

Housing, Health and Community Committee Meeting	
Meeting Date	Thursday 3 rd July 2025
Report Title	Member appointments to Swale Community Safety Partnership (CSP)
EMT Lead	Emma Wiggins, Director of Regeneration and Neighbours
Head of Service	Charlotte Hudson, Head of Housing and Communities
Lead Officer	Stephanie Curtis, Strategic Policy and Communities Manager
Classification	Open
Recommendations	<p>The committee is recommended to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To nominate and appoint a second Member to the Swale Community Safety Partnership, for the duration of their term of office. 2. To agree mechanism by which this committee and the Community Safety Partnership escalate any appropriate concerns to the Kent Police and Crime Panel.

1 Purpose of Report and Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report asks the Committee to nominate and appoint a second Member to the Swale Community Safety Partnership for the duration of their term of office; and to consider the proposal for a standing agenda item for the committee to discuss points of escalation for the Kent Police and Crime Panel.

2 Background

- 2.1 Swale CSP is a statutory body bringing together a number of public sector agencies to tackle crime, disorder, anti-social behaviour, substance misuse and reduce re-offending. These agencies include Swale Borough Council, Kent County Council, Kent Police, Kent Fire and Rescue Service, Probation services, and Health services, working closely with the local housing associations such as Southern Housing, voluntary and community sector organisations and HM Prison Service.
- 2.2 As the Council is a statutory partner of the CSP, Members and Officers have sat on the CSP Executive Board. The CSP is a strategic group and the Member appointed will be able to relay concerns of this nature affecting Swale residents. It is not a forum where operational ward-based concerns can be discussed.

- 2.3 In 2009, councils were given powers to scrutinise CSPs through provision made in the Police and Justice Act 2006. Within the Cabinet system this function sat with the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. This function now sits with the Community and Leisure Housing, Health and Communities Committee and it should be noted that this will form part of the representatives being scrutinised rather than being part of the committee for this function.
- 2.4 In September 2024, it was agreed by the Communities and Leisure Committee that Members be appointed to the Community Safety Partnership for the duration of their term of office for consistency and Councillors Tom Nundy and Hannah Perkin were agreed as the Member representatives.
- 2.5 Following Councillor Perkin becoming Chair of the Housing, Health and Community Committee, due to the scrutiny function of the overall committee and the role the Chair plays as part of this, a replacement Member representative for her needs to be agreed.
- 2.6 The Chair of the Housing, Health and Community Committee is also an invited representative for Swale Borough Council on the Kent Police and Crime Panel and there is an opportunity for a question to be submitted on our behalf at each Panel meeting, which must be strategic in nature. This panel provides a scrutiny function to the Police and Crime Commissioner. Discussions have taken place as to how Swale Borough Council can best engage with this Panel and the question submission process.
- 2.7 The Kent Police and Crime Panel meets more frequently than this Committee and the meeting timings do not always coincide clearly. It is therefore proposed that as per the table below, that this Committee along with the CSP determines the agreed question to be submitted.

Police and Crime Panel Meeting Date	Who determines question to be submitted
October 14 th	Housing, Health and Communities Committee at July meeting
December 16 th	CSP to determine
February 5 th	Housing, Health and Communities Committee at January meeting
February 19 th	CSP to determine
April 23 rd	Housing, Health and Communities Committee at March meeting

3 Proposals

- 3.1 To nominate and appoint a second Member to the Swale Community Safety Partnership, for the duration of their term of office.
- 3.2 To agree mechanism by which this committee and the Community Safety Partnership escalate any appropriate concerns to the Kent Police and Crime Panel.

4 Alternative Options

- 4.1 To not appoint a second member to the CSP - Officers sit on the CSP as well as Councillor Tom Nundy who was previously appointed to the CSP by the committee in September 2024 for his term of office and therefore the statutory duties would be covered.
- 4.2 To not add a standing agenda item in relation to CSP updates and escalation points to the Kent Police and Crime Panel – the Chair of the committee has the remit to be able to take questions to the Panel without the input of the committee.
- 4.3 To consider alternative proposals for the Committees engagement with the scrutiny of the Kent Police and Crime Panel.

5 Consultation Undertaken or Proposed

- 5.1 These are routine appointments to existing arrangements, so no consultation has been undertaken or is proposed beyond asking committee for their nominations and what length term the appointments should be for.

6 Implications

Issue	Implications
Corporate Plan	This supports the community objective - To work as part of the Community Safety Partnership to delivery priorities to address domestic abuse, crime, and disorder, ASB and support vulnerable people.
Financial, Resource and Property	No implications identified at this stage
Legal, Statutory and Procurement	No implications identified at this stage
Crime and Disorder	The CSP is a strategic body which sets priorities for tackling crime and disorder within the borough.

Environment and Climate/Ecological Emergency	No implications identified at this stage
Health and Wellbeing	The CSP links with health and wellbeing activities
Safeguarding of Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults	The CSP focuses and delivers services and projects that support vulnerable individuals.
Risk Management and Health and Safety	No implications identified at this stage
Equality and Diversity	No implications identified at this stage
Privacy and Data Protection	No implications identified at this stage

7 Appendices

None.

8 Background Papers

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

Kent Police and Crime Panel meeting dates can be found at <https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?CId=776&Year=0>