

Report to the Council

Committee: Cabinet **Date:** 20 April 2010
Subject: Community Safety and Transport
Portfolio Holder: Councillor S-A Stavrou **Item:** 6 (c)

Recommending:

That the report of the Portfolio Holder for Safer Communities and Transport be noted

Overall crime levels within the District remain lower than last year but recent weeks have seen an increase in crimes such as millennium burglaries (i.e. entering properties with the intention of finding car keys to steal a car). However, given the difficult economic circumstances, keeping overall crime levels below that for 2008/09 is a creditable performance for the Community Safety Partnership and Epping Forest District still remains a low crime area and a very safe place to live and work.

April has brought with it some significant changes to the responsibilities of Community Safety Partnerships, most notably the requirement for CSPs to take responsibility for reducing re-offending rates. This goes hand in hand with the Probation Service now having statutory status on CSPs, although in our case the Probation Service has always had a seat on the CSP Strategy Panel.

The two special Crime & Disorder Scrutiny meetings were very successful although attendance by the general public was disappointing. The Strategy Panel will look to see how it can encourage greater public participation in these meetings and in setting future priorities.

Completion of the three parking reviews remain outstanding, which is disappointing. The delays are due to a combination of resourcing issues at County Highways and the sheer weight of responses which have had to be managed and collated. The draft schedules for the Traffic Regulation order (TRO) for Epping is now with the County's legal department with a view to advertising shortly. This will of course trigger another round of public comment which will need consideration. Given the time these reviews have taken, the associated significant costs and the fact that it is almost impossible to obtain a consensus view on outcomes even after multiple consultations, once these reviews are complete I intend to seek Cabinet's reaffirmation of its current policy on future parking reviews.