



Buckinghamshire County Council
Select Committee
Environment, Transport and Locality Services

Date: Tuesday 13 May 2014

Time: 10.00 am

Venue: Mezzanine Room 2, County Hall, Aylesbury

AGENDA

9.30 am Pre-meeting Discussion

This session is for members of the Committee only. It is to allow the members time to discuss lines of questioning, areas for discussion and what needs to be achieved during the meeting.

10.00 am Formal Meeting Begins

Agenda Item	Time	Page No
1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE / CHANGES IN MEMBERSHIP	10.00am	
2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST To disclose any personal or disclosable pecuniary interests.		
3 MINUTES Of the meeting held on 8 April 2014 to be confirmed as a correct record.		1 - 16



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



4 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

This is an opportunity for members of the public to put a question or raise an issue of concern, related to Environment, Transport and Locality Services. Where possible, the relevant organisation to which the question/issue is directed will be present to give a verbal response. The member of public will be invited to speak for up to four minutes on their issue. A maximum of 30 minutes is set aside for the Public Questions slot in total (including responses and any Committee discussion). This may be extended with the Chairman's discretion.

For full guidance on Public Questions, including how to register a request to speak during this slot, please follow this link:

<http://www.buckscc.gov.uk/about-your-council/scrutiny/get-involved/>

No public questions have been received for this meeting

5 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

For the Chairman of the Committee to provide an update to the Committee on recent scrutiny related activity.

6 TRADING STANDARDS

10.10am 17 - 24

Members will receive a briefing on the recent work, activity and approach of the service area. Members will also consider proposed plans to create a Joint Trading Standards Service with Surrey County Council providing the opportunity for the Committee to provide its views and comments prior to a decision that may be made in October 2014.

Amanda Poole, Trading Standards Manager
David Pickering, Team Leader Trading Standards
Steve Ruddy, Surrey County Council

Papers

- Trading Standards update
- Appendix – Food authenticity

7 COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

10.40am 25 - 28

Members will discuss the Committee's work programme and proposals for future items with input from The Strategic Director for Communities and the Built Environment.

Neil Gibson, Strategic Director for Communities and the Built Environment

Papers:
Committee Proposed Work Programme

8 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING 11.00am

The next meeting is due to take place on Tuesday 17 June 2014 in Mezzanine 2, County Offices, Aylesbury at 10.00am. There will be a pre-meeting for Committee Members at 9.30am.

Future meeting dates for 2014

Tuesday 2 September

Tuesday 14 October

Tuesday 18 November

11.00AM

CLOSE OF THE MEETING AS THE ENVIRONMENT, TRANSPORT AND LOCALITY SERVICES SELECT COMMITTEE

11.05AM

MEETING OF THE ETL AS THE DESIGNATED CRIME AND DISORDER COMMITTEE

9 OPENING COMMENTS FROM THE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN 11.05am

In accordance with the BCC Constitution, the Environment, Transport and Locality Services Select Committee shall also sit as the designated Crime and Disorder Committee and will hold the countywide Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (known as the Safer Bucks Partnership) to account for the decisions it takes and to take part in joint reviews with District Councils of District Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships.

10 CRIME AND DISORDER ANNUAL UPDATE 11.10am 29 - 52

Members will receive the statutory annual update from the County Council's crime and disorder reduction partnership; The Safer and Stronger Bucks Partnership. They will review partnerships progress over the past year against the plan and consider the priorities for the coming year providing their views and comments on the plan.

James Sainsbury, Acting Safer and Stronger Bucks Partnership Manager

Papers:

Crime and Disorder information paper

Draft Safer Bucks Plan

11 CLOSE OF THE MEETING 12.00pm

Purpose of the committee

The Environment, Transport and Locality Services Select Committee shall carry out scrutiny functions for all policies and services relating to environment, transport and locality services, including: Environmental sustainability; Planning & development; Transportation; Road maintenance; Locality services; Community cohesion; Countryside services; Waste, recycling and treatment; Trading standards; Resilience (emergency planning); Voluntary & community sector; Drugs and alcohol issues; and Crime and disorder and crime and disorder reduction partnerships (community safety partnerships).

In accordance with the BCC Constitution, the Environment, Transport and Locality Services Select Committee shall also sit as the designated Crime and Disorder Committee and will hold the countywide Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (known as the Safer Bucks Partnership) to account for the decisions it takes and to take part in joint reviews with District Councils of District Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships.

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For further information please contact: Sharon Griffin or Maureen Keyworth on 01296 383691 / 3603; Fax No 01296 382538; Email sgriffin@buckscc.gov.uk / mkeyworth@buckscc.gov.uk

Members

Mr W Bendyshe-Brown

Mr T Butcher

Mr D Carroll (VC)

Mr W Chapple OBE

Mr D Dhillon

Mr P Gomm

Mr S Lambert

Mr W Whyte (C)



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Buckinghamshire County Council
Select Committee
Environment, Transport and Locality Services

Minutes

ENVIRONMENT, TRANSPORT AND LOCALITY SERVICES SELECT COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT, TRANSPORT AND LOCALITY SERVICES SELECT COMMITTEE HELD ON TUESDAY 8 APRIL 2014, IN MEZZANINE ROOM 2, COUNTY HALL, AYLESBURY, COMMENCING AT 10.00 AM AND CONCLUDING AT 12.00 PM.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr W Bendyshe-Brown, Mr T Butcher, Mr D Carroll (Vice-Chairman), Mr P Gomm, Mr S Lambert and Mr W Whyte (Chairman)

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Mrs L Clarke OBE, Ms N Glover, Ms S Griffin (Secretary), Mr D Jones, Ms J King, Mr M Phillips, Mr D Sutherland, Rachel Toresen and Ms K Wager

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE / CHANGES IN MEMBERSHIP

Apologies for absence were received from Bill Chapple and Dev Dhillon.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on the Wednesday 4 March 2014 were agreed as a correct record subsequent to the following changes;

Community Transport Schemes in Bucks
Page 13 – Leader to be amended to LEADER

Matters Arising
See attached document



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4 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There were no public questions.

5 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman reported the following;

A working group of the Environment, Transport & Localities Select Committee met to develop the scope of the review of public transport.

He had recently attended a Parliamentary seminar on Scrutiny which a very informative session. Discussions took place with other scrutiny chairman from around the country and how they approach scrutiny. Some sessions with the Parliamentary Scrutiny Committee related to the Department of Communities and Local Government, which touches on some of the work being carried out by this Committee. The Committee clerk gave some very useful information on how they structure their sessions and how they deal with evasive answers from Ministers and senior members of staff. There was also the opportunity to see a meeting of the DCLG Select Committee on Financial Devolution to Regions. A summary of key points is to be circulated to Committee Members.

Action: Chairman

Value for Money – TfB for Bucks Contract

The report of the ETL Select Committee went to Cabinet in January. It was disappointing to learn that the Value for Money review has not commenced. It is hoped there will be an interim update in May with a view to reporting back in June on Value for Money review. The Value for Money contract will commence after TfB have completed their own internal audit.

Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)

KPIs were another issue of the TfB review. Some useful meetings to discuss KPIs took place before Christmas. A further meeting has taken place since the ETL Select Committee meeting in March, with another meeting due at the end of April. One useful development is the improvement of the transparency in how the KPIs are developed with members, officers and the contractor.

EU & external funding for transport issues

A further meeting took at the end of April. The ELT Committee agreed to keep the Local Enterprise Partnerships in mind during discussions.

Input is being given into the annual report for all of the Select Committees to advise work that has been undertaken during the last year.

6 LIBRARY SERVICES IN BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

The Chairman welcomed Martin Phillips, Cabinet Member for Community Engagement, David Jones, Service Delivery Manager, Julia King, Development Manager, to the meeting.

An information paper was circulated with the agenda.

The following questions were asked;

The report sets the position and current situations for the Library Services following recent changes. What is the County Council's long term vision and aspiration for future of the Library Services for the next 5-10 years and are there plans in place for this? Mr Phillips explained that the library service is currently going through a 4-5 year transformation

which has just passed the halfway point. The management structure was looked at a couple of years ago, followed by the community libraries and how library services were delivered in Bucks. One of the commitments made was made not to close any libraries unless the community did not want them.

There has been a review of the mobile library services in Buckinghamshire to see how this can be delivered more effectively. This includes the use of community shops and pubs etc within the smaller villages and hamlets of Buckinghamshire i.e. an order of books being delivered by a small van to a shop/pub which would be a better use of resources. The next part of the review is to look at the retained library service to see how the number of volunteers can be increased whilst maintaining a professional staff.

There has been a change in the way that libraries are used which the County Council has to react to i.e. the move to increased self-service and check in/check out of books, better IT resources and the sharing of library buildings with other services. There are a couple of libraries in Buckinghamshire where the police force is sharing the facility. Health checks have taken place in Libraries. The Health and Wellbeing Team have used 26 locations and health checked 1825 people. 3 locations were BCC libraries at which 835 residents were seen. This equates to 46% of those seen in the 26 locations.

What is the succinct vision/concept for Library Services? The succinct vision is reacting to the market and making better use of the buildings in the next 5-10 years.

To what extent it is feasible to roll out the community library service even further i.e. using other community buildings and what are the opportunities and risks for this model of delivery? Mr Jones explained that points 1-6 in the report give an analogy of model - looking at county and community as a complimentary partnership. At the moment there is a very clear relationship of the support given in the county which in turn influences the success of the community. The scaled up of a model is i.e. in the biggest and busiest community partnerships in Wendover and Gerrards Cross, begs the question of whether the dynamic in terms of the number of volunteers, the range, volume and complexity of the transactions would be successful. The plan at the moment in terms of future savings is to invest in self-service technology, to continue to ensure that the county can adequately support the community but also to use volunteers in an added value context and continue to generate efficiencies.

Working with other partners, how can the Authority get the best use of the facilities and services? Mr Jones referred members to section 8 of the report which describes the variety of agendas that the county library service can contribute to i.e. digital inclusion, Health and Wellbeing, employment skills and particular areas of importance and attraction for elderly people. We need to remember that with Community Library partnerships, there is a transaction or contract of sorts about liaison with the council to support the delivery of a service to reduce greater cost. This goes hand in hand with greater freedoms that the community can then use to shape and define that library in line with their needs. This is slightly at odds with a co-ordinated, high quality, skilled approach which allows the county council to contribute to some of those agendas. The county offer is starting to be defined now in terms of those agendas. Mr Phillips added that another area of partnership being looked into is that similar to the business hub in Chesham – the provision of a conferencing within the library for businesses in the Chiltern area as well as a free meeting room and office space for hot desking. It is hoped that this model will be rolled out across the county.

How much work has taken place to look at opportunities to develop and share premises with local businesses to run a community library? Mr Phillips explained that talks have taken place with the police and other groups and they also have the need to save money. The County Council and organisations can work together to make these joint savings.

Mr Jones added that during work to implement the community library partnerships, there was a very high profile consultation which in turn provoked a lot of interest, in particular from Thames Valley Police. There are some existing partnerships for example children's services. However; a concerted proactive approach in terms of targeting particular agencies has not been rolled

out. In some respects, there is almost an abundance of opportunities. Over the last five years the Council has reacted to significant financial challenges and a lot of time and effort has been invested in delivering a new model. Work needs to take place to look at the contribution the Council would most like to see and what that might be in terms of the role out of the business, business hubs in libraries and using these as the face of the Council to co-locate other services, drive down costs and bring the Council closer to the community. At the moment it is felt that this is where there is no clear direction of travel.

The national trend for public libraries since 2006 is visits to libraries and book borrowing nationally has dropped. The challenge is for public libraries to consider services and to look at where else they can bring value and make the effective contribution to the overall priorities of the Council. The final section of the report (section 11) gives a number of scenarios and the direction of travel.

Page 16 of the report outlines what the key facts and trends were in 2013/14. The Committee asked if there were some figures available to put these into context. Has this information been prepared for the meeting today? Mr Jones explained that figures are available. The guide for the members induction 2013 which includes 2012/13 data can be circulated to Committee Members.

Action: Mr Jones

The headlines for the key facts in the report are;

Physical visits – the estimate for 2013/14 is 1.7 million, last year 12/13 1703.

The most recent national trend data from the Chartered Institute of Professional Financial Accountants (CIPFA) shows;

12/13 shows the national trend in terms of number of visits reduced by 6%; book issues are down by 5% (the national trend is 9%); active members reduced by 5% (national trend data 9%); new members up by 18% to 18,500 members (14,675 in 2012/13). This could be related to the pricing strategy for IT usage. The first hour of IT usage is now free for members of the library. The number of visits to libraries catalogue page are static; access to online reference materials – the figures are slightly down; online issues i.e. e-books – an increase of 168%; public computer sessions - an increase of 28%.

Nationally there is an increase of 88% in the use of e-books. These statistics tell of a new and emerging market that public library services are beginning to respond to. Although only 3% of the overall issues are library stock; nevertheless these are exponentially increasing at a very sharp rate.

The level of the report is commended. How is the level of public satisfaction of the library service monitored/measured i.e. regular surveys, public awareness sessions etc.

Mr Jones explained that library services tended to conduct a standard customer survey every four years which has been rolled out nationally and allows comparative data to be pulled together for all library services nationally. The requirement from the current Government to produce this data has changed. Many library services now no longer carry out this survey. Buckinghamshire County Council plan in the year ahead to continue to carry out informal surveys but a comprehensive county wide survey has not been rolled out for several years. In the previous year a survey for computer users was carried out to find out what they were using the computers for and if they were happy with the offer being provided. There is an informal customer comment and complaint procedure in place as well as a focus from managers and frontline staff to engage with customers informally in developing and improving the service. There is the need to roll out a countywide customer services survey which is planned in the year ahead. The results of the survey can be reported to the Committee.

Action: Mr Jones

Is there engagement with those who run the community libraries to ask what is being done well, what is being done badly and what could be done better and regular forum to communicate and liaise? Mr Jones explained that regular review meetings take place with all of the community libraries. A member of staff has specifically been recruited as part of the community library strategy to offer a supporting role particularly in terms of training. Each

county library has a role in terms of informal buddying support to ensure the community libraries have clear information in terms of first points of contact and resources available for training. There is member of staff within the Information Services team who visits community libraries to deliver sessions on 24 hour on line resources and e-books etc. A children's co-ordinator goes to each community library to invite and involve them in our summer reading challenge. Library services that previously felt challenged by the community libraries have a renewed and revised approach to supporting community libraries and are now vocal champions of the service.

Has a Committee been set up to act as governance for community libraries and what parameters do community libraries operate within?

Mr Phillips explained that the Community Library has a Committee and a group of volunteers. Mr Jones added that there is a Resource Grant arrangement in place whereby the County Council seeks to support and direct but not control, to include but not to coerce. This has been quite a challenge for the County Council in terms of a cultural shift of staff etc as this is quite a new model. There is no precedent nationally in terms of what has been done. Self-managed community libraries are invariably 'not for profit' organisations constituted as charities. They have their own internal governance. The Resources Grant Agreement will require transparency and equity. The County Council concern is that the organisation should be an inclusive and fair organisation. For models where there are a number of different reasons where formal lease arrangements or Resource Grant Arrangements have not been entered into, there are Partnership agreements which define the clear roles and responsibilities.

Does the County Council insist that community libraries must be a charity so there is a public record of finances and trustees? Before taking forward the report for a Cabinet Member decision, all of the Committees were required to submit a business plan. BCC does not insist that a Community Library constitutes as a charity but invariably all of them have elected to be a 'not for profit' organisation in one form or another.

How is the co-location with other services working and is there governance in place? Mr Jones explained that governance arrangements take place through the lease which makes a provision for co-location. In Haddenham the community library is co-located with a children's centre and in Great Missenden, Thames Valley Police. With the children's centres, a demised space is created through the lease. A lease is entered into with the Community library for the building with the exception of the area used for children's services. This area would be a separate lease.

The community library and business hub in Chesham are mentioned in the report. Is this model going to be rolled out and are the services financially viable? Julia King explained that Chesham Hub is run in partnership with Bucks Business First and they have the model already operating in Saunderton. As part of the work the County Council does with BBF in terms of them signpost their members to the library for some of our professional business resource, the dialogue started from their desire to operate hubs outside Saunderton. As part of the work being done with Chesham partnership to bring different bodies to work together, Chesham seemed to be the key starting place for libraries to work with Bucks Business First. They are keen to look at other areas i.e. in the North of the county. The library service will take this forward with BBF to see if the Chesham hub can be replicated in a library in the north of the county i.e. Buckingham library

Future challenges have been mentioned in the report but not how savings will be delivered. The report refers to an increased income of only £10,000 per year which does not seem a huge amount. Is there more scope to increase income? Self-service organisational change savings of £450,000 are also referred to in the report. Are these figures realistic; does this pose a threat to the service or is it an opportunity to improve the service. Mr Jones explained that the report summarises the last four years in terms of £1m. The County Council is very proud of the track record as there has not been a reduction

in opening hours and no libraries have been closed. Eight of the community libraries have increased their opening hours and over £1m of savings has been generated year on year in terms of net expenditure by remodelling.

There is the further challenge of saving another £500,000 in the next three years. A period of formal staff consultancy on proposals for organisational change will begin on the 29 April 2014. This will be the stretching of the management span of the county structure and the de-layering of the management structure for the county library. It should be possible to deliver in the region of £200,000/£300,000 savings though by necessity having a bold approach to the transformation of the management structure. It is hoped that more flexible, more casual staffing arrangements will be introduced in the following years. Section 11 of the report refers to future shape/governance. Having plans in place for another £500,000 of savings, the library service might need to consider either new governance arrangements such as a staff mutual, a trust or a co-operative approach or the County Council may want to consider a network of community venues which could be the core around which other County Council services are co-located.

This is a very good opportunity to use libraries and other premises owned by Bucks County Council as hubs around which other Council services can be clustered, bringing the Council closer to the Community. Mr Phillips said that in the North of the County one option being considered is retraining/reskilling library staff to act as a 'contact point' in those areas.

Mr Jones referred to the national trend which is a year on year decline in the number of library book borrowing and physical visits, libraries attract a huge emotional, social and community support which can sometimes be out of proportion to the level of use the service. A way of continuing to deliver the traditional services that are very popular needs to be found i.e. co-locating could represent a way forward in terms of sustainable library services.

The Chairman thanked the presenters for explaining the report and for their response to the variety of questions and the very useful discussion.

Comments made by the Committee

- There is a lack of clarity of the vision and commitment for the future plan in terms of what the library services is, and could be and the governance process.
- An understanding of how the financial challenges are being used to drive a vision for the new library
- An understanding of the overriding strategy of the transition to a new library service

The Committee agreed the following;

1. The Cabinet Member/Service Area design and plan a long term strategy and vision for the future of library services, including more of a strategy on how budget changes will be dealt with.
2. Develop more defined objectives over how the council library services can work in partnership with other organisations (e.g. co-location opportunities/community hubs) and proactively pursuing opportunities in a coordinated way.
3. Provide the committee with an update in 6 months on the longer term plan for the future of library services over the next 5 years and incorporating the points above.

7 CARBON MANAGEMENT PLAN AND ENERGY STRATEGY

Lesley Clarke, OBE, Cabinet Member for Planning & Environment, Netta Glover, Deputy Cabinet Member for Planning & Environment, David Sutherland, Sustainability Manager & Rachel Toresen-Owuor, Energy Manager were welcomed to the meeting.

The Cabinet Member explained that Buckinghamshire County Council has been looking at its energy consumption, for buildings in particular. Savings are beginning to be made and water consumption is now being looked into for the first time. The consumption figures can be presented to the Committee if required.

In response to the question about fracking raised in the letter dated 4 February, Lester Hannington, Lead Officer for Waste and Minerals Planning has compiled a document entitled 'frequently asked FAQ's concerning on-shore oil and gas development which is on the BCC website. The Government is about to issue the 14th licensing round for fracking. Buckinghamshire County Council will look into fracking once the details of where the licences are going to be given are known. The Minerals and Waste Strategy will also be updated. Details can be found via the following web link;
<http://www.buckscc.gov.uk/media/1789957/Buckinghamshire-Fracking-FAQs-note.pdf>

We may have fracking in Buckinghamshire but the county does not have the right shale clay that is easily used. There is one license at the moment for exploration around Windsor Castle which ends this year. Fracking has not started in this area as yet. BCC are well aware of having to ensure that that energy efficiency projects are started.

Ms Toresen-Owuor outlined the following salient points of the report;

The Carbon Management Programme and the Energy Strategy are two different strands of work but they will come together as BCC move towards Future Shape as a transformation plan for energy in Buckinghamshire.

Carbon Management Programme (CMP) looks at energy consumption and

- BCC is focussing on its own estate and energy consumption (including schools). This is primarily energy efficiency projects, with some renewables (biomass boiler programme).
- The Plan will help the Council to achieve a 10% absolute reduction in CO₂ by April 2017 compared to 2011/12 emissions
- BCC are a mandated participant in Phase 1 of the Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC) Energy Efficiency Scheme, which requires reporting of energy consumption and purchase of allowances for CO₂ emissions. Phase 1 of the scheme ends in July 2014.
- Reporting on carbon reduction and the Greenhouse Gas to the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC). This is not statutory but all Local Authorities are expected to report.
- Reports to Carbon Management Board, Property Board and COMT.
- Invest to Save projects funded using Salix ringfenced fund, MTP capital bids, corporate energy efficiency reserve.
- Upgrade the street lights to LED lamps on the A & B roads and the installation of a biomass boiler this summer

The Energy Strategy looks at what measures Buckinghamshire can take as a county and includes;

- A countywide strategy, developed in partnership with District Councils and stakeholders.
- Focussing on opportunities for community owned energy generation projects, and overcoming barriers to implementation of energy schemes.
- Aims to increase long term energy security and local supplier competition and secure economic social benefit to the residents and businesses in Buckinghamshire.
- Governed by NEP, with LEP interface for securing funding.

The two strands of work run in parallel to transform the way the energy usage is looked at across Buckinghamshire with the overarching vision of becoming much more energy resilient and that the communities will benefit.

During the update the following questions were asked;

Is it possible to clarify the statutory obligations the County Council is under in terms of its Carbon Management Plan and Energy Strategy? Ms Toresen-Owuor explained that the Authority is a mandatory participant of phase 1 of the Carbon Reduction Commitment Energy Efficiency scheme which ends in July. Participation is mandated by law under the Climate Change Act 2008 to report our energy consumption to Government and to purchase allowances for the carbon emissions as a result of that energy consumption. The CMB plan is not mandatory; however it makes good business sense as increasing the energy efficiency of the property portfolio and operations saves money. The Authority is not mandated to set targets or develop an energy strategy but is exploring the potential for income generation i.e. solar and wind power and bio mass installation. There is also the opportunity to generate income by looking at the potential to setting up as an Energy Services/Supply Company.

The report makes reference to the Carbon Management Board and the Property Board. Is it possible to have further information on who sits on each of the Boards and their Terms of Reference? Ms Toresen-Owuor advised that that Terms of Reference for the Carbon Management Board (CMB) have just been reviewed the Terms of Reference. The CMB is chaired by Lesley Clarke and supported by Netta Glover. The Board has representation from all service areas across the Authority (Place, Transport for Buckinghamshire, Adults and Family Wellbeing etc). The TOR and Membership list can be circulated to Committee Members.

Action: Ms Toresen-Owuor

What anticipated barriers are seen for the implementation of the energy schemes i.e. the lack of renewable spaces in the county? The Cabinet Member explained that energy consumption as a whole needs to be looked into in greater detail. There are many of ways to increase how things are being done at the moment. One possibility BCC is considering is setting up its own Local Authority Trading Company. A visit has been arranged to a community solar/wind farm in Wiltshire.

Are there any anticipated barriers in terms of thought processes, rules, regulations or other bodies? The Cabinet Member said it is about knowledge, knowing who to contact and where financial assistance/ grants can be levered in from. Page 58 gives details of the various renewable energy projects being looked at i.e. bio mass. Talks have taken place with the National Trust as they run a bio-mass facility in Hughenden (Chiltern Woodlands Business) as well as using other areas in the portfolio i.e. wood from parks and the land. There is the need to look at the way things can be done differently.

Mr Sutherland explained that as a county, Buckinghamshire generates 3% of its energy from renewable sources. From an energy resilience point of view, Buckinghamshire is very open to market volatility in terms of prices rises. There is a shift in market appetite around how do things differently. The Authority has looked at own estate first. The agricultural estate is being looked at in terms of how it can generate energy itself i.e. the installation of a bio-mass boiler in Black Park in the summer and using the wood from the estate to become self sufficient in heat.

70% of the housing stock in Buckinghamshire is poorly insulated. In terms of planning, there is the need to ensure that a carbon footprint reduction is built into the planning and approval of all new housing stock.

What projects is the Energy Strategy focussing on? Ms Toresen-Owuor advised that an activity register for the Energy Strategy has yet to be developed. A fact finding visit to Westmill Solar Park, Wiltshire is taking place at the end of April.

The Cabinet Member added that BCC would like to start to become perhaps an energy company to provide cheaper energy to residents of Buckinghamshire. There are lots of buildings where solar panels could be installed, Photovoltaic (PV) noise barriers alongside motorways could be looked at as well as the Energy for Waste plant and the benefits that could be obtained from this. There are a lot of measures which could be taken where a reduction in income and the carbon footprint could be seen.

Ms Toresen-Owour reported that she had recently attended the Carbon Trust Public Sector Conference and BCC received an award in recognition of being a leading public sector organisation participating in terms of tackling carbon.

Mr Sutherland explained that when the bio-mass boilers are installed, the Authority will be selling heat as part of the programme and will also be generating an annual income of about £180,000 from the Renewable Heat Incentive. With regard to schools, in the last year as part of the CMP energy efficiency projects were prioritised. Across the education portfolio a two year insulation programme in local schools has just been completed. This should generate savings of around £140,000 per year.

A new primary school is being built in Buckingham through S106. What steps will be taken to ensure that the school meets the energy new requirements? When BCC commissioning new buildings, are they demanding what is expected of existing stock?

The Cabinet Member explained that planning rules and regulations state a certain standard.

Mr Sutherland added that in the Sustainability Action Plan that went to Cabinet in March 2013, the aspiration was for new builds to be BREAM 'very good' standard.

What are the risks of setting up an Energy Service company, how it is proposed this will be done and what is the strategy.

The Deputy Cabinet Member explained that BCC are currently investigating the possibility of setting up an energy company. Bio-mass issues are being looked at i.e. Black Park hoping to become energy efficient. The Authority is starting to look where it can bring in income. One way is making sure that businesses, schools and the Authority's own buildings are energy efficient. District Councils have the opportunity of cavity wall filling and loft insulation but there are issues with helping residents to empty their loft. How this issue can be overcome needs to be looked into.

There should be caution about setting up an energy company as EfW may not generate enough money to subsidise someone else's fuel.

Mr Sutherland explained that all the projects under the CMP are looked at as part of a business case in terms of are they driving savings for the Authority. When the baseline figure was put together in 2011/2012, it was calculated that about £11m was being spent on energy across the property portfolio. If no action was taken, this would rise to about £18m by 2017. The biomass boilers being installed this summer will generate around £180,000 per annum in renewable heat incentive for the Authority.

The work being done is commended. How does the County Council promote and communicate with residents to get their buy-in into the energy schemes?

Mr Sutherland explained that the Authority runs a Community Energy Champion scheme where volunteers from the community are trained in energy i.e. the use of heat guns with the idea of them being champions in their community regarding energy. The scheme has been very successful from a small start. More than 60 volunteers have been trained to use and promote energy schemes and equipment.

Ms Toresen-Owuor added that Community Energy Champions scheme was initially funded using the Big Society funding. The three year funding programme is now coming to an end. With regard to engagement in the Energy Strategy, at the workshop held in February for stakeholders, there were representatives from active community groups i.e. the Low Carbons Chilterns Co-operative and Save Aylesbury Vale's Environment who would cascade information. The Community Energy Champions are also able to help other members of the

community understand their own energy bills. A lot of effort is put into good links which focus on energy efficiency.

Is there information about the Community Energy Champions Scheme on the BCC website? Ms Toresen-Owuor said the BCC webpage is currently being updated to include pictures and case studies of the energy projects.

The Energy Strategy is not on the website at the moment. The next drafting session for the Energy Strategy is in May. It is hoped that a version of the Energy Strategy will be ready for public consultation in June.

What is the Natural Environment Partnership (NEP), what is BCC's role with the NEP, and what is the relationship between the NEP and the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP)? The Deputy Cabinet Member explained that the NEP looks after environment matters with other agencies and is run by Bucks Business First from offices in Saunderton. The NEP has recently lost Partnership Manager. Vicky Wetherall has been appointed as the interim Partnership Manager and is currently working on a business/community plan and State of Play report as well as priorities and funding sources. There is also the need to explore how the NEP and LEP liaise in terms of funding possibilities. Various District Councils contribute £4,000 and the Local Authority has contributed £25,000 towards the running of the LEP. The official launch of the NEP and an analysis of what has happened in the first year have been delayed due to the Partnership Manager leaving the organisation. There is a meeting next week to discuss the future of the NEP.

Mr Sutherland added that the NEP originated from the Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture network of Local Nature Partnerships to bring together organisations in the county who have an interest in the environment under one governance body and to take forward any issues on the natural environment in a collegiate view.

The report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the effects on Local Government needs to be looked at as part of the Committee Work Programme. Mr Sutherland explained that work has taken place in terms of looking at the risk to Council Services and how they can adapt to extreme weather and climate change.

The Chairman said it would be good if the Bernwood Forest concept became part of an energy reduction scheme in terms of new woodland.

Ms Toresen-Owuor reported that a discussion has taken place with David Green on the potential for the Bernwood Forest zone and the possibility of prioritising the agricultural estate in that area.

The Cabinet Member invited Members of the ETL Committee to be involved in the development of the Energy Company.

The Chairman thanked the presenters for their very informative update.

8 COMMITTEE WORK / ITEM PROPOSALS

Members were referred to the following;

Public transport inquiry

The Committee Inquiry Draft Proposal paper examines what is the Council's aspiration for public transport in Bucks for 2010 (page 93 of the agenda). The proposal gives details of the task and scope of the inquiry which has been broken down into the following three stages;

Stage one

To identify, examine and review the Council's current policies, transports landscape, budget allocation and funding challenges in relation to public transport

Stage two

To understand what the future of public transport may/should look like. This stage could begin by exploring and identifying what the future needs and demands are likely to be, examine the options available, and the options available for the use of transport funding to meet the needs of Bucks residents. This could also consider the wider impacts of the county's growth and connectivity and the interplay or not of other reviews.

Stage three

Findings and recommendations

Following discussion, the Committee agreed the following;

- Home to School Transport is to be included in stage one of the inquiry
- Evidence sessions are to be set up over 1-2 days in June/July to include witnesses and the Committee. Meeting dates are to be confirmed.

Action: Policy Officer

Crime and Disorder Committee remit and relationship with the Police and Crime Panel

The Committee information and Proposal Paper outlines the role of the Environment, Transport and Locality Services Select Committee as the designated statutory Crime and Disorder Committee and consider the relationship between the Committee and the Police and Crime Panel.

Mr Gomm declared an interest as he is Chairman of Crime Stoppers.

Mr Carroll declared an interest as he is the Assistant Police and Crime Commissioner for Thames Valley Police Authority.

Concern was expressed that various acts of Parliament were enacted at different times i.e. the 2006 Act was before the advent of the Police and Crime Commissioner.

The following comments were made and questions asked;

- The ETL Select Committee should only fulfil their statutory obligation.
- What is the membership of the partnerships shown on in the chart on page 100?
- There is a distinct difference between policing and Community Safety. There needs to be a better understanding of how the County Council works in relation with the District Council in Community Safety Partnerships

The Policy Officer explained that the statutory obligation of the ETL Committee is to review and scrutinise the County's Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (the Safer and Stronger Bucks Partnership) and the work of the Partnership as a whole.

The Committee agreed that they would meet as the Crime and Disorder Committee at the 13 May Environment Select Committee meeting. The ET: Committee will receive the annual statutory update and review the Safer and Strong Bucks Plan (the Council's Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership).

9 PAPERS FOR INFORMATION

Members noted the Daws Hill Travel Link – Consultation Material paper which has been submitted for information.

10 COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

Members were referred to the proposed work programme for the Committee.

The Policy Officer advised that the 2014/2015 work programme will be available after the AGM. Key issues/items have been requested from Cabinet Members and Service Directors and Strategic Directors of portfolios that fall within the remit of the Environment Select Committee which will allow for longer term planning of the work programme. This will be confirmed at the May meeting of the Committee.

Action: Policy Officer

11 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is due to take place on Tuesday 13 May 2014 in Mezzanine 2, County Offices, Aylesbury at 10.00am. There will be a pre-meeting for Committee Members at 9.30am.

Future meeting dates for 2014

Tuesday 17 June

Tuesday 2 September

Tuesday 14 October

Tuesday 18 November

CHAIRMAN

ETL - Action Update from 4th March Committee

Green Deal Actions – Alexandra Day:

The details of those who are prepared to pay or borrow finance versus free delivery related to the market analysis of customers preferences are to be circulated to Committee Members.

Previous national energy efficiency schemes have involved free or heavily subsidised measures with instances of low uptake, therefore it is logical to question whether schemes like Green Deal, which are not ordinarily free or subsidised (Green Deal Cash Back is available until June 2014 and additional ECO funding is available to eligible householders and properties), will have any interest from consumers. It is important to recognise that Green Deal Together, the local authority-backed community interest company will offer whole house or single measure packages which can be financed in the number of ways; Green Deal finance is just one option. The following points are from a Consumer Focus report exploring the barriers to uptake of free or subsidised schemes and some consumer reaction to up-front or split payment schemes:

- Free measures remove the barrier of upfront cost completely for consumers with a primary finance motivation
- Promoting an entirely or partially free scheme can lead to challenges
- Free schemes can raise suspicion; “there must be a catch” attitude
- It may lead people to devalue measures and assume that it is something not worth paying for which in turn lowers up take
- DECC’s research on consumer attitudes showed that 33% of people had a preference to pay the cost up front

Green Deal Together will be looking at the recommendations from this report and others research to inform the consumer offer and marketing.

Source: What’s in it for me? – Using the benefits of energy efficiency to overcome the barriers, Consumer Focus June 2012

<http://www.consumerfocus.org.uk/files/2012/06/Whats-in-it-for-me-IA.pdf>

The list of measures that the consumer can get under the Green Deal is to be circulated to Committee Members.

A Green Deal Assessor explains the measures suitable for a householder based on the property and how the occupants use energy. The Assessor will run calculations to indicate modest estimate of energy savings per measures and whether Green Deal finance is available for the package of measures that are suitable for that particular householder. The list below summarises the measures available to householders;

Heating measures:

- Condensing boiler (gas or oil)
- Fan-assisted storage heater
- Flue gas heat recovery device
- Heating controls (e.g. remotely controllable thermostats, zone controls, smart radiators valves)

- Warm-air unit
- Hot water measures:
- Hot water cylinder jacket
- Cylinder thermostat
- Waste water heat recovery devices for showers

Insulation measures:

- Cavity wall insulation
- Solid wall insulation
- Draught proofing
- Loft or roof insulation
- Room in roof insulation
- Under-floor insulation

Windows and doors:

- Replacement glazing
- Secondary glazing
- High performance external doors

Micro-generation and renewables:

- Air source heat pumps
- Biomass boilers and heaters
- Ground source heat pumps
- Micro wind generation
- Micro Combined Heat and Power (CHP)
- Water source heat pumps
- Solar water heating
- Solar Photovoltaics

Source: Gov.uk – Green Deal <https://www.gov.uk/green-deal-energy-saving-measures>

Update on the financials and background information on the decision to set up the Green Deal Together Community Interest Company.

All details are in the [Cabinet Report on Green Deal Community Interest Company](#).

Local Enterprise Partnerships – Stephen Walford:

An update on the list of schemes that the LTB prioritised is to be circulated to committee members.

<http://democracy.bucksc.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=786&MId=5658&Ver=4>

An update on Local Enterprise Partnerships has been added to the Work Programme for October.

Community Transport

Angie Sarchet: Members invited to attend a co- design workshop to review and plan community transport from a multi-agency perspective. Date to be confirmed.

What is the Maximum amount of funding that can be applied for from the community transport challenge fund AND can applications still be made for LEADER (EU) funding?

- The maximum amount for the Challenge fund is £30K but at a recent meeting the panel now have discretion on projects if they fall above or below the threshold limit; if they are considered good schemes.
- The LEADER fund in theory could have been used as match funding; however, LEADER have now allocated all of their money and they are saying that they will not be open for any new funding until January 2015, so in reality that source of funds is not an option.

An urgent update is needed on the contract in terms of negotiations and financial decisions - clarification of the funding streams - what it the Community Transport hub achieving and is it achieving value for money.

Andy Clarke (BCC): From my point of view the Hub fulfils a valuable function as it is the only way the public can access CT information but we will need to review the price based on current call volume.

Paul O'Hare: In regards to the transport hub, funding is in place until the end of June 2014. We have worked out internally at CIB that to keep the hub running as it is, and to include some more promotional work (because as discussed at the select committee, there are very few repeat calls because people are building a relationship with the scheme that they are referred to) it will costs £10k per year to run. This is because the initial set up and ground work has been undertaken. In the current funding model, 50% is funded by BCC the other 50% is funded by the NHS. If the levels of calls remain the same then for a total cost of £10k the cost per call would be approximately £29. If we do a promotion push then we should expect more calls and therefore the cost per call would be lowered.

In regards to funding and discussions with the NHS, my service director, Diane Rutter, is pulling together a proposal and will be following up with the NHS soon on this, but no further dates have been set with them up until now. They have suggested that we go through their various charitable trusts to get this funded. Diane will also be following this up from a county perspective as well.

In answer to your overall comments (evaluation, monitoring, value for money); we are in the process of pulling together the quarterly report for Jan – Apr of the Hub. The report is not ready yet but will forward through once it is. An evaluation of the

whole project will take place during the next quarter (Apr – Jun) as this will be the last quarter of the hub. Discussions are expected to take place during the next three months, and from our perspective the value for money question should be looked at in relation to our quotation of ongoing costs for the hub. We have suggested £10k per year to keep it going (i.e. until end of June 2015) and is £10k value for money in the future, it is hard to quantify, but considering we are dealing with people at crisis point and/or the most vulnerable you could consider that it is. Also if we continue with 50/50 split of funding then the question for BCC would be is £5k value for money for the hub for next year, as that is the amount BCC would be contributing? I certainly don't see a situation where BCC will be contributing 100% of the costs of the hub, given the high proportion of health related calls.

The Cabinet Member for Transportation is to be contacted for a definitive answer.

Action: Policy Officer



Buckinghamshire County Council Select Committee

Environment, Transport and Locality Services Select Committee

Report to the Environment, Transport and Locality Services Select Committee

Title:	Trading Standards Update
Committee date:	13 th May 2014
Author:	Amanda Poole
Contact officer:	Amanda Poole, 01296 383612, apoole@buckscc.gov.uk
Report signed off by Cabinet Member:	Martin Phillips, Community Engagement
Electoral divisions affected:	All

Purpose of Agenda Item

This item is being brought to the Select Committee for two purposes. Firstly the paper is for information. It contains background information about the recent work and approach of the Service. It is also being brought to the Select committee as consultation and to seek the committee's views prior to a decision that may be made in October 2014 to create a Joint Trading Standards Service with Surrey County Council.

Background

Trading Standards is a complex Service, enforcing some 80 Acts of parliament and hundreds of sets of subordinate Regulations across a wide range of issues from fair trading, fraud and scams, through consumer safety, health and wellbeing, to the health and welfare of animal livestock. Within this there are numerous pieces of legislation which place a duty on the Local Authority to enforce them. The extent to which a LA needs to go to in order to satisfy the duty is not specified in any of the legislation, though it would be reasonable to assume that as a minimum it would require consideration of allegations made by the public and businesses regarding alleged offences and the investigation of them as appropriate. The range and complexity of legislation enforced requires a high level of professional competence to be maintained regardless of the size of the service.

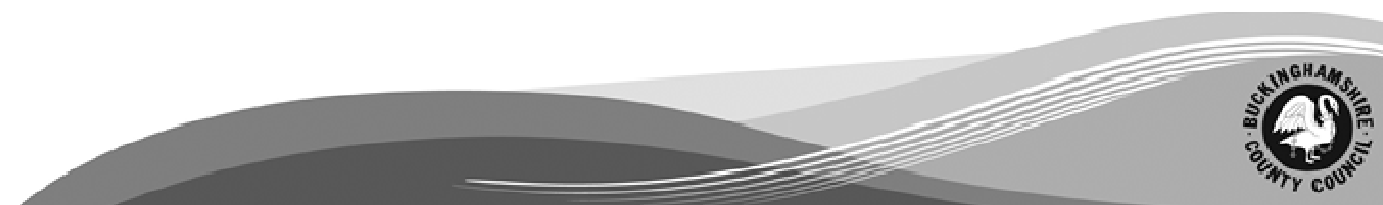


The Trading Standards Service operates within a wider “consumer landscape”. For example:

- The Food Standards Agency (FSA) aims to protect consumers from unsafe food and from food fraud and to protect the integrity of the food chain (particularly through overseeing the integrity of feeding stuffs i.e. the feed given to animals that will later be for human consumption). The response to the Horsemeat scandal in 2013 was overseen by the FSA, although this since has been subject to two reviews (one internal one external led by Professor Elliot) as it was perceived that it may be possible to learn from how the scandal had been responded to.
- The Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) has a significant role in the health and welfare of livestock, reducing the risk of animal disease outbreak and ensuring that any spread is more limited than in the Foot and Mouth outbreak of 2001.
- National Trading Standards (NTS - previously the National Trading Standards Board) has overtaken some of the functions of the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) which is no longer in existence. NTS has direct funding from The Department for Business, Innovations and Skills (BIS) to provide some consumer protection functions. For example BIS, through the NTS, funds (amongst other things) a national Illegal Money Lending Team, a national Scams Hub, a national Ports project and several regional Scambusters Teams. The NTS also funds work with a national or (through the scambusters teams) regional dimension. In the past two years Buckinghamshire County Council has received at least £60k of resources from these routes to investigate trading practices that went beyond Buckinghamshire’s borders.
- The Trading Standards Institute (TSI) is the professional membership organisation for Trading Standards Officer’s. It lobbies for changes in legislation which its membership believes would improve the consumer protection landscape, and raises awareness of relevant issues to government and through the media. Following some research earlier in the year, very recently TSI released a report highlighting the level of cuts to Trading Standards Services across the Country. The report showed that in the life of the current parliament the average cut to a Trading Standards Service will have been around 40%.
- The Association of Chief Trading Standards Officer’s is a subset of TSI though can, and does, take different policy views and approaches as the membership of this group are acutely aware of wider Local Authority issues and are less narrowly focused on Trading Standards. Buckinghamshire Trading Standards assisted with this groups’ response to the horsemeat scandal, and particularly developing a nationally coordinated response if a similar event was to happen in the future.

In the past year the Service has developed three areas to maximise the impact of the Service:

- A stronger intelligence-led approach, to target resources at those issues leading to greatest detriment (financial, safety, health and wellbeing). For example, we have used mapping techniques to target information and enforcement action to areas highlighted



as potential doorstep crime hot-spots. This intelligence led approach has generally taken over from the more resources intensive 'testing the market' approach that the Service used to operate. Traditionally Trading Standards would test purchase, inspect and sample things to establish if there were problems. There was a feeling in government that this placed unnecessary burdens on businesses and legislation, codes of practice and guidance have been gradually introduced which make this approach more difficult and sometimes impossible. Coupled with reducing resources we now limit our use of this. However we do occasionally still use it where we believe that residents would not necessarily see the problems themselves and therefore we would not get intelligence indicating a potential issue. Our most notable use of this is the food authenticity sampling and testing that we have undertaken in the past year with additional funding from Council.

- A wider, and therefore more effective, approach to investigations. In July 2013 a Thames Valley Police Officer joined us on secondment for a year. It has recently been agreed that this arrangement will continue for a further year (to July 2015). In late 2013 we successfully recruited an Accredited Financial Investigator who joined the Service (on a permanent contract) in February 2014. These two additional capabilities allow us to identify and tackle some criminals causing significant detriment who previously were beyond our reach and capability. For example, where we find out about a doorstep crime after the event, this now allows us faster access to forensic identification (such as through fingerprint analysis) and to trace where any cheques or bank transfers were made to. In the last few weeks this has enabled us to start an investigation into a doorstep fraud where the victims have lost around £1m which in the past would have been beyond our capabilities.
- Developing a new 'volunteering arm' to increase the reach of the Service into local communities. We now have 32 volunteers, who contributed 394 hours of work to the service in the last financial year doing a wide range of work including: providing intelligence on rogue trader incidents and animal welfare issues; providing preventative advice to vulnerable residents; assisting at consumer education events; supporting investigations e.g. through typing up witness statements, compiling questionnaires, letter writing and creating databases and spreadsheets; trialling call blocking technology; and looking out for illegal alcohol and other unsafe goods.

These three developments enable us to maximise the impact of the resources we have whatever the Service's size; however it doesn't address the fundamental challenges of reducing resources particularly around knowledge availability, robustness and resilience.

Summary

The Trading Standards Service is looking to develop a landmark first "strategic alliance" between Buckinghamshire County Council and Surrey County Council through creating a Joint Trading Standards Service to be overseen by a Joint Committee.

The development of a Joint Service with Surrey would allow a positive approach to meeting increasing financial pressures and the new consumer protection landscape, including greater national focus on cross border issues. The suggested way forward sits well with



considering alternative delivery vehicles and being commercially minded being brought to life through the Future Shape programme.

The desired outcomes of the Joint Service are:

- Sharing expertise and best practice and creating greater resilience and robustness to cope with unforeseen challenges such as animal disease outbreaks and large scale investigations.
- Building on the successes and innovation within the current services to maximise the potential benefits (including income generation)
- Reducing costs through operating jointly, including sharing resources and eliminating duplication (though not co-locating)
- Creating a significantly larger profile collectively for BCC and SCC TS on the regional and national scene; having the potential to become the most influential Trading Standards service in the South East and indeed nationally; enabling Surrey and Buckinghamshire to have more impact on government consumer and business regulation policy.
- Creating a sustainable model that could be developed further to deliver services for other LAs, or one in with which other services may seek to join

Resource implications

The aim of the Joint Service financially is to respond to current resource reductions outlined in the Medium Term Plan's for both Buckinghamshire Trading Standards and Surrey Trading Standards. It is also to put the Joint Service in the best possible place to generate further income in the future which may be needed to offset additional financial pressures which are not yet known.

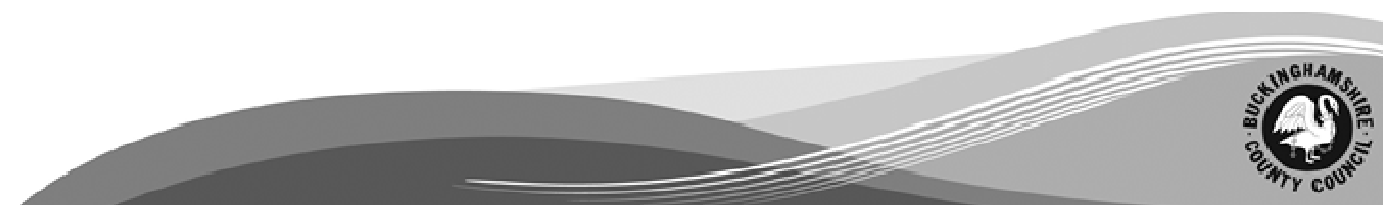
There will be a cost associated with developing an agreement to underpin the Joint Committee which both authorities are satisfied with. Whilst the costs should remain manageable from within current Service resources, if extensive negotiation is required the costs will increase and may lead to an overspend.

Next steps

Consideration of the Business Plan and underpinning agreement, and decision whether to go ahead is expected to occur at the October Cabinet Meeting.

From now until early October we are seeking views that will help us to develop the idea and the business case further, such that it takes into account views raised and responds adequately so that an informed decision can be made in October. During this time, the project is being overseen by a Board comprising Members and Officers from each of the two Local Authorities (this includes Cllr Martin Phillips and Phil Dart from BCC).

If a positive decision is reached, the aim would be to fully create the Joint Service to enable a go-live from 1st April 2015.



Appendix A: Combatting Food Fraud and ensuring authenticity

In April 2013, in the wake of the horsemeat scandal and associated food fraud issues, the Council agreed to give Trading Standards an additional £50,000 to use to ensure food sold in Buckinghamshire to consumers was genuine. We have used intelligence and information available to us to target areas where we thought issues were most likely.

This is a summary of our work carried out with the additional funding.

Fish Species

Historically cheaper white fish has been substituted for the more expensive Cod.

19 fish samples from Fish & Chip Shops / Restaurants actually found to be the fish they were described as.

Durum Wheat

A bad harvest led to suspicions of substitution with common wheat. Durum Wheat Pasta should contain no more than 3% common wheat.

Only 1 in 13 samples taken was found to have more than 3% common wheat. A national wholesaler supplied Durum Wheat Pasta with 6% common wheat to a Buckinghamshire Retailer. Trading Standards are investigating the wholesalers.

Basmati Rice

Basmati sells for 2 to 3 times the price of ordinary long grain rice.

15 samples of Basmati Rice were found to be satisfactory.

Olive Oil

A bad harvest led to suspicions of substitution with other oils.

13 samples from a range of retail outlets found no substitution, but a number of labelling issues have been taken up with the importers.

Meat Species

26 different meat takeaway products were sampled.

1 sample had undeclared BEEF in a Lamb Doner Kebab;



2 samples had undeclared LAMB in Burgers;

9 samples had undeclared CHICKEN in Lamb Doner Kebabs.

Initial investigations suggest wholesalers sell correctly labelled products, but the takeaway outlets may be ignorant of how to describe these at point of sale and are misleading customers.

Aflatoxin Contamination (Poisons of Fungal Origin)

15 samples were taken looking for the toxins which indicate fungal growth in the product prior to import. These toxins are highly undesirable and can cause liver damage.

2 samples were unsatisfactory due to the presence of Aflatoxins

1 sample was unfit for human consumption and upon further investigation by this service a product recall was instigated; a revisit is planned to ensure future compliance.

1 sample is being investigated by Trading Standards where the importer is based.

5 samples had minor labelling problems.

Soft Drinks Survey

We took part in a national survey looking for the presence of Benzoic Acid and Southampton Colours (linked to hyperactivity in children). The results generated media interest:-

3 satisfactory samples;

2 samples with excess Benzoic Acid and labelling issues;

5 samples with labelling issues.

Fruit Juice from Concentrate

A complaint was received that the majority of importers of concentrated fruit juices were adding more water than was taken away when reconstituting. The results from 115 samples of a wide range of juices at first seemed to substantiate this claim. However on further investigation it was found that allowance needed to be made for the presence of Citric Acid in some of the juices which would skew the results.

Polish Meat Products



A small sample of 5 meat products originating from Poland were sampled. All were found to have labelling issues and these are being dealt with.

Water content of Frozen Chicken – 5 samples taken; 4 satisfactory, 1 pending result

Ground nut powders at importers

In recent years we have seen incidents where adulteration of almond powders with cheaper peanut powder has resulted in incorrect allergen information being provided and has resulted in reports of severe allergic reactions following consumption or in some cases death.

6 samples taken all were found to be satisfactory for allergenic ingredients but 4 had other labelling issues. As well as testing their ground nut powder, we have also made our largest wholesaler of this sort of product aware of the issue.

Ethnic takeaway meals

26 samples have been taken from ethnic restaurants checking for allergenic ingredients and for meat substitution. Officers indicated that they were allergic to peanuts and one other allergenic ingredient. We have had 21 of the results back so far and 3 have been found to be unsatisfactory for the presence of allergenic ingredients of soya and egg. None have had peanuts in them so far.

We will be continuing to do further work this year relating to allergens: ensuring the disclosure of allergenic ingredients; and also ensuring sufficient descriptions are applied to products at the small catering establishments. A legislation change at the end of the year will give us more powers to tackle problems without resulting in prosecution as we will be able to issue notices prohibiting the sale and supply of products that are not compliant with the legislation. We will endeavour to do this work with our colleagues in Environmental Health.

Children's Ready Meals Survey – 20 samples taken, all results pending

This is an overview if you would like more details please contact Trading Standards

Environment, Transport and Locality Select Committee Proposed Work Programme

Committee	Date	Topic	Description and Purpose	Attendees
Environment, Transport and Locality Services	13 May 2014	Committee Work Programme 2014/15	For the committee to receive a report outlining key issues/areas from the service areas to be included on the annual work programme.	Committee information paper
	13 May 2014	Trading Standards Update	Members will receive a briefing on the recent work, activity and approach of the service area. Members will also consider proposed plans to create a Joint Trading Standards Service with Surrey County Council providing the opportunity for the committee to provide its views and comments prior to a decision that may be made in October 2014.	Amanda Poole, Trading Standards Manager.
	13 May 2014	Crime and Disorder	Members will receive the statutory annual update from the county's crime and disorder reduction partnership; The Safer Stronger Bucks Partnership. They will review partnerships progress over the past year against the plans key priorities and consider the priorities for the coming year, providing their views and comments before the plan goes to Cabinet.	James Sainsbury, Safer Bucks Partnership Manager
	17 June 2014	Public Transport Inquiry	Members will begin their inquiry into public transport provision in Bucks. In this first evidence session members will consider the financial challenges and will examine the County Council's current policy and its ability to cope with the budgetary pressures.	Andy Clarke, Passenger Transport Manager Ryan Bunce – Psd Service Lead Officer, PLACE
	17 June 2014	Committee research update: External Funding Opportunities (Transport Infrastructure)	Following previous committee discussions (LEPs, Transport, S106 etc.) an explorative piece of work has been undertaken by the chairman and supporting member on behalf of the committee examining the Council's role, processes and relationships with other bodies in seeking opportunities to bid for external funding, in particular, in relation to transport infrastructure and planning across the County. The committee will receive an update on the key themes and findings of the research and consider next steps and/or recommendations.	Update from Warren Whyte, Chairman and Tim Butcher, supporting Member.

Environment, Transport and Locality Select Committee Proposed Work Programme

Committee	Date	Topic	Description and Purpose	Attendees
	02 September 2014	Transport for Bucks review progress update	Members will be examining the progress towards the approved recommendations of the Transport for Bucks inquiry. As part of this they will be monitoring and reviewing the progress of the various improvement strands/reviews that have been undertaken over the past year (including: Committee recommendations, Customer Focus Review, LAT review, Value for Money review and Cabinet Member reviews).	Ruth Vigor-Hedderly, Cabinet Member for Transport. Kim Hills – TfB Mike Freestone, Contract performance Manager (BCC) Sean Rooney, Contract Manager (BCC). Joe Nethercoat, PLACE.
	02 September 2014	Flooding response in Buckinghamshire	For members to receive an update on the review of the county's response to the floods of 2013/14, lessons learnt, how we dealt with the floods, and how we are planning for future events.	Susie Yapp, Service Director for Localities. Stephen Walford senior manager PLACE John Rippon – Senior Manager PLACE.
26	02 September 2014	Public Transport Inquiry Update	For members to receive an interim update from the inquiry working group following stage one of the public transport inquiry.	Committee inquiry working Group Members. Officers TBC if appropriate
	14 October 2014	Local Enterprise Partnerships	For Members to receive 6 month update on the work of the Local Enterprise Partnerships and Strategic Economic Plans following briefing received in March.	Stephen Walford, Senior Manager PLACE. Richard Harrington, BCC Martin Tett, Leader.
	14 October 2014 (TBC may be earlier)	Section 106 Developer Contributions	For members to examine and review the Councils processes and procedures in relation to s106 negotiations and developer contributions following committee examination in November 2013.	John Rippon, Senior Manager PLACE.
	18 November 2014	Library Services in Bucks – A vision for the future.	For Members to receive an update and review the progress towards the committee's recommendations as agreed on 8 th April for the development of a clear vision of the future of library services in Bucks, including a strategy for how the budget challenges will be met and a proactive approach to seeking opportunities for closer working with partner organisations.	Martin Phillips, Cabinet Member for Community Engagement. David Jones, Culture and Learning Manager.

Environment, Transport and Locality Select Committee Proposed Work Programme

Committee	Date	Topic	Description and Purpose	Attendees
	18 November 2014	Fracking update	For members to receive written update on the progress towards the recommendations made to the Cabinet Member in Feb and any further updates in relation to the development of the new Minerals and Waste Policy.	Written update to be provided by Lesley Clarke, Cabinet Member for Environment and Lester Hannington Lead Officer for Minerals and Waste.



Report to the Environment, Transport and Locality Services Select Committee

Title:	Safer Bucks Plan
Committee date:	13th May 2014
Author:	James Sainsbury
Contact officer:	James Sainsbury
	Tel: 01296 382780 jsainsbury@buckscc.gov.uk

Report signed off by Cabinet Member: **Martin Phillips**

Electoral divisions affected: **All**

Purpose of Agenda Item

At the request of the Chairman of this Committee this is a report to provide the Committee with an update regarding progress against the Safer Bucks Plan 2013/14, priorities for the 2014/15 and emergent priorities within the plan.

Background

Community Safety is an area of concern for all communities and is consistently highlighted as a high priority by our residents. The impact of crime and disorder on the quality of life of individuals and whole communities means that it affects everyone who lives, works and visits Buckinghamshire.

It is widely recognised that tackling community safety issues cannot be achieved solely by the police. It requires the work of a number of organisations, in partnership, along with the community to raise the issues and identify solutions to those issues; and then to work together to put those solutions into action.

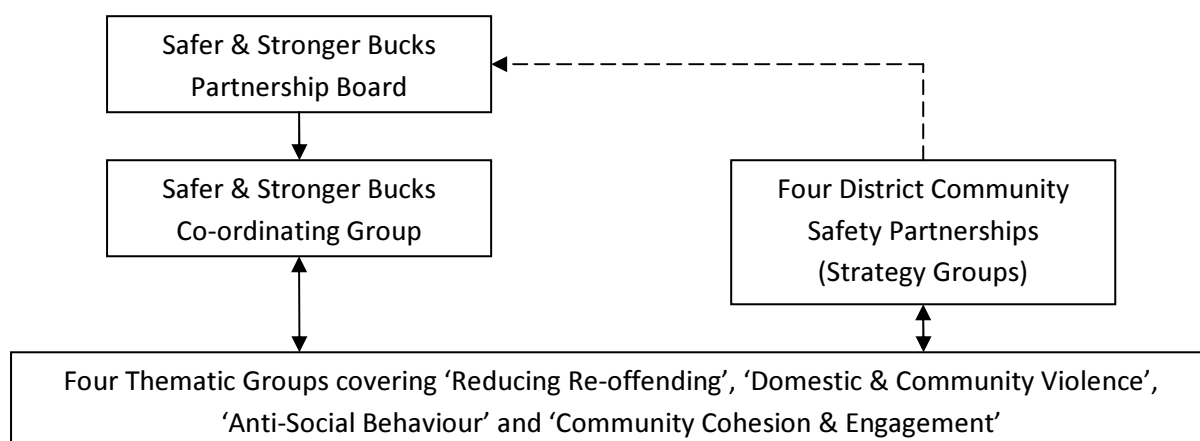
The Safer Bucks Plan forms our Community Safety Agreement and is a requirement under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. As Buckinghamshire has a two tier authority system, both the Districts and Bucks County Council are required to have such a plan in place. In response to these requirements the Safer Bucks Plan plan is designed to identify:



- How the partners can work together to address the most important community safety issues relevant to the county. These issues are based on analysis of crime and disorder data and on feedback from the community;
- The issues that will be fed into the work of the partnership across the county and will set out how the partners plan to deliver against these priorities.

Report

1. The Safer and Stronger Bucks Partnership Structure



- 1.1 **Safer & Stronger Partnership Board.** The role of the Board is to drive the strategic direction of crime reduction in Bucks. There is representation from the Districts, Police, Probation, Clinical Commissioning Groups, Police and Crime Commissioners Office, Police and Crime Panel and Public Health. Actions will be passed down to the Co-ordinating Group for progression.
- 1.2 **Safer & Stronger Co-ordinating Group.** This will monitor the action plans of the thematic subgroups and reports progress to the Board. The group will also advise the Board of emerging strategy and issues.
- 1.3 **District Community safety Partnerships.** Each District is required to have their own community safety partnership (CSP). Each CSP will look to apply crime reduction initiatives relevant to the emergent issues in their district this could be relating to a particular local hot spot for a specific type of crime.

2 2013/14 Performance

- 2.1 There have been a number of significant achievements in the areas of work which supported the delivery of the Safer Bucks Plan. The following are some key highlights of these achievements.
- 2.2 **Anti-Social Behaviour.** The most recent Partnership Strategic Assessment identifies that anti-social behaviour (ASB) has seen a substantial reduction (35%) in reported incidents across the whole of Buckinghamshire, equating to 4,372 fewer incidents than the previous year. However, this is still an average of over 600 reports a month.

2.3 Domestic Violence. There has been an increase in the reporting of Domestic Violence (DV), which is considered positive as DV is traditionally a hidden and under reported crime. Treatment interventions have been increased for the victims of high/medium risk of DV with an approximate 90% increase over the year and with 83% of clients demonstrating a reduction in risk as a result.

2.4 Serious acquisitive crime. Between April and Dec 2013, there were 886 domestic burglaries across the county. This is a decrease of 20% (222 fewer reported incidents) when compared to the same period last year. The target for burglary was a 2% decrease and so the result has been very positive.

2.5 Supporting the most vulnerable. We have commissioned Thames Valley Victim Support to be the lead agency and support for victims of hate crime and will provide case and risk management for hate crime incidents.

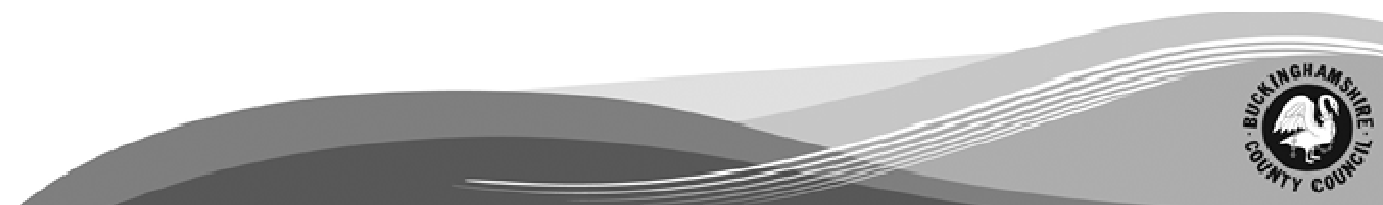
The Community Safety team are working in partnership with Trading Standards and Thames Valley Police to analyse current and potential hot spots for door step crime to help with applying strategies to protect vulnerable individuals and communities. The average age of those who experience doorstep crime is 77 years old and only one out of ten crimes are reported. The impact of distraction burglary and doorstep crime is damaging and far-reaching especially in terms of health. Victims are significantly more likely to access hospitals and care settings following experiencing doorstep crime.

We continue to trail early interventions to reduce the risk for victims of domestic violence.

2.6 Tackling substance misuse in our communities. The Drug and Alcohol Team (DAAT) has re-commissioned both the adult and young people's substance misuse treatment services. A payment by results element has been incorporated into the contract to incentivise the movement of opiate users from methadone maintenance programmes into detoxification programmes and thus achieving abstinence. In response to this emergent trend of NPS (New Psychoactive Substances) or 'legal highs', the DAAT has commissioned a number of training events to ensure that professionals, who may come into contact with users of legal highs, have a greater understanding of the signs of use and what treatment is available. To ensure that the long term commissioning needs are understood, the DAAT has commissioned a needs assessment, in partnership with the PCC. A post has been commissioned with one of the substance misuse treatment providers, to work with communities to better understand the effects of substance misuse on that community and assist in ensuring a targeted response is delivered.

3 Community Safety Priorities for 2014/15 within the Safer Bucks Plan:

- **Reducing violence-** through supporting victims of DV and working with partners to reduce night time economy violence.
- **Reducing acquisitive crime and reducing reoffending-** through Integrated Offender Management programmes and other partnership initiatives.
- **Reducing anti-social behaviour-** through the delivery of diversionary activities and interventions to help the most vulnerable.
- **Working with communities to address the negative impact of drug and alcohol misuse-** by awareness raising, targeted community interventions and understanding emergent trends better such as 'legal highs'.



- **Working together to address emerging concerns-** by maximising the use of resources through partnership working to address serious emergent issues such as child sexual exploitation, serious organised crime and gang activity.
- **Addressing concerns and issues relating to gangs-** through working with preventative services to support vulnerable young people.
- **Countywide priorities for supporting stronger communities-** support communities to build skills to enhance community safety, work with partners to deliver cohesion strategies and targeted activities to address.
- **Protecting the vulnerable-** Identify individuals and communities vulnerable to doorstep crime, ensure victims of domestic violence receive high quality support and delivers activities to prevent vulnerable young people at risk of radicalisation, sexual exploitation or gang activity.

3.1 New Priorities within the 2014/15 plan include:

- Doorstep crime is a completely new priority within the 14/15 plan; this is due to concerns raised by Thames Valley Police and Trading Standards and the resulting impact on the most vulnerable.
- Protection of vulnerable young people is an issue that has been strengthened significantly within the plan. There has been increasing evidence of 'legal high' use in Bucks, in response a needs assessment has been commissioned to understand the prevalence of *legal high* use and what treatment regimes would be appropriate.
- We are keen to reduce risk to the victims of domestic violence by intervening at an earlier age. Through the Chesham Wellbeing Project we will continue to trial earlier intervention including engagement with domestic violence perpetrators within a custody setting and an embedded post within Thames Valley to engage with victims.

4 Summary

Over 2013/14 there were overall reductions in crime in Buckinghamshire with good progress against the 2013/14 priorities detailed within the Safer Bucks Plan. The 2014/15 Plan highlights some emergent issues which could warrant further examination by the Committee.

Legal High misuse in Bucks is increasing in line with the national trend. Although the substances are legal the use of such substances will in all likelihood lead to similar criminal behaviours as their illicit counter parts. Compliance with court orders, such as child protection for example, will be determined through drug testing regimes and these testing regimes will not be able to identify legal high misuse.

Research has shown that doorstep crime occurs mostly with victims that are vulnerable. The average age of those who experience doorstep crime is 77 years old and only one out of ten crimes are reported. Evidence from Operation Liberal, looking into door step crime across a number of police force areas, showed that victims were repeatedly targeted with increasing impact on the victim. One victim in Bucks lost in excess of £900,000 as a result of door step crime. The impact of distraction burglary and doorstep crime is damaging and far-reaching especially in terms of health. Victims are significantly more likely to access hospitals and care settings following experiencing doorstep crime.

DRAFT

Safer Bucks Plan

2014 - 2015



Cllr Martin Phillips Cabinet Member for Community Engagement

Foreword

I am pleased to present the Community Safety Agreement for 2014-15 which is the Community Safety Agreement for the county area on behalf of the responsible authorities in that county area. Our aim is to continue to make Buckinghamshire one of the safest places to live in the country.

In 2013-14 we have worked with the Police and Crime Commissioner to address our priorities in the Safer Bucks Plan and support our colleagues in the Police to help address the priorities identified in the Police and Crime Plan for Thames Valley. We are grateful to the Police and Crime Commissioner for the financial support he has committed to addressing community safety issues in Bucks both in 2013/14 and the future commitment for 2014/15.

Our Community Safety Agreement has been developed in partnership, using the analysis of data and information contained in the Buckinghamshire Joint Partnership Strategic Assessment and the recent survey of Buckinghamshire residents and other sources of information about what matters to local people.

This is an annual plan which builds upon our achievements to date. In 2013/14 we have continued, to see reductions in domestic burglary, successes in addressing anti-social behaviour (ASB), and reductions in reducing reoffending. The reporting of domestic violence has risen; we have increased our treatment support for victims of domestic violence and are piloting the use of earlier interventions and support. Following our recent analysis of the issues affecting Buckinghamshire, we will remain focussed on addressing these issues in 2014/15. We will work with the Police and Crime Commissioner to ensure that there is appropriate support to victims of crime and will continue to develop our response to hate crime and sexual violence, working with partners across Buckinghamshire to address the concerns regarding child sexual exploitation in our communities. Partnership working remains an important factor in our ongoing success.

The Safer and Stronger Bucks Partnership Board will continue to review the partnership structures in place to provide a strategic framework for effective joint working with all our District community safety colleagues. We will strive to deliver successful outcomes, despite the challenges and constraints of recession and a changing policy landscape. The enthusiasm and commitment of all of our staff, partners and members of the public, remains key to our ongoing ability to ensure that Buckinghamshire remains one of the best places to live work and study.

Draft Safer Bucks Plan 2014/15

1. Background and Purpose

Community Safety is an area of concern for all communities and is consistently highlighted as a high priority by our residents. The impact of crime and disorder on the quality of life of individuals and whole communities means that it affects everyone who lives, works and visits Buckinghamshire.

It is widely recognised that tackling community safety issues cannot be achieved solely by the police. It requires the work of a number of organisations, in partnership, along with the community to raise the issues and identify solutions to those issues; and then to work together to put those solutions into action.

2013/14 saw our first year of working with a new Police & Crime Commissioner (PCC). This has enabled the partnership to capitalise on commissioning flexibly through a single new fund for community safety activities, according to presenting local need. In addition we have strengthened our links, with the PCC and his office through his attendance at the Safer and Stronger Partnership Board we have been able to capitalise on better communication with the crime commissioning agenda than was previously possible.

This document, which forms our Community Safety Agreement, is a requirement under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 for upper tier (County) authorities. In response to these requirements this plan is designed to identify:

- how the partners can work together to address the most important community safety issues relevant to the county. These issues are based on analysis of crime and disorder data and on feedback from the community;
- the issues that will be fed into the work of the partnership across the county and will set out how the partners plan to deliver against these priorities.

2. Changes that impact Bucks

2.1 Demographics

The mid-year population estimates developed in 2012 indicate a population of 511,500 across Buckinghamshire. We know that the population in Buckinghamshire is aging and there will be an increase in the numbers of older people living independently. The estimate in 2012 for people over 70 is over 61,000. Against the 2011 baseline the numbers of people over 70 years is estimated to increase by more than 19,000 by 2021. This will potentially increase the number of households more vulnerable to certain types of crime e.g. distraction burglary. We will continue to contribute to planning consultations and require that crime wherever possible is designed out at the planning stage.

2.2 Funding

The PCC has allocated Community Safety Funding for Buckinghamshire for 2014/2015 of £501,717 this represents a reduction of 6.14% (£32,800) on the 2013/14 allocation. This funding supports Drugs Intervention programme and Youth Offending Service as well as community safety and crime reduction activity.

2.3 Legislation and emergent themes

2.3.1 Welfare Benefit Reforms

Welfare Benefit Reforms may impact negatively on community safety issues generally. There are risks associated with the reduced income for hard pressed families which might have a range of impacts on more disadvantaged communities including:-

- Increases in offending
- More people becoming vulnerable
- Reduced cohesion in communities as families need to move away into cheaper accommodation
- Disruption in cohesion in communities and support for some vulnerable individuals
- Increased use of loan sharks/ borrowing
- Properties falling into disrepair and increased criminal damage
- Cross authority migration precipitated by unaffordable rents

2.3.2 Domestic Violence

The Government broadened the definition of domestic violence in 2013 to include 16 and 17 year olds and coercive control. This is likely that will impact on number of referrals and support needed.

Following a successful 14-month pilot in four police areas, a domestic violence disclosure scheme (commonly known as *Clare's Law*) allowing police to disclose to individuals details of their partners' abusive pasts, will be extended to police forces across England and Wales from March 2014. The national scheme will ensure that more people can make informed decisions about their relationships and escape if necessary. Requests made under *Clare's Law* will be thoroughly checked by a panel made up of police, probation services and other agencies to ensure information is only passed on where it is lawful, proportionate and necessary. Trained police officers and advisers will be on hand to support victims through the difficult and sometimes dangerous transitional period.

The government has announced the extension of Domestic Violence Protection Orders from March 2014, which will provide further protection to vulnerable victims.

2.3.3 Serious Organised Crime Strategy

The Government's strategy for addressing serious and organised crime, (published in October 2013), places a responsibility on assisting with the disruption of organised crime on local community safety partnerships. Partners have access to additional tools and powers e.g. Trading Standards or anti-social behaviour legislation which could add to the armoury in challenging perpetrators of serious organised crime.

2.3.4 Anti-Social Behaviour

We continue to await the revised anti-social behaviour (ASB) legislation which was initially consulted upon in 2011 and is based upon the Government's White Paper '*Putting Victims First: Effective Responses to Anti-Social Behaviour*'. It is intended to put victims at the heart of the response to ASB, whilst giving professionals flexibility to respond to situations. The draft proposes six powers, including two new measures to give victims and communities a voice in responding to ASB. One of these is the Community Trigger that 'gives victims the ability to demand action, starting with a review of their case, where the locally defined threshold is met'. The ASB Partnership is preparing for these changes and it is likely that the legislation will be implemented during 2014.

2.3.4 Tackling Metal Theft

Amendments have been made to the *Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment Act 2012*, which have strengthened the *Scrap Metal Dealers Act 1964* and prohibits cash payments for the purchase of scrap metal. Since the changes to legislation, we have seen a significant reduction in the instance of metal theft both nationally and locally within Bucks.

2.3.4 Prevent

Wycombe District was designated a Tier 1 Prevent Priority Area in early 2013. In May 2013 the Government setup an Extremist Task Force to examine whether or not more could be done to confront extremism and radicalisation. The resulting report recommended that the delivery of Prevent to be a legal requirement in those areas of the country where extremism is of particular concern. The report also recommended that the delivery of the Channel programme become a legal requirement in England and Wales.

2.3.5 Changes to the Partnership landscape

Probation services in England and Wales are undergoing the most significant change. From 1st April 2014 we are entering a period of transition whereby the functions of Probation will be separated into the National Probation Service who will be responsible for those at risk of serious harm and the Community Rehabilitation Company (CRC) which will be responsible for lower risk offender management and will take the lead on working with partners on Integrated offender management. A provider for the will be appointed over the next 12 months and commence delivery from 1.14.15. How this will impact on partnership working is unclear and the Safer and Stronger Bucks Partnership Board will be watching closely for any negative impact

2.3.6 Emerging trends

There have been reports from professionals and the community regarding increasing use of Novel Psychoactive Substances (NPS) commonly referred to as 'legal highs'. These substances are readily available, are harmful, often funded through crime and are not as detectable in drug tests as their illicit counterparts.

There have been a number of high profile police operations that have significantly heightened awareness regarding child sexual exploitation (CSE), notably Operation Bullfinch in Thames Valley. Whilst CSE is not a new issue, the learning from Thames Valley and nationally has led to improved identification and a better understanding about how to develop more effective interventions.

3. Our aims

We aim to reduce opportunities for criminals to commit crime, support those who are most vulnerable to crime and support those who are most fearful of crime and to enable them to feel safer.

We also aim to work with our local communities to increase their resilience and community cohesion and enable them to deal with issues affecting their neighbourhoods. We want to help communities to become more aware of the part they can play in reducing crime and disorder and for this to be long lasting. This involves working with a number of agencies to raise awareness and help change behaviour, as well as addressing some of the factors which contribute to crime and fear of crime, such as deprivation.

Lastly, we aim to ensure that by joint planning, co-ordination and working closely together we will achieve better outcomes. We remain committed to ensuring that our decision making is based on sound evidence and reflects the feedback from our communities and we will continue to secure value for money, effectiveness and efficiency.

4. Overview of progress against the 2013/14 Priorities

4.1 The Countywide priorities in 2013/14 were identified as: -

- Reducing violence both in a community and a domestic setting
- Reducing acquisitive crime and reoffending
- Reducing anti-social behaviour
- Tackling the negative impact of drug and alcohol misuse
- Addressing concerns and issues related to gangs
- Dealing with concerns around hate crime reporting, rogue traders, sexual exploitation of children
- Achieving better cohesion in communities

4.2 Performance

4.2.1 Reducing violence both in a community and a domestic setting:

Between April and Dec 2013, there were 2,752 incidents of ‘Violence Against the Person’ across the county. This is an increase of 2% (53 more incidents) when compared to the same period last year. The picture varies across the 3 Local Policing Areas however:

Police Area	2012	2013	Difference	% Change
Aylesbury	976	1074	+98	+10%
Chiltern & South Bucks	720	684	-36	-5%
Wycombe	1003	994	-9	-1%
Total Bucks	2699	2752	+53	+2%

As was the case last year, a significant proportion of violence is accounted for by the reports of Domestic Violence (DV) related incidents however it should be noted that domestic violence offences are known to be substantially under-reported.

The Independent Domestic Violence Advisers (IDVA) continue to be a primary and essential support to the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARAC’s) which take place in both the North and South of the County. An increase in IDVA capacity has led to a significant increase in clients supported by the service. A total of 347 clients were supported by the IDVA service in 2012/2013, with a total of 438 women supported so far in the first three quarters of 2013/2014. The IDVA service has achieved an 83% year to date reduction in risk category for those clients who have engaged with the IDVA which is exceeding the Bucks County Council corporate and partnership DVA Strategy targets.

The MARACs have both undertaken a self-assessment in conjunction with Co-ordinated Action Against Domestic Abuse (CAADA). Feedback from CAADA was very good. Whilst the assessments highlighted some areas for improvement and/or development which are being addressed, they found much evidence of good practice. The MARAC has a low repeat referral rate of around 17% compared to the national average. One area for improvement is the number of referrals into the MARAC from Black and Minority Ethnic (BME), Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender (LGBT) groups and male victims. Referrals for BME victims and male victims has increased from 2012/2013 data, and is in line with the picture across the Thames Valley. LGBT referrals require more work, but representation for this group is now being provided at the MARAC,

DV has been identified as one of the key work streams of the Chesham Community Wellbeing Project following a problem profile analysis of low and medium domestic violence related repeat crimes which found that the majority of repeat victims identified within incidents and crimes in Chiltern and South Bucks LPA were white females, aged 21-30 years of age and living in Chesham. The majority of alleged repeat offenders during the same period and police area, were white males, aged between 21-30 years and also living in Chesham. Earlier interventions are being set up in response to these findings, which include a DV Engagement Worker being employed by TVP to engage with victims and perpetrators of reported 'standard risk' DV within Chiltern and South Bucks and facilitate support. In addition, the remit of the arrest referral workers in custody has been extended to include screening for DV and assessing suitability for the Fresh Start 121 perpetrator programme. Some co-location of services is being progressed.

DV is currently commissioned and funded independently by a number of different service areas and partners. The DV Joint Commissioning Project Group is looking at a more joined up commissioning approach. A needs assessment has been undertaken and will be used to inform future commissioning of DV via a new delivery model to join up commissioning of DV services across Buckinghamshire.

4.2.2 Reducing acquisitive crime and reoffending

Between April and Dec 2013, there were 886 domestic burglaries across the county. This is a decrease of 20% (222 fewer incidents) when compared to the same period last year. The target for burglary was a 2% decrease and so the result has been very positive.

Police Area	2012	2013	Difference	% Change
Aylesbury	260	236	-24	-9%
Chiltern & South Bucks	481	449	-32	-7%
Wycombe	367	201	-116	-45%
Total Bucks	1108	886	-222	-20%

Wycombe has shown very strong performance this year. The Integrated Offender Management (IOM) programme has enabled partners to identify, track and interrupt the offenders who cause the most crime, especially burglary, and has contributed significantly to this reduction.

Targeting the re-offending rate of prolific offenders has been the primary mechanism for reducing burglary and other priority volume crimes. Bucks County Council has continued to invest in the IOM programme and it will remain a key area of investment going forward into 2014/15.

4.2.3 Reducing anti-social behaviour

The most recent Partnership Strategic Assessment identifies that anti-social behaviour (ASB) has seen a substantial reduction (35%) in incidents across the whole of Buckinghamshire, equating to 4,372 fewer incidents than the previous year. However, this is still an average of over 600 reports a month.

The Strategic Assessment has focused upon particular issues within ASB

- The existence of ASB within violence hotspots is evidence of the cross cutting nature of crime and disorder and the necessity to tackle them together.
- Unsurprisingly, areas of highest population density and footfall attract the highest levels of ASB but do so within specific time periods.

- It important to acknowledge that ASB can be a signal for an already well-established criminal record, or worse, a history of vulnerability to domestic violence and abuse, child protection issues, substance misuse or mental health.
- Although it does stress that becoming a criminal is not a product of being a youth perpetrator of ASB, a correlation between Acceptable Behaviour Contract (ABC) and Anti-Social Behaviour Order (ASBO) recipients and their criminal prowess has been established, thus evidencing the need for early intervention
- Across the three Local Police Areas within Buckinghamshire, there is potential for almost half of the most difficult cases of ASB (named 'persistent and resistant cases') to be linked to mental health, substance misuse and youth involvement. The Strategic Assessment makes several recommendations around how to better identify these individuals within our data recording in order to enhance our knowledge of the situation.

Partners across Buckinghamshire have undertaken a range of diversionary projects aimed at reducing youth related anti-social behaviour. Diversionary projects not only seek to engage with specific groups of young people to 'divert' them away from anti-social activities, but also evidences to the wider community that we are seeking to address local issues reported. Targeted work in local areas demonstrates to local communities that we take their issues seriously and strive to respond to them. We have been working in partnership with other agencies to support the Families First Initiative, drug and alcohol agenda, child sexual exploitation and gangs work. Much of the work we do around ASB has strong links with these areas of work, and requires us to consider the most vulnerable in society.

4.2.4 Tackling the negative impact of drug and alcohol misuse

The DAAT has re-commissioned both the adult and young people's substance misuse treatment services. The new adult treatment services incorporate three former contracts into one, providing simpler client pathways and treatment more aligned to the recovery ambitions of the Government's 2010 drug strategy. A payment by results element has been incorporated into the contract to incentivise the movement of opiate users from methadone maintenance programmes into detoxification programmes and achieving abstinence.

In response to this emergent trend of NPS or '*legal highs*', the Drug and Alcohol Team (DAAT) has commissioned a number of training events to ensure that professionals, who may come into contact with users of legal highs, have a greater understanding of the signs of use and what treatment is available. To ensure that the long term commissioning needs are understood, the DAAT has commissioned a needs assessment, in partnership with the PCC. This work will look at the prevalence of legal high use in Bucks, the best communication methods for the different groups misusing these substances. It will make recommendations regarding the best forms of engagement and treatment. The research will be undertaken by Professor Neil McKeganey, an internationally regarded researcher in the substance misuse field.

A post has been commissioned with one of the substance misuse treatment providers to work with communities to better understand the effects of substance misuse on that community and assist in ensuring a targeted response is delivered. This process is assisted by Falcon, a multi-agency meeting, hosted by the DAAT, looks to understand issues substance misuse through the interpretation of data and intelligence and then provide co-ordinated enforcement and treatment activity.

4.2.5 Addressing concerns and issues related to gangs

The majority of referrals to the Gangs Multi-Agency Panel (GMAP) come from the Youth Offending Service and the police, and a re-launch of GMAP was held in October to encourage other agencies to identify people they feel may be at risk of involvement in gang activity and refer to GMAP. Most GMAP referrals are boys, but RU Safe has been

commissioned to do some intervention work with missing girls who may be involved in gangs.

4.2.6 Hate crime reporting

Following a pilot project to explore third party reporting and support for victims of hate crime Victim Support has become a third party reporting centre for victims of hate crime from Buckinghamshire with effect 1 January 2014. Thames Valley Victim Support will be the lead agency and provide case and risk management for hate crime incidents referred by the Victim Care Unit to the local Victim Support team. They will offer emotional support, information and practical help to victims of crime whether or not the crime has been reported to the police or a third agency. It is hoped that victims will feel enabled to report matters, and that reporting of hate crime in Buckinghamshire will increase as a result.

4.2.7 Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

Protecting vulnerable young people is a key priority. Following operations across the county there has been enhanced cooperation between agencies both within and outside of the CSPs.

The CSE working Group has been established by the Buckinghamshire Children's Safeguarding Board (BSCB). Consisting of both statutory and voluntary agencies, its

objectives are to develop and oversee the initial implementation of a multi-agency strategic

response to CSE in response to identified local requirements and national trends. The group will cooperate with, and contribute to, a Thames Valley Wide Strategy for responding to CSE and to keep the BSCB apprised of local issues and any service needs. The Working Group has been divided into work streams to focus on training, data collection and increasing awareness with services and local communities.

The Bucks SERAC (Sexual Exploitation Risk Assessment Conference) runs monthly. It is attended by key services, hosted by social care and chaired by the police. The purpose is to discuss high risk (of CSE) individuals from Bucks, identified primarily by the police and ensuring appropriate action is taken to reduce/manage their risk.

4.2.8 Doorstep Crime

Research has shown that doorstep crime occurs mostly with victims that are vulnerable. The average age of those who experience doorstep crime is 77 years old and only one out of ten crimes are reported. The impact of distraction burglary and doorstep crime is damaging and far-reaching especially in terms of health. Victims are significantly more likely to access hospitals and care settings following experiencing doorstep crime. The Community Safety team are working in partnership with Trading Standards and Thames Valley Police to analyse current and potential hot spots to help with applying strategies to protect vulnerable individuals and communities.

The initial signs are that door step crime is highly organised and that rogue trading often escalates into more serious crimes of extortion and burglary.

5. Priorities for 2014/15

5.1 Thames Valley wide priorities

The strategic objectives which relate to the work of wider partners in the Police and Crime Plan include: -

1. To cut crimes that are of most concern to the community
2. To increase the visible presence of the police and partners to cut crime and the fear of crime, and reassure communities
3. To protect our communities from the most serious harm
4. To communicate and engage with the public in order to cut crime and the fear of crime, and build trust and confidence with our communities
5. Work with Criminal Justice Partners to reduce crime and support victims and witnesses
6. To ensure policing, community safety and criminal justice services are delivered efficiently and effectively

There are many common themes across the Thames Valley and it is important that those at a Buckinghamshire level are considered in light of these.

5.2 How we set our priorities

Buckinghamshire benefits from a partnership analyst and close working with the police to prepare an annual partnership 'Strategic Assessment' which contains analysis of the levels and patterns of crime and disorder and substance misuse for a year.

We consider a range of information when setting our priorities including:

- ⇒ **Volume of crime** – the actual numbers of reported incidents
- ⇒ **Predicted direction of travel** – whether an issue is known to be getting worse and would continue to do so without intervention.
- ⇒ **Impact on the community** – some people are repeat victims of a crime, and some crimes cause more harm than others.
- ⇒ **Performance** – what has and has not been achieved in the last year.
- ⇒ **Community concern** – some issues are raised more frequently than others by those who live in the county and these issues are seen as important to our communities

In addition to the analysis from the Partnership Strategic Assessment, we are also able to consider priorities identified in the Thames Valley Police Force Strategic Assessment. This provides an account of the emerging trends, risks and threats that are likely to cause the Police Force, and the community safety partners, concern in the forthcoming months.

6. Countywide community safety priorities for 2014/15

6.1 Reducing violence

- Work with partners to reduce night time economy violence against the person
- Domestic violence - support the ongoing management of high risk victims through IDVA/MARAC and improve responses to repeat medium / standard risk victims of domestic violence.
- Support the commissioning and development of interventions for perpetrators
- Trialling demand management strategies regarding domestic violence through earlier intervention strategies with both victims and perpetrators via the Chesham Wellbeing Project.
- Setting up of structures to jointly commission domestic violence interventions.

5.2 Reducing acquisitive crime and reducing reoffending

- Maintain reductions in domestic burglary and other SAC (including theft from motor vehicle) and continue to target prolific offenders through IOM programmes
- Work with Trading Standards and Thames Valley Police to reduce doorstep crime.
- Reducing acquisitive crimes which target rural communities.

6.3 Reducing anti-social behaviour

- Work to challenge negative perceptions of groups of young people and whether this constitutes ASB.
- Deliver diversionary activities to reduce the instance of ASB.
- Reduce the impact of ASB and target interventions on those most vulnerable victims and those least able to cope with ASB.

6.4 Working with communities to address the negative impact of drug and alcohol misuse

- Work with Trading Standards colleagues to challenge supply chains of legal highs and apply disruption strategies as appropriate.
- Develop strategies to understand, communicate, engage and provide treatment to users of legal highs.
- Targeted education and awareness raising to communities experiencing concern and experiencing drug and alcohol related crime
- Engage with community forums where substance misuse is of concern and deliver targeted interventions.

5.5 Working together to address emerging concerns

- Working with Community Safety Partnerships across Buckinghamshire to address the universal community safety concerns and minimise duplication
- Develop understanding and skills in relation to economic crimes: Increased criminality in a recession (fraudulent trading/proceeds of crime e.g. systematic clocking of used cars) Loan Sharks and illegal money lending (links to promotion of credit unions as a legal alternative).
- Maximising opportunities to work with partners to address serious emerging issues, sexual exploitation, disrupting drug markets, addressing gang activity, underreported hate crime, rogue traders with a focus on assisting vulnerable victims.

5.6 Addressing concerns and issues relating to gangs

- Supporting and evaluating the effectiveness of GMAP.
- Working in partnership to identify vulnerable young people and help to prevent them from experiencing child sexual exploitation or becoming involved in gangs.
- Working with preventative services such as Education, Youth Offending Service and the County Youth Services to support young people.

5.7 Countywide priorities for supporting stronger communities

- Support District Councils and other community safety partners in delivering their cohesion strategies.
- Support the partners to host the Community Cohesion Conference.
- Support communities to build skills and capacity to enhance community safety, including working with Neighbourhood Watch.
- Working with communities both geographic and of interest to strengthen community cohesion and deliver targeted activities to address vulnerable young people at risk of radicalisation.

5.8 Protecting the vulnerable

- Identify individuals and communities vulnerable to doorstep crime and work with partners in Adults and Family Wellbeing to provide training on identifying potential doorstep crime and what to do to help.
- Assess need to ensure victims of domestic violence receive high quality support.

- Delivers activities to prevent vulnerable young people at risk of radicalisation, sexual exploitation or gang activity.
- Extend the safer places scheme county-wide.
- Raising awareness and encouraging reporting of hate crime.

6. The local priorities (District based)

Community Safety work happens at a number of levels and, the Safer Bucks Plan is a county level plan, however in line with legislation each of the local district-based Community Safety Partnerships has developed a Partnership Plan. There will be identified issues that are important to the whole county area and will be addressed at a local and, with additional and complementary activity, at a county level, such as county wide awareness raising campaigns rather than each local area doing something different. There will also be identified issues that are of more concern in one area than in any other and these will be addressed more at a local level. For information the district priorities are listed in Appendix 1.

7. How will we deliver this?

7.1 Structure

The Community Safety partners in Buckinghamshire will continue to work at the local level with the district based Community Safety Partnerships and county level through the Safer and Stronger Bucks Partnership Board (SSBPB).

The County Council has its own Community Safety structure which is in place to oversee the work that crosses over the boundaries of local district areas. They have lead and / or supported the existing work of the:

- Domestic and Community Violence Strategy Group
- Reducing Re-offending Strategy Group
- Anti-social Behaviour Steering Group
- Drug and Alcohol Action Team, Joint Commissioning Advisory Group

Additionally they work to strengthen the links between internal county council functions so that better outcomes can be delivered through existing services.

7.2 Cross border working

We will further develop the existing opportunities to work across the boundaries of Buckinghamshire and beyond to improve efficiency and effectiveness. We will support the office of the Police and Crime Commissioner in identifying opportunities to share best practice across the Thames Valley and apply in Buckinghamshire as appropriate. We will look for opportunities to work differently with our geographic partners to deliver efficiencies

We will continue to improve intelligence with other authorities to tackle highly organised and mobile crime gangs committing burglary across a number of police force areas.

7.3 Integrated Offender Management

Maintain our support for IOM, and ongoing analysis of the interventions having the biggest impact on reducing reoffending.

7.4 Developing an evidence base – Value for Money and effectiveness

We will seek to build upon our knowledge and understanding of what works. Where possible we will seek to design evaluation into our interventions to improve our understanding of the outcomes achieved and the value for money of our activities.

7.5 Supporting communities and groups with specific needs

We will continue to identify those people who are vulnerable or at increased risk due to ethnicity, age, disability and encourage support that is better designed to support their particular requirements.

8. Measures of success, progress and outcomes

Included in Appendix 2 is a table of activities which address each priority and identifies the desired outcome, a specific measure and the global indicator which we will use to demonstrate progress and success.

9. How the financial resources support the priorities

In the 2014/15 Medium Term Planning process, BCC has identified the need for continued investment in Community Safety, although there will be some reductions in investment in the coming years which will be delivered by efficiency, strategic alliances and some reduction in service. The Police and Crime Commissioner has indicated that in 2014/15 it is his intention to continue to deploy resources to reduce crime and disorder through the Community Safety Partnerships. He has identified the following areas of concern which he will want CSPs to assist in addressing:-

- alcohol related crime issues, particularly antisocial behaviour and domestic abuse
- drug-user related burglary
- rural crime and how vulnerable our rural communities feel.

9.1 Draft Safer Bucks Spending Plan 2014/15

In addition to the resourcing of the Community Safety Team, below is an indication of the deployment of funding and grant investment in the coming year. This does not include the funding for the team.

Priority	Activities	Resource (to be confirmed)
Reducing violence	Independent Domestic Violence Advocates Investment in domestic violence intervention programmes Sanctuary schemes Healthy relationships for young people	£75k CSF/ PCC £115k BCC (ring fenced for IDVA) £18k BCC
Reducing stealing and acquisitive crime	Crime reduction activities tbc including and rural crime Property marking, items on display initiatives, tackling door step crimes	BCC £43K
Reducing reoffending	Integrated Offender Management Tracker Support to GMAP and activities to divert young people at risk of offending	£25k CSF/PCC £46k BCC
Reducing ASB	ASB co-ordination in Districts other diversionary activities tbc Investment in community mediation	£20k CSF/PCC £10k BCC
Addressing substance misuse	Drug and Alcohol community prevention, education, awareness raising, support to enforcement activity and co-ordination, community mobilisation. Substance misuse intervention to support offending reduction programmes	£121k CSF/PCC (£3.5 million PH BCC tbc)
Building capacity in communities	Police Community Support Officers Small project to support community initiatives	£300k CADEX £5K BCC
Being evidence based and intelligence led	Analysis of crime and preparation of analytical products Support financial investigations	£10k CSF/PCC £10k BCC £30k BCC Trading Standards
Protecting the Vulnerable	Deliver interventions for vulnerable young people YOS partnership funding and early intervention work	£52K CSF/PCC £198K CSF/PCC
Total	Expected budget	BCC £246k PCC £501k

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

ASB	Anti-Social Behaviour
CAADA	Coordinated Action Against Domestic Abuse
CSF	Community Safety Fund
CSP	Community Safety Partnership
DAAT	Drug and Alcohol Team
DV	Domestic Violence
DVA	Domestic Violence and Abuse
GMAP	Gangs Multi Agency Panel
IDVA	Independent Domestic Violence Advocate
IOM	Integrated Offender Management
LPA	Local Police Area
MARAC	Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference
NPS	Novel Psychoactive Substances
PCC	Police and Crime Commissioner
SSBPB	Safer and Stronger Bucks Partnership Board

Appendix 1 District Community Safety Partnership Priorities**

Aylesbury Vale	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Safe and secure town centres 2. Dealing with crimes that are significant to victims (burglary, metal theft, ASB, DV) 3. Reducing re-offending
Chiltern	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reduce serious acquisitive crime and violent behaviour in our communities 2. Reduce anti-social behaviour in our communities 3. Community Integration / Cohesion and Prevent 4. Reduce the fear of crime and perception of ASB by effective communication
South Bucks	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reduce burglary 2. Reduce the impact of anti-social behaviour in our community 3. Reduce vehicle crime 4. Protect vulnerable individuals and communities 5. Reduce the harm caused by drug and alcohol misuse 6. Reduce the number of casualties occurring on our roads*
Wycombe	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tackling anti-social behaviour (including gangs) 2. Tackling property related crime (particularly burglary, car crime and theft of metal) 3. Tackling domestic abuse and sexual violence 4. Reducing night time related assaults, disorder and personal robbery

**Road safety is a priority for South Bucks Community Safety Partnership, but not in other Community Safety partnership plans. At the local level there is support for this work through public awareness campaigns, community speed watch schemes and targeted work for different types of driver's e.g. young drivers or motorcyclists.*

***District Community Safety plans will be refreshed for 2014/15.*

Appendix 2 Measures of Success

Challenge	Activity	Desired Outcome	Specific Measure	Global indicator
Reduce violence	Support continuation of effective MARAC IDVAs	Increase safety of high risk DV victims by co-ordinating delivery of support plan in partnership	Reduce the assessed level of risk of high risk DV victims managed through the MARAC	Reduction in violence against the person
	Develop new mechanism for identifying and supporting repeat DV victims	Standard and medium risk DV victims are less likely to experience repeat incidents	Reduction in the number of incidents of DV repeat victims experience	
	Raising awareness about the steps and individual can take to increase personal safety at night time	Individuals are less likely to be victims of crime on a night out	Reduction in violence against the person linked to night time economy	
Reduce stealing (acquisitive crime) and reoffending	Awareness raising and intelligence led targeted crime reduction activities e.g. items on display, property, marking, use of timer light switches	Limiting opportunities for acquisitive crime	Reduction in offending in targeted areas Reduction in incidents of domestic burglary	Reduction in stealing (including acquisitive crime and domestic burglary)
	Work in partnership to address crimes which have a negative impact on businesses	Reduce the negative impact of crime on business development and growth		
	Partnership capacity and support for Integrated Offender Management	Robust management of IOM cohort. IOM cohort change their behaviour	Reduced reoffending of IOM cohort	

Challenge	Activity	Desired Outcome	Specific Measure	Global indicator
	Targeted activity to reduce doorstep crime	Fewer repeat victims and associated negative consequences for the vulnerable.	Targeted areas demonstrate a reduction in door step crime and there is a reduction in the fear of crime.	Door step crime does not continue to increase at the current level in the context of the national trend
Reducing anti-social behaviour	Analysis and evaluation of ASB systems	Application of lean systems processes to managing ASB	Case management improves – measures still to be discussed	Reduction in reports of ASB in Bucks
	Apply learning from current interventions and intergenerational ASB activities	Concerns of ASB are addressed and communities reassured	Improved public perception in targeted areas	
	Intelligence led interventions with vulnerable victims	Vulnerable victims are less likely to experience ASB	Qualitative - Vulnerable victims feel supported	
Addressing negative impacts of substance misuse	Targeted community support for local areas concerned about substance misuse	Residents feel concerns about drug users and drug dealing are being addressed Individuals with specific support needs receive appropriate information	Qualitative – residents feel they have been heard and someone has done something	Contributes to the perception about Bucks being a safe place
	Campaign to raise awareness about legal highs and the associated harms	There is greater awareness of potential harms	Accurate information is available and people know where to go for help	Contributes to the perception about Bucks being a safe place
	Continued commissioning of arrest referral and drug treatment services	Offenders with drug and alcohol related issues are assessed in custody and referred into appropriate treatment services	Maintaining good engagement from arrest referral into drug and alcohol treatment	Numbers of drug users and alcohol users successfully discharged
Challenge	Activity	Desired Outcome	Specific Measure	Global indicator
Building community capacity	Promote the Thames Valley alerts Map the sign up to TV alerts and	More people receive TV alerts and know the facts for their neighbourhood	Increase in numbers signed up for TV alerts	People feel better informed

	identify areas which might need more activity to promote sign up			
	Work with voluntary sector to explore opportunities to increase community resilience and capacity	More proactively engaged communities playing a greater part in keeping themselves safe	A new model (s) of community engagement is developed and tested	An increase in the number of volunteers active in improving their local communities

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