

# Report to Stronger Communities Select Committee

**Date of meeting: 4<sup>th</sup> February 2020**



**Portfolio:** Community and Partnership Services – Councillor N Bedford

**Subject:** Epping Forest Community Safety Partnership Annual Strategic Assessment & Annual Report

**Officer contact for further information:** Caroline Wiggins – Service Manager Community Resilience

**Democratic Services Officer:** Jackie Leither (01992 564756)

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**Recommendations/Decisions Required: None**

**To note the attached Epping Forest Community Safety Partnership Annual Strategic Assessment and 2019 Annual Report**

## **Report:**

Community Safety Partnerships are required to complete an annual Strategic Assessment which is used to direct and guide their activities as responsible authorities, under the requirements of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.

A strategic assessment includes;

- an analysis of the levels and patterns of crime, disorder and substance misuse in the area;
- an analysis of the changes in those levels and patterns since the previous strategic assessment and why those changes have occurred;
- the matters which the responsible authorities should prioritise when exercising their functions to reduce crime and disorder and to combat substance misuse in the area including those considered priorities by local people; and,
- an assessment of the extent to which the partnership plan for the previous year has been implemented.

The Council's Community Resilience team works closely with Essex Police analysts to produce this document, which this year is a common template for all two-tier local authority areas. The strategic assessment for 2019-20 is attached for Members perusal.

The headline findings are as stated below:-

<b>All crime totals increased by 6% (638) compared to previous year</b>	This compared to a county increase of 16.8%. This includes nineteen victim-based crime types levels decreased this year and fourteen victim-based crime types increased. However, there were significant reductions in serious acquisitive crimes in the District.
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<b>Public perception of crime compared to the previous year</b>	Epping Forest indicated a reduced level in 5 out of 8 performance indicators. Public perception is influenced by crime neighbouring areas bordering other Police Forces and growth in negative social media comments. The issues cannot be addressed by the Epping Forest CSP Alone, although Essex Police are actively correcting negative social media comment to improve community perception of crime. The CSP is producing a crime prevention brochure during 2020 which will seek to address some of the negative public perception responses.
<b>Residential Burglary has reduced</b>	This issue has been a priority for the district and the directly funded Council Police Officers in conjunction with the Community Safety Team have been very successful in targeting and disrupting travelling criminals. Also, this success has been supported through active participation in a crime reduction project (Operation Meteor), social media engagement providing prevention advice and ensuring new developments achieve Secured by Design accreditation, the CSP has achieved a reduction in crime levels in this priority area.
<b>All crime: Epping Forest is slightly above the average per 1000 residents when compared with similar UK districts</b>	Epping Forest had 86.800 crimes per 1,000 residents which is slightly above the average of 83.985 across the Most Similar Grouping (MSG).
<b>Domestic Abuse is below the county district average</b>	Epping Forest indicated 22.16 crimes per 1000 adults which is below the county average of 26.95 crimes per 1000 adults.
<b>Theft of Motor Vehicle has increased compared to previous year</b>	This crime type has increased by 3% (20). High value vehicles are still the predominant type. However it is very encouraging that we have seen a reduction of 2.1% in all vehicle crime for the rolling 12 months to December 2019.
<b>ASB incidents recorded by Essex Police has decreased: ASB incidents recorded by EFDC have increased.</b>	There was a reduction of 14.2% (455) in incidents reported to Essex Police. Incidents reported to Epping Forest Council increased 15.9% (391). This may indicate a change in incident reporting practise.

Epping Forest District Community Safety Partnership Strategic Priorities 2019-20 are;

- VIOLENCE
- VULNERABILITY
- SERIOUS ACQUISITIVE CRIME

Further National Intelligence Model products are used to further define crime and disorder issues and a Problem Profile in relation to serious acquisitive crime has been commissioned from Essex Police. The findings are currently being reviewed to help direct our resources in addressing the priorities for the coming year.

As part of our assessment 'of the extent the Partnership Plan has been implemented for the previous year' the CSP has produced an annual report which is available for consideration.

**Options considered and rejected:** N/A

**Resource implications:** N/A

**Legal and Governance Implications:** N/A

**Safer, Cleaner, Greener Implications:** N/A