

Braintree District Strategic Assessment & Crime and Disorder Annual Partnership Plan
Agenda Item 6(i)

Portfolio Area: Communities
Report Presented by: Cllr Wendy Schmitt, Cabinet Member for Communities

Background Papers: Annual Partnership Plan 2009;
Strategic Assessment 2009;
Crime & Disorder Act Review, January 2006;
Responsible Authority Group Minutes, Feb 2009;
Local Area Agreement 2;
Braintree District Council Local Area Agreement 2008;
Delivering Safer Communities: A guide to effective partnership working, pg 128.

Corporate Implications: Statutory requirements under the Crime & Disorder Act Review 2006. Each Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnership is required to undertake an Annual Strategic Assessment and refresh their Annual Partnership Plan.

Options: To support the decision made by the Responsible Authority Group (CDRP) agreeing the Annual Partnership Plan 2009.

Not to support the decision made by the Responsible Authority Group, or the Annual Partnership Plan 2009.

Risks: The undertaking of the Strategic assessment and subsequent production of the Annual Partnership Plan is a statutory requirement. The timescales for undertaking both pieces of work is heavily reliant and resource intensive for the Community Safety & Development Manager. Currently the Strategic Assessment does not include all the data that Braintree District Council should include within the assessment. The assessment is required to contain not just crime and disorder data, but also data such as environmental, public needs and desires, including corporate information such as data resulting in Local Committee priorities etc. For an all encompassing and meaningful Strategic Assessment, data from Braintree District Council (and other partners) needs to be available and forthcoming.

Executive Summary

This report covers the following:-

- 1) A summary of the statutory requirements under the Crime & Disorder Act Review (January 2006);
- 2) The purpose of Strategic Assessments and Partnership Plans;
- 3) The current position and experiences regarding the production of the second Braintree District Strategic Assessment;
- 4) The future approach to Strategic Assessments;

- 5) The priority areas of the Braintree District Strategic Assessment
- 6) The Braintree District Annual Partnership Plan 2009.

Decision

To support the decision made by the Responsible Authority Group (CDRP) agreeing the Annual Partnership Plan 2009.

Corporate Implications

Financial:	Undertaken within existing BDC & CDRP budgets	
Legal:	Compliance with statutory legislation.	
Equalities & Diversity:	Equality inclusive.	
Customer Impact:	Priorities identified through the Annual Strategic Assessment and the subsequent Annual Partnership Plan permits CDRP resources to be allocated to the thematic areas of need.	
Environment & Climate Change:	n/a	
Consultation/Community Engagement:	CDRP Responsible Authority Group	Partners & members of the Community
	Braintree District LSP Executive & Steering Group	
Key Decision:	No	
Public/Private Report:	Public	
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**BRAINTREE DISTRICT STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT & ANNUAL PARTNERSHIP PLAN
(Braintree Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP))**

1.0 Legislative Requirements

The Crime & Disorder Act Review 2006 brought in major changes to the way that the Crime & Disorder Partnerships across England and Wales were required to identify the priority themes for CDRPs to focus on.

Previously, three yearly audits of crime and disorder issues were undertaken, and a three year Community Safety Strategy was developed detailing the top priority issues and how these were going to be addressed by the CDRPs.

From 1st April 2008 the legislation saw the three yearly audits and Community Safety Strategy come to an end. The new requirements are for Strategic Assessments to be undertaken annually, which is to include not just crime and disorder data, but also data concerning quality of life issues.

2.0 Purpose of Strategic Assessments

According to Home Office Guidance¹, Strategic Assessments:

- Drive the business of the CDRP strategy group meeting
- Aid and support strategic business planning and resource allocation
- Inform the CDRP strategy group of the issues likely to affect the partnership in the coming year and recommends which should be a priority
- Assists the agreement of partnership priorities.

3.0 Purpose of Partnership Plans

The Partnership Plans set out the key priorities for the area, based on the Strategic Assessment, and how the members of the CDRP will work together to reduce crime and associated issues in the area in the coming year. The Plan is subject to yearly review. The Plan needs to be approved by each of the statutory partners and a summary published by 1st April of each year.

4.0 Braintree CDRPs Approach

Collectively across Essex the twelve CDRPs are working with ECC in developing the ENIMS project (Essex Neighbourhood Information Management System). This will be a central data sharing warehouse where agencies can provide the data and pull data from the system to aid the strategic assessment process. A pilot for this project has been run in Brentwood, and the specification is being updated and shortly ECC will be going out to tender. This project is unlikely to be fully up and running until the latter part of 2010/11.

Previously, the undertaking of the former three year audit was always outsourced to a consultant due to capacity and capability issues within the CDRP. Hence, for the first and second Braintree District Strategic Assessments, the Braintree District CDRP agreed to fund the outsourcing of the statutory work to consultants.

This is the second year of Strategic Assessments. For the two years the CDRP have employed the services of Priority Research to undertake the assessment on their behalf. For the second year running, the consultants were unable to produce the strategic assessment in the necessary timescales. This has been costly and the quality of information received has been determined as not as cost effective as it could be. Hence, the CDRP is in the process of recruiting a part time analyst who will undertake the Annual Strategic Assessment as well as provide analytical support and advice to the priority thematic groups. This will provide partners with a wider range of data

¹ Delivering Safer Communities: A guide to effective partnership working, pg 128.

sets and increased holistic mapping of data across the themes, making the CDRP even more efficient and effective in the continuation of addressing and reducing crime and disorder issues across the Braintree District.

5.0 Priorities resulting from the Braintree District Strategic Assessment

The Braintree Strategic Assessment did not identify any new priority themes for the Braintree District.

The Partnership Structure has been developed taking into account issues that require dedicated special resources and to ensure that our CDRP continues to be an effective, proactive and well respected partnership.

The following are the areas that have been highlighted through the Strategic Assessment and also form the Essex LAA2. These priorities form the Annual Partnership Plan (see Annex I), with the continuation and creation of existing and new innovative projects and ways of working we will continue in being successful in reducing crime and disorder across our District. The plan and priority themes have been agreed by the Braintree District Responsible Authority Group (RAG). The Priorities for the Braintree District (not in any particular order), are as follows:-

- **Youth Offending & Disorder (Prolific & Priority Offending & Young People as Victims of Crime)**
- **Anti-Social Behaviour (including Criminal Damage)**
- **Substance Related Crime & Disorder (Alcohol & Drugs)**
- **Hate Crime (Racial, Homophobic, Faith Transphobic, Faith Related, Sectarian, Disabilities)**
- **Domestic Abuse**
- **Road Safety**

6.0 Conclusion

The Braintree District Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnership remains one of the highest profile and effective partnerships across Essex. Recently our CDRP has become the best in their Family Group of similar CDRPs (Home Office IQuanta statistics). The Strategic Assessment did not raise any priority themes that the partnership has not been addressing, hence, the focus of resources are being allocated to the right areas. The Partnership has always taken the strategic approach and decision to work on longer term projects and initiatives maximising and mainstreaming resources. This is evident by the continued reduction in end of year crime and disorder statistics that are published by the Home Office on a yearly basis. Hence, it is recommended that Cabinet support the Braintree District Annual Partnership Plan 2009.