

Housing, Health and Communities Committee Meeting	
Meeting Date	20 January 2026
Report Title	Swale Community Safety Priority Setting Consultation
EMT Lead	Emma Wiggins, Director of Regeneration
Head of Service	Charlotte Hudson, Head of Housing and Communities
Lead Officer	Steph Curtis, Strategic Policy and Communities Manager
Classification	Open
Recommendations	1. That the Housing, Health and Communities Committee provide feedback to Swale Community Safety Partnership (CSP) to inform its priority setting process for 2026/27.

1 Purpose of Report and Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report provides an overview of the Swale community safety strategic assessment process and asks the Committee to provide feedback on the current CSP performance as well as any emerging issues it feels the CSP may need to focus on.

2 Background, Context and Proposals

- 2.1 The Swale Community Safety Partnership (CSP), of which Swale Borough Council is a statutory partner, is required to complete a strategic assessment annually. Also, section 19 of the Police and Justice Act 2006 requires local authorities to have a crime and disorder committee with power to scrutinise the decisions and actions of the CSP in their area.
- 2.2 The purpose of the strategic assessment is to provide an understanding of community safety problems within the borough, in order to inform and help determine partnership priorities for the following year. It includes a performance assessment against the current priorities; discussion around emerging issues; and consideration of wider threats and opportunities that may impact upon the work of the CSP.
- 2.3 The strategic assessment, along with information from partners will be considered by the Swale CSP Executive Group at their meeting in late January 2026 once the assessment is completed. This group will agree the Community Safety Priorities for 2025/26 and the Community Safety Plan will be revised based upon this. The overall priorities have not changed for a number of years, but the specific focus within these has been amended.

- 2.4 Part of the process of compiling the strategic assessment is to review previous performance of the CSP. Part of this is a data exercise, with data being supplied to the CSP for this purpose throughout December. Additionally partner agencies are asked to submit their own views on the current performance of the partnership and any emerging community-based issues they feel the CSP should now prioritise.
- 2.5 Due to the Scrutiny function of this Committee, the CSP would welcome views on the Committee feel the Partnership is currently performing against its current priorities and any emerging issues Committee members feel they should be tackling.
- 2.6 Appendix 1 provides an overview of work of the CSP during 2025/26 and some key statistics as of September 25, which was presented to the Swale Community Safety Partnership Executive Group at their meeting in October 25. The Community Safety Plan and current priorities are published online at <https://swale.gov.uk/your-council/strategies-and-policies/community-safety-plan>.

3 Recommendations

- 3.1 That the Housing, Health and Communities Committee provide feedback to Swale Community Safety Partnership (CSP) to inform its priority setting process for 2026/27.

4 Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

- 4.1 To not provide any feedback to the Swale Community Safety Partnership: This isn't recommended as members of the Committee have a good understanding of issues facing the local community which may not fully be known by other agencies and are required to undertake a Scrutiny function through the Police and Justice Act.

5 Consultation Undertaken or Proposed

- 5.1 Consultation on the community safety priorities will take place with the CSP at their meeting in February 2025, with opportunities for partner agency participation in the strategic assessment process to take place prior to this.

6 Implications

Issue	Implications
Corporate Plan	The community safety strategic assessment supports the Communities priority.

Financial, Resource and Property	There are no additional finance, resource or property implications in completing the community safety strategic assessment. Resource is in place within the Community Safety Unit to create the document and assist the Community Safety Partnership in its priority setting process and refresh of the Community Safety Plan.
Legal, Statutory and Procurement	The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 gave agencies a duty to work together to tackle crime and disorder. Responsible authorities, which include district/borough councils, must work together to formulate and implement a strategy for the reduction of crime and disorder in the area. The Police and Justice Act 2006 updated the Crime and Disorder Act 98, expanding the number of responsible authorities and placing a duty on them to share evidence based data and carry out frequent strategic assessments. Section 19 of this Act also requires local authorities to have a crime and disorder committee with power to scrutinise the decisions and actions of the CSP in their area.
Crime and Disorder	The contribution to the Swale community safety strategic assessment by the Communities and Leisure Committee will assist in ensuring that the priorities considered by the CSP are as reflective as possible of those crime and disorder issues faced by our communities.
Environment and Climate/Ecological Emergency	Environmental ASB/crime is recognised within the current ASB priority for the CSP and partnership working to tackle this has remained an area of focus for the last number of years.
Health and Wellbeing	The existing community safety priorities contribute to the health and wellbeing of the community by ensuring there is a partnership response in place to many issues that may affect this agenda specifically around domestic abuse and supporting vulnerable people.
Safeguarding of Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults	The existing Swale community safety priorities are closely linked to the safeguarding agenda. Swale BCs safeguarding policy and domestic abuse policy sit alongside the community safety plan and associated action.
Risk Management and Health and Safety	No specific implications on risk management or health/safety have been identified at this stage
Equality and Diversity	No specific implications on groups with protected characteristics have been identified.
Privacy and Data Protection	The Swale community safety strategic assessment is a partnership document, but its completion is led by Swale BC on behalf of the

	CSP. Data is shared with the CSU staff completing this through the Information Sharing Agreement from partner agencies. Some data shared has restrictions placed upon it (particularly from the Police) and this limits how widely the final assessment can be shared
Local Government Reorganisation	The community safety plan is refreshed annually and at this stage, would not be implicated by LGR. When new unitary councils come into being, the community safety plan could be refreshed to reflect the new geographical area.

7 Appendices

- 7.1 The following documents are to be published with this report and form part of the report:
- Appendix I: Swale Community Safety Partnership Strategic Leads report October 25

8 Background Papers

Swale Community Safety Plan 2025/26 - <https://swale.gov.uk/your-council/strategies-and-policies/community-safety-plan>