revised priorities of the Safer Maidstone Partnership.

Report of: Overview & Scrutiny Officer

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee has a statutory role to act as the Crime and Disorder Overview and Scrutiny Committee and scrutinise the Safer Maidstone Partnership, one of four delivery groups in the Local Strategic Partnership.
- 1.2 A new operational policing model is due to be implemented in October 2011. The Committee were advised of this at their last meeting on 14 March 2011 by Chief Superintendent Matthew Nix and were keen to be updated on this at the earliest juncture.
- 1.3 During the 2010-11 Municipal Year the Crime and Disorder Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered the priorities of the Safer Maidstone Partnership looking at Domestic Abuse and Anti Social Behaviour. The Committee were particularly impressed by the achievements of Women's Support Services and the Youth Offending Service and shared their concerns over funding and the impact that the uncertainty of future funding would have on the services offered.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 The Committee is recommended to interview Chief Inspector Steve Griffiths, Borough Commander for Maidstone, the Chairman of the Safer Maidstone Partnership Martin Adams, Niki Luscombe, Chief Executive (Interim) Women's Support Services and Barry Weeks, Manager Central Youth Offending Team to provide an update on the new operational policing model, the Safer Maidstone Partnership and its revised priorities and the effect of these changes on two priority areas, Domestic Abuse and Anti Social Behaviour.
- 2.2 Areas of questioning could include but are not limited to:
 - What impact has the new Operational Policing Model had, if any, on the priorities of the Safer Maidstone Partnership;
 - How will the new policing model impact on front line officers;
 - Will there be any initial negative impact to overcome in the ability to deal with priority areas;

- What positive benefits will there be for those working in these areas;
- Will partnership working between service providers in Maidstone need to adapt to the new districts/division commands in order to be at their most effective;
- What impact, positive or negative, will the new districts/division commands have on partnership working tackling Anti Social Behaviour;
- What impact, positive or negative, will the new districts/division commands have on partnership working tackling Domestic Abuse;
- What services do you envisage becoming redundant as a result of the new districts/division commands with particular reference to Anti Social Behaviour and Domestic Abuse;
- What impact, if any, have the recent riots across the Country had on changes to policing in Kent, the priorities of the Safer Maidstone Partnership and the workload of service providers?
- How will the revised priorities of the SMP be communicated to the wider community to ensure engagement;
- What will happen to the organisations that were supported by the SMP under their wider set of priorities;
- Will the SMP seek to engage widely with organisations despite the narrowing in priorities;
- How will they achieve this;
- How will the SMP manage their resources to deal with other issues that transpire such as water safety; and
- How have the outcomes of the Stakeholder events held been taken forward (Domestic Abuse and Road Safety);

3. Operational Policing Model

3.1 Chief Superintendent Matthew Nix attended the last Crime and Disorder Overview and Scrutiny Committee Meeting on 14 March 2011. He explained the Operational Policing Model as a 'bottom up rebuild of staffing against demand', whilst delivering £22.7m in savings. Other areas were identified as part of the 'Change Programme' these included the Back Office, Collaborative department and Non-Pay budgets.

3.2 The Operational Policing Model would be based on

- Neighbourhood Policy and alignment with Districts and Medway;
- A broader role of frontline office duties to ensure ownership of local crime and ASB issues;
- Savings from economies of scale of reducing from six BCUs (Basic command Units) to three Divisions;
- Reinvestment in Neighbourhood Resources – Constable increase from 381 to 677 with extended availability; and
- Retention and building of partnership arrangements.

3.3 Appendix A shows the new geographical structure; three Divisions which replaces the previous six BCUs.

4. Safer Maidstone Partnership

4.1 The Safer Maidstone Partnership has reduced their priorities from nine to four priority themes:

- Anti Social behaviour;
- Domestic Abuse;
- Road Safety (Killed and seriously injured); and
- Substance Misuse.

4.2 At their meeting on 16 June 2011 (appendix b) the Safer Maidstone Partnership identified particular areas of Maidstone that were suffering the effects of Anti Social Behaviour and dispersal orders being used to deal with this Other areas of concern raised included water safety, road safety, substance misuse and the issue of young people coming into the town centre intoxicated by alcohol.

4.3 The Safer Maidstone Partnership report progress against priorities/targets to the Local Strategic Partnership Board on a quarterly basis and produce an annual report. They also present emerging issues to the Board and identify actions required, as the need arises.

5. Impact on Corporate Objectives

5.1 The remit of the Safer Maidstone Partnership has relevance to many of the Council's Priorities but relates specifically to the priority '**For Maidstone to be a decent place to live**' which covers the majority of the delivery group's work and the MBC objective to make people feel safe where they live relates to the key priorities of the group.

5.2 There are no risks involved in considering the priorities and progress of the Safer Maidstone Partnership.