



Buckinghamshire County Council Select Committee

Transport, Environment and Communities Select Committee

Report to the Transport, Environment and Communities Select Committee

Title:	Safer Bucks Priorities
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Cabinet Member sign-off:	Martin Phillips

Purpose of Agenda Item

This is a report to provide the Committee with an update on the progress of developing the Safer Bucks Plan – crime & disorder priorities for the County Safer Communities team, 2016/17.

Background

Crime and disorder remain one of our residents' highest priorities, as reflected in the annual Residents' Survey. Buckinghamshire County Council are one of the "responsible authorities" under the Crime & Disorder Act and have a duty to work in partnership to reduce crime, tackle disorder, reduce re-offending and tackle substance misuse.

Funding for Community Safety work (in partnership) comes from the Police & Crime Commissioner (PCC) and the work of the PCC is scrutinised by the Police & Crime Panel. Each agency also contributes resources, time and investment into this work, relevant to the agency's capacity and remit.

There is a statutory duty in two-tier areas to produce an annual Community Safety Agreement. This should identify what our priorities are and how we will work (with our partners) to address them. In Bucks, we also include reference to local, district priorities as many will complement each other.

This document must be evidence based. We use a minimum of one year of crime and disorder data and information and look at trends, emerging areas, changing nature of crime etc. This evidence base is called the Partnership Strategic Assessment and is carefully written over approx. 3 months, culminating in a detailed analysis document looking at victims, offenders and locations of crime.



Summary

The Safer Bucks Plan is scheduled to be published in April 2017. While it is approved by an existing body called the Safer & Stronger Bucks Partnership Board, each partner's views are important in order to shape the plan and ensure that it is owned by all. The membership of the Partnership Board is as follows:

- Bucks County Council Cabinet lead with responsibility for Community Safety
- Chair of Wycombe Community Safety Partnership (CSP)
- Chair of Aylesbury CSP
- Chair of Chiltern and South Bucks CSP
- Assistant Chief Constable with responsibility for Buckinghamshire
- Police and Crime Commissioner
- Group Manager, Bucks Fire and Rescue Service
- Deputy Director for Public Health Buckinghamshire
- Director from Buckinghamshire CCGs
- Director of Communities, Bucks County Council
- Head of Operations Thames Valley Community Rehabilitation Company (CRC)
- Director for Bucks, National Probation Service
- Representative from the Voluntary Sector
- Chair of the Thames Valley Police and Crime Panel

Attached as an appendix is the first iteration of a decision making matrix which is being used to facilitate discussion and debate about how the partnership should identify its priorities. In line with the result of Thames Valley Police's review of neighbourhood policing, we are adopting a 'HOT' type of approach to assessing need. This addresses Harm, Opportunity and Threat (or risk).

When the priorities are decided by the Partnership Board, they will be drafted into the Safer Bucks Plan.

Key issues

Deciding on the Partnership's priorities will be complex as the criminal landscape has changed dramatically in the last year or so. One key challenge is to understand what the precise role is of Safer Communities in high profile and emerging agendas, such as CSE, where the responsibility is shared and the agenda is led by another group (e.g. Children's Safeguarding Board).

The Committee is asked for its views on the Priorities Matrix attached, in particular with regard to the following questions:

- Are there any areas / types of crime & disorder which are missing or are not defined clearly?
- How should mitigation information be used to help decide on priorities (i.e. a low level of mitigation could increase risk or mitigation could be a column on its own which influences the overall priority level)?
- How do we reflect the priority of agendas where the Community Safety Partnership is not the primary contributor or lead?

Resource implications

The Safer & Stronger Bucks Partnership Board will use the information from the priorities discussion, along with public consultation, to identify the key work areas for 2016/17 and this will influence the decisions that are made around the PCC Grant funding (grant amount not yet known at this stage).

The BCC budget for Safer Communities is not affected by this as it is not a partnership decision and no change in funding levels are being suggested within this process.

Next steps (timescale approx. dates)

- ⇒ The Safer Bucks Plan is a Core Partnership Strategy led by the Safer & Stronger Bucks Partnership Board, whose role it is to approve the Plan. As a key strategy for the County Council, Cabinet will be asked to endorse the Plan.
 - ⇒ The Safer Bucks Plan will be formally approved by the Safer & Stronger Bucks Partnership Board and then will be published by end April 2016
- 30th November – Safer & Stronger Bucks Partnership Board consider all agency feedback and make decisions on the countywide priorities
 - 15th December – Member Briefing to communicate the proposed priorities which will go to public consultation
 - 27th January – Safer & Stronger Bucks Partnership Board receive a first draft of the Safer Bucks Plan
 - Feb tbc – propose a second Select Committee review on the draft Safer Bucks Plan
 - 7th March – Cabinet considers Safer Bucks Plan for endorsement
 - Mid-March – Safer & Stronger Bucks Partnership Board approve Safer Bucks Plan (final)
 - April – Safer Bucks Plan published