



Report to Cabinet

Date: 8 September 2020

Title: Safer Buckinghamshire Plan 2020-23

Relevant councillor(s): Councillor Gareth Williams

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Ward(s) affected: All

Recommendation: Cabinet is requested to endorse the Safer Buckinghamshire Plan (Community Safety Plan) 2020-2023

Reason for decision:

The Council is a statutory member of the Buckinghamshire Community Safety Partnership known as the Safer Buckinghamshire Board - the Board is legally required to produce a Community Safety Plan which is called the Safer Buckinghamshire Plan.

The Council has a Duty to consider the crime and disorder implications of all its functions and activities. The Safer Buckinghamshire Plan and its delivery plans provide the framework for the Council to meet its obligations.

Executive summary

1. Buckinghamshire Council is a statutory member of the Safer Buckinghamshire Board which is the statutory Community Safety Partnership for Buckinghamshire. A key responsibility of the Safer Buckinghamshire Board is to maintain the Community Safety Plan for Buckinghamshire, based upon the strategic assessment of crime and community safety in the county, public engagement and other insight into crime and the causes of crime in Buckinghamshire.
2. The Safer Buckinghamshire Plan 2020-2023 was approved by the Safer Buckinghamshire Board on 21st July 2020. The Plan is in Appendix 1.

Background

3. The Crime & Disorder Act 1998 places a duty on the Council and other partners to form a Community Safety Partnership. With the establishment of the unitary Buckinghamshire Council on 1st April 2020, a single Community Safety Partnership (CSP)

was established for Buckinghamshire replacing the District CSPs and the county-wide CSP. The new CSP is called the Safer Buckinghamshire Board.

4. The statutory members of the Safer Buckinghamshire Board are the Council, Thames Valley Police, Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes Fire and Rescue Service, Buckinghamshire Clinical Commissioning Group, National Probation Service and the Thames Valley Community Rehabilitation Company.
5. One of the statutory responsibilities of the Safer Buckinghamshire Board is to maintain a rolling three year Community Safety Plan to address crime and the causes of crime in Buckinghamshire. The Safer Buckinghamshire Board formally approved the 2020-2023 Safer Buckinghamshire Plan at its meeting on July 21st 2020. This plan is in Appendix 1.
6. There is also a legislative requirement for an annual community safety Strategic Assessment to identify emerging trends and issues; and public engagement. Both of these have played a key role in determining the priorities in the Safer Buckinghamshire Plan:
 - The community safety Strategic Assessment was commissioned in 2019 and completed in December 2019. The Assessment's analysis and key findings provide the primary evidence base for the priorities in the Safer Buckinghamshire Plan.
 - The public survey ran for 4 weeks over January and February 2020. As with the Strategic Assessment, the findings contributed to the priorities in the Safer Buckinghamshire Plan. All members of the Shadow Authority and all town and parish councils were directly invited to complete the survey.

Safer Buckinghamshire Plan priorities

7. The five priorities in the Safer Buckinghamshire Plan are:
 - **Helping communities to become more resilient.** We will target support to those communities experiencing greater levels of crime and anti-social behaviour.
 - **Protecting vulnerable adults and children.** We will work with them to reduce their chances of experiencing or committing serious crime or being exploited.
 - **Addressing the impact of drugs, alcohol and poor mental health.** We will work to reduce levels of crime and harm linked to these factors.
 - **Tackling domestic violence and abuse.** We will focus on early intervention and improving services for victims.
 - **Dealing with offending.** We will act as early as possible to prevent first time offending. We will bring offenders to justice and work hard to stop re-offending.
8. The full plan is in Appendix 1. The plan also summarises the main findings of the Strategic Assessment and public engagement and outlines key actions to be taken to deliver the priorities.

Other options considered

9. As the Safer Buckinghamshire Plan is a statutory requirement, there were no other options to consider. In terms of the content of the Plan, there was extensive engagement with stakeholders on the priorities and actions to deliver those priorities; and these will remain under review by the Safer Buckinghamshire Board.

Legal and financial implications

10. The Council is a “Responsible Authority” under the requirements of the Crime and Disorder Act Regulations 2007. As such, it has a duty to consider the crime and disorder implications across all its functions and activities. The Safer Buckinghamshire Plan priorities and delivery plans provide the framework for the Council to meet its obligations.
11. Financial implications (and other resource implications) of the Plan are the responsibility of the organisations that will be delivering the different elements of the Plan.

Corporate implications

12. The Safer Buckinghamshire Plan contributes to all the Council’s Corporate Plan priorities but most directly to the priority “*Protecting the vulnerable*”:
- *we want children, adults and families to feel safe and supported to live independent lives*
 - *working with partners, we will make communities as safe as possible from crime, drugs and anti-social behaviour*
13. Equality impact assessments will be undertaken for individual projects within the Safer Buckinghamshire Plan as necessary.

Consultation and communication

14. A public community safety survey was conducted in early 2020. The results of this survey were used to shape the Plan’s priorities. The Communications Plan for the Council’s budget consultation was used to promote this survey. All members of the Shadow Authority and all town and parish councils were directly invited to complete the survey. There were 2,379 respondents to the survey. The types of respondents are shown illustrated in the table below:

A resident of Buckinghamshire	2,156	90.6%
An elected member (within Buckinghamshire)	76	3.0%
A town/parish council	7	0.3%
A Buckinghamshire business/charity/voluntary organisation	52	2.0%
Someone from outside of Buckinghamshire	60	2.5%
Other	28	1.2%

15. Members of the Shadow Authority Executive were informally consulted on the draft priorities.

Next steps and review

16. The Safer Buckinghamshire Board will consider the Plan's implementation and impact at its regular meetings. Annually, it will formally review its priorities and key actions and adjust as necessary.
17. The next full community safety Strategic Assessment is planned in 3 years. In the meantime, trend analysis and deep dives into areas of concern or interest will be used to annually update the Strategic Assessment.
18. A public community safety survey is planned for early 2021 (and every year thereafter) with targeted engagement carried out from time to time on a locality or issue basis. Wherever possible such engagement will be linked in with other engagement activity being undertaken e.g. Community Boards, Scrutiny.

Background papers

19. None

Your questions and views (for key decisions)

If you have any questions about the matters contained in this report please get in touch with the author of this report. If you have any views that you would like the Cabinet Member to consider please inform the Democratic Services team. This can be done by telephone 01296 382343 or email democracy@buckinghamshire.gov.uk