

REPORT FOR: **CABINET**

Date of Meeting:	12 September 2013
Subject:	Community Safety Plan
Key Decision:	Yes
Responsible Officer:	Tom Whiting, Corporate Director of Resources
Portfolio Holder:	Councillor Asad Omar, Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Environment and Community Safety
Exempt:	No
Decision subject to Call-in:	No, as the decision is reserved to Council
Enclosures:	Appendix 1 - Community Safety Plan Appendix 2 - EqIA Appendix 3 - Reference from O&S Committee

Section 1 – Summary and Recommendations

This report sets out suggested key community safety priorities in response to both the Strategic Assessment of crime in the Borough and the ambitions for the Police set by the Mayor’s Office for Policing and Crime.

Recommendations:

Cabinet is requested to recommend the Community Safety Plan to Council for adoption.

Reason: (For recommendation) To comply with Section 6 of the Crime and Disorder Act, 1998.

Section 2 – Report

Introductory paragraph

The Community Safety Plan shows how the Council and partners will work together to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour and make progress to making Harrow the safest borough in London.

Options considered

None as the Council is obliged by the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to devise and adopt a strategy for the reduction of crime and disorder in the area (including anti-social and other behaviour adversely affecting the local environment).

Background

Safer Harrow, the Community Safety Partnership, oversees the production of an annual strategic assessment of the crime and anti-social behaviour levels and patterns and the development of a Community Safety Plan that is informed by that Strategic Assessment.

The Strategic Assessment showed that the crime patterns in Harrow have been largely unchanged over a number of years although there are variations in the respective levels of the main crime types highlighted. Because of the continuing nature of criminal activity, many of the services offered to victims and, for example, perpetrators with a substance misuse issue, need to continue. The Plan does not provide much detail of these underlying continuing services and instead focuses mainly on the newer initiatives aimed at reducing offending and re-offending, improving community safety and increasing community involvement and satisfaction. Details of continuing service provision are available in commissioning plans notably in public health.

The local response to crime is a partnership effort with organisations supporting each other through shared information, targeting services to areas of higher risk and providing community reassurance. The public generally look to the Police for the lead, certainly in the case of addressing the crimes with the most public impact which are included in the Plan as the MOPAC 7 offences. Each partner organisation has and/or is developing operational plans that give greater detail of how their efforts will add to the community safety objective of making Harrow the safest Borough.

In recent years, the Community Safety Plan has grown to a fairly lengthy document which actually repeated much of the information that is contained in the Strategic Assessment. This year, the opportunity has been taken to replicate a model used back in 2008 to summarise the information in a more accessible form and to present it to members reducing duplication and helping to focus on the strategic ambitions and actions.

The other major influence on the Community Safety Plan is the Mayor's Police and Crime Plan 2013-16 which has set three overarching and testing targets for the Police –

- reducing key crime types by 20%;
- increasing public confidence in the Police by 20% and
- reducing expenditure by 20%

all within the life of the Plan. These significant London-wide targets have been balanced with the local priorities identified through the Strategic Assessment to give the proposed shape and direction to Community Safety activities.

As always with three year plans which are due to be refreshed annually in the light of new information and a fresh Strategic assessment, there is much less detail and active planning in relation to the second and third years of the Plan period. However, as the Mayor's headline targets will remain in place to 2016 there is a greater than usual degree of stability to the framework set out.

Also, Safer Harrow has been successful in obtaining funding from the Mayor's Office for a range of projects concerned with reducing burglary and robbery; increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of action to address anti-social behaviour; tackling drug use; reducing re-offending and addressing aspects of domestic violence. This funding is, in principle, available for four years and has also contributed to developing a settled direction and priorities.

When a Community Safety Plan has been approved, it will be publicised to help increase public support for the actions that the partners have agreed to take, gain further assistance from the public in meeting the targets it contains and help reach the public confidence targets set by the Mayor. As well as press coverage, each organisation will include the Plan on its website.

Legal Implications

Under s.6 of the Crime & Disorder Act 1998, the Council with other partner authorities (chief of police, fire & rescue authority, probation service, PCT and Local Health Board) has a duty to formulate and implement a strategy for the reduction of crime and disorder in its area (including anti-social behaviour adversely affecting the local environment), a strategy for combating the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances in the area and a strategy for the reduction of re-offending in the area.

In formulating the strategy, the partner authorities must have regard to the police and crime plan for the area.

Under Regulations, the partner authorities must set up a strategy group who are collectively responsible for preparing strategic assessments and preparing and implementing the partnership plan. The partnership plan shall set out the following:

- (a) a strategy for the reduction of re-offending, crime and disorder and for combating substance misuse in the area;
- (b) the priorities identified in the strategic assessment prepared during the previous year;
- (c) the steps considered necessary for the responsible authorities to take to implement the strategy and meet those priorities;
- (d) how the strategy group considers the responsible authorities should allocate and deploy their resources to implement that strategy and meet those priorities;
- (e) the steps each responsible authority shall take to measure its success in implementing the strategy and meeting those priorities;
- (f) the steps the strategy group proposes to take during the year to comply with its obligations in respect of community engagement, considering the extent that people in the area can assist in reducing re-offending, crime and disorder and substance misuse, and publicising that partnership plan.

Under s.17 of the above Act, it is also a duty of the Council (and other partner agencies, including police, fire & rescue, GLA, TfL) when exercising its functions to have due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent crime and disorder (including anti-social behaviour), misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances and re-offending.

Financial Implications

All of the work identified in this plan to be undertaken by the Council will be funded from existing budgets and approved grants.

Performance Issues

The Council's Corporate Performance scorecard references residential burglary and repeat incidents of domestic violence as indicators both of which are priorities within the draft plan.

Environmental Impact

None

Risk Management Implications

The projects referenced within the Community Safety Plan and particularly those funded by MOPAC grants, will be added to the relevant service Risk Registers

Equalities implications

An Equality Impact Assessment has been conducted.

The Community Safety Plan is based on an analysis of crime reports in the previous period and highlights the areas that need the most attention. The

Plan for 2013-17 prioritises the “MOPAC 7” high volume/high public impact crimes of Burglary, Violence with Injury, Vandalism; Theft from the Person; Robbery; Theft of a Vehicle and Theft from a Vehicle: as well as Anti-social behaviour, Domestic Violence and reducing reoffending. The aim is to make Harrow the safest Borough in London within the timescale of the Plan which will require a reduction of almost 2,500 crimes a year against a total for last year of 11,615. Reducing crime benefits all residents of the Borough either directly, by reducing victimisation, or indirectly by lowering the fear of crime.

The Strategic Assessment has highlighted in a number of cases the protected characteristics of the most likely groups to be affected by crime such as young men who are at most risk of robbery and that the age of victims seems to be decreasing with a significant increase in victimisation the 11-15 year old group. At the same time, the age of suspects is also predominantly young.

Older people are at comparatively low risk of being the victims of crime.

Domestic violence continues to be a higher proportion of crime in Harrow than in any other London Borough and the victims are predominantly women. As well as the continuing efforts to support victims, there is a new project to promote healthy relationships in adolescents which it is hoped will have a long-term impact on the prevalence of domestic and sexual violence.

Corporate Priorities

The Community Safety Plan directly addresses the Corporate Priority

- Keeping neighbourhoods clean, green and safe.

Section 3 - Statutory Officer Clearance

Name: Steve Tingle	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the Chief Financial Officer
Date: 27 August 2013		
Name: Sarah Wilson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the Monitoring Officer
Date: 2 September 2013		

Section 4 – Performance Officer Clearance

Name: Alex Dewsnap



Divisional Director
Strategic
Commissioning

Date: 2 September 2013

Section 5 – Environmental Impact Officer Clearance

Name: Saeed Atlas



on behalf of the
Corporate Director
(Environment &
Enterprise)

Date: 3 September 2013

Section 6 - Contact Details and Background Papers

Contact: Mike Howes, Service Manager, Policy and Partnerships, 020 8420 9637

Background Papers:

Strategic Assessment October 2011 – September 2012

http://harrowhub/downloads/file/4672/strategic_assessment_2011_2012

Police and Crime Plan 2013-2016

<http://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/PoliceCrimePlan%202013-16.pdf>

**Call-In Waived by the
Chairman of Overview
and Scrutiny
Committee**

NOT APPLICABLE

*[Call-in does not apply as the
decision is reserved to Council]*