

Item 6 – Community Safety Strategy & Action Plan 2015-16

The attached report was considered by the Housing and Community Safety Advisory Committee relevant minute extract below:

Housing and Community Safety Advisory Committee – 27 March 2015 (Minute 41)

The Chief Officer Communities & Business introduced a report which reminded Members of the Council's obligation under the Crime & Disorder Act 1998 to undertake an audit of crime and disorder in the district and to co-operate in the development and implementation of a strategy and action plan to tackle it. The most recent Strategic Assessment in November 2014 had identified the priorities as: domestic abuse; burglary; anti-social behaviour including environmental offences; substance misuse; vehicle crime; road safety; theft; and young people's issues. The report sought approval for the 2015-16 Community Safety Strategy & Action Plan, which responded to these priorities.

Officers advised that the clearing of fly-tipping currently took place through the Clean Kent Campaign, which was being dissolved. The Chief Officer Environmental & Operational Services was investigating how fly-tipping would be approached in the future.

The Community Safety Manager explained that the Community Policing team would be proactive in visiting Speed Watch sites and assisting in enforcement. Although the number of speeding offences in the district was not high, it was a priority for residents and the district had the most Speed Watch volunteers in the county.

Although early intervention was not a separate heading in the Action Plan, the Community Safety Manager confirmed that early intervention was included in the actions found in the Plan and several projects were based around early intervention for young people on the cusp of offending. In response to a question, Officers added that the Council had worked to engage with the Gypsy and Traveller community in particular by establishing a weekly advice surgery at its Hever Road site, using the HERO project and the 8 to 12s project, while West Kent Housing was active, particularly in Swanley.

Public Sector Equality Duty

Members noted that consideration had been given to impacts under the Public Sector Equality Duty.

Resolved: That it be recommended to Cabinet that the Community Safety Strategy & Action Plan for 2015-16 be approved.