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Queen Victoria Road
High Wycombe
Bucks HP11 1BB

Cabinet - Supplement

Date: 17 September 2018
Time: 6.00 pm
Venue: Council Chamber
District Council Offices, Queen Victoria Road, High Wycombe Bucks

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Agenda

Item		Page
4.	Recommendations from the IRC - Anti-Social Behaviour in the District Task and Finish Group	1 - 51
5.	Business Rates Retention Pilot	52 – 56
6.	Car Park Tariff Charges	Withdrawn

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Agenda Item 4.

REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR TASK & FINISH GROUP

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The Improvement and Review Commission set up a Task and Finish Group to answer the question 'Is there a problem with anti-social behaviour in the District, and if so what can Wycombe District Council do about it?'

The task and finish group was established following a motion by the Leader of the Council to the Council and a resolution of Council that the matter should be considered. The following is the motion from the Council Minutes of 18 December 2017.

A motion was submitted by Councillor Miss K S Wood (Leader of the Council) and seconded by Councillor D H G Barnes (the deputy Leader) and agreed by the Members.

"WDC notes the increasing concern of councillors and members of the public regarding an apparent rise in instances of anti-social behaviour across the district and within Wycombe Town Centre in particular.

WDC believes giving greater prioritisation to the enforcement of available anti-social behaviour measures by Thames Valley Police will improve the situation before it becomes overly detrimental to the residents, businesses and visitors to the district.

WDC resolves to seek swift re-prioritisation of TVP resources to tackle this issue in conjunction with improved partnership working with other stakeholders to improve neighbourhood policing."

Improvement and Review Commission

Following the decision by Council the Improvement and Review Commission met to set up a Task and Finish Group to look into antisocial behaviour in the district. The ASB Task and Finish Group (T&FG) was established by the Improvement and Review Commission and Councillor Chris Whitehead was appointed as chairman of the Task and Finish Group.

Membership of the Task and Finish Group

The Group Membership was as follows:

Chairman: Councillor Chris Whitehead

Vice-Chairman: Councillor Alex Collingwood

Membership:

Councillor Khalil Ahmed

Councillor Marten Clarke

Councillor Gary Hall

Councillor Arif Hussain

Councillor Mahboob Hussain JP

Councillor Hugh McCarthy

Method of T&FG

- A. The T&FG looked at the whole of the District, not just High Wycombe.
- B. The T&FG determined to make any recommendations in the light of hard evidence, not perception or anecdote. In particular the T&FG attempted to address three questions:
- I. How does ASB in our area compare with crime in other similar areas?
 - II. How does ASB in our area compare with ASB in the Thames Valley Police Force area?
 - III. How has ASB changed over time in our area?

The T&FG found statistical evidence alone was unreliable (see below), so the recommendations were based on evidence from a number of sources:

WDC officers: Neil Stannett, Environmental Health Manager (13.03.18)

Elaine Jewell, Head of Community (27.02.18 & 10.05.18)

Sarah McBrearty, Community Safety Team Leader (27.02.18, 10.05.18 & 19.07.18)

Nigel Dicker, Head of Environment (04.07.18)

Nick Adkins, ASB Officer (19.07.18)

Police: Matthew Barber, Deputy Police & Crime Commissioner (14.06.18)

Francis Habgood, Chief Constable (14.06.18)

Lee Barnham, Acting LPA Commander (14.06.18)

Kevin Brown, LPA Commander Wycombe (27.03.18)

Dan Crook, Constable Local Policing Team (14.06.18)

Other: James Boulton, Operations Manager Wycombe Homeless Connection (13.03.18)

Councillor Matt Knight, representative of Wycombe MIND (27.03.18)

Claire Daily, Red Kite, Interim Head of Experience (14.06.18)

Michael Bowker, Wycombe Workplace Charity Chairman (04.07.18)

Mark Harry, HWBIDCo Chairman (19.07.18)

The Chairman spent the afternoon of 08.08.18 with TVP Neighbourhood Sergeants Hughes and Binfield at Marlow Police Station.

He also had a detailed phone conversation with Chinda Virdee, WDC CCTV Supervisor on the same day.

The T&FG also considered reports of incidents from various Councillors such as twelve or so intoxicated people that were outside the pubs in Frogmoor during the day shouting, swearing and being generally aggressive.

Executive Summary

The ASB Task and Finish Group has 10 recommendations which will be presented to the Improvement & Review Commission on Wednesday 12 September 2018.

They can be summarised under four headings, all interrelated, and graphically represented as:

The Recommendations

The T&FG recommends that:

Wycombe District Council

1. WDC demonstrates its commitment to tackling ASB by:
 - a) Appointing a Cabinet Member (or Deputy Cabinet Member) with specific responsibility for ASB, and that progress is reviewed at every Cabinet meeting.
 - b) Identifying a single officer with lead responsibility for ASB, to be responsible for monitoring and reporting progress on tackling ASB.
2. That the working of the Community Safety Partnership be reviewed and tightened up to provide a stronger focus on tackling ASB through the relevant Portfolio holder and Lead officer identified in 1 above.
3. WDC improve the quality of data and information in relation to ASB by
 - a) Creating its own database of incidents from all partners, subject to appropriate data sharing considerations, similar to the Police Repeat ASB/Signal Crime Callers and Locations report,¹ plotting their locations precisely on a map, indicating exactly where and when they occurred.
 - b) Developing performance measures to enable progress in tackling ASB to be monitored.
4. WDC consider the implications and options for closing public toilets on an experimental basis and also consider whether pubs and local businesses could be encouraged to allow members of the public to use their toilet facilities when needed.

Enforcement

5. TVP should be encouraged to tackle ASB as follows:

¹ See Appendix 2.

- a) WDC support and encourage TVP to achieve their full manning levels in Wycombe District - to match the proposed investment in Street Wardens (see items 6 & 7 below).
 - b) WDC support and encourage TVP to improve responsiveness to the 101 emergency number.
 - c) WDC explore options for supporting TVP to carry out successful recruitment to vacant posts including the possible provision of free parking.
 - d) the feasibility of the Council having access to a TVP computer should be explored.
6. WDC should consider employing Street Wardens to enforce PSPOs, who would be directed by WDC officers, but would work closely with the Police. The location and number of street wardens to be determined according to need and best practice.
 7. The appointment of Street Wardens be accompanied by a stricter enforcement of Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) to demonstrate that the Council will not tolerate ASB.
 8. FPNs continue to be issued even if only PCs and the Council's own ASB officer are authorised to issue them.

Support

9. WDC put more resources into the understanding of these links (between begging, mental health and substance misuse), and actively support those agencies working to alleviate the problems.

Communications

10. The Council have a co-ordinated campaign, with partners, in relation to street begging involving posters, banners, press, social media and radio to cover the whole of the District, the purpose of which would be not only to educate the public as to what the Council is doing, but also to try to remove the source of funding in the hope that it may persuade beggars to seek help from agencies and deter begging.

What is Anti-social behaviour?

Although it may not necessarily be criminal behaviour, ASB invariably involves issues that adversely affect people's quality of life. At the heart of ASB lies a lack of respect for values and basic consideration for others. It may not necessarily be intentional, but it can intimidate, harass and be disproportionately distressing, particularly to vulnerable members of our community. It can also, in some circumstances, be a precursor to more serious types of offending and criminality, if left unchallenged.

Section 2(1) of the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act (2014) defines Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) as:

- Conduct that has caused, or is likely to cause, harassment, alarm or distress to any person.
- Conduct capable of causing nuisance or annoyance to a person in relation to that person's occupation of residential premises.
- Conduct capable of causing housing-related nuisance or annoyance to any person.

WDC's own ASB Policy refers to the earlier legislation *the Crime and Disorder Act 1998* which defines ASB as "*Behaviour which is likely to cause harassment, alarm or distress to one or more persons not of the same household as the perpetrator*".

The Thames Valley Police ASB Policy also refers to the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) definition of ASB: 'Behaviour by an individual or group that results in: - another party feeling personally threatened, - creates a public nuisance, or - has a detrimental impact upon the environment, or - has a detrimental effect upon the quality of life of an individual or the community as a whole.

Examples of ASB

The term (ASB) is broad in definition and the behaviours that are deemed to constitute it are similarly wide ranging. Such behaviour may include:

- Violence or threats of violence against people and property.
- Intimidation and harassment including begging.
- Criminal damage to property.
- Noisy and rowdy behaviour, including street drinking.
- Aggressive and threatening language and behaviour.
- Fouling of public areas, including dog fouling.
- Using accommodation to sell drugs or for other unlawful purposes.
- Inconsiderate or inappropriate use of a vehicle – such as racing or revving cars and the slamming of doors in built up areas during anti-social hours (such as 03:00).
- Hate behaviour directed at a person's race or nationality; gender; sexual orientation; disability; or faith.
- Other conduct likely to cause harassment, alarm or distress to neighbours including acts which could be regarded as causing nuisance or annoyance.

- Environmental ASB: Dumping rubbish and littering, vandalism, graffiti, abandoned vehicles.

The majority of incidents arise from neighbourhood disputes - car parking issues and noise/disturbance – a point to be considered when deciding on planning applications.

A real-life example of anti-social behaviour listed in a very recent (August 8) Community Protection Notice, currently under review by WDC Legal Department, illustrates the width of the ASB scope:

1. **It is reported that between 07/02/2018 and 07/08/18 (6 months):** you called police emergency services 244 times.
2. **It is reported that on 06/07/18 at 2248hrs** you called 999 to say the end of the world was coming.
3. **It is reported that on 06/07/18 at 2254hrs** you called 999 saying you were an alien.
4. **It is reported that on 25/07/18** you were ranting incoherently outside your flat causing distress.
5. **It is reported that on 26/07/18 at 2330hrs** you called 999 when drunk and said you were the devil.
6. **It is reported that on 07/07/18 at 1425hrs** you called 999 and said your neighbours could see in your flat and you were a terror camp.
7. **It is reported that on 06/04/18 at 1434hrs** you called 999 and told the call handler (female) that you wanted to [REDACTED] with her and offered £400.
8. **It is reported that on 24/07/18 at 1500hrs** you offered to buy a child a comic in Sainsbury's if he came home with you.
9. **It is reported that on 16/05/18** you grabbed a female's [REDACTED] and told her she could get £1000 for [REDACTED].
10. **It is reported that on 25/07/18 at 0400hrs** you were banging on your neighbour's doors.
11. **It is reported that on 22/07/18 at 2236hrs** you had youths in your flat and were not allowing them to leave.
12. **It is reported that on 28/07/18 at 0336hrs** you made a false report to Red Kite that neighbours were banging on your ceiling.
13. **It is reported that on 24/07/18** you were told off by your neighbour for making so much noise at night and you offered your neighbour a PlayStation 4 to [REDACTED] with his girlfriend.

Temple End Residents' Association has provided the following examples of ASB in their area, which includes Frogmoor:

1. Drunk people, including students walking past houses at night being loud, banging on doors, leaving drink bottles and takeaway boxes on window sills, putting takeaway bags through letter boxes and constantly littering the street.
2. Urinating - we get lots of men (usually drunk) stopping on their way from the town centre to urinate in broad daylight, often in front of families and children.
3. Drinking in Frogmoor. Frogmoor has become an area that is best to be avoided. The benches are always full of drunk people or men smoking

cannabis. Despite it being illegal to drink alcohol in the town centre, these men get away with it as there is no police presence.

4. Begging - is very uncomfortable and puts me as a woman off walking to the town centre on my own in the evening.
5. Buses and other vehicles speeding along Temple End, despite it being a 20 mile an hour zone.

ASB is therefore a broad ranging term encompassing a variety of situations and behaviours which can vary in complexity and seriousness, and which can very rarely be resolved by one organisation alone as it normally involves a combination of factors for which different agencies have expertise. To add to the complexity, the T&FG learned that some ASB was seasonal and occasional.

Detailed Report and Timelines

1. **The T&FG believe WDC should take the lead in dealing with ASB – that is the only way it will be in control of the problem. In doing so it will continue to need to work with the various partners involved including TVP.**

The Leader stated in the December 11 debate that she believed that.....

.....giving greater prioritisation to the enforcement of available anti- social behaviour measures by Thames Valley Police will improve the situation and that WDC resolves to seek swift re-prioritisation of TVP resources.

It is the T&FG's contention that the Council cannot rely on the Police to control ASB; the Council must take control over the situation itself.

<p>The T&FG recommends that WDC demonstrates its commitment to tackling ASB by appointing a Cabinet Member (or Deputy Cabinet Member) with specific responsibility for ASB, and that progress is reviewed at every Cabinet meeting.</p>	<p>Timeline Immediately</p>
<p>The T&FG recommends that a single officer should have lead accountability for ASB, and be responsible for monitoring progress on tackling ASB.</p>	

The TFG recognises that the Council has a range of statutory responsibilities to tackle ASB. These arise from two distinct roles, which are:

- I. The Council's role as part of the Wycombe Community Safety Partnership. The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 requires the Council to work with the Police and other agencies to reduce crime and disorder in Wycombe District. In this role the Council plays a key part in dealing with anti-social behaviour of all kinds, and also undertakes project and preventative work.
- II. The Council's environmental protection role. The Council has a range of responsibilities to deal with 'environmental' ASB, like noise, graffiti, dumped rubbish and abandoned cars. These responsibilities arise from a number of

Acts and local byelaws, but in particular from the Environmental Protection Act 1990, and the Clean Neighbourhood and Environment Act 2005.²

Responsibility for ASB at WDC currently falls between two departments – Community and Environment – both staffed by very experienced and capable officers. The T&FG felt that the Council should examine the possibility of putting all ASB responsibility in one department to prevent the chance of an issue falling between the cracks – e.g. is street drinking an unruly and threatening behaviour issue (Community) or a licencing issue (Environment)? Whilst the T&FG heard evidence that current arrangements worked because of the size of the Council (relatively small) with a low staff turnover. Consequently, officers from both departments tended to work well together. However, the T&FG felt that there was scope for a single point of accountability on Cabinet with the appointment of a Cabinet (or deputy Cabinet) Member and an accountable officer within the Council to monitor and report on progress on tackling anti-social behaviour.

WDC should provide a single point of ownership within the officer structure to give ASB. At the moment ASB is dealt with by two departments. The T&FG believe there is scope for some issues to fall between the cracks.

2. The T&FG believes that there is greater scope for the Community Safety Partnership to provide the mechanism to provide an effective lead in the struggle against ASB.

The Wycombe Community Safety Partnership is referred to above. The Wycombe Community Safety Partnership Plan 2017-20 is attached as an Appendix. While there is a statutory duty to have a Community Safety Partnership, it is the view of the T&FG that the Partnership has a number of priorities in addition to those relating to ASB (it has other responsibilities such as domestic abuse, exploitation of the vulnerable, cybercrime).

The T&FG recommends that the working of the Partnership be reviewed and tightened up to provide a stronger focus on tackling ASB through the Portfolio holder and Lead Officer identified in 1 above.	Timeline By 31 October 2018
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3. There are several tables of ASB statistics available; the T&FG believe none of them are robust enough to be relied on, so the T&FG recommend that the recording of ASB must be improved.

The T&FG was presented with many sets of figures to show how good or bad WDC is at controlling ASB. It was pointed out to the T&FG that reports of ASB could be based on single incidents or multiple reports of the same incident, depending on when the calls were received by the Police and logged. It was noted that it also depended on how the calls were classified by the call handlers when they were originally logged. Neither incidents dealt with Housing Associations such as Red Kite, nor incidents dealt with solely by WDC officers.

² WDC Anti-Social Behaviour Policy Version 2 – October 2014

In other words, available statistics are not robust enough to be relied upon – although WDC seem to be improving in mid table within the TVP area, with Hazelmere being reported as having the biggest percentage increase. Micklefield, Totteridge and Downley are among the Councils worst areas relating to domestic/residential ASB.

<p>The T&FG recommends that WDC start its own database of incidents from all partners, similar to the Police Repeat ASB/Signal Crime Callers and Locations report,³ plotting their locations precisely on a map, indicating exactly where and when they occurred.</p>	<p>Timeline By 31 October 2018</p>
<p>The T&FG recommends that WDC develop performance measures to enable progress in tackling ASB to be monitored.</p>	

In this way, the Council can create its own baseline against which progress can be measured, and resources (street wardens) can be directed to hot spots at hot times. For example, TVP advised the T&FG that Thursday evenings, between 16:00 and 04:00, were the worst time of day regarding ASB offences measures should also be reviewed to ensure that there is a way of measuring progress in tackling ASB.

4. The T&FG received evidence that public toilets in Wycombe were being used for the sale and use of illegal substances.

The T&FG had a specific request from the Cabinet Member for Environment, Julia Adey, to examine the problem of public toilets being used by drug users. A sticker on the window could indicate those premises that are part of the scheme. Details would also be included on the WDC website.

<p>The T&FG recommends that Cabinet should consider closing the public toilets on an experimental basis and also consider the implications and options for whether pubs and local businesses should be encouraged to allow members of the public to use their toilet facilities when needed.</p>	<p>Timeline After the appointment of Street Wardens</p>
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Enforcement

5. The T&FG would like to see the Council support TVP to achieve their full staffing strength.

TVP is one of WDC’s main partners when it comes to tackling ASB. The 24/7 non-emergency 101 number is invariably the number the public use to report an incident. We are advised that it can take up to **30 minutes** for this number to be answered. Lack of resources means that Police officers may be slow to follow it up, by which time the incident is likely to have passed.

³ See Appendix 2.

However, the T&FG heard that the Council's relationship with the Police was continuously improving, and in particular, it was noted that a former Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) is now employed as the Council's ASB Officer.

All the Police Officers that spoke to the T&FG expressed a keen willingness to work more closely with the Council to reduce ASB. Their problem is one of resources. Currently there are only 15 PCSOs in the District compared to a full complement of 24. All the gaps were in High Wycombe – the rural force at Marlow and Princes Risborough were at full complement. The 'rural' forces also incurred a very low staff turnover. The Chief Constable explained that although High Wycombe was number one on his priority list with regard to getting local force numbers back up to strength, part of the issue of recruitment and retention was that parking was felt to be an issue for TVP staff in the area. The T&FG noted that WDC could help the Police retain staff by providing free parking at the Park and Ride, and in front of the Council offices after 6pm.

The T&FG were advised that there was still a role for Special Constables in the Police force. It was noted that TVP currently had 400 out of their 700 target and that most of the Specials were University Students. The T&FG wondered whether this was something that WDC could encourage.

T&FG Members questioned whether having a TVP computer within the Council offices in High Wycombe, as they do at Cherwell District Council, to enable officers to access Police systems without having to attend a Police Station would be of benefit. The Community Safety Team Leader explained that the Council used to have access to a TVP computer and that this should be explored with TVP.

<p>The T&FG recommends that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. WDC support and encourage TVP to achieve their full manning levels in Wycombe District - to match the proposed investment in Street Wardens (see items 6 & 7 below). ii. WDC support and encourage TVP to improve responsiveness to the 101 emergency number. iii. WDC explore options for supporting successful recruitment to vacant posts including the provision of free parking. iv. the feasibility of the Council having access to a TVP computer should be explored. 	<p style="text-align: center;">Timeline</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Immediately</p>
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6. Intervention on the streets is a joint effort between WDC and the Police. The T&FG know the Police are understaffed, but notwithstanding that, the T&FG believe WDC should employ Street Wardens for Wycombe, Marlow and Princes Risborough.

<p>The T&FG recommends considering the use of Street Wardens to enforce PSPOs, who would be directed by WDC officers, but would work closely with the Police. The number and location of wardens to be determined according to need</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Timelines</p> <p style="text-align: center;">By 31 March 2019.</p>
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and best practice.	
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- 7. The Council should not be afraid to issue Fixed Penalty Notices if necessary, and to follow them up – as far as the Magistrates’ Court to demonstrate that ASB will not be tolerated. Fines received would go some way to allay the costs of the Wardens. The T&FG appreciate that this may involve a review of staffing capacity in the Community and/or Legal Departments.**

The T&FG also recommends that the appointment of Street Wardens should be accompanied by a stricter enforcement of Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) to demonstrate that the Council will not tolerate ASB.	Immediately
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The wardens would not only enforce PSPO clauses – this is only one aspect of a more rounded enforcement approach. The wardens may also cover enforcement of other council regulatory functions – e.g. licensing, taxi licensing, waste management, littering, illegal street traders, parks by-laws, idling motor vehicles etc. etc. Other types of legislation are available to the Council to achieve the ASB enforcement and environmental / street scene outcomes important to residents and therefore elected Members. Income raised would part fund their cost.

The T&FG do not suggest enforcement by any potential WDC warden service would replace the Police; they would work together in partnership, but the T&FG stress that they would be directed by WDC officers. This joint ASB solution would free up Police time by streamlining prosecution for more minor offences and would deliver at least some kind of response to lower level crime or ASB. Wardens would be a visible indication that the Council is serious about the problem.

The view of the Neighbourhood police is that Wardens would be a good idea. They said that the only way to deal with ASB was by ‘feet on the ground’, working together. Swift early intervention is key to nipping low level ASB in the bud before the perpetrator escalates his/her behaviour into more serious offending. Prevention is always better and less resource intensive than later enforcement, helping to preserve relationships between the enforcement officers (police, wardens, Red Kite), perpetrators and those affected by the behaviour.

A good warden service could also do publicity work, school visits and educate and inform, and would be a visible deterrent. The Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead website describes their Community Wardens as follows:

The main purpose of the community wardens' scheme is to reduce crime and disorder and link together all parts of the community, acting as a highly visible reassuring presence.

Wardens visit schools, day centres, businesses and liaise closely with other agencies and departments within the borough to try to solve problems in the community as quickly and efficiently as possible.

They are empowered to issue Fixed Penalty Notices (or FPNs) for littering and dog-fouling.

To be successful with a warden scheme and when using PSPOs, additional Council resource may be needed, in the Legal and Community departments in particular, as court work and associated preparation of evidence will be required to prosecute non-payment of fixed penalty notices. If contracted out, the warden services could handle FPN issue, collection of fines, and statement preparation and provide these to the Council to a good standard, thus reducing the extra workload for existing officers. However, it would be wrong to pretend that a team of eight wardens with supporting legal and management input would not be an additional cost to the Council, though the Chairman of HWBIDCo indicated to the T&FG that he would be happy to consider contributing to the scheme. It is noted that the Council now employs two experienced senior prosecutors and a para-legal and one has higher rights of audience.

8. The T&FG are disappointed that the Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPO) for Wycombe Town Centre and Desborough are still not in place.

On 11 July 2016 Cabinet approval was sought to commence public consultation on the implementation of two Public Spaces Protection Orders for High Wycombe Town Centre and surrounding areas. The implementation of two Public Spaces Protection Orders for the High Wycombe Town Centre and the surrounding area was agreed by Cabinet on 12 December 2016 with an implementation date of 01 February 2017.

Since then just two FPNs have been issued, but prosecutions did not proceed due to lack of evidence. Subsequently, the wording on the PSPOs has been reviewed with the Police and WDC officers. It was agreed by everyone that there was a need to amend the wording of the town centre PSPO to give the Police and authorised officers the power to remove cans of alcohol, giving additional powers and making prosecuting for breach easier. The wording of the fixed penalty notice in connection with these PSPOs was also reviewed and has subsequently been amended.

Due to changes in the law the only way that Police Community Support Officers can have powers to issue FPNs for breach of a PSPO is if they are given a specific discretionary power by Chief Constables. Legal Services wrote to the Police on 17 May 2018, seeking confirmation that the Chief Constable has revised and updated the list of discretionary powers conferred on PCSOs since the changes to the law came into force on 15 December 2017. TVP have indicated that at least a further 2-3 weeks are needed to look into this matter. It is hoped that the Force Solicitors will respond within that time frame.

The T&FG recommends that FPNs continue to be issued even if only PCs and the Council’s own ASB officer are authorised to issue FPNs. ⁴	Timeframe By 30 September 2018
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The Chairman of the T&FG has spoken to the legal department; and has been assured that Street Wardens can be authorised by the Council to issue FPNs by an

⁴ Since writing the above, the Chairman has been advised that changes to the Town Centre PSPO have been agreed between Legal and Communities. The Desborough Road PSPO for Prostitution will be discussed between TVP, Communities and Legal Services at the beginning of September to ensure the process (for dealing with kerb crawlers) works and can be enforced. However, it is plain that the implementation of PSPOs is a process that can be improved.

internal scheme of delegation should the Council choose to go down this route. The Chairman of the T&FG was also reassured that, at present there are sufficient resources in the Legal Department to prosecute FPNs should that be necessary; however, if Street Wardens are in place, the position may have to be reviewed.

Support

9. Developing a deeper understanding of the complex issues that lie behind ASB.

The causes of ASB are a complex amalgam of substance abuse and mental health issues – but the T&FG did not find evidence that homelessness was a factor. The Council needs to understand the underlying causes and provide support through focussed objectives for each issue across the district, and must be proactive in taking the lead in working with other agencies and the third sector to try to find long term solutions.

The T&FG's view is that tackling ASB is about more than using the law.

The T&FG heard evidence that there is little link between homelessness and begging but a big link between mental health and vagrancy / begging.

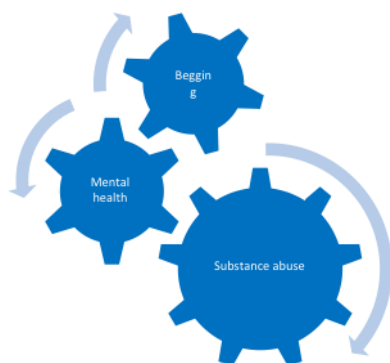
The T&FG were advised that begging is not primarily a homelessness issue, it's an addiction issue. Whilst some homeless people do beg the majority do not, and the majority of beggars are not homeless. The Operations Manager of Wycombe Homeless Connection told Members that he was sure that no one begging in Wycombe was genuinely trying to raise money to resolve their homelessness; they are almost all, almost always, begging to feed addictions.

By way of example, the T&FG were advised of the case in which the Police had tried to help a drug user who had been found rough sleeping in the Town Centre on one of the coldest nights of the year. The rough sleeper had initially accepted an offer of accommodation, but when he was told it was on the outskirts of Wycombe, he turned it down as he had to remain in the Town Centre to stay close to his drugs supplier.

The T&FG were also advised that most street beggars who purported to be homeless were frauds, and were not considered to be Wycombe residents. They came from out of town and could earn up to £100 a day begging – students were thought to be especially easy targets.

The T&FG were also advised (by Councillor Matt Knight) that there was a link between mental health issues and substance abuse – especially if they were unable to access appropriate support services. Councillor Matt Knight added that statistically mental health sufferers were more likely to be victims of ASB rather than offenders.

The T&FG are therefore presented with a curious inter-relationship of:



<p>The T&FG recommends that WDC put more resources into the understanding of these links, and actively support those agencies working to alleviate the problems.</p>	<p>Timeline Immediately</p>
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The Council needs to avoid demonising people with addictions who have resorted to begging. For example, the Council needs to explore whether services designed to support people with addiction problems are coping, and if not why not?

The issue of substance abuse & ASB has been brought sharply into focus with the recent case of a teenager who has been imprisoned for manslaughter after causing the death of an innocent woman who was accidentally splashed with high-strength acid from a bottle that was pushed towards her as she attempted to steal a bike from another man in Frogmoor at 4.50pm. The court was told that the accused claimed the altercation happened because he had been sold the drug spice rather than cannabis. If it had not resulted in the poor woman's death, this would have been recorded as drug related ASB. The T&FG felt that this demonstrated why getting to grips with the causes of ASB is so important.

Red Kite have to deal with many relatively minor incidents of inter-domestic ASB; invariably they attempt to find a middle ground by way of mediation between disputing neighbours. It was noted that they had an 83% success rate with regard to mediation via Mediation Bucks.

Communications

10. Not only must the Council do all the above, but it must tell the public what it is doing.

It was noted that a poster campaign concentrating on begging had taken place in the Town Centre to try to deter people from giving money directly to beggars. The message showed a picture of a beggar saying 'Don't give change, support change' and suggested giving money to a local charity rather than directly to the beggar.

<p>The T&FG recommends that the Council have a co-ordinated campaign in relation to street begging involving posters, banners, press, social media and radio to cover the whole of the District, the purpose of which would be not only to educate the public as to what the Council is doing, but also to try to remove the source of funding in the hope that it may persuade beggars to seek help from agencies and</p>	<p>Timeline Immediately</p>
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deter begging.	
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Timeline

Apart from Street Wardens, it is felt that there are no recommendations that could not be implemented immediately.

The T&FG **recommend** that progress against the recommendations detailed above should be reviewed by the Improvement and Review Commission at its meeting in December 2018.

A Note on CCTV

As at **December 2015**, the District had 118 CCTV cameras, located as follows:

Location	Pan, tilt, zoom	Static	Total
High Wycombe	31	2	33
High Wycombe ANPR	2	3	5
WDC Office Reception	1	12	13
WDC Office Rear Car Park	1	3	4
Easton St Car Park	2	19	21
Swan Car Park	2	13	15
Castlefield	4	0	4
Park Parade, Hazlemere	1	0	1
Marlow	14	0	14
Princes Risborough	8	0	8
	66	52	118

The T&FG were advised that the system is under review by WDC and TVP as to how the CCTV should be monitored and that this review has been going on for several years.

The system needs an upgrade but that cannot happen until the review is complete. However, that does not mean that it keeps breaking down or is not fit for purpose. Cameras are being replaced with current models as/when/where required. Although the new replacement cameras are HD day/night, our current system is not HD compatible so the picture quality is standard density. It is however of evidence quality. All cameras footage is retained for 31 days which is the national norm.

The cameras cannot monitor all areas all the time and are set to patrol viewing "hot-spots" areas unless the operator takes control and then, if there is a good reason, can zoom in on a suspected offender. The system is operated strictly in compliance with WDC's internal Code of Practice, the Data Protection Act, Human Rights Acts

and the police within the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000. All operators are DBS (Basic Disclosure) cleared every 3 years and are holders of the Security Industries Authority licence.

In addition, to providing footage for the recent acid attack, the system was also responsible for locating suspects following 4 murder cases, numerous assaults and providing CCTV footage evidence. Since 2001, CCTV has instigated and/or assisted in over 900 arrests, assisted the police the over 66,000 times, carried out over 11,000 footage reviews and provided over 6,000 video evidence packs to police for use in Law Court. The system has also provided over 200 copies (during the last 5 years) to members of the public mainly regarding road traffic collisions or car damages in car parks in compliance with the Data Protection Act.

Conclusions/ Recommendations

The Group have taken evidence from a number of sources and after identifying a number of opportunities have arrived at the recommendations featured at the head of this report.

Next Steps

Referral to Improvement & Review Commission on Wednesday 12 September 2018 for onward referral, with endorsement, amendment or rejection, to Cabinet on 17 September 2018.

Background Papers

Appendix 1 - Wycombe Community Safety Partnership Plan 2017 - 2020

Appendix 2 - Wycombe Anti-Social Behaviour Policy – October 2014

Appendix 3 – Repeat ASB/Signal Crime Report - 02.08.18 (TVP)

Abbreviations:

ACPO	Association of Chief Police Officers
ASB	Anti-Social Behaviour
CCTV	Closed-Circuit Television
FPNs	Fixed Penalty Notices
PC	Police Constable
PCSO	Police Community Support Officer
PSPO	Public Space Protection Order
SMART	Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Time constrained
T&FG	Task & Finish Group
TVP	Thames Valley Police
WDC	Wycombe District Council



Wycombe Community Safety Partnership Plan 2017 - 2020

Contents:

	<i>Page:</i>
Introduction from the Chair	3
Setting the scene	4
Statutory requirements	5
2016/17 Achievements	6 – 7
Strategic Assessment 2016	8 – 9
Consultation results	10 – 11
Wycombe Community Safety Partnership Priorities 2017-2020	12 – 14
Appendix A – Glossary of Terms	15 – 16
Appendix B – Glossary of Acronyms	17 – 18
Appendix C – Risk Assessment	19 – 20

**Introduction from the Chair,
Karen Satterford**

This is the Wycombe Community Safety Partnership Three Year Partnership Plan. The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 as amended by the Police Reform Act 2002, Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 and Police and Crime Act 2009 requires that the District Council, County Council, Police, Fire and Rescue Authority, NHS Bucks and Probation Service jointly develop and implement a strategy to tackle crime and disorder, including anti-social behaviour and other behaviour adversely affecting the local environment, as well as the misuse of drugs and to prevent reoffending within Wycombe District.

In Wycombe District we are fully committed to working in partnership with a large number of statutory agencies, voluntary organisations and the business community. Involvement of the local community is also essential and community spirit will continue to be harnessed into making Wycombe District a safe place to live, work and visit.

This Plan is effective for three years, from April 2017 – March 2020 and it aligns with other planning cycles. It will be revised annually thus reflecting any new priorities emerging from annual strategic assessments. Set out within this document is how the Plan was arrived at, what the strategic priorities are and why they have been chosen.

The Wycombe Community Safety Partnership Plan is a living working document. The priorities represent a real but realistic challenge for the lead agencies, and other groups and organisations participating alongside them. However, members of the Community Safety Partnership are confident it will achieve the aim to reduce crime and disorder to ensure that Wycombe District is a safe place for people to live, work and visit.



Karen Satterford
Chief Executive, Wycombe District Council

Wycombe – setting the scene

Wycombe district is a mainly rural area with most people living in or around the towns of High Wycombe, Marlow and Princes Risborough. Our local population is growing at a faster rate than previously anticipated – from around 162,000 in 2001 to 176,000 in 2015ⁱ. The make-up of our population is changing with fewer young people and more older people. Studies show that our population will continue to grow significantly, potentially reaching around 193,000 by 2033.

The district has a rich and historic landscape sculptured by generations of rural activities, with pre and post-industrial revolution manufacturing geared to its rural region, including the once great chair making industry, now in decline. It is a patchwork of rural towns, villages and hamlets. We live in a beautiful part of England, with 71% of the district part of an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and 48% is designated as Green Belt. The challenge we face is finding suitable places where new homes could be built and new jobs and infrastructure provided.

Wycombe district now has a broad-based economy as part of the globally significant Thames Valley economic sub-region. We have four key business sectors: advanced engineering; ICT and software development; bio-pharma and food and drink. Many of these companies are based on our two key business parks in High Wycombe (Cressex Business Park) and Marlow (Globe Business Park – including Marlow International). There were significant job losses over the last decade due to a decline in traditional manufacturing, however, forecasts suggest potential for strong employment growth to 2031, and currently we have a claimant count at 1.0%.ⁱⁱ Generally a prosperous area, the district has pockets of deprivation in both urban and rural areas.

Wycombe district is a prime location. We have excellent access to the M25/M40/M4 corridor, good rail links between London and Birmingham and are close to Heathrow Airport and London.

Wycombe district is a popular but expensive place to live and work. Local house prices are increasingly beyond the means of key workers and local people. The level of commuting, both in and out of the district, contributes to a worsening transport situation. Significantly more people commute out of the district than commute in with there being around 22,000 journeys in and 33,000 journeys out.

We have a large and increasing ethnic minority population, with around 13,000 of our residents (7.6% of the population) having family ties to Pakistan. People of African Caribbean origin form the second largest ethnic minority community (2%). High Wycombe town is home to the largest St Vincentian population outside of Caribbean. The Muslim faith community is the second largest in the south-east, with 15,000 (nearly 9%) people describing themselves as being Muslim in the 2011 census.

The health of people in Wycombe district is generally better than average for England. Life expectancy is higher than the England averageⁱⁱⁱ, although there are health inequalities by area and gender. For example, life expectancy for men is 82.1 years, but this is 7.3 years lower in the most deprived areas of our district. Over the past ten years, deaths from all causes have decreased and are lower than the average in England. Residents have relatively healthy lifestyles compared to the national average in terms of eating healthily and being physically active.

ⁱ Mid-year population estimates from ONS

ⁱ Claimant count for November 2016 from ONS

ⁱ Public Health England Profiles (September 2016)

Statutory Requirements

According to the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, every local authority must have a Community Safety Partnership. The Wycombe Community Safety Partnership is responsible for delivering the Partnership Plan.

The following are members of the Partnership:

- Buckinghamshire County Council
- Buckinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service
- Buckinghamshire Drugs and Alcohol Action Team
- Buckinghamshire Youth Offending Service
- Chiltern Clinical Commissioning Group
- National Probation Service
- Thames Valley Community Rehabilitation Company
- Thames Valley Police
- Wycombe District Council

The partnership also works with other organisations from the statutory, voluntary and business sectors to deliver projects, but there are too many to list here.

Reports on performance of partnership work go to the Wycombe Community Safety Strategy Group. This Group sets up action groups to drive work on the priorities within the Partnership Plan and delivers on projects; is represented on the Buckinghamshire Safer and Stronger Partnership Board; and contributes to the Safer Bucks Plan.

The Community Safety Partnership Plan outlines the Partnership priorities, which are determined by a process called the Community Safety Strategic Assessment, which is a statutory requirement to help Community Safety Partnerships decide on their priorities and inform their Partnership Plans.

The strategic period studied in the Strategic Assessment covers all crime and disorder that occurred in Buckinghamshire from 1st April 2015 to 31st March 2016. It uses data from the TVP crime recording systems (CEDAR, Command and Control and Niche) which was extracted by the BCC Partnership Analyst and the TVP Performance Team.

The aim of the assessment is to provide a localised picture of the main concerns from the past 12 months and uncover emerging issues for the coming year to help develop priorities and drive business.

The overall purpose of the Partnership Plan is to 'add value' to the work already being carried out by the separate partners organisations.

Our Achievements during 2016/17

As a result of the last Partnership Plan some significant steps were taken to address crime and disorder issues. A few examples of activities undertaken in relation to the priorities from the last Plan are highlighted below.

Priority one: Crime and anti-social behaviour

- Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) to replace the town centre Designated Public Places Order, and one to tackle prostitution related activities in the Desborough Road area have been consulted upon and agreed by Cabinet.
- Crime prevention literature has been provided for various community events.
- New partnership literature was developed for 'summer crime' work
- Community Safety communications calendar was produced to ensure all key areas of work is planned for during the year.
- WDC ASB Officer has set up the Street Community Core Group – which meets 6 weekly to discuss those individuals causing problems within the town centre.
- WDC ASB Officer working with Marlow police officers to roll out Community Cop Card Scheme in 2017.
- A PSPO to close a footpath has been requested and is currently being investigated.
- Communications messages went out to raise awareness of issues relating to the clocks going back.
- Due to an increase in theft of tools from vans, literature was provided to the police to raise awareness to van owners.
- Neighbourhood policing teams are utilising problem profiling approaches to their areas – and working in partnership with relevant agencies to implement actions.

Priority two: Domestic abuse

- Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) information has been included on WDC and TVP websites
- New domestic abuse disclosure scheme launched in Bucks (supported by Terence Higgins Trust HW)
- Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) focus groups were held in June/July to understand gaps in provision
- Lesbian and Gay Liaison Officer role was promoted within TVP.
- LGBT quality mark stickers have been produced for domestic violence and abuse (DVA) services
- A successful bid was made for funding for disability DVA awareness raising
- FGM information included in new Community E-Newsletter
- Disability DVA literature has been produced and distributed.
- International Day of the Girl event took place in October – information was made available to attendees on DVA, FGM, Honour Based Violence (HBV) etc.
- Delegation Bucks has been set up within Bucks – which meets monthly to discuss cases which are not at a MARAC level, but still impact on services.
- Bucks Safeguarding Children's Board ran a DVA challenge event in October.

Priority three: Exploitation of the vulnerable

- TVP Operation Guan ran in May, and a number of local nail bars were visited in relation to modern slavery. Information was left with the workers, and translators were on hand to discuss any concerns.
- Jill Dando Institute (JDI) is undertaking research into modern slavery within Bucks – a Task and Finish group has been established to take forward any recommendations.
- Work has begun to look at internal training and awareness opportunities around both Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and Modern Slavery.
- 698 individuals have received Prevent training to date.
- Work has begun on a new Hotel Watch Scheme for the District. A partnership pack of information was produced and delivered to 35 hotels by Neighbourhood Officers. Proprietors and Manager will be asked to sign their properties up to regular Hotel Watch email updates from community safety partners. This approach is now being used across Bucks, and also in other areas of the Thames Valley.

Priority four: Continue the work of the Nightsafe Partnership

- The Nightsafe partnership has been working with hotels within High Wycombe on the roll out of Hotel Watch
- Information on Nightsafe and other community safety messages were included in the Bucks New University 2016/17 student guide.
- TVP and WDC Taxi Licensing undertook joint visits prior to Christmas 2016 to speak with taxi drivers about safeguarding of customers and CSE, and undertake checks on vehicles.
- 'Test purchase' exercise was undertaken in 2016 on local hotels to test their approach to potential CSE.

Priority five: Cybercrime

- JDI was commissioned by BCC to undertake some research into the prevalence of cybercrime within Bucks.
- TVP launched a cybercrime awareness raising campaign in October, which WDC are supporting and promoting.
- TVP has now shared a 2017 communications calendar with partners so that we can schedule in relevant communications related to key events during the year.
- Information on cybercrime safety tips have been sent out via Thames Valley Alert and Twitter.
- Information on cybercrime was taken to the International Day of the Girl event.

Strategic Assessment 2016

The Strategic Assessment is a detailed document including mapped data to show hotspots; victim and offender profiles; and other key factors for a range of crimes, anti-social behaviour and drug usage and treatment.

Wycombe Community Safety Partnership priorities are identified using two analysis documents: The Thames Valley Police Force Strategic Assessment and the Buckinghamshire Community Safety Partnership Strategic Assessment.

Both documents are produced annually and are complemented by regular monitoring of partnership activity, detailed analyses that explore the key and emerging problems, and consultation with community groups. This process helps the Partnership to direct its resources so they remain focused on the main priorities, adapt to new issues, and are delivered in a manner that gets to the root causes of crime and anti-social behaviour.

Key findings

The table below shows the number of key offences which occurred during 2014/15 and 2015/16, along with the percentage difference.

Offence Type	Number of Offences During 2014/15	Number of Offences During 2015/16	% Change
All Crime	7,798	8,390	7.6%
Violence Against the Person	1,392	1,852	33%
Sexual Offences	220	262	19.1%
Robbery	59	69	16.9%
Burglary Dwelling	299	249	-16.7%
Burglary Non-Dwelling	408	415	1.7%
Theft of Vehicle	122	167	36.9%
Theft from Vehicle	603	608	0.8%
Shoplifting	783	930	18.8%
Arson	54	46	-14.8%
Criminal Damage	1,291	1,175	-9%
Drug Offences	323	335	3.7%
Public Order Offences	191	241	26.2%

As the table shows, we have seen an increase of 7.6% in all crime – this equates to 592 additional offences. This is true for the whole of Buckinghamshire, which overall has seen an increase of 12% in all crime.

For a number of years Wycombe district has experienced significant reductions in crime, and it is accepted that crime can only continue to fall for a certain period of time before it increases again, plateaus and fluctuates around an average value.

An interesting fact which the Strategic Assessment uncovered is that the traditional peak of violence and public disorder during the early hours of the morning is no longer observed to the same extent across Buckinghamshire. It has been diluted by an increase, in violence particularly, during after school hours between 3pm and 5pm. Whilst Night Time Economy violence used to peak during the summer months, this new

trend in violence appears to occur year round. This is an issue the Partnership will focus on during 2017/18.

If we look at more recent statistics for the district we can see the picture is a little more promising. The table below shows a year to date comparison for 01/04/15 – 28/02/16 and 01/04/16 – 28/02/17.

Offence Type	Number of Offences During 2015/16	Number of Offences During 2016/17	% Change
All Crime	8,390	8,177	-2.5%
Violence Against the Person	1,852	1,817	-1.89%
Sexual Offences	262	257	-1.91%
Robbery	69	56	-18.8%
Burglary Dwelling	249	278	6.9%
Burglary Non-Dwelling	415	382	-7.95%
Theft of Vehicle	167	183	3.1%
Theft from Vehicle	608	499	-17.9%
Shoplifting	930	1,069	14.9%%
Arson	46	64	28.1%%
Criminal Damage	1,175	1,016	-13.5%%
Drug Offences	335	333	-0.6%%
Public Order Offences	241	251	3.9%%

These tables highlight the importance of the Community Safety Partnership continuing to focus on the traditional crimes that our communities experience. Whilst we know that issues such as child sexual exploitation and cybercrime are hugely important and have a massive impact on the victims, we still need to also work with our communities to reduce the number of victims of the above crimes.

Consultation results

In January 2016 a survey was posted on the Wycombe District Council website to ascertain the views of the local residents in relation to the proposed priorities for 2017/18. The survey ran for 4 weeks and was completed by 115 residents of the district.

Key findings from the survey

85% of respondents agreed with the priorities identified, with less than 8% disagreeing.

People were asked **how much of a problem, if at all, a number of issues are in the local neighbourhood**. As the following graph shows, the biggest perceived problems, in order of priority (determined by combining responses where the perception is that there is a very big or a fairly big problem) are:

- | | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| 1 Rubbish or litter lying around | 9 Intimidating groups of teenagers |
| 2 Cybercrime | 10 Noisy neighbours/loud parties |
| 3 People using or dealing in drugs | 11 Assault in public |
| 4 Burglaries or break ins | 12 Being mugged/robbed |
| 5 Vandalism | 12 Being harassed or insulted |
| 6 Property stolen from vehicles | 13 Being the victim of hate crime |
| 6 People being drunk or rowdy in public | 14 Vehicles being stolen |
| 7 Graffiti | 15 Gang related violence or crime |
| 8 Domestic abuse | 16 Abandoned or burnt out cars |

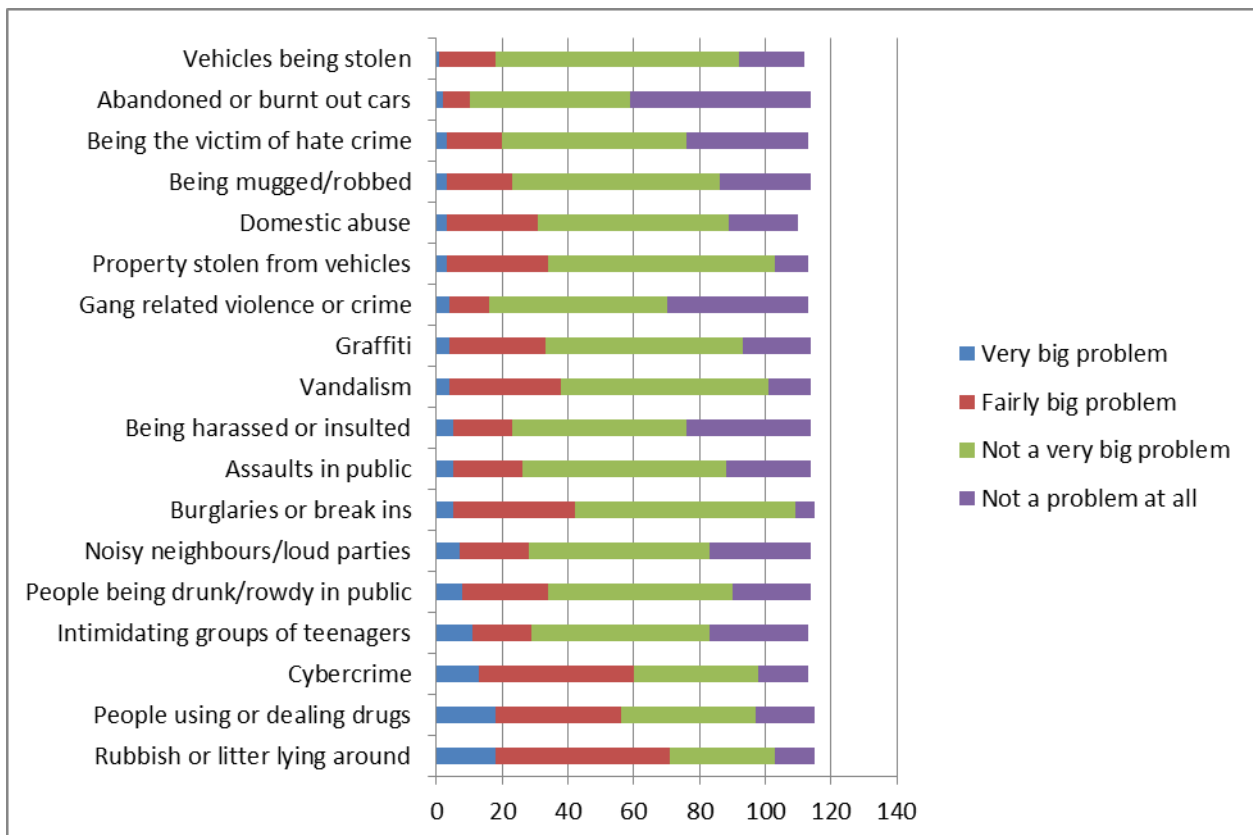
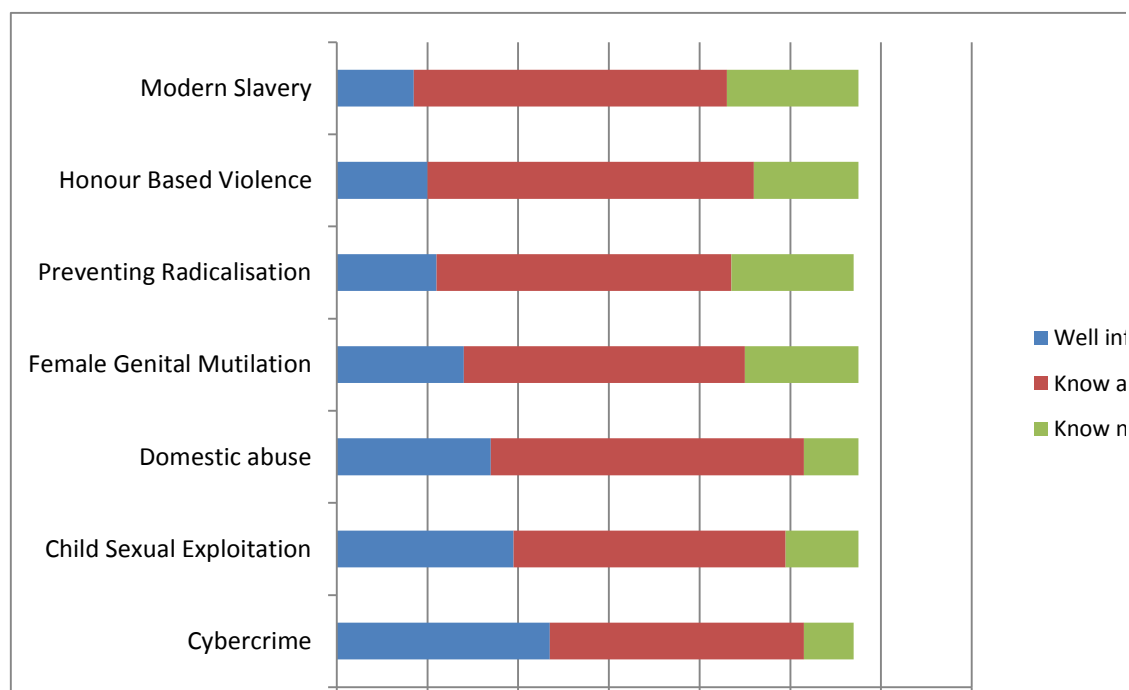


Chart showing the number of respondents indicating the level of problem each crime type is.

Respondents were also asked how well informed they were on a number of the newer aspects of community safety. The following table illustrates the responses given.



Encouragingly, when comparing these responses with those obtained last year, the percentage of those respondents who feel well informed about each topic has increased by between 2% and 11%. In addition, the percentage of respondents who feel they know nothing has decreased for all of the issues from between 3% and 15%.

Finally, respondents were asked how they would prefer to find out about community safety issues:

	2016 responses	2015 responses
Wycombe Council Website	29%	27%
Thames Valley Police website	49%	40%
Thames Valley Alert	57%	65%
Twitter	8%	8%
Facebook	15%	16%
Community Safety E-Newsletter	38%	34%
District Times	13%	24%

It would appear that fewer respondents want to find out about community safety issues via Thames Valley Alert or the District Times, whilst there is a slight increase in those who wish to obtain such information from the police and council websites.

Conclusion:

Although the survey ran for a shorter period compared to last year, we received more responses, and a higher proportion agreed with the proposed priorities this year.

The top 5 issues of concern to respondents remained the same this year, which highlights the importance of continuing to have crime and anti-social behaviour as a priority for the Community Safety Partnership, alongside the emerging exploitation issues.

Wycombe Community Safety Partnership Plan Priorities 2017 - 2020

The Community Safety Partnership has agreed the following four priorities for the next three years. Each priority has a delivery plan, with details of the key objectives for each during 2017/18 included below.

Priority 1 – Tackling anti-social behaviour and crime

As the survey results have shown, crime and anti-social behaviour are still a priority concern for the residents of the district. The Wycombe Community Safety Partnership understands that certain crimes occur in peaks and troughs throughout the year, so we need to continue to plan for these peaks and make every effort to limit any increases during these periods.

Anti-social behaviour can degrade the local environment and have an adverse effect on communities, and directly influences people's perceptions of fear of crime. Anti-social behaviour includes criminal damage, underage/anti-social drinking, noise, graffiti and harassment.

Year one objectives:

- Agencies working in partnership to deal with anti-social behaviour throughout the district.
- Thames Valley Police working with partners on seasonal trends and increases in crime.
- Continue to increase the public awareness of cybercrime, and how to avoid becoming a victim
- Tackling increases in violent crime through partnership initiatives such as Nightsafe
- Agencies working together to address substance misuse and its effect on the wider community.
- Implementing and monitoring the Public Spaces Protection Orders.
- Thames Valley Police to work with relevant agencies to target Organised Crime Groups within the district.

Priority 2 – Safeguarding our communities from exploitation

Whilst we have a separate priority regarding child sexual exploitation, it has become clear across the country that adults within our communities are also subject to different forms of exploitation. Although the public may not be able to identify this as an area of concern locally, the crime statistics and knowledge from service providers in the district and county indicate that this is indeed a key priority

Domestic abuse is a very under-reported crime and it is believed that those who are brave enough to come forward represent only the tip of the iceberg in terms of those who experience it. Consequently, organisations find it difficult to measure the true extent of domestic abuse in the district as they are not able to get a full picture and extent of domestic abuse.

Prevent is a sensitive matter for our communities, not least because it deals with matters related to national security, and as such requires a great deal of trust and confidence between us, the police, counter terrorism agencies and our communities. At the heart of our Prevent Delivery Plan is an approach to mainstreaming and better working arrangements across the partnership and stakeholders to ensure not only a consistent and efficient approach but also one that is targeted and cost effective. We

acknowledge that there are many factors that contribute to such vulnerability, but it is the ideological narratives that prey on these vulnerabilities that give rise to terrorism and violent extremism

Year one objectives:

- Supporting the victims of domestic violence and abuse to report incidents to the police or other supporting agencies.
- Raise awareness of Honour Based Violence and where people can access support locally.
- As a result of the implementation of the Counter Terrorism and Securities Act 2015 (CTSA 2015) every local authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism. Our local aims are to continue to deliver a robust response to the ideological challenge of terrorism; protect the vulnerable; and support institutions and the community in opposing the narrative of the radicalisers.
- Modern Slavery is a growing issue, affecting men, women and children. 1746 cases were reported in the UK in 2013 - a 47% increase on the number of cases reported in 2012. But these are just the victims we know about. Slavery's hidden nature means actual numbers are likely to be far, far higher. Wycombe Community Safety Partnership will continue to develop a multi-agency approach to raising awareness of, and tackling modern slavery locally.
- Through the multi-agency Street Core Community Group we will manage those that are homeless within High Wycombe town centre, utilising support services and enforcement where appropriate.

Priority 3 – Working together to address Child Sexual Exploitation

Child sexual exploitation is a form of child sexual abuse. It occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into sexual activity (a) in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or (b) for the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator.

The victim may have been sexually exploited even if the sexual activity appears consensual. Child sexual exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology.

Year one objectives:

- Working in partnership across the county to raise awareness of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and the support that is available.
- Ensure that training is delivered on CSE to staff within key establishments and agencies, such as taxi drivers, Hotel staff, late night eateries etc.
- Following the publication of the CSE Serious Case Review, implement any relevant actions.
- Raise awareness of Female Genital Mutilation and where people can access support.

Priority 4 – Building community resilience

A large part of the work of the Community Safety Partnership is to educate and inform the public – for example explaining how to prevent becoming a victim of crime, or explaining where specific help can be obtained for a certain issue (such as domestic abuse, or cybercrime) etc.

It is important, in these more challenging financial times, to build community resilience into the work of the Partnership. Together we need to enhance the personal and collective capacity of the community to anticipate risk, limit its impact and help them to bounce back rapidly.

Year one objectives:

- Work with local businesses and communities to implement the Safe Place scheme
- Support and promote Neighbourhood Watch within our communities.
- Assist in the roll out of the Street Association Project in the pilot area, and then beyond.
- Thames Valley Police and Wycombe District Council to work with schools to deliver the Community Cop Cards scheme.
- Working together to raise awareness of scams, and where people can go for help and advice.
- Multi-agency work within communities to promote wellbeing and to support the Dementia Friendly Community initiative.

Anti social behaviour (ASB) 'Acting in an anti social manner ... that caused or was likely to cause harassment, alarm or distress'. Covers a wide range of selfish and unacceptable activity that can blight the quality of community life.

Anti-Social Behaviour Team - A partnership between Thames Valley Police and Wycombe District, working together to tackle anti-social behaviour within the District.

Buckinghamshire Safer and Stronger Partnership Board County-level group to help coordinate the work of the district community safety partnerships (this recognises that community safety issues do not always respect district borders and may sometimes be better organised at a county level).

Child Sexual Exploitation is illegal activity by people who have power over young people and use it to sexually abuse them. This can involve a broad range of exploitative activity, from seemingly 'consensual' relationships and informal exchanges of sex for attention, accommodation, gifts or cigarettes, through to very serious organised crime.

Community Plan Produced by the local strategic partnership, it sets a long-term, vision for an area across all services and informs the priorities in the **local area agreement**

Community Safety Agreement A document prepared by the Buckinghamshire Safer and Stronger Communities Partnership setting out how the district level Community Safety Partnerships will cooperate to deliver their priorities.

Community Safety Partnership (CSP) The local name for the crime and disorder reduction partnership introduced by the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. Its purpose is to bring together **responsible authorities** to work with other local organisations to develop and implement strategies to tackle crime and disorder including anti-social and other behaviour adversely affecting the local environment as well as the misuse of drugs.

Criminal damage Where a person 'who without lawful excuse destroys or damages any property belonging to another, intending to destroy or damage any such property or being reckless as to whether any such property would be destroyed or damaged'. It includes damage to property e.g. broken windows and car wing mirrors.

Domestic abuse 'Any incident of threatening behaviour, violence or abuse (psychological, physical, sexual, financial or emotional) between adults, who are or have been intimate partners or family members, regardless of gender or sexuality'.

Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) A legal requirement to undertake a partnership review following a domestic homicide with the intention of learning lessons to improve the way partners deal with domestic incidents and improved outcomes for domestic abuse victims.

Hate Crime A Hate Crime or Incident is any behaviour that you or someone else thinks was caused by hostility, prejudice or hatred of: Disability (including physical, hearing and visual impairments, mental health problems and learning disabilities); Gender identity (people who are transgender, transsexual or transvestite); Race, skin colour, nationality, ethnicity or heritage; Religion, faith or belief (including people without a

religious belief); Sexual orientation (people who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, or heterosexual)

Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) Non-statutory, multi agency partnerships which bring together the different parts of the public, private, community and voluntary sectors allowing different initiatives and services to support one another so they can work more effectively.

Nightsafe Nightsafe is a programme of education, communication and partnership working to tackle the complex issues around having a safe night out, for the benefit of everyone who lives, works, and socialises in Wycombe.

Police and Crime Commissioner - This is an elected post and started in November 2012. The role of the PCC is to be the voice of the people and hold the police to account. Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) will aim to cut crime and deliver an effective and efficient police service within their force area.

Property Related Crime All crime where items are stolen including burglary and attempted burglary, robbery and theft including the theft of and from vehicles and the theft of pedal cycles.

Responsible authorities The responsible authorities are the police, police authorities, local authorities, fire and rescue authorities and primary care trusts.

Sexual crime Sexual crime includes a range of offences such as sexual harassment and paedophilia. Some sexual crimes involve violent assaults such as rape.

Stakeholder Organisations that have a direct interest in a service being provided and may be able to be involved in the delivery by contributing resources such as funding, knowledge, skills etc.

Wycombe Partnership The **local strategic partnership** for Wycombe.

Youth Offending Service (YOS) A Countywide service dealing with young offenders

Appendix B

Glossary of Acronyms

ABC - Acceptable Behaviour Contract

ANPR - Automatic Number Plate Recognition

ASB - Anti Social Behaviour

ASBI - Anti-Social Behaviour Injunction

CBO - Community Behaviour Order

CPN - Community Protection Notice

CSE - Child Sexual Exploitation

CSF - Community Safety Fund

CSP - Community Safety Partnership

CAMHS - Child and Adult Mental Health Service

Econ - Economic

DAAT - Drug and Alcohol Action Team

DHR - Domestic Homicide Review

DPPO - Drinking in Public Places Order

DVA - Domestic Violence and Abuse

FGM - Female Genital Mutilation

FPN - Fixed Penalty Notice

GMAP - Gangs Multi Agency Partnership

HBV - Honour Based Violence

IOM - Integrated Offender Management

LGBT - Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender

LSP - Local Strategic Partnership

MAPPA - Multi Agency Public Protection Assessment

MARAC - Multi Agency Risk Assessment Committee

MHT - Mental Health Team

MK - Milton Keynes

NAG - Neighbourhood Action Group

PCC - Police and Crime Commissioner

PCSO - Police Community Support Officer

PPO - Priority and Prolific Offender

PSPO - Public Spaces Protection Order

TVCRC - Thames Valley Community Rehabilitation Company

WDC - Wycombe District Council

YOS - Youth Offending Service

Appendix C

Risk Register/ Risk Log

Ref	Risk Description/ Impact	Risk Likelihood	Risk Impact/ Severity	Risk Mitigation Recommended Preventative Actions:	Owner of the Risk
	<p><i>A Risk is any event likely to adversely affect the ability of the project to achieve the defined objectives</i></p> <p><i>Add a brief description of the risk identified and its likely impact on the project (e.g. scope, resources, deliverables, timescales and/or budgets)</i></p>	<p><i>Describe and rate the likelihood of the risk eventuating (i.e. Low, Medium or High)</i></p>	<p><i>Describe and rate the impact on the project if the risk eventuates (i.e. Low, Medium or High)</i></p>	<p><i>Add a brief description of any actions that should be taken to prevent the risk from eventuating</i></p> <p><i>Recommended Contingent Actions: Add a brief description of any actions that should be taken, in the event that the risk happens, to minimize its impact on the project</i></p>	<p><i>Which partner will have responsibility for managing and monitoring the risk?</i></p>
Page 36	Staffing/ resources – key staff could change/ move on within all our partner agencies	Medium	Medium	<p>Preventative Actions: Ensure progress on projects is documented, contact lists stored</p> <p>Contingent Actions: Ensure a handover takes place</p>	Individual Managers of each organisation
2	Funding/ finance – The Partnership will no longer receive direct funding as all Community Safety funds will go to the Police and Crime Commissioner	Medium	Medium	<p>Preventative Actions: To be more proactive to identify alternative funding</p> <p>Contingent Actions: Review the funding situation to identify possible cuts to projects. Also make appropriate representations and cases for funding to the PCC</p>	Community Safety Partnership through the Community Safety and Prevent Coordinator
3	Legislation changes – could change the partnership’s focus	Medium	Low	<p>Preventative Actions: ensure the partnership is kept informed of relevant White Papers that may influence the agenda.</p> <p>Contingent Actions: inform the partnership of new changes; ensure training/ new skills are</p>	Community Safety Partnership through the Community Safety and Prevent Coordinator

Ref	Risk Description/ Impact	Risk Likelihood	Risk Impact/ Severity	Risk Mitigation Recommended Preventative Actions:	Owner of the Risk
				provided to members of the partnership. Seek advice from relevant legal departments	
4	Change of political leadership at District Council level – may have different priorities/ focus	Low	Low	Preventative Actions: Ensure all Councillors are kept informed of the work of the partnership and included in community engagement work. Contingent Actions: work with the new Council Leader to promote the work of the partnership.	Community Safety and Prevent Coordinator
5	Change of government – may have different priorities/ focus	Medium	Medium	Preventative Actions: Unable to prevent Contingent Actions: inform the partnership of new changes; ensure training/ new skills are provided to members of the partnership.	Community Safety and Prevent Coordinator
6 Page 37	Agency buy-in – organisations could change their priorities/ targets during the time of the partnership plan or lose resources/ staff/ funding that means they need to re-focus.	Medium	Medium	Preventative Actions: ensure strategic level buy-in. Ensure all organisations are aware of the importance of the partnership plan and offer training to staff where necessary. Contingent Actions: look at targets/ priorities to see if there is a need to re-prioritise with fewer resources/ funding/ staff.	Individual Managers of each organisation and Community Safety Partnership
7	A crime that was not originally a priority increases and needs to be addressed.	Low	Low	Preventative Actions: Ensure the partnership regularly monitors partnership data (especially police and fire) to identify new trends. Contingent Actions: Take steps to reduce the crime before it gets out of control.	Community Safety Partnership through the Community Safety and Prevent Coordinator

ⁱ Mid-year population estimates from ONS

ⁱⁱ Claimant count for November 2016 from ONS



Anti Social Behaviour Policy

Version 2 – October 2014

Contents:

Scope of document	Page 3
The Council's ASB responsibilities	Page 3
Introduction	Page 4
Links to key strategies	Page 4
What is ASB?	Page 4
Examples of ASB	Page 4
Persistent and Resistant	Page 5
Risk Assessment	Page 5
ASB Team	Page 6
ASB in Wycombe and across the County	Page 7
Examples of the tools we can use to tackle ASB	Page 8
Support for the victims of ASB	Page 9
Safeguarding vulnerable people	Page 9
Information Sharing	Page 9
Regular monitoring	Page 10
Retention of documents	Page 10
Human Rights	Page 10
Supporting legislation	Page 11

Appendix A: Environmental Contacts

Related Policies: Information Sharing
BCC Tackling ASB
TVP ASB Policy
WDC Child Protection Policy
WDC Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults

Scope and purpose of this policy document

This document is one of two that tells you about Wycombe District Council's anti-social behaviour (ASB) responsibilities and what we do to tackle ASB.

This is the **policy** document. It tells you what we mean by 'anti-social behaviour' and sets out our objectives for the Council's ASB services. It says what we want our services to achieve for people experiencing ASB, and details the kind of service level and quality we aim to provide. It also explains the broad approach we have agreed to adopt in order to support and advance our objectives.

This document does not say how we will deal with ASB on a day to day basis. This is explained in our procedure document, which should be read alongside this one.

The Council's ASB responsibilities

The Council has a range of responsibilities to tackle ASB. These arise from two distinct roles, which are:

1. Our role as part of the Wycombe Community Safety Partnership

Under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, the Council must work with the police and other agencies to reduce crime and disorder in the Wycombe district. In this role we play a key part in dealing with anti-social behaviour of all kinds, and also undertake project and preventative work.

2. Our environmental protection role

The Council has a range of responsibilities to deal with 'environmental' ASB like noise, graffiti, dumped rubbish and abandoned cars. These responsibilities arise from a number of Acts and local byelaws, but in particular from the Environmental Protection Act 1990, and the Clean Neighbourhood and Environment Act 2005.

Whilst these are distinct roles, there are very strong links between them. In addition, there are strong links with Red Kite Community Housing, who now manage the previous Council Housing stock, along with other Social Landlords who own properties within the district. However, the policies described within this document mainly concern our Community Safety Partnership role and so tend to say more about the role of the Anti-Social Behaviour Team. Environmental ASB is tackled by a number of different teams within the Council. Contact details for these teams can be found in Appendix A.

Introduction

Wycombe Community Safety Partnership wants everyone who lives and works within the District to enjoy the best possible quality of life. It is important we provide a joined up approach, which includes working with key agencies and service providers but most importantly with our communities. By doing this we will help to tackle anti social behaviour and make a contribution towards reducing crime and disorder and tackling the fear of crime.

The Anti-Social Behaviour Team is a merged team of Police and Council ASB staff who actively encourage all its partner agencies to take joint action against anti-social behaviour and send a strong message to perpetrators that communities will not tolerate the minority spoiling the public environment and the quality of life for the majority. By adopting a positive stance and taking a leading role in co-ordinating activity, the Council and Police, together with other partners, intend to tackle anti-social behaviour in local communities and neighbourhoods, thereby promoting a culture of respect and improving the quality of life for all communities in our District.

Links to key Strategies

By tackling anti social behaviour we will contribute to a considerable number of key Strategies and targets across both Wycombe and Buckinghamshire.

These include contributions to:

- Wycombe Community Safety Partnership Plan
- Thames Valley Policing Plan - Neighbourhood Policing agenda
- Thames Valley Police Anti-Social Behaviour Policy

What is anti-social behaviour?

Anti-social behaviour incorporates a host of activities but, in essence, is defined in the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 as

“Behaviour which is likely to cause harassment, alarm or distress to one or more persons not of the same household as the perpetrator”.

The Thames Valley Police ASB Policy also refers to the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) definition of ASB:

‘Behaviour by an individual or group that results in:

- another party feeling personally threatened,
- creates a public nuisance, or
- has a detrimental impact upon the environment, or
- has a detrimental effect upon the quality of life of an individual or the community as a whole.

Examples of ASB

The term (ASB) is broad in definition and the behaviours that are deemed to constitute it are similarly wide ranging. Such behaviour may include:

Noise

- Loud televisions
- Shouting or yelling
- Persistent alarms
- Excessively loud or frequent parties
- Dogs persistently barking

Intimidation, harassment or alarm

- Verbal or written abuse
- Threats of violence
- Assault
- Damage to property

Environmental ASB

- Dumping rubbish and littering
- Vandalism
- Dog fouling
- Graffiti
- Abandoned vehicles

Hate behaviour directed at a person's:

- Race or nationality;
- Gender;
- Sexual orientation;
- Disability; or
- faith

Although it may not necessarily be criminal behaviour, invariably it involves issues that adversely affect people's quality of life.

At the heart of ASB lies a lack of respect for values and basic consideration for others. It may not necessarily be intentional, but it can intimidate, harass and be disproportionately distressing, particularly to vulnerable members of our community. It can also, in some circumstances, be a precursor to more serious types of offending and criminality, if left unchallenged.

It is important that we make every effort to tackle this type of activity and so improve the quality of life for those affected by such behaviour.

Persistent and Resistant

Cases that the police have identified as persistent and resistant are discussed monthly – the outcomes of actions reviewed and new actions set for the forthcoming month. This information is monitored centrally by Thames Valley Police to ensure the victims are fully supported.

Risk Assessments

Whenever an anti-social behaviour incident is called into the Police or Anti-Social Behaviour Team and is categorised as 'personal', a Risk Assessment is undertaken to ascertain the severity of the case and decide on the most appropriate course of action.

Risk Assessments are continuously reviewed throughout the investigation of the case to ensure the victim(s) is fully supported.

When a Risk Assessment score is increased due to additional risk to the victim being identified, this is referred to the relevant Duty Inspector or Sergeant.

Anti-Social Behaviour Team

The Anti-Social Behaviour Team consists of both Police and Wycombe District Council staff along with regular contributions from other key services, who will work closely with legal staff at the District Council and Thames Valley Police.

The Team comprises a Sergeant who will manage the team and cases, a dedicated police officer, and Wycombe District Council's Anti Social Behaviour Coordinator.

In addition there will be further management support from both the Police and District Council.

Aims and Objectives of the Anti-Social Behaviour Team (ASBT)

Our policy is to deliver:-

- A consistent and robust approach to tackling Anti Social Behaviour across Wycombe.
- Effective interventions at the most appropriate time and in the most appropriate way.
- A reduction in ASB through improved prevention and enforcement measures.

We will:-

- Establish effective working relationships between Wycombe District Council, Thames Valley Police, Buckinghamshire County Council; Buckinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service, other District Councils, Youth Offending Service and other parties/agencies likely to be involved with the investigation and reduction of complaints of ASB.
- Co-operate in the development and delivery of policies and procedures which effectively improve the tackling of crime, ASB and harassment, including racial harassment.
- Pursue all available remedies with a view to modifying the behaviour of offending individuals and affecting a lasting solution. Officers of all parties may resort to legal remedies in both criminal and civil courts if necessary.
- Seek to increase the confidence of our communities in the ability of the Police, Local Authorities and other agencies to tackle ASB as per the Neighbourhood Policing and Neighbourhood Management agenda's.

Outcomes

By adopting the above standards and commitments we aim to:-

- Increase the community's confidence in reporting ASB incidences and in agencies' intentions and abilities to deal with it.
- Create stronger, more capable communities, where people are less willing to accept and more prepared to report unacceptable behaviour, thereby creating a greater sense of neighbourhood spirit and better community cohesion.
- Improve quality of life.
- Reduce the number of repeat incidents of ASB and, eventually, the overall number of incidents across the District.

Anti-Social Behaviour in Wycombe and across the County

Across the County, each District has different issues in respect of reported ASB matters and in how they manage these problems. All the Districts and County Council are signed up to a Countywide Strategy for dealing with ASB. This policy will sit alongside the County's Strategy and will whenever possible ensure our activity supports County objectives.

Overarching Partnership Structure

In 2008 the strategic ASB partnership structure in Buckinghamshire was reviewed to ensure there was a clear and consistent approach to driving forward the ASB agenda. The new structure consists of an ASB Strategy Group, Practitioners Group and more local multi-agency case meetings.

Countywide ASB Task and Finish Group

The ASB Task and Finish Group is made up of nominated representatives from Bucks County Council, each District, police representatives and representatives from statutory and non-statutory agencies that are crucial to delivering the ASB agenda. The remit of the group includes:

- Ensure new legislation is implemented, and innovative projects or national recommendations are considered
- Make recommendations on new practice/ASB policies and report concerns
- Deal with any concerns raised by the ASB Practitioners Groups

ASB Practitioner Group

It is important that knowledge, best practice, issues and concerns are shared amongst the practitioners working to tackle ASB. The Bucks frontline ASB staff meet on a regular basis to discuss these issues. The remit of this group includes:

- Consider partnership ASB activity and make recommendations to the ASB Strategy Group
- Share good practice and learn from recent cases
- Update officers on national/local changes to ASB policy or legislation
- Identify training that will develop the skills of frontline officers

Multi-agency case meetings

Incidents of ASB which require a partnership response are reviewed at case meetings with partner agencies. The course of action taken will be dependent on the severity and frequency of the behaviour. During these meetings agencies can:

- Discuss measures which can be put in place to support the victims of the anti-social behaviour.
- Identify action which can be taken by any agency to tackle the ongoing anti-social behaviour, including interventions such as Warning Letters, Acceptable Behaviour Contracts (ABCs), and Anti-Social Behaviour Orders (ASBOs)
- Identify support packages, where appropriate, for perpetrators engaging in anti-social behaviour and support them to refrain from committing further acts of anti-social behaviour

More details of these meetings are contained in the procedure document.

Examples of the Tools we can use to Tackle Anti-Social Behaviour

- Warning letters – which can be sent to the perpetrators of anti-social behaviour, explaining the impact of their behaviour, and that their behaviour is being monitored so that if it does not desist, further action may be taken.
- Acceptable Behaviour Contracts – these are voluntary contracts which outline the specific types of behaviour the perpetrator is engaging in. The perpetrator signs the contract to say they will desist from engaging in them, and the contracts are monitored by the ASB Team for 6 months. Any breaches to the contract are dealt with through meetings between the Team and the perpetrator, and breaches could be used as evidence for further action by the Team.

Following the introduction of the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 there have been changes to the tools available to us for tackling anti-social behaviour:

- Part 1 of the Act makes provision for a Civil Injunction to prevent nuisance and annoyance. This is a power the District Council can apply for which offers a quicker and more effective protection to victims and communities, stopping the perpetrator's behaviour from escalating. The case will be heard in a County Court where, if the behaviour meets the nuisance and annoyance test (using civil standard of proof on the balance of probabilities), an injunction will prohibit an individual from certain behaviours for 2 years and can require them to do something to address their behaviour (i.e. address a substance misuse problem with support services). A breach of the order can result in maximum 2 years imprisonment as it is considered to be a contempt of court.
- Part 2 of the Act makes provision for a Criminal Behaviour Order (CBO) on conviction to prevent behaviour which causes harassment, alarm or distress. These orders are issued by any criminal court against a person who has been convicted of an offence, and will tackle the most persistently anti-social individuals who are also engaged in criminal activity. TVP or WDC can request that the Court considers adding the CBO where an individual is being charged with a criminal offence. Orders will include prohibitions to stop the anti-social behaviour and also include positive requirements to get offenders to address root causes of their offending.
- Part 3 of the Act contains a power for the Police to disperse people causing harassment, alarm or distress. This will enable officers to require a person who has committed, or is likely to commit, anti-social behaviour to leave a specified area and not return for up to 48 hours.
- The Community Protection Notice is intended to deal with particular, ongoing problems or nuisances which negatively affect the community's quality of life by targeting those responsible. District Councils, the Police and Social Landlords (where delegated by the Council) can issue these kinds of notices, which are similar to, but do not replace the powers and procedures operating within Environmental Health for such offences as bonfires, noise and fly tipping under the statutory nuisance powers of part 3 of the Environment Protection Act 2000.
- The Closure Notice/Order allows for the closure of any premises that are causing nuisance or disorder to communities (including licensed premises).
- Public Space Protection Orders are intended to deal with particular nuisance or problems in a particular area that is detrimental to the local community's quality of life, by imposing conditions on the use of the area. They are designed to ensure the law-abiding majority can enjoy public spaces. This power is applied for by the local authority.

Support for Victims of Anti-Social Behaviour

The Wycombe District Council Anti-Social Behaviour Coordinator is available during normal office hours; however we encourage people to call the police as they are available 24 hours a day. The Council ASB Coordinator works from the Wycombe Police station, and works closely with the police ASB Officer, so all calls that are made to the police regarding ASB are also passed to the ASB Team.

The Council will work with local agencies and community groups to help provide support, both practical and emotional, for victims of anti-social behaviour.

The Council is committed to providing a high level of service to both victims and witnesses of ASB, and the Council will keep the victims of ASB updated with action being taken.

The Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 includes new measures designed to give victims and communities a say in the way anti-social behaviour is dealt with:

- The Community Trigger gives victims the ability to demand actions, starting with a review of their case, where the locally defined threshold is met
- The Community Remedy gives victims a say in the out-of-court punishment of perpetrators of low-level crime and anti-social behaviour. The Community Remedy document is produced by the Police and Crime Commissioner, but will be available to the ASB Team to utilise in appropriate cases.

The Community Trigger

The Community Trigger can be used when either:

Three reports have been made to the Council, police or registered social landlord about the same issue in the last 6 months and the victim believes that no action has been taken

OR

Five individuals have separately reported the same issue in the last six months and they believe no action has been taken

Details of the Community Trigger process are included in the Procedure document.

Safeguarding vulnerable people

Wycombe District Council acknowledges that through its work with all people, including staff, professionals, victims, witnesses and perpetrators; we will endeavour to provide a safe environment so that people are protected from abuse. Abuse can take a variety of forms including: physical, emotional, sexual, financial, neglect, institutional and discrimination.

If it is suspected that a vulnerable person, child or young person is being abused, there are policies for Child Protection and also Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults within Wycombe District Council which provide guidance for officers.

Information Sharing

Effective partnership working requires information to be exchanged and shared with other agencies. It is important, however, that the information shared is relevant, accurate and used for the purpose of reducing and detecting crime and disorder and reducing the fear of crime, thereby improving community safety.

If you decide to share information - key points to consider:

What information do you need to share?

- Only share what is necessary.
- Distinguish fact from opinion.

How should information be shared?

- Information must be shared securely.
- Ensure you are giving information to the right person

Consider whether it is appropriate/safe to inform the individual that you have shared the information.

Record your decision

Record your data sharing decision and your reasoning – whether or not you shared the information.

If you share information you should record:

- What information was shared and for what purpose.
- Who it was shared with.
- When it was shared.
- Your justification for sharing.
- Whether the information was shared with or without consent.

A Countywide Information Sharing Agreement has been signed by key partner agencies and is designed to facilitate the exchange of information.

Regular Monitoring

The Council, the Police and other agencies already record cases of ASB in a variety of ways for their own monitoring and management purposes. It is recognised that many of these cases will be duplicated (i.e. reported by several different people and/or reported to more than one agency).

Data is currently kept in paper form by the ASBT along with being monitored on the police systems. More information on the monitoring of cases is provided in the procedure document.

Retention of documents

Data obtained during the investigation of the anti-social behavior case will be kept on file for as long as the case remains live.

Case files will be kept by the ASBT for three years after the case has been closed. However, in more serious ASB cases there may be a requirement to retain the case file for longer.

Data obtained from S35 notices will be held for 1 year.

Human Rights

The Human Rights Act makes it unlawful for a public authority to act or fail to act in a way that is incompatible with the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR). All partner agencies will comply with the ECHR at all stages of the process taking into account the need to protect the rights and freedoms of the community at large as well as those of the potential defendant.

Those in charge of a case at any given stage will, in consultation with legal advisors, therefore need to be satisfied that:-

- All procedural and substantive rights under the ECHR are complied with;
- Any interference with the defendant's rights is reasonable and proportionate to the anti social behaviour in question,

- The ASBO being applied for is in such terms that the defendant has a reasonable ability to comply with it.

Supporting Legislation

- Crime and Disorder Act 1998
- Data Protection Act 1998 and 2003
- Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003
- Police Reform Act 2002
- Police and Criminal Evidence Act (PACE)
- Environmental Protection Act 1990
- Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001
- Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005
- Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014

Appendix A

Environmental Services contact details to report noise or public health issues

- Phone: 01494 421 734
- Email: environmentalhealth@wycombe.gov.uk

Waste and Cleansing contact details to report graffiti or litter related issues

- Phone: 01494 586 550
- Email: wasteteam@wycombe.gov.uk

Agenda Item 5.

BUSINESS RATES RETENTION PILOT

Cabinet Member: Councillor David Watson

Wards Affected: All

Officer contact: David Skinner Ext:3322

Email: David.skinner@wycombe.gov.uk

PROPOSED DECISION

It is recommended that:

- (i) Cabinet support the principle of the Council being a part of a Buckinghamshire wide bid to take part in the Government's proposed 75% Business Rates Retention Pilot commencing 1 April 2019; and
- (ii) Cabinet delegate authority to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to approve the final application subject to final details being agreed between prospective pool members.

Reason for Decision

To update Cabinet on the opportunity for the Council to take part in a Business Rates Pooling Pilot, and to seek approval for the Council to progress with a county-wide application.

Corporate Implications

1. The financial implications are set out in the report.
2. The main budgetary risks to the Council have been reviewed and are set out in the report.
3. This report supports all of the Council's Corporate Objectives.
4. Local Government Finance Act 1988, Part 9 of Schedule 7B requires agreement of all authorities to be designated as a pool and to put in place local arrangements to pool their additional business rates income.

Executive Summary

5. The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG), In July 2018, issued an invitation for Authorities to bid to become a pilot area for 75% Business Rates Retention. The pilot period lasts for one year, from 1 April 2019, and the bid must be submitted jointly by all Authorities within the county by 25 September 2018. The date for the announcement of MHCLG decision is yet to be confirmed.
6. The advantage of the pooling proposal for local authorities is that 75% growth in business rates across the county would be retained for local investment, as opposed to the current system which requires 50% of all growth to be surrendered to Central Government. The benefits and risks of pooling is contained within this report.

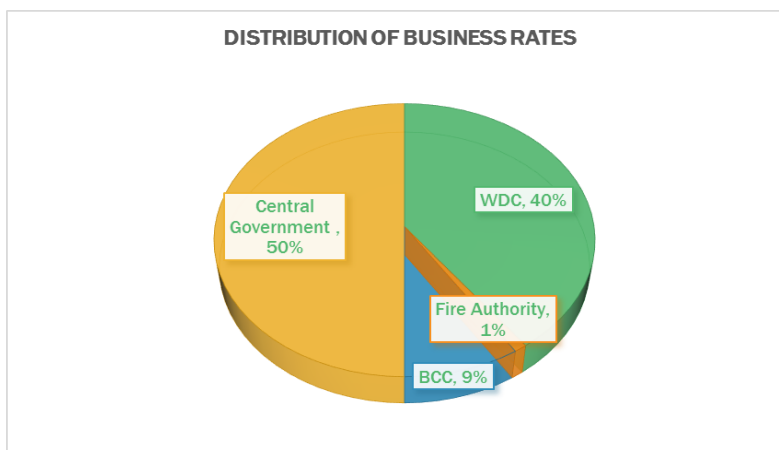
7. Based on modelling undertaken to date, indications are that if Buckinghamshire were selected as a pilot area there could be a county-wide gain of approximately £7.7m depending on the pooling arrangements. There is broad, informal agreement between all Authorities that a bid should be made and the gains should be shared 50:50 between Districts and the County, which must be submitted as part of the pilot bid.
8. It is recommended that Cabinet support the decision to proceed with the pilot in principle, but delegate the approval of final application to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, subject to the satisfactory resolution of final details.

Sustainable Community Strategy/Council Priorities - Implications

9. Participating in the Buckinghamshire wide Business Rates Retention pilot will contribute to the delivery of the Council's priorities.

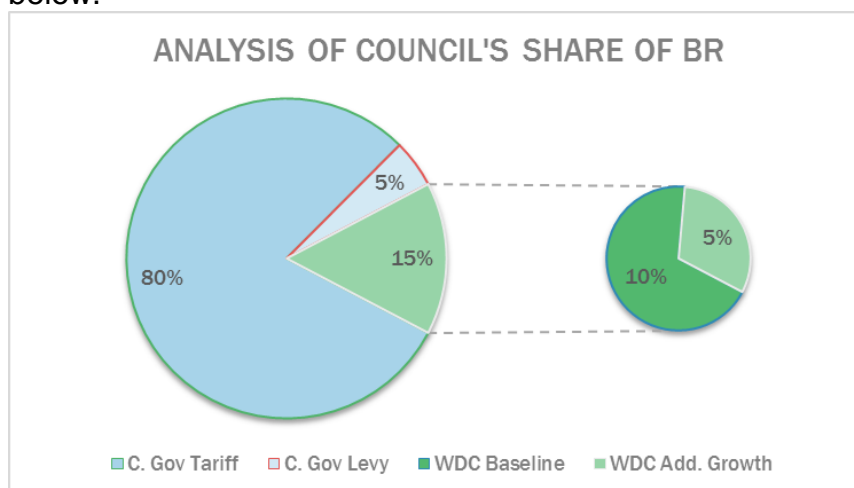
Background and Issues

10. Prior to 1 April 2013, all the business rates collected locally were paid into a national pool and reallocated back to councils through a formula grant which was mainly based on the relative needs and resources of each authority.
11. From 1 April 2013 funding system was significantly changed by introducing the business rates retention scheme (BRRS). The main objective of the scheme is intended to give local authorities an incentive to grow their business rates base by allowing them to retain a proportion of the additional business rates earned. In the main the business rates income is apportioned 50% to Local Authorities and 50% to Central Government as summarised below.



12. To ensure councils do not lose out under this new scheme, a complex system has been introduced. The key elements are explained below:
 - a. Business Rates Baseline: Determined by an updated formula grant calculations which takes account of the relative needs and resources.
 - b. Tariffs and Top-ups: Determined by the difference between baseline funding and business rates baseline.
 - c. Levies and Safety Nets: The safety net is a system to protect councils from significant losses in income. This is funded by restricting the growth councils can retain (50%) using a levy.
 - d. Baseline Funding: Determined by the formula funding relative needs and resources.

13. At Wycombe the estimated total Business Rates Income is approximately £78m. Wycombe share is £30m (40%), however bulk of this (85%) is paid to Central Government through Tariff and Levy as demonstrated in the graph below.



14. As part of the Government's commitment to give local authorities greater control over the money they raise locally, five 100% retention pilot areas have been underway within the devolution deal areas of Greater Manchester, Liverpool, West Midlands, Cornwall and the West of England. In addition to this, it was confirmed in 2017 Autumn Budget that London would become a 100% business rates retention pilot for 2018/19 financial year. Government will continue to have separate discussions with the initial five area and London about their pilot programme.
15. In December 2017, the government announced a further ten 100% business rates retention pilots for the financial year 2018/19. These pilots are in Berkshire, Derbyshire, Devon, Gloucestershire, Kent, Leeds, Lincolnshire, Solent, Suffolk and Surrey. These pilots are set to end on 31 March 2019.

2019/20 Pool Pilot Requirements and Benefits

16. The government is inviting all authorities in England (excluding the devolution deal areas as set out in paragraph 14 above and London but including the 2018/19 pilots as detailed in paragraph 15 above) to explore how 75% rate retention can operate across more than one authority. The main objective of business rate retention is to promote financial sustainability and to support coherent strategic decision-making across functional economic area.
17. For the pilots set to commence from April 2019, Government is particularly seeking applications from two-tier areas and adjoining unitaries. To be accepted as a pilot, agreement must be secured from all relevant authorities to be designated as a pool explaining how:-
- a. the pilot will manage risk and reward at a strategic level;
 - b. pay regard to the financial sustainability of all local authorities involved;
 - c. how any potential growth in business rates may be spent; and
 - d. the governance arrangements for strategic decision making.

18. The section 151 officer of each authority will need to sign off the proposal before its submission.
19. Participating authorities will be expected to work with MHCLG officials on the system design of the new business rates retention system and share additional data and information as required.
20. The financial benefit to pool members comes from the retention of income from business rates growth (above a government-determined baseline) that is currently paid over to MHCLG.
21. Work has been commissioned jointly by Buckinghamshire councils for LG Futures (Local Government funding analysts) to model the potential impact of a pilot pooling arrangement, based on current income forecasts for 2019/20. The potential gains for Buckinghamshire compared with all authorities acting individually are summarised below:

	£m
25% Net Growth currently paid to MHCLG to be retained by the pool	5.2
Less existing levy pool gain	-1.6
Levy on District Share of growth	4.1
Total Gain compared with Pool	7.7

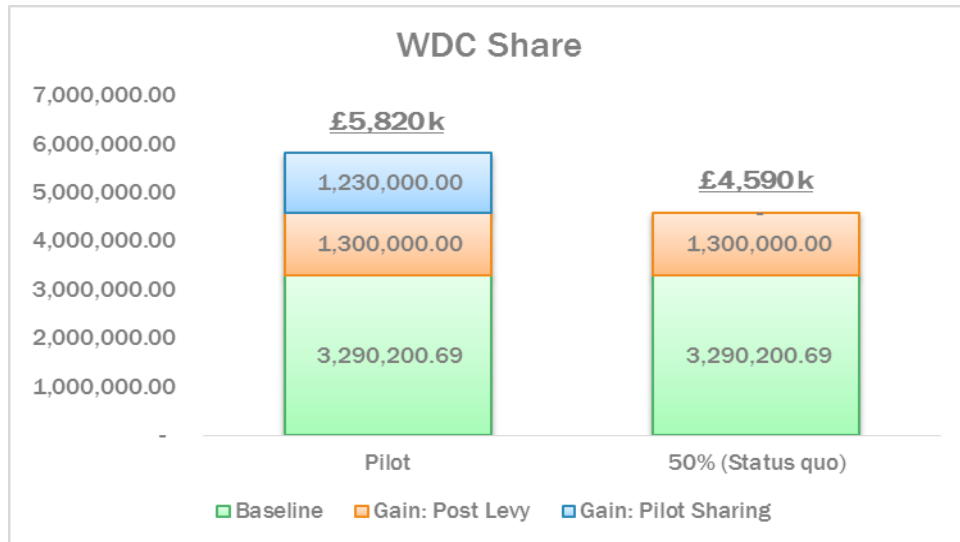
Risks of being in a pool

22. Under the current Business Rates system, every District Council has a baseline level of business rates receipts, set by Government, which it is expected to achieve. If the Council collects in excess of this baseline then it is deemed to have achieved growth and it will be rewarded by keeping some of this growth.
23. If, however, a Council falls below the baseline level (e.g. through business closures or through business' successfully appealing their business rates), then it must absorb some of this loss through reductions to its *Baseline Funding*, i.e. the annual grant funding provided by Government. Baseline Funding is not linked to a Council's ability to collect business rates, but rather to Government's assessment of the Council's need. On this basis, Government provides some protection for Authorities by capping at 7.5% the level of loss that a Council can experience to its funding. This is called the 'safety net' arrangement.
24. Within a pilot arrangement, the pilot is treated as a single authority and safety net is capped at 5%. Therefore, the main risk of being in a pilot comes from the potential for a fall in business rates income by one or more authorities eroding the gains of the pool.
25. The modelled gains of £7.7m comfortably offset the total safety net payments of £3.1m currently forecast for pool members. However, there is a risk that forecast levels of income will not be achieved, which raises the question of how much protection is offered by the current forecast gain against unforeseen losses.
26. The modelling shows that a fall in receipts of 15% across all Districts would be required for the pilot to fall into a net loss position. It is

considered low risk that a fall of this magnitude would occur within Buckinghamshire over a 12-month period from 1 April 2019.

Sharing the gains of the pilot

27. The Leaders or their delegated substitutes of all the prospective members (District and County within Buckinghamshire) have met and in principle have agreed a 50:50 share of the gains between the Districts and the County. The graph below demonstrates possible gain to the Council if it joins the pooling pilot.



Consultation

28. The Leader and the Portfolio Holder for Finance of the Council have been consulted along with Buckinghamshire Chief Executives, Chief Financial Officers and Fire Authority to agree coherent strategic decision-making across functional economic areas.

Options

29. There are two options, of which option 1 is recommended
- Option 1: Participate in the Buckinghamshire wide bid for Business Rates Retention Pilot and delegate authority as set out in recommendation.
 - Option 2: Do not participate in the Business Rates Retention Pilot.

Conclusions

30. Once the recommendations are approved, it will enable officers to progress the work on submission of Business Rate Retention Pilot 2019/20 applications by 25 September 2018.

Next Steps

31. Work continues on the finalisation of the gain-sharing agreements, which will need to be complete by the 25 September deadline for submissions. This will be shared with the Chief Executive and the Leader in support of their decision to progress.

Background Papers

MHCLG Invitation to Pilot 75% Business Rates Retention in 2019/20