

To: **Executive**
16 July 2024

Permission to Consult on the Community Safety Plan 2024-27
Executive Director of People

1 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To request permission from the Executive for the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) to conduct a public consultation to obtain residents' views on:
 - 1.1.1 levels and patterns of crime and disorder in the area
 - 1.1.2 the recommended crime and disorder strategic priorities which will comprise the partnership plan for the next 3 years (subject to annual review)

2 Recommendation

- 2.1 **Approve the public consultation on the recommended strategic priorities for the Community Safety Plan 2024-27 which will start on Monday 22 July for a period of 4 weeks.**

3 Reasons for Recommendation

- 3.1 Obtaining the views as set out in paragraph 1 above is a statutory requirement under the Crime and Disorder (Formulation and Implementation of Strategy) Regulations 2007.
- 3.2 It is widely accepted among community safety partnerships that public consultation has significant benefits – it confirms and challenges priorities, identifies priorities in hard-to-reach groups, provides alternative voices and has the benefit of encouraging communication and co-operation between the partnership and the public.

4 Alternative Options Considered

- 4.1 Due to the statutory requirements as well as the benefits reflected in paragraph 3 above, no alternative options have been considered.

5 Supporting Information

- 5.1 CSPs have statutory duties to prepare strategic assessments of crime and disorder in their local area and use those to prepare and implement a partnership plan.
- 5.2 As part of that process, there is also a legal requirement to obtain the views of all who live and work in the area regarding crime and disorder and substance misuse in the area as well as the matters which the responsible authorities should prioritise when each are exercising their functions to reduce crime and disorder and to combat substance misuse in the area.
- 5.3 When discussing which questions to include in the consultation, the CSP considered the questions that are already included in an ongoing consultation that is conducted Thames Valley-wide by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner: [Public](#)

[consultation - Thames Valley PCC \(thamesvalley-pcc.gov.uk\)](https://thamesvalley-pcc.gov.uk). As answers to those questions which are submitted by Bracknell Forest residents can be extracted for us to use alongside our own consultation, it was agreed to focus our questions specifically on the below:

Are you a resident of Bracknell Forest?

Do you work in Bracknell Forest?

Do you attend school/college in Bracknell Forest?

Do you visit for shopping/leisure?

Do you agree with the below strategic priorities that the CSP is recommending as key focus areas for its 2024-27 plan?

- Hotspots of crime and anti-social behaviour including drug dealing, drug use, e-scooters and e-bikes
- Town centre anti-social behaviour and crime
- Serious violence
- Exploitation
- Domestic abuse

If not, what types of crime and anti-social behaviour do you feel we should prioritise and why?

Are there any crime and anti-social behaviour issues which you are aware of in your area that remain unresolved despite reporting them?

- 5.4 Equalities monitoring questions will also be included in the consultation to provide an indication of whether residents with protected characteristics have equal access to the consultation.

6 Consultation and Other Considerations

Legal Advice

- 6.1 The statutory obligation, pursuant to Section 6 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, for the Council and its Responsible Authority Partners to formulate and implement a strategy under a Community Safety Partnership Plan to reduce crime and disorder and to combat substance misuse within the Council's local jurisdictional area is as set out in the body of the report. Under Regulation 12 of the Crime and Disorder (formulation & implementation of Strategy) Regulations 2007, the Council is obligated to undertake community engagement, via consultation, as part of its formulation and implementation of the strategy to be adopted under the Community Safety Partnership's Plan for its local area.

The obligation to undertake community engagement in the formulation and implementation of the strategy under the Community Safety Partnership's Plan, includes making arrangement for obtaining the views of persons and bodies who live or work in the area about –

- (a) the levels and patterns of crime and disorder and substance misuse in the area; and

- (b) the matters which the Responsible Authorities should prioritise when each are exercising their functions to reduce crime and disorder and to combat substance misuse in the area.

The above-referred Regulations provide that, as far as is reasonable, public engagement shall provide for consultation with

- (a) persons who appear to the Community Safety Partnership's Performance Group to represent the interests of as many different groups or persons within the area as is reasonable; and
- (b) persons who appear to the Community Safety Partnership's Performance Group to represent the interests of those groups or persons within the area likely to be particularly affected by the implementation of the partnership plan and is to include having regard to any other consultation that is undertaken by Responsible Authority partners, with persons who live or work in the area in respect of the above matters, that is conducted for reason other than that specifically provided for by the Regulations themselves.

Financial Advice

- 6.2 There are no costs attached to this public consultation.

Other Consultation Responses

- 6.3 The CSP, at its meeting on 8 February 2024, agreed to proceed with the public consultation. It also agreed the consultation questions which are included in paragraph 5 above.

Equalities Impact Assessment

- 6.4 An initial equality impact assessment will be completed when the proposed CSP Plan 2024-27 (which will incorporate the feedback to the consultation) is submitted to the Executive in autumn 2024 (subject to the date of the general election).

Strategic Risk Management Issues

- 6.5 Communities are powerful allies for crime information and reduction as they may see or hear activity in their environments which can help police and councils respond to crime. They also will have ideas or solutions that could help prevent crime from occurring. They know their environments best. Involving them in crime reduction is not only required by law but is also proven in its value. This consultation will enable residents to be involved and to share with us issues of concern as well as help us to identify priorities that they feel are the most important for us to focus on as a CSP. The risk of not consulting with them is that the CSP will only be prioritising crime and disorder issues that are reported and known to us which could mean that areas of risk are unaddressed.

Climate Change and Ecological Impacts

- 6.6 The recommendations in Section 2 above are expected to:

Have no impact on emissions of CO₂.

The reasons the Council believes that this will have no impact on emissions are that the consultation comprises an online survey, the results of which will be used to inform online discussions regarding a finalised CSP Plan 2024-27.

Health & Wellbeing Considerations

- 6.7 The link between being a victim of crime and disorder and health and wellbeing is well-researched and documented. For wider communities, it can also impact fear of crime and increased use of health and victim services¹.
- 6.8 Engaging local communities in the crime prevention and response process can be particularly effective as they can help to identify the crime and antisocial behaviour problems².

Contact for further information

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¹ [Crime and violence in the neighbourhood affects our mental health | CRESH](#)

² Tuffin and others, 2006; Innes, 2014).