

Communities Committee Meeting	
Meeting Date	9 th January 2024
Report Title	Swale Community Safety Priority Setting Consultation
EMT Lead	Emma Wiggins, Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods
Head of Service	Charlotte Hudson, Head of Housing and Communities
Lead Officer	Stephanie Curtis, Community Services Manager
Classification	Open
Recommendations	1. That the Communities Committee provides feedback to the Swale Community Safety Partnership (CSP) to inform its strategic assessment and priority setting process for 2024/25.

1 Purpose of Report and Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report provides an overview of the Swale community safety strategic assessment process and asks the Committee to provide feedback on the current CSP performance as well as any emerging issues it feels the CSP may need to focus on.

2 Background

- 2.1 The Swale Community Safety Partnership (CSP), of which Swale Borough Council is a statutory partner, is required to complete a strategic assessment annually. Also, section 19 of the Police and Justice Act 2006 requires local authorities to have a crime and disorder committee with power to scrutinise the decisions and actions of the CSP in their area.
- 2.2 The purpose of this strategic assessment is to provide an understanding of community safety problems within the borough, in order to inform and help determine partnership problems for the following year. It includes a performance assessment against the current priorities; discussion around emerging issues; and consideration of wider threats and opportunities that may impact upon the work of the CSP.
- 2.3 The strategic assessment, along with information from partners will be considered by the Swale CSP Executive Group at their meeting in early February 2024 once the assessment is completed. This group will agree the Community Safety Priorities for 2023/24 and the Community Safety Plan will be revised based upon this. The overall priorities have not changed for a number of years, but the specific focus within these has been amended.

- 2.4 Part of the process of compiling the strategic assessment is to review previous performance of the CSP. Part of this is a data exercise, with data being supplied to the CSP for this purpose throughout December. Additionally partner agencies are asked to submit their own views on the current performance of the partnership and any emerging community-based issues they feel the CSP should now prioritise.
- 2.5 Due to the Scrutiny function of this Committee, the CSP would welcome views on the Committee feel the Partnership is currently performing against its current priorities and any emerging issues Committee members feel they should be tackling.
- 2.6 The current Swale Community Safety Partnership Priorities for 2023/24 are shown in Appendix 1. Appendix 2 provides an overview of work of the CSP during 2023/24 and some key statistics as of September 23, which was presented to the Swale Community Safety Partnership Executive Group at their meeting in November 23.

3 Proposals

- 3.1 That the Communities Committee provides feedback to the Swale Community Safety Partnership to inform its strategic assessment and priority setting process based upon the following questions:
 - 1. From reviewing the current performance of the CSP against its identified priorities, do you feel the Partnership is serving its communities effectively?
 - 2. Are there any other community-based issues you feel the CSP should consider in its priority setting process for 2024/25?

4 Alternative Options

- 4.1 To not provide any feedback to the Swale Community Safety Partnership: This isn't recommended as members of the Committee have a good understanding of issues facing the local community which may not fully be known by other agencies and are required to undertake a Scrutiny function through the Police and Justice Act.

5 Consultation Undertaken or Proposed

- 5.1 Consultation on the Community Safety priorities for Swale will take place with the CSP in January and will form the basis for the annual refresh of the Swale Community Safety Plan.
- 5.2 Discussions are taking place with Area Committees during December 2023.

6 Implications

Issue	Implications
Corporate Plan	The community safety strategic assessment supports the Corporate Plan priority 'tackling deprivation and creating equal opportunities for everyone' and the objective of 'ensuring that the council plays a proactive role in reducing crime and ASB, including through the modernisation of CCTV provision'.
Financial, Resource and Property	There are no additional finance, resource or property implications in completing the community safety strategic assessment. Resource is in place within the Community Safety Unit to create the document and assist the Community Safety Partnership in its priority setting process and refresh of the Community Safety Plan.
Legal, Statutory and Procurement	<p>The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 gave agencies a duty to work together to tackle crime and disorder. Responsible authorities, which include district/borough councils, must work together to formulate and implement a strategy for the reduction of crime and disorder in the area.</p> <p>The Police and Justice Act 2006 updated the Crime and Disorder Act 98, expanding the number of responsible authorities and placing a duty on them to share evidence based data and carry out frequent strategic assessments.</p> <p>Section 19 of this Act also requires local authorities to have a crime and disorder committee with power to scrutinise the decisions and actions of the CSP in their area.</p>
Crime and Disorder	The contribution to the Swale community safety strategic assessment by the Communities Committee will assist in ensuring that the priorities considered by the CSP are as reflective as possible of those crime and disorder issues faced by our communities.
Environment and Climate/Ecological Emergency	Environmental ASB/crime is recognised within the current ASB priority for the CSP and partnership working to tackle this has remained an area of focus for the last number of years.
Health and Wellbeing	The existing community safety priorities contribute to the health and wellbeing of the community by ensuring there is a partnership response in place to many issues that may affect this agenda specifically around domestic abuse and supporting vulnerable people.
Safeguarding of Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults	The existing Swale community safety priorities are closely linked to the safeguarding agenda. Swale BCs safeguarding policy and soon to be adopted domestic abuse policy sit alongside the community safety plan and associated action.

Risk Management and Health and Safety	No specific implications on risk management or health/safety have been identified at this stage.
Equality and Diversity	No specific implications on groups with protected characteristics have been identified.
Privacy and Data Protection	The Swale community safety strategic assessment is a partnership document, but its completion is led by Swale BC on behalf of the CSP. Data is shared with the CSU staff completing this through the Information Sharing Agreement from partner agencies. Some data shared has restrictions placed upon it (particularly from the Police) and this limits how widely the final assessment can be shared.

7 Appendices

7.1 The following documents are to be published with this report and form part of the report:

- Appendix 1: Swale Community Safety Partnership Priorities 2023/24
- Appendix 2: Swale Community Safety Partnership Strategic Lead Report November 23

8 Background Papers

Swale Community Safety Plan 2023/24 -
https://swale.gov.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0009/420579/FINAL-Swale-Community-Safety-Plan-2023-24-A.pdf

Appendix 1: Swale Community Safety Partnership Priorities 2023/24

