



# Report to Communities and Localities Select Committee

<b>Date:</b>	<b>19<sup>th</sup> April 2023</b>
<b>Title:</b>	Safer Buckinghamshire Strategy 2023-26
<b>Cabinet Member(s):</b>	CLlr Steve Bowles
<b>Contact officer:</b>	Gideon Springer
<b>Ward(s) affected:</b>	All

## Recommendations:

- *Note the priorities and key actions for the Safer Buckinghamshire Strategy 2023-26*
- *Note the next steps, which include*
  - *Publication of the Safer Buckinghamshire Strategy 2023-26 in May 2023*
  - *Development of detailed delivery plans for each priority area*
  - *Development of measures to track and demonstrate progress and impact*

## 1. Executive summary

- 1.1 The 2020-2023 Safer Buckinghamshire Strategy ends on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023. Following the completion of the Community Safety Strategic Assessment and public consultation, the 2023-26 Safer Buckinghamshire Strategy has been produced ready for publication in May 2023.

## 2. Background

- 2.1 The Crime and Disorder Act (1998) (as revised by the Police and Justice Act 2006, and the Policing and Crime Act 2009) places a duty on the Safer Buckinghamshire Board (SBB) to undertake a strategic assessment of community safety in its area and produce a three-year community safety plan.
- 2.2 The members of the Safer Buckinghamshire board are :

- Buckinghamshire Council
- Thames Valley Police
- Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes Fire and Rescue Service
- Buckinghamshire Integrated Care Board
- National Probation Service – Buckinghamshire & Oxfordshire
- Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner

2.3 The Safer Buckinghamshire Board considered the findings and recommendations of the Strategic Assessment at its meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2022. The Strategic Assessment was circulated in the papers for the meeting of 5<sup>th</sup> December, and is also available from [communitysafety@buckinghamshire.gov.uk](mailto:communitysafety@buckinghamshire.gov.uk).

2.4 As part of developing the strategic priorities for the Safer Buckinghamshire Board it is also a legislative requirement that there be public engagement. During September and October, through a survey and extensive communications plan, we asked people in Buckinghamshire what their community safety concerns and priorities were. The survey, which included multiple choice questions and the opportunity to make additional comments, was also promoted to Councillors and Town and Parish Councils in Buckinghamshire. An analysis of the public engagement was also presented to the Safer Buckinghamshire Board on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2022.

2.5 Taking the Strategic Assessment, the public engagement findings and other known insights into account, the Community Safety Team developed proposed priorities and key actions. Engagement for the priorities has included:

- A discussion with the SBB Chair, Chief Supt for Buckinghamshire
- Sharing with the LPA Commanders for South Bucks and Aylesbury
- Sharing with Service and Corporate Director
- A partnership workshop at the SBB meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2022

### **3. Proposed Priorities**

3.1 The 5 proposed priorities, outlined in more detail within the Safer Buckinghamshire Strategy 2023-26, are:

- **Neighbourhood crime**
- **Anti-social behaviour**
- **Serious violence**
- **Violence against women and girls**
- **Exploitation of vulnerable people**

3.2 The Council's Communications team will assist in the production of this document, ensuring the Strategy document meets accessibility standards. As a consequence, some of the detailed wording in the proposed priorities and key actions may need to be amended to meet these requirements. We will work closely with the Communications Team to make sure that accuracy and intended meaning is not lost in this process.

### **4. Delivery Plans**

4.1 In line with the new priorities, five Priority Sponsors from different organisations will work with identified multi-agency subgroups to develop Delivery Plans.

4.2 The Delivery Plans will be taken to the Safer Buckinghamshire Board for approval, and updates on all actions will be provided at each meeting of the Board. A key action for the Neighbourhood Crime Priority will be to establish a multi-agency operational group who will direct partnership activity, resources and communications in hotspot locations. The Serious Violence subgroup will support early intervention for vulnerable young people and those becoming at risk, and the Exploitation of Vulnerable People Priority will include actions relating to providing training for professionals to improve understanding of exploitation and contextual safeguarding.

4.3 The Strategic Assessment identified the top 5 wards which experience the highest crime rates for each crime type. When collated, 13 wards were found to be in the top five for all crime types. Of these 13, 6 are wards that the Opportunity Bucks programme will initially be focusing on.

4.4 One of the priorities with the Quality of the Public Realm theme is Reducing crime and Anti-Social Behaviour. The Delivery Plans that will be developed for the Safer Buckinghamshire Strategy 2023-26 Priority 1 - Neighbourhood Crime and Priority 2 -

Anti-Social Behaviour will ensure there is a focus on the areas with highest crime and disorder rates, including these particular wards.

- 4.5 The attached table provides an update on the work the Council's Community Safety Team are already undertaking within some of these wards. We will explore opportunities to expand appropriate projects into these wards, working with the Priority Sponsors, to help with the levelling up agenda.
- 4.6 A query has been raised in relation to Domestic Abuse (DA) training for Buckinghamshire Council staff. In December 2022 a multi-agency DA and Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) training strategy was produced and a fully funded training catalogue launched to internal colleagues and partners. In total there are 15 types of course, which include DA Act, Coercive Control, Adolescent to Parent Abuse and a course on the impact of domestic abuse on children and families. Since the launch last month, 184 people have attended training. Attendees are from Buckinghamshire Council, DA and VAWG specialist services, Police, OPCC, NHS, education, housing associations, solicitors and many more. In addition, two Domestic Abuse Triage Workers have been funded by the Community Safety team, and they work within the Adult Social Care and Children Social Care, in order to provide expertise and guidance on how to deal with domestic abuse cases.

## **5. Legal and financial implications**

- 5.1 The Crime and Disorder Act (1998) (as revised by the Police and Justice Act 2006, and the Policing and Crime Act 2009) places a duty on all Community Safety Partnership to produce a three-year community safety Strategy. Within Buckinghamshire the partnership is called the Safer Buckinghamshire Board, and the community safety Strategy is called the Safer Buckinghamshire Strategy. The current Strategy ends on the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023, so the Safer Buckinghamshire Strategy 2023-26 should be published by 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023.
- 5.2 At present, all Community Safety Partnerships receive a Community Safety Grant from the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) which is to be used to fund projects which will assist with the delivery of the community safety plan. The Safer Buckinghamshire Board in conjunction with the office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC), manage the Community Safety Grant. Bids for the funding are reviewed by the Priority Sponsors, and the Board, to ensure the projects meet the requirements of the Safer Buckinghamshire Strategy.
- 5.3 If the decision was made by the PCC that the funding for the Community Safety Partnership was to be reduced, or managed differently by the OPCC, this could impact on the delivery of the Safer Buckinghamshire Strategy 2023-26 and the Delivery Plans.

- 5.4 Over the last 5 years the volume of crime has increased by 14% and it is likely that the demand on community safety partners will continue to increase due to the significant challenges facing the community currently. It may be that economic hardship increases crime levels including fraud even further.
- 5.5 However, there are continued resource constraints on both the Council and our community safety partners which could see an impact on our delivery.

## **6. Corporate implications**

- 6.1 The Safer Buckinghamshire Strategy 2023-26 and the implementation of the Delivery Plan will contribute towards the Buckinghamshire Council Corporate Plan through the following key priorities:
- Strengthening our communities
  - Protecting the vulnerable

## **7. Local councillors and community boards**

- 7.1 The public consultation was shared with the Community Board and Councillors as part of the communications plan.

## **8. Communication, engagement and further consultation**

- 8.1 During September and October a community safety residents survey was posted on Your Voice asking people in Buckinghamshire what their community safety concerns and priorities were. The survey, which included multiple choice questions and the opportunity to make additional comments, generated 1,264 responses, which was an increase of 21% when compared to the previous survey.
- 8.2 The formal Strategy document was finalised for approval by the Safer Buckinghamshire Board at its meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb 2023

## **9. Next steps and review**

- 9.1 The Strategy will be taken to Cabinet in May for final sign off.
- 9.2 The Safer Buckinghamshire Board Managers will work with the relevant Priority Sponsors to:
- Ensure that detailed delivery plans are developed for the delivery of the priorities;
  - Ensure mobilisation and delivery of the Strategy, commissioning task and finish groups etc. as required;

- Develop a dashboard that will include delivery impact measure for the plans.
- 9.3 The Annual report on the work of the Safer Buckinghamshire Board will be produced in February/March 2024.

## **10. Background papers**

- 10.1 Safer Buckinghamshire Strategy 2023-26 see Appendix A