

REPORT FOR: **CABINET**

Date of Meeting:	18 September 2014
Subject:	Community Safety Plan
Key Decision:	Yes
Responsible Officer:	Tom Whiting, Corporate Director of Resources
Portfolio Holder:	Councillor Varsha Parmar, Portfolio Holder for Environment, Crime and Community Safety
Exempt:	No
Decision subject to Call-in:	No, as the decision is reserved to Council
Wards affected:	All
Enclosures:	Appendix 1 - Community Safety Plan Appendix 2 - Equality Impact Assessment

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

2.1 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

2.2 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).

3. Background

3.1 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 Community Safety Plan reflects the priorities identified by the Strategic Assessment.

3.2 The current Strategic Assessment covers the period October 2012 to September 2013 and so is not always synchronised with more recent crime announcements which can lead to confusion about performance. For example, the Strategic Assessment identifies a rise in the theft of motor vehicles of 50.7% in the period studied. More recent figures suggest that there is declining trend in this crime, and looked at over a longer period, the total number of reports is falling from 259 in 2012/13 to 225 in 2013/14 and only 39 in the first three months of 2014/15. To try to iron out peaks and troughs in crime reporting arising from short but exceptional periods, the Police now use a 12 month rolling period to compare like with like which, month by month, gives more reliable trend data.

3.3 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. In particular, there has been a significant fall of 9.1% in the total number of crimes reported to the Police in the last 12 months. There have also been reductions totalling 22.6%

across all of the crimes highlighted in the Mayor's targets for the Police (The Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) 7 Crime types) with the exception of Violence with Injury where, despite a fall in on street violence, the number of reported domestic violence offences has risen by more than 22%. A new Domestic and Sexual Violence Strategy is presented elsewhere on the agenda to address this rise and the continuing level of abuse.

3.4 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 the commissioning intentions notably in public health.

3.5 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 London.

3.6 The proposed Community Safety Plan follows the pattern re-adopted last year of summarising information in an accessible form which reduces duplication and helps to focus on the strategic ambitions and actions.

3.7 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%

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

3.8 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, as in last year's Plan, a greater than usual degree of stability to the framework set out.

3.9 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.

3.10 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.

4. Legal Implications

4.1 Under s.6 of the Crime & Disorder Act 1998, the Council with other partner authorities (chief of police, fire & rescue authority, probation service, CCG 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.

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

4.3 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.

4.4 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.

5. Financial Implications

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

6. Performance Issues

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

The most recent crime figures confirm the trend noted in paragraph 3.3 that crime in Harrow is falling with a reduction 5.7% in the total number of crimes reported to the Police in the year to July 2014 compared to the previous year and with the following reductions in specific crimes:

Burglary total	17.9%
Burglary residential	18.0%
Robbery (person)	41.3%
Motor Vehicle crime	19.4%

7 Environmental Impact

7.1 None

8 Risk Management Implications

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

9. Equalities implications

9.1 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 2014-17 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 12,228. Reducing crime benefits all residents of the Borough either directly, by reducing victimisation, or indirectly by lowering the fear of crime.

9.2 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.

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

9.4 Domestic violence continues to be a higher proportion of crime in Harrow than in any other London Borough. As well as the continuing efforts to support victims, and the families affected by domestic violence, 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.

The Equality Impact Assessment has not noted any disproportionate adverse impact on any of the protected characteristics arising from the Plan.

Corporate Priorities

The Community Safety Plan directly addresses the Corporate Priorities to make a difference for communities and make a difference for families, by making Harrow a safer Borough to live in.

Section 3 - Statutory Officer Clearance

Name: Dawn Calvert	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the Chief Financial Officer
Date: 20 August 2014		
Name: Paresh Mehta	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the Monitoring Officer
Date: 21 August 2014		

Section 4 – Performance Officer Clearance

Name: Alex Dewsnap	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the Divisional Director Strategic Commissioning
Date: 1 September 2014		

Section 5 – Environmental Impact Officer Clearance

Name: Hanif Islam



on behalf of the
Corporate Director
(Environment &
Enterprise)

Date: 20 August 2014

Ward Councillors notified:

No

Contact: Mike Howes, Senior Policy Officer

Tel: 020 8420 9637

Background Papers:

Community Safety Plan 2013/14 – 2016/17

<http://moderngov:8080/documents/s109745/Community%20Safety%20Plan.pdf>

<http://moderngov:8080/documents/s109736/CSP%20-%20App1%20-%20Plan.pdf>

Strategic Assessment 2012/13

http://www.harrow.gov.uk/info/200030/crime_and_nuisance/719/strategic_assessment

**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]*