

# TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

## OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

10 October 2019

**Joint report of the Director of Central Services and Deputy Chief Executive together with the Director of Street Scene, Leisure & Technical Services**

### Part 1- Public

#### Matters for Recommendation to Cabinet

#### **1 REVIEW OF COMMUNITY SAFETY**

##### **1.1 Scoping report**

1.1.1 A scoping report was taken to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the 29 August 2019. A copy of this report and associated annexes is included in the Part 2 items on the agenda.

##### **Role of Community Safety Partnership (CSP) and Community Safety Unit (CSU)**

1.1.2 The Strategic work of the CSP is taken forward by the Community Safety Partnership (the body of organisations working together at a senior level). The day to day operational work of the CSP is carried out by the Community Safety Unit (CSU).

1.1.3 The CSU comprises mainly of Police staff but two Borough Council staff and a KCC Community Warden also work within the CSU. The CSU is based at the Borough Council's Kings Hill office. Further details about the strategic body (the Community Safety Partnership) and the Community Safety Unit (the operational work) are shown within the original scoping report detailed in Part 2 on the agenda.

##### **Partnership members of the CSP**

1.1.4 At the meeting on the 29 August 2019 Members asked for a representative from Kent Police and Clarion Housing to come along and speak to Members at the meeting on the 10 October 2019. The local Chief Inspector from Kent Police and the Tenancy Specialist from Clarion Housing have both accepted and will attend the meeting.

1.1.5 Members further asked the Head of Service for Licensing, Community Safety and Customer Service to consult with the Partners within the Community Safety Partnership. The following questions were sent out to all Partners:

**Q1 – How important is the Community Safety Unit (CSU) at TMBC within your day-to-day operation?**

**Q2 – What is the benefit of the weekly CSU meeting?**

**Q3 – What changes, if any, would you like to see to the operational set up within the CSU?**

**Q4 – Can you give some example of partnership working, which demonstrates the value of the CSU?**

1.1.6 The responses received from each Partner are shown at **Annex 1**.

**1.1.7 Number of accommodation stock by each Housing provider**

Members also asked for the number of housing units by each Housing provider to include in this report. The numbers are as follow (2018 data):

<b>Provider</b>	<b>No of housing units</b>
Almshouse Charity of Elizabeth Smith	10
Boorman's Almshouses	2
Clarion Housing	6564
Golding Homes Limited	165
Hanover Housing Association	14
Housing & Care 21	122
Hyde Housing Association Limited	199
London & Quadrant Housing Trust	50
Moat Homes Limited	274
MHS Homes	50
Orbit Group Limited	6
Orbit South Housing Association Limited	118
Places for People Homes Limited	21
Plexus UK (First Project) Limited	3
Sanctuary Affordable Housing Limited	3
Sanctuary Housing Association	71
Southern Housing Group Limited	237
The Hospital of the Holy Trinity Aylesford	14
The Riverside Group Limited	31
Tonbridge United Charity	6
Town and Country Housing Group	131
West Kent Housing Association	49
Total number	8,140

## 1.2 CCTV Provision

1.2.1 Section 1.2 and 1.3 of the Scoping Report (provided in Part 2 on the agenda) fully details the Council's current provision regarding CCTV including the locations of the cameras. As highlighted there are a total of 157 cameras, 67 are "live monitored" and 90 are "passive". The full cost of this provision falls to the Council. To fully understand the value of "live" monitoring as opposed to "passive" monitoring, members of the Committee may want to take the opportunity to question the speakers on the way the Police use this information, how often they rely on the different types of cameras, the value of the current locations of the cameras and the benefits of each type of system.

## 1.3 Legal Implications

1.3.1 Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 imposes a statutory duty upon the Council to exercise its functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that I reasonably can to prevent:-

- (a) Crime and disorder in its area (including anti-social and other behaviour adversely affecting the local environment);
- (b) The misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances in its area; and
- (c) Re-offending in its area.

1.3.2 The above duty also applies to Fire & Rescue Authorities and local Policing bodies.

1.3.3 The 1998 Act also imposes a separate duty on the Council, together with other Responsible Authorities, to formulate and implement a strategy to reduce/ combat the matters set out at (a) to (c) above.

1.3.4 The Council also discharges various other statutory duties through the Community Safety Unit. These include :

- The Council may be required to establish, or participate in a Domestic Homicide Review, under the provisions of Section 9 of the Domestic Violence, Crimes and Victims Act 2004. KCC currently run the Domestic Homicide Reviews on behalf of the Borough/ District Councils within Kent;
- Section 26 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act places a duty upon certain bodies (including the Council), in the exercise of their functions, to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into extremism;

- The Council has specific statutory duties under the Modern Slavery Act 2015 e.g. to notify the Secretary of State if it has reasonable grounds to believe that a person may be a victim of slavery or human trafficking;
- Under section 10 of the Children Act 2004, the Council is a 'relevant partner' of the County Council for the purposes of promoting the wellbeing of children and young people in the Borough. It is therefore under a duty to take part in arrangements to improve the wellbeing of children, defined by reference to 5 outcomes e.g. physical and mental health and emotional wellbeing, protection from harm and neglect. A separate duty exists under section 11 of the 2004 Act, under which the Council must, in the exercise of its functions, consider the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people.

1.3.5 The Council is under no specific statutory duty to provide CCTV cameras. The current arrangements are provided in support of our wider crime and disorder duties set out above, and as landowner (in respect of Council owned buildings and car parks).

## **1.4 Financial and Value for Money Considerations**

1.4.1 As set out in the scoping report in Part 2 on the agenda.

## **1.5 Risk Assessment**

1.5.1 Any reduction in the current level of service delivered by the Community Safety Unit, or through the provision of CCTV cameras, carries with it the potential to negatively impact upon the discharge of our statutory duties set out above or upon the safety & security of car parks/ other Council property.

## **1.6 Equality Impact Assessment**

1.6.1 If Members opt to make any changes to the current CSU provision, it is likely that an EqIA will need to be undertaken to assess the impact of the service change upon equality issues. This will need to be reported to Cabinet to allow the impact of any recommendations to be fully considered. It is not considered that the provision of CCTV is a function that impacts upon a specific group with protected characteristics in any different way to other end users and any service changes recommended by this Committee would have a remote or low relevance to the substance of the Equality Act.

## **1.7 Policy Considerations**

- Customer Contact
- Communications

- Community

## 1.8 Recommendations

1.8.1 Members are requested to consider the following Recommendations:

1.8.2 In respect to the Community Safety Partnership

1. Accept growth to the Council's budget and keep the provision of Community Safety Services at the current level of resource.
2. Seek to offset the cost of providing Community Safety Services at the current level of resource, by seeking savings to the provision of CCTV, if a CCTV saving option is chosen.
3. Reduce or discontinue the provision of Community Safety Services.

1.8.3 In respect to CCTV

1. Keep the CCTV operation as it is now with no change.
2. Provide passive only cameras with a saving of circa £100,000 contributing towards the Council's overall savings target within the medium term financial strategy (MTFS). Due to the existing agreement, 2 years written notice is required to be given. In the event that Members were minded to recommend this option, it is suggested that a further piece of work would then need to be undertaken to review the appropriate locations for passive only cameras.
3. Discontinue the existing CCTV Service with a saving of circa £215,000 contributing towards the Council's overall savings target in the MTFS (following the required 2 year written notice period).

Background papers:

None

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