

Annex 2

List of Priorities

Priority number	Priority title	Rationale
Priority 1:	<p>Crime and anti-social behaviour (ASB) hotspots</p> <p>Including:</p> <p>Drug dealing and public drug use</p> <p>Noise that is not normal household noise</p> <p>Anti-social vehicle use</p> <p>e-scooter/e-bike use</p>	<p>Consultation findings indicate that the specific types of crime and ASB reflected are of concern to residents.</p> <p>Crime and ASB impacting a number of households/businesses or wider into communities can have a significant impact on the lives of those affected.</p> <p>There are often complex and challenging issues that need a group of partners to come together to resolve. These are referred into the partnership problem-solving groups which Community Safety lead on.</p> <p>There has been a 12% percentage increase in anti-social behaviour queries received by the council compared to last year (238 to 267). Also, reports to police of ASB have increased by 12% compared to last year (251 to 282). While this is expected due to increased housing development and increasing population, a reducing trend overall is aimed for.</p> <p>Preventing and responding to anti-social behaviour in parks and other open spaces can be problematic for residents living in the immediate area, especially in the summer. There is growing involvement by partners and local parishes to help with this work.</p> <p>Lower-level crime and ASB needs to be tackled to prevent it becoming a more serious issue.</p>
Priority 2:	Town centre crime and anti-social behaviour (ASB)	The town centre is the social hub of the borough which attracts many millions of visitors each year. We need to ensure that it is a safe and economically viable centre for all to enjoy.

		<p>Footfall is high in the town centre and is growing with additional residential accommodation becoming available. Therefore, crime and ASB impacts many people at the same time.</p> <p>The Lexicon have advised that shoplifting and ASB levels are high in the town centre. While reports to police don't match these levels, work needs to continue to ensure correct reporting so that police resource is allocated accordingly.</p> <p>Resident and business feedback indicates that specific types of crime and ASB such as e-scooter/e-bike use, delivery drivers using non-vehicle areas, noise and ASB are of concern.</p> <p>The Police and Crime Commissioner has launched a Retail Crime Strategy for the Thames Valley in recognition of regional trends of increased retail crime. We want to participate in that in Bracknell Forest.</p> <p>Lower-level crime and ASB needs to be tackled to prevent it becoming a more serious issue.</p>
<p>Priority 3:</p>	<p>Domestic abuse</p>	<p>DA-related police reports of serious violence have seen a steady increase since 2019.</p> <p>There were over 2,500 reports of domestic abuse to police in Bracknell Forest last year - one of the highest crime types recorded in our borough.</p> <p>Research indicates that witnessing domestic abuse as a child can contribute to a higher risk of being violent as an adult.</p> <p>Local authorities have a duty to provide safe accommodation and support to victim-survivors of DA as set out in the Domestic Abuse Act 2021.</p> <p>A Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment is currently being</p>

		finalised which highlights areas for further development in Bracknell Forest.
Priority 4:	Serious violence	<p>Serious violence in Bracknell Forest has been decreasing since 2019. However, we know that 84% of suspects were males in the 15 – 17, 18 – 21 and 22 and 24 age ranges. Most victims were male. We have an opportunity to respond to these offending trends as well as prevent further offending.</p> <p>The Bracknell Forest Youth Justice Plan 2024-27 shows that there has been an increase in local first-time entrants into the youth justice system in 2023, most of which was for violence, with nearly half of these violent offences being for possession of a weapon. While in line with national trends, it is important that prevention of re-offending work takes place.</p> <p>Schools are also reporting anecdotally that there is a slow emergence of weapon carrying and gang culture. Therefore, prevention of violence in children is crucial. This is the basis of a public approach which ‘involves multiple public and social services working together to implement early interventions to prevent people from becoming involved in violent crime’.¹</p> <p>Local authorities/CSPs have a Serious Violence Duty under the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 for specific authorities to work together to prevent and reduce serious violence.</p> <p>Knife crime and other types of violence have devastating consequences on lives in the short and long-term.</p> <p>Fear of violence can lead to increased social isolation and loneliness,</p>

¹ <https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/how-is-the-government-implementing-a-public-health-approach-to-serious-violence/>

		<p>impacting health and wellbeing significantly.</p>
<p>Priority 5:</p>	<p>Hate crime and disorder</p>	<p>Recent civil unrest in the UK and fear of being targeted due to ethnic heritage or religion has deeply affected the psychological well-being of many individuals.</p> <p>Although Bracknell Forest did not experience rioting seen elsewhere, there were racist incidents and hate crimes as well as at least one arrest.</p> <p>While there is strong community cohesion in Bracknell Forest, we want to ensure it remains this way by exploring ways to build stronger, more inclusive communities. This work is taking place through a BFC recovery group and will include community tension and hate crime monitoring.</p>