

**CHILTERN DISTRICT COUNCIL  
CABINET – 6 MAY 2014**

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*Background Papers, if any, are specified at the end of the Report*

**COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP PLAN 2014-17 AND  
POSSIBLE MERGER OF THE TWO COMMUNITY SAFETY  
PARTNERSHIPS**

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**RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 1. That Cabinet consider the proposal to merge the Chiltern Community Safety Partnership with the South Bucks Community Safety Partnership.**
- 2. That Cabinet formally endorse the 3 year Community Safety Partnership Plan.**

**Report**

- 1 This report is to advise Members of the new Community Safety Partnership Plan for 2014-17 which will focus the work of the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) for the next 3 years.
- 2 This report also seeks a view from the Council in relation to a proposed merger of the Chiltern CSP and South Bucks CSP.
- 3 Currently Chiltern and South Bucks have separate CSPs, although since March 2013 one meeting has been held quarterly to deal with the business of both CSPs as many of the partners have responsibility for both the Chiltern and South Bucks areas.
- 4 The Council Community Safety teams for each district and the Local Police Areas (LPA) used to have responsibility for single districts and this meant the need for 2 independent CSPs. However, Thames Valley police has merged its 2 LPAs to become the Chiltern and South Bucks LPA and Community Safety is one of the first services to become a joint team as part of the councils' Shared Service Review.
- 5 These changes mean that there are very few organisations that attend the CSP and only have responsibility for one district. The housing providers are the only exception to this, and the joint meeting provides an opportunity for those organisations to learn from each other in relation to community safety related housing issues.
- 6 At the December CSP meeting a 'Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats' analysis (SWOT) was completed (see background paper **Appendix .1**). Each partner was required to obtain a view on whether the two CSPs

should become a single partnership. Feedback at the most recent CSP meeting from partners is positive and all will support a single partnership.

- 7 Although there are some differences in the community safety issues affecting the 2 districts, these are broadly similar, and there is no difficulty establishing joint priorities which are relevant for both districts.
- 8 If the CSP is to be merged the reporting of performance data will continue to be broken down to district level.
- 9 The CSPs do not hold their own funding. Funding is usually delivered via the Safer and Stronger Bucks Partnership, or through individual authorities who are part of the CSP.
- 10 The Safer and Stronger Bucks Partnership Board was requested to advise the CSPs whether funding would be affected by any merger. It was agreed at the board that there would be no impact in funding for 14/15 financial year, although the available funding is already relatively small and continues to reduce each year due to reductions in funding available to Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs).
- 11 If the merger is supported the partnerships must seek authority to merge from the PCC as required following enactment of the Police Reform and Social Responsibilities Act 2011.
- 12 The PCC has the authority to agree to the merging of 2 or more Community Safety Partnerships, if the partnerships request this be considered. The PCC is only able to do this where the responsible authorities wish to enter into such a combination agreement. The process for this simply requires a request from the partnerships which is sent to the PCC. The PCC will respond to this request and either give authorisation for the merger to occur, require further information, or refuse the request.

### **Community Safety Partnership Plan**

- 13 The Community Safety Partnership is required to have a 3 year Community Safety Partnership Plan, detailing work that will be done in partnership to tackle crime and disorder in the district. The current Plan will be completed at the end of March 2014 and this new Plan will take its place. (**Appendix .2**).
- 14 Strategic Assessment (SA) is required to be produced annually. This is a document which identifies trends from previous years and highlights potential issues in the year ahead using as much data as possible from all of the key agencies. Once the SA is produced, the information within it is used by the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) to review the existing priorities within the plan to ensure that they allow the partnership to focus on the identified key community safety issues. Actions, which will help to achieve the priorities, are then agreed.
- 15 The priorities identified by the CSP for the 3 year plan are:
  - Reduce house burglary, non-dwelling burglary, theft from vehicles, and violent behaviour in our communities

- Continue to invest in work to prevent and tackle anti-social behaviour in our communities
  - Protect vulnerable individuals and communities
  - Reduce the fear of crime and perception of anti-social behaviour
- 16 The Partnership Plan has been compiled by the Community Safety team following requests for contributions from all partners who constitute the CSP.
- 17 Whilst the general approach to the joint work of the CSP and individual actions has been identified in the plan, it is recognised that community safety concerns and issues change over time.
- 18 Although it is possible to predict general trends and the issues in community safety, which are likely to remain a priority for the partnership to tackle over the next 3 years, it is also recognised that sometimes new issues will arise or the prevalence of the issues dealt with may change as a result of a number of impacting factors. This may require the partnership to consider updating the plan to reflect changes in the work intended to be delivered. Therefore, although the plan will be agreed and finalised, it will remain flexible for the period that it covers.

#### **Changes to previous plan**

- 19 Since the last Plan was written we have seen an increase in activity focusing on child sexual exploitation (CSE). As a result of this, the new Plan focuses on safeguarding – particularly young people who may be at risk of CSE.
- 20 The plan for the next 3 years will be in the form of a combined document to cover both Chiltern District and South Bucks, this is expected to reduce the amount of time and resources required to maintain and co-ordinate the document in line with the combined meeting for the 2 partnerships, and a single Community Safety team for the 2 district councils as a result of the shared service review.
- 21 This report was considered by the Community & Environment Overview Committee on the 25<sup>th</sup> March 2014 and they were supportive of both recommendations.

**Background Papers:** *SWOT analysis, Draft Community Safety Partnership Plan 2014-2017*

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