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COMMITTEE:	JOINT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
DATE:	MONDAY, 21 MARCH 2022 9.30 AM
VENUE:	KING EDMUND CHAMBER, ENDEAVOUR HOUSE, 8 RUSSELL ROAD, IPSWICH

Members	
<u>Babergh Conservative Group</u> Melanie Barrett Mary McLaren (Co-Chair) Adrian Osborne	<u>Mid Suffolk Green and Liberal Democrat Group</u> Terence Carter Keith Scarff Keith Welham (Co-Chair)
<u>Mid Suffolk Conservative and Independent Group</u> James Caston Paul Ekpenyong Dave Muller	<u>Babergh Green and Labour Group</u> Jane Gould
	<u>Babergh Independent Group</u> Kathryn Grandon John Hinton

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AGENDA

PART 1

MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED WITH THE PRESS AND PUBLIC PRESENT

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5 **BOS/21/05 TO CONFIRM THE BABERGH MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 21 FEBRUARY 2022** 19 - 24

6 **MOS/21/04 TO CONFIRM THE MID SUFFOLK MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THE 13 JANUARY 2022** 25 - 36

7 **TO RECEIVE NOTIFICATION OF PETITIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COUNCIL'S PETITION SCHEME**

8 **QUESTIONS BY THE PUBLIC**

To consider questions from and provide answers to members of the public on any matter in relation to which the Committee has powers or duties and of which due notice has been given in accordance with the Committee and Sub-Committee Procedures Rules.

9 **QUESTIONS BY COUNCILLORS**

To consider questions from and provide answers to Councillors on any matter in relation to which the Committee has powers or duties and of which due notice has been given in accordance with the Committee and Sub-Committee Procedure Rules.

10 **JOS/21/25 REVIEW OF WESTERN SUFFOLK COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP (WSCSP)** 37 - 72

11 **JOS/21/26 FORTHCOMING DECISIONS LIST**

To review the Council's Forthcoming Decisions List and identify any items to be brought before the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Please note the most up to date version can be found via the Website: [Forthcoming Decisions List » Babergh Mid Suffolk](#)

12 **JOS/21/27 BABERGH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORK PLAN** 73 - 74

To agree the Work Plan

13 **JOS/21/28 MID SUFFOLK OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORK PLAN** 75 - 76

To agree the Work Plan

Date and Time of next meeting

Please note that the next meeting is scheduled for Monday, 25 April 2022 at 9.30 am.

Webcasting/ Live Streaming

The Webcast of the meeting will be available to view on the Councils YouTube page: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCSWf_0D13zmegAf5Qv_aZSg

For more information about this meeting, including access arrangements and facilities for people with disabilities, please contact the Committee Officer Bethany Webb, on: 01449724683 or Email: Committees@baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk

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Agenda Item 3

BABERGH AND MID SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCILS

Minutes of the meeting of the **JOINT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE** held in the King Edmund Chamber, Endeavour House, 8 Russell Road, Ipswich on Monday, 20 December 2021

PRESENT:

Councillor: Keith Welham (Co-Chair)

Councillors: Melanie Barrett
John Field
David Muller
Keith Scarff

James Caston
Mary McLaren (Co-Chair)
Adrian Osborne

In attendance:

Councillor(s): Julie Flatman

Witness(es): Simon Clifton (Chief Officer – Citizens Advice Mid Suffolk)
Colleen Sweeny (Chief Officer – Sudbury and District Citizens Advice)

Officers: Communities Officer – Grant and Funding Practitioner (RE)
Senior Governance Officer (HH)
Governance Officer (BW)

Apologies:

Councillors: Terence Carter
Paul Ekpenyong
Jane Gould
Kathryn Grandon

116 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Councillor Dave Muller declared a local non-pecuniary interest in his capacity as a Trustee for Mid Suffolk Local Citizens Advice.

Councillor Keith Scarff declared a local non-pecuniary interest in his capacity as Mayor of Stowmarket.

117 JOS/21/19 TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 22 NOVEMBER 2021

It was **RESOLVED**: -

That the minutes of the meeting held on the 22 of November 2021 be confirmed as a true record.

118 TO RECEIVE NOTIFICATION OF PETITIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COUNCIL'S PETITION SCHEME

None received.

119 QUESTIONS BY THE PUBLIC

None received.

120 QUESTIONS BY COUNCILLORS

None received.

121 FORTHCOMING DECISIONS LIST

The Forthcoming Decisions List was noted.

122 JOS/21/20 REVIEW OF LOCAL CITIZENS ADVICE

122.1 The Chief Officer of Citizens Advice (Sudbury) and The Chief Officer of Citizens Advice (Mid Suffolk) presented to the Committee outlining how the Local Citizens Advice (LCA) had adapted their services over the Covid-19 Pandemic.

122.2 Councillor Keith Scarff questioned the relationship between the LCA and the foodbanks and how the holistic approach of the LCA factored in. The Chief Officer of Citizens Advice (Sudbury) responded that when the LCA made foodbank referrals they reviewed the individual's wider situation to determine what may be causing the issue. The Chief Officer of Citizens Advice (Mid Suffolk) replied that details of individuals from the foodbanks could be passed to the LCA, so that they could follow up with the individual and do a review.

122.3 Councillor Keith Scarff queried the household support fund and how it was allocated. The Chief Officer of Citizens Advice (Mid Suffolk) replied that during the pandemic emergency funding had been made available and the LCA had used this to help aid families. However, all funding from central Government had a timescale.

122.4 Councillor Keith Scarff queried whether Mid Suffolk District Council were doing anything about the timescales placed on funding. Councillor Julie Flatman responded that she would take this up with the Leader of the Council.

122.5 Councillor Melanie Barrett queried whether Sudbury LCA received any funding from Essex, as it was on the Essex Suffolk boarder and served Essex clients. The Chief Officer of Citizens Advice (Sudbury) responded that the Sudbury LCA did not receive funding from Essex, however, the LCA was available to anyone and the LCAs saw people outside of their district area.

- 122.6 Councillor Melanie Barrett queried what other services the LCA provided to food bank referrals. The Chief Officer of Citizens Advice (Sudbury) responded that the LCA provided budgeting advice and benefit checks to those referred by foodbanks.
- 122.7 Councillor John Field questioned how referrals between the LCA, and foodbanks dealt with potential data protection issues. The Chief Officer of Citizens Advice (Mid Suffolk) replied that the LCA had a data sharing agreement with the foodbanks and received consent from the people using the LCA.
- 122.8 Councillor James Caston queried how regularly resource sharing had occurred. The Chief Officer of Citizens Advice (Sudbury) responded that resource sharing was a rare occurrence, however, due to staff leaving during the pandemic Sudbury LCA had outsourced debt supervision to Ipswich LCA.
- 122.9 Councillor Mary McLaren queried how residents from rural areas accessed LCA services. The Chief Officer of Citizens Advice (Sudbury) responded that LCA services had been in place in GP surgeries across the District before the pandemic, however the current way for greater access had been through digital access and email advice.
- 122.10 Councillor Melanie Barrett queried the maximum wait times for contact in relation to phone calls and emails. The Chief Officer of Citizens Advice (Sudbury) responded that people had been called back and responded to on the same day, however, if an appointment was needed it was usually scheduled in the same week. The Chief Officer of Citizens Advice (Mid Suffolk) replied that 83% of callers were answered on the first call and different queries have different time frames. First call for debt advice would be in the same week and calls for benefits advice would be in same week or the following week depending on the number of debt cases. Emails were responded to on the same day.
- 122.11 Councillor John Field questioned when the Virtual Services Project was likely to be delivered. The Chief Officer of Citizens Advice (Mid Suffolk) responded that the project had been running in two locations in Mid Suffolk and that strategies had been developed based on what had worked. The virtual devices in parishes had helped residents to get online and allowed the LCA to monitor district data to see where there was a need for further support/advice
- 122.12 Councillor Keith Welham questioned the process for people who owed debts to multiple sources. The Chief Officer of Citizens Advice (Mid Suffolk) responded that the LCA found financial aid where possible. Also the LCA had been working with the Shared Revenue Partnership (SRP) to allow Council tax and housing benefit issued by SRP to be viewed jointly under a single view of debt, to see what an individual owed the Council as a whole.
- 122.13 Councillor Keith Welham queried whether the recommendation from the

previous Joint Overview and Scrutiny review of a rolling indexation funding of LCA had been discussed by Cabinet. Councillor Julie Flatman responded that this had not been adopted however, Mid Suffolk LCA had been given additional funding that had been redirected from the Citizens Advice Diss, Thetford and District LCA.

- 122.14 Councillor Keith Scarff queried the table on page 8 of the report referring to the three-year rolling funding programme and asked whether the discussion of funding for Citizens Advice Diss, Thetford and District had taken place. The Communities Officer - Grants and Funding Practitioner responded whilst there had been discussions earlier in the year there had not been any further updates. However, it had been determined that Citizens Advice Diss, Thetford and District no longer served Mid Suffolk.
- 122.15 Councillor John Field commented LCA provided a valuable service, however the issue of the SRP in relations to council tax debt and rent debt not being available collectively needed to be addressed rapidly.
- 122.16 Councillor Keith Scarff commented that the LCA presentation had been sufficient reassurance that there was help for residents to access services. However, the joint way of working for a single view of debt needed to be introduced at the earliest opportunity. He also suggested that an inflation increase for the funding for the LCA should go to Cabinet as part of the 3-year rolling plan. In addition, that the funding previously allocated to Diss, and Thetford went to the Mid Suffolk Citizens Advice instead. Further that that Overview and Scrutiny should review the LCA next year.
- 122.17 Councillor Melanie Barrett agreed with Councillor John Filed and commented that foodbanks needed resources for educational advice on nutrition, budgeting, and cookery skills classes.
- 122.18 Councillor Mary McLaren commented that Babergh should improve the level of debt advice, as it might not have been accessible to the whole district. She suggested an increase in funding to make debt advice more accessible, as it was specialist position.
- 122.19 Councillor James Caston commented that different funding and different areas were a concern, but that the LCA was extremely effective and well managed. He thought that Mid Suffolk District Council received value for money and taught people to make the most of what they had.
- 122.20 Members thanked the LCA officers for their work over the pandemic.
- 122.21 A short break was taken between 11:31-11:55am.
- 122.22 Members debated the issues, and the following suggestions were made:
- To thank the LCA Chief officers and their respective staff for the work that they have carried out in the last year. Particularly during the pandemic.

- That the Committee was reassured that both LCAs were operating effectively and efficiently.
- That the Councils took a single view of debt and implement an integrated system for dealing with housing rent, and council tax debt.
- That contact be made to foodbanks with a request that their clients were referred to the LCA for advice on nutrition and budgeting and cookery skills classes.
- That remote virtual operation capability for LCA and other bodies should be provided on an accelerated programme as a matter of urgency defining locations, IT equipment and applications, training, and connectivity.
- That Cabinets be asked to consider the previous resolution of Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee that the 3 year rolling funding arrangements review be subject to indexation on an annual review basis.
- That the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee review the Local Citizens Advice in December 2022

122.23 Councillor Keith Scarff proposed the recommendations.

122.24 Councillor Dave Muller seconded this motion.

By a unanimous vote.

It was RESOLVED: -

- 1.1 To thank the LCA Chief officers and their respective staff for the work that they have carried out in the last year. Particularly during the pandemic.**
- 1.2 The Committee are reassured that both LCAs are operating effectively and efficiently and responded well to all questioning from Members.**
- 1.3 That the Councils take a single view of debt and implement an integrated system for dealing with housing rent, and council tax debt.**
- 1.4 That contact be made to foodbanks with a request that their clients are referred to the LCA for advice on nutrition and budgeting and cookery skills classes.**
- 1.5 Remote virtual operation capability for LCA and other bodies should be provided on an accelerated programme as a matter of urgency defining locations, IT equipment and applications, training, and connectivity.**
- 1.6 That Cabinets be asked to consider the previous resolution of Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee that the 3 year rolling funding arrangements review be subject to indexation on an annual review basis.**
- 1.7 That the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee review the Local Citizens Advice in December 2022**

122.25 Councillor Keith Scarff proposed for the Mid Suffolk Overview and Scrutiny Committee only:

Mid Suffolk Cabinet to confirm that funding previously allocated to Thetford and Diss LCA be allocated to Mid Suffolk LCA.

122.26 Councillor Dave Muller seconded this motion

122.27 The vote was put to the Mid Suffolk Members only

By a unanimous MSDC vote

It was RESOLVED : -

Mid Suffolk Cabinet to confirm that funding previously allocated to Thetford and Diss LCA be allocated to Mid Suffolk LCA.

122.28 Councillor Mary McLaren proposed for the Babergh Overview and Scrutiny Committee only:

Recommendation to Babergh Cabinet that extra funding be provided to Sudbury Citizens Advice to enable greater provision for debt advice across the whole district.

122.29 Councillor Melanie Barrett seconded this motion.

122.30 The vote was put to the Babergh Members only:

By a unanimous BDC vote

It was RESOLVED : -

Recommendation to Babergh Cabinet that extra funding be provided to Sudbury Citizens Advice to enable greater provision for debt advice across the whole district.

123 JOS/21/22 BABERGH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORK PLAN

It was RESOLVED: -

That with the following amendment the Babergh Overview and Scrutiny Work Plan be noted and updated:

Information Bulletin on the cost of maintenance of tenanted properties.

124 JOS/21/23 MID SUFFOLK OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORK PLAN

It was RESOLVED: -

That with the following amendment the Mid Suffolk Overview and Scrutiny Work Plan be noted and updated

Information Bulletin on the cost of maintenance of tenanted properties.

The business of the meeting was concluded at 12:23pm.

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Chair

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Agenda Item 4

BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the **BABERGH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE** held in the King Edmund Chamber, Endeavour House, 8 Russell Road, Ipswich on Monday, 17 January 2022

PRESENT:

Councillor: Mary McLaren (Chair)

Councillors: Melanie Barrett Jane Gould
Adrian Osborne

In attendance:

Councillor(s): Simon Barrett
Jan Osborne

Officers: Assistant Director - Corporate Resources (KS)
Assistant Manager - Financial Accountant (RH)
Assistant Director – Housing (GF)
Senior Finance Business Partner - HRA And GF Revenue (SC)
Finance Business Partner (JS)
Monitoring Officer (EY)
Senior Governance Officer (HH)
Governance Officer (BW)

Apologies:

Kathryn Grandon (Vice-Chair)

18 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

None received.

19 TO RECEIVE NOTIFICATION OF PETITIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COUNCIL'S PETITION SCHEME

None received.

20 QUESTIONS BY THE PUBLIC

None received.

21 QUESTIONS BY COUNCILLORS

None received.

22 BOS/21/01 DRAFT GENERAL FUND (GF) 2022/23 AND FOUR-YEAR OUTLOOK

- 22.1 Councillor Simon Barrett introduced the report to the committee outlining that the budget had been based on no increase in council tax, however an increase would take place if Cabinet decided it was necessary. In addition to this the emergency reserves held by Babergh would be reduced to 1million as it had not been used over the Covid-19 pandemic so the excess 200,000 would be used in the community. He also stated that the budget had shown a surplus of £403,000.
- 22.2 Councillor Melanie Barrett questioned whether the cost for leisure move to green tariff had been cost neutral. The Assistant Director - Corporate Resources responded that the council had made the utility payments and Abbeycroft had been reimbursing these costs. The management fee was a separate cost.
- 22.3 Councillor Jane Gould questioned whether the cost of CCTV had been a permanent contribution. The Assistant Director - Corporate Resources responded that it was a permanent and ongoing contribution that covered running costs.
- 22.4 Councillor Melanie Barrett questioned whether future vehicle costs had been included in the budget. The Assistant Director - Corporate Resources responded that the running costs of vehicles had been built into the budget as it was an in-house service.
- 22.5 Councillor Adrian Osborne questioned whether the possibility that central government could remove garden waste charges has been taken into consideration. The Assistant Director - Corporate Resources responded that this had been proposed for the next financial year so would be looked at for in the 23/24 budget.
- 22.6 Councillor McLaren questioned whether money for a new fleet of refuse vehicles had been factored in. The Assistant Director - Corporate Resources responded that the council had money set aside for replacing most of the fleet and had monitored what vehicles would be needed in the future. Councillor Simon Barrett added that the replacement of vehicles had been set on a cycle as shown in appendix b of the report.
- 22.7 Councillor Melanie Barrett questioned where the income for the Strategic Policy, Performance and Insight had come from. The Assistant Director - Corporate Resources responded that some of the income had come from Law and Governance, and this had been supplemented by resources from other areas which had been paid for by reserves.
- 22.8 Councillor Jane Gould questioned the reason for the reduction of ICT costs in the future. The Assistant Director - Corporate Resources responded that costs had been higher to allow for the replacement of software that would increase the cost for the 22/23 budget.
- 22.9 Councillor Melanie Barrett questioned whether the budget covered legal

costs for planning enforcement and appeals. The Assistant Director - Corporate Resources responded that these costs had been built into the budget and had been based on previous years.

- 22.10 Councillor Melanie Barrett questioned the increase of £41k for the senior leadership team costs and whether this had been based on the previous pay review. The Assistant Director - Corporate Resources responded that it was an allowance for the team for the whole year and had been based on the previous report to Council.
- 22.11 Councillor Jane Gould questioned whether the reserves would be reviewed. Councillor Simon Barrett responded that as the reserve had not been used during the Covid-19 pandemic, the reserve was being reviewed and reduced to 10% of the Council's overall budget.
- 22.12 Councillor Jane Gould questioned whether the Consumer Price Index was being monitored. Councillor Simon Barrett responded that it was being monitored as it effects the HRA accounts and was the basis for rent charges. The Assistant Director – Corporate resources added that for future years an allowance had been built into the budgets for CPI.
- 22.13 Councillor Melanie Barrett questioned whether the reduction of reserves would affect the interest gained on them. The Assistant Director – Corporate Resources responded that as the interest rate had been low it would have little effect on the budget.
- 22.14 Councillor Melanie Barrett questioned the catch up on the pension fund contribution and whether this had an impact. The Assistant Director – Corporate Resources responded that to overcome the deficit in the contributions the council had made adjustments in the budget for the next year. There had also been tri-annual evaluations to review these contributions.
- 22.15 Councillor Mary McLaren questioned whether the Council still had any of the Covid fund remaining, and whether this would need to be repaid to central government. Councillor Simon Barrett responded that there had been £70200 remaining in the reserve. The Assistant Director – Corporate Resources added that it did not need to be paid back however, there was unlikely to be any more given by the government so it would be needed for upcoming years.
- 22.16 Councillor Mary McLaren sought clarification on the capital fund and how it was managed. Councillor Simon Barrett responded that the capital fund had been allocated to projects that had been budgeted on ongoing assumed borrowing for these. The Assistant Director – Corporate Resources added that the capital fund was the approval for this money to be borrowed and was not money in an account.
- 22.17 Councillor Adrian Osborne queried whether the estimated reserves for the Joint Local Plan in the budget were only for Babergh or whether this had

been a shared cost with Mid Suffolk. The Assistant Director – Corporate Resources responded that the costs had been separate and that the costs for additional work would not exceed the reserves.

22.18 A short break was taken between 10:43 – 10:51am.

22.19 Councillor Melanie Barrett proposed the recommendations as follows:

- That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee notes the General Fund budget 2022/23 and Four-year Outlook.
- That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee receives a report from Cabinet on the outcomes of the performance framework on a six-month basis.

22.20 Councillor Jane Gould seconded this motion.

By a unanimous vote.

It was RESOLVED: -

1.1 That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee notes the General Fund budget 2022/23 and Four-year Outlook.

1.2 That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee receives a report from Cabinet on the outcomes of the performance framework on a six-month basis.

23 BOS/21/02 DRAFT HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (HRA) AND FOUR - YEAR OUTLOOK

23.1 Councillor Simon Barrett introduced the report to the committee outlining that HRA account had been in a deficit due to additional spending in building services. This had been due to an increased cost of resources and labour resource had been competitive which lead to an increased use of subcontractors. It had also recommended that there be a rent increase of CPI+1.

23.2 Councillor Melanie Barrett questioned the cause of the overspend in building services. The Assistant Director – Housing responded that the overspend had occurred for a variety of reasons such as the increased cost of materials over the past year. In addition to this there had been additional training for staff in order to decrease the reliance on outside contractors. There had also been costs to replace vehicles and to change the fleet to HVO.

23.3 Councillor Adrian Osborne queried whether anti-social behaviour had any impact on the cost of any additional work. The Assistant Director – Housing responded that as it had been dealt with internally by the housing team.

23.4 Councillor Adrian Osborne queried other income in terms of recovering legal

cost. The Assistant Director – Housing responded that if there had been damage to a property the council may take legal action to get reimbursed for this damage however the council would use insurance provision to fund this.

23.5 Councillor Adrian Osborne queried what renewable heat had been installed in line with the renewable heat incentive. The Assistant Director – Housing responded that the incentive had been installing air source heat pumps and had been seeking grants to install these where possible.

23.6 Councillor Adrian Osborne questioned the social housing resources that the council to lessen the costs of using hotels. The Assistant Director – Housing responded that there had been areas of the housing stock that were able to be used as temporary accommodation, and the council also had units for domestic abuse and are able to lease properties to the county council in order to help care leavers in order to lessen use of hotels as temporary accommodation.

23.7 Councillor Jane Gould questioned whether there were sufficient funds to insulate and retrofit existing properties. The Assistant Director – Housing responded that the council and the energy saving trust had a stock profile of all properties that had enabled the council to prioritize where work is needed. Councillor Jan Osborne added that the Council's design guide would go to Cabinet in spring to set out the aspirations in terms of retrofitting existing properties.

23.8 Councillor Mary McLaren questioned how realistic a central system that kept record of money owed by individual residents. The Assistant Director – Corporate Resources responded that this was an ongoing major project however, there had been issues in terms of software. The Assistant Director – Housing added that tenancy officers work with the shared revenue partnership in order see all of what is owed by an individual. Councillor Jan Osborne added that the rent source system had also been in place in order to identify arrears and help residents get support in this area.

23.9 Councillor Melanie Barrett raised that she would like to see a reduction in use of sub-contractors in the future and allow more work to be delivered in house.

23.10 Councillor Jane Gould praised the additional training for surveyors in order to allow for more in house services, however, money spent on retrofitting should be prioritized to insulation.

23.11 Councillor Melanie Barrett proposed the recommendation as follows:

- That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee notes the Housing Revenue Account 2022/23 and Four-year Outlook.
- That the Overview and Scrutiny recommends that the Information about the use of sub-contractors be included in the quarterly performance monitoring report.

23.12 Councillor Adrian Osborne seconded this motion.

By a unanimous vote

It was RESOLVED:-

1.1 That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee notes the Housing Revenue Account 2022/23 and Four-year Outlook.

1.2 That the Overview and Scrutiny recommends that the Information about the use of sub-contractors be included in the quarterly performance monitoring report.

24 FORTHCOMING DECISIONS LIST

The Forthcoming Decisions List was noted.

25 BOS/21/03 BABERGH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORK PLAN

It was RESOLVED: -

That the Babergh Overview and Scrutiny Work Plan was noted.

The business of the meeting was concluded at 12:11pm.

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Chair

Agenda Item 5

BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the **BABERGH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE** held in the King Edmund Chamber, Endeavour House, 8 Russell Road, Ipswich on Monday, 21 February 2022.

PRESENT:

Councillor: Mary McLaren (Chair)

Councillors: Melanie Barrett Jane Gould
Adrian Osborne

In attendance:

Councillor(s): David Busby – Cabinet Member for Assets and Investments
Simon Barrett – Cabinet Member for Finance

Officers: Chief Executive (AC)
Assistant Director – Assets and Investment (EA)
Assistant Director – Corporate Resources and Section 151 Officer (KS)
Assistant Director – Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer (EY)
Corporate Manager – Governance and Civic Office (JR)
Senior Governance Officer (HH)
Trainee Governance Support Officer (BW)

Apologies:

Kathryn Grandon (Vice-Chair)
John Hinton

26 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

None received.

26 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

None received.

27 CALL-IN PROTOCOL FOR THE BABERGH CABINET DECISION 7 FEBRUARY 2022

27.1 Councillor Jane Gould proposed that the protocol for the Call-in Procedure be approved.

27.2 Councillor Adrian Osborne seconded this motion.

By a unanimous vote.

It was RESOLVED: -

That Members considered and agreed the scope of the Call-in.

28 CALL-IN OF THE BABERGH CABINET DECISION FOR BCA/21/38 ACCOMMODATION AND AGILE STRATEGY - ENDEAVOUR HOUSE

- 28.1 Councillor Melanie Barrett, as Lead Signatory, was unable to vote on this item and was not acting in her role as a Member of the Committee.
- 28.2 The Chair introduced the Call-in to the Committee and outlined that it had been signed by the following Councillors: Melanie Barrett, Margaret Maybury, Trevor Cresswell, Mark Newman, Jane Gould, and Mick Fraser.
- 28.3 The Chair invited the Lead Signatory, Councillor Melanie Barrett, to present her reasons for the Call-in.
- 28.4 The Lead Signatory presented the following reasons:
- 28.5 I called this into the Overview and Scrutiny Committee because I believe that, as the Chair has outlined in my submission to the committee, this is such a significant amount of money that is proposed to be spent. When I first read it, I thought it may have been £50,000, but it was indeed £250,000 to be spent on half of the workspace that we previously occupied. So, the benefits appear to be a net saving of £88,000. However, does this saving come at a cost to service delivery and our residents? That is also a concern.
- Although the majority of my reason for referring is due to the lack of scrutiny on how that money will be allocated. The decision cannot be sensibly made on such a ballpark figure. Previous history of calculations has shown this, and there is no detail. Having looked at papers for the budget I note that in that paper under the General Fund budget they talked about the key elements of the Council's responsibility, and one of those is cost management.
- I understand there may also be a margin of error within these calculations that we cannot assess until we are given more detail. In the floor plan I see that there is a branding graphics wall, a green graphics wall, and a full height green wall. I presume there would be costs available for us to understand how that cost could amount to half a million pounds. That would have helped the Cabinet to make better use of their questions to understand how that figure was arrived at.
- I understand that some of the cost is sound proofing meeting rooms, but that is not clear from the paper whether the landlord has been approached to see if they would shoulder some of those costs. That should be our first option to make sure that the landlord was going to share those costs. It is unbalanced as there were potential costs that were looked at as a ballpark figure. But there has not been an assessment of the impacts on productivity and output. It seems that the primary move is to serve the needs officers, and residents

will only benefit indirectly.

There is a saving, but just because there is saving that does not mean this is free money that can be unaccounted for. There are always costs, there is other options that we could spend the money on.

To look at this in some context for this expenditure of £250,000, some Councillors spent the last 16 months arguing the case for imposing parking charges where it was estimated that we would raise £212,000, but the same degree of scrutiny has not been shown to this issue. It has just been taken on face value.

In my view an even greater degree of scrutiny than normal must be applied here as the money will directly benefit the staff, and the staff are making their decision with only minimal input from Councillors. It only indirectly benefits our residents if at all. Indeed, this move could be detrimental to the residents as they might see reduction in service provision, lengthening service times, or reduced access to officers. I urge you to make recommendations to Cabinet to demand a greater breakdown of cost, and analysis of the impact of the changes that have been approved.

28.6 The Chair invited the Cabinet Member for Assets and Investments, Councillor David Busby to present the reason why the decision had been taken by Cabinet.

28.7 The Cabinet Member for Assets and Investment, Councillor Busby, provided a summary of the events at Cabinet:

28.8 The Cabinet supported the recommendations within the Accommodation and Agile Strategy for Endeavour House report on 7th February. These recommendations were to reduce and reconfigure the floor plate space within Endeavour House, and to delegate authority to the Assistant Director for Assets and Investments to develop changes. The reasons for these decisions were set out in the report. They need to create fit for purpose accommodation at Endeavour House, to deliver financial savings over the full term of the lease, and to enable timely, efficient, and effective delivery of the project. Councillor Barrett has contested that the report presented to Cabinet did not contain sufficient information on the cost of the works proposed Cabinet to make an informed decision. Section 6 of the report sets out the financial implications of this decision resulting the saving of £356,000 for Babergh after estimated costs of £250,000.

The estimated capital costs are based on the concept drawings provided by Concertus and are sufficient for budgeting purposes. Detailed costs will not be available until the full technical design has been completed and the works tendered. But, even with costs rising, we anticipate coming in under budget. Waiting for the detailed costs is not an option as the notice to trigger the break clause must be served before the end of March 2022. Cabinet has to take the decision before then, otherwise the Councils will lose the legal ability to end the lease for one of the floor plates. Councillor Barrett has also contested the Cabinet approved the paper on a reduction to the floor plate but neglected to consider the expenditure. But, whilst there may not have been any questions directly related to the capital cost of this project during the Cabinet meeting, this does not mean that the Cabinet failed to give due

consideration. It means that we were content with the information provided. Cabinet Members or other Members, such as Councillor Barrett, who attended the meeting had adequate opportunity to raise any such concerns or questions in this regard. Finally, Councillor Barrett states her concern that key decisions about expenditure should not be delegated. This is a key decision made by the Cabinet and was advertised as such ahead of the Cabinet making decision in accordance with the constitution. The decision to adopt the recommendations was made by Cabinet and implementation delegated to officers. This is normal practice and in line with our constitution.

- 28.9 Councillor Jane Gould queried how the sum of £250,000 had been calculated, and whether the Cabinet had been aware of how this expenditure was determined. The Assistant Director - Assets and Investments responded that the budget figures had been based on an estimate by the consultants with the concept plan drawing. In addition to this, until the full technical design was finalised a final costing would be unable to be provided in greater detail. Councillor Gould also highlighted the fact that though the Cabinet may have been familiar with the detail of the costs, certainly members of the public and other councillors watching by live stream would have assumed that the proposed cost was agreed unchallenged by any Cabinet Members.
- 28.10 Cabinet Members answered Committee Members' queries on why questions on the expenditure had not been asked by Members of the Cabinet. The Cabinet Member for Assets and Investments, Councillor Busby, responded that whilst Members of the Cabinet had not asked questions on this issue, other Members present at the meeting had been able to ask questions on this point. In addition to this, there had not been a cost breakdown within the report. The Cabinet Member for Finance, Councillor Simon Barrett, added that in the vote during the meeting the costs and the break clause had been within the same vote and that the break clause had a time limit that needed to be recognised.
- 28.11 Councillor McLaren queried what the current costs for the two floor plates was currently. The Assistant Director – Assets and investment responded that it was £464,000 per annum.
- 28.12 Councillor McLaren queried the dilapidations costs and whether they could have been discussed in private session at the Cabinet meeting. The Assistant Director – Assets and Investment responded that they could have, but negotiations had not been completed, so this could not be estimated until the lease had expired.
- 28.13 Councillor McLaren questioned the current spend on the work that had been undertaken by the consultants on the project. The Assistant Director – Assets and Investment responded that there had been a current budget of £15,000, and of that total £6000 had been spent.
- 28.14 Councillor McLaren queried the numbers of staff responding to the internal survey and was fifty percent of the staff responding, reflective of the workforce. Councillor Dave Busby felt the response rate from staff was good

as many staff work offsite The Cabinet Member for Assets and Investments was also asked whether the costs of Display Screen Equipment (DSE) assessments undertaken by the Council for staff working from home had been considered. The Assistant Director - Assets and Investments responded that there had been no additional cost for assessments as it had been managed by the Council's Health and Safety team.

- 28.15 Councillor McLaren questioned where these funds had been located in the budget papers. The Section 151 Officer responded that it had been contained Appendix A of General Fund report under Planned Maintenance / Enhancements - Corporate Buildings with £300,000 allocated for this work. Additionally, the funds would come from borrowing, and that the interest on this over 5 years would be £7,500.
- 28.16 Councillor McLaren queried the arrangements if the proposed plans to reduce the floor space when implemented fail, to meet the needs of the staff. The Assistant Director of Assets and Investments reassured the Committee that the proposed floor space was flexible to meet that eventuality.
- 28.17 The Chair invited the Cabinet Member – Assets and Investments Councillor Busby to present his summary.
- 28.18 Councillor Busby - Cabinet Member for Assets and Investments summarised that there had been two elements to this issue as there had been the finance side and the information side. He believed that there had been sufficient information as the project had been ongoing for the previous nine months and had received feedback from two working groups. Additionally, the estimated amount was not an unreasonable budget for the scale of the work that would be undertaken. There is a significant need for this work.
- 28.19 The Chair invited the lead signatory Councillor Barrett to present her summary.
- 28.20 Councillor Melanie Barrett summarised that as building costs would have been expensive, she believed that more information should have been provided before the decision was made. The expense should have been known in more detail in the specifications, with estimates broken down for individual features within the design. The specification should also establish what the gain for the work force would be to ensure that the design is suitable.
- 28.21 Councillors David Busby, Melanie Barrett, and Simon Barrett left the meeting at 10:36am.
- 28.22 A short break was taken between 10:36 – 10:45am.
- 28.23 Members debated the lack of questions on finance at the Cabinet Meeting by Members of the Cabinet. However, it was noted that there were

opportunities for other Members attending the meeting to ask questions. Additionally, it was observed that although the questions had not been asked it did not mean the Cabinet were not informed on this matter.

28.24 Members also raised concern that for decisions that deal with large sums of money there should be more questioning in public session to allow for public transparency. However, it was added that the public did have the opportunity to question this matter, and no responses from the public had been received.

28.25 Councillor Jane Gould proposed that the decision be upheld and implemented immediately. Councillor Adrian Osborne seconded this motion.

By a unanimous vote.

It was RESOLVED: -

That the decision be upheld and implemented immediately.

29 BCA/21/38 ACCOMMODATION AND AGILE STRATEGY - ENDEAVOUR HOUSE

See the previous item.

The business of the meeting was concluded at 11:03am.

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Chair

Agenda Item 6

MID SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the **MID SUFFOLK OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE** held in the King Edmund Chamber, Endeavour House, 8 Russell Road, Ipswich on Thursday, 13 January 2022

PRESENT:

Councillor: Keith Welham (Chair)
James Caston (Vice-Chair)

Councillors: Paul Ekpenyong Sarah Mansel
David Muller BA (Open) MCMI Keith Scarff
RAFA (Councillor)

In attendance:

Councillor(s): Jessica Flemming
John Whitehead
Lavinia Hadingham
John Field
Andrew Mellen
Andrew Stringer
John Matthisen

Officers: Assistant Director - Corporate Resources (KS)
Assistant Manager - Financial Accountant (RH)
Assistant Director – Housing (GF)
Senior Finance Business Partner - HRA And GF Revenue (SC)
Finance Business Partner (JS)
Assistant Director - Environment and Commercial (CC)
Monitoring Officer (EY)
Senior Governance Officer (HH)
Governance Officer (BW)

Apologies:

Terence Carter

10 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS BY COUNCILLORS

Councillor Mansel declared a local non-pecuniary interest as her brother-in-law ran a taxi service in Babergh District.

11 TO RECEIVE NOTIFICATION OF PETITIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COUNCIL'S PETITION SCHEME

None received.

12 QUESTIONS BY THE PUBLIC

None received.

13 QUESTIONS BY COUNCILLORS

None received.

14 MOS/21/1 DRAFT GENERAL FUND (GF) 2022/23 AND FOUR-YEAR OUTLOOK

14.1 Councillor John Whitehead introduced the report and outlined that there were still some minor effects from the Covid-19 pandemic, however economic recovery was underway, and unemployment had fallen. The starting point for this budget had been an assumption of no increase in council tax. In addition to this the local government settlement included an additional 971,000 which had strengthened the no raise in council tax approach. However Full Council would only decide on the no increase for one financial year.

14.2 Councillor Caston queried the installation of heat pumps at leisure facilities and whether the cost of this change had been calculated. The Assistant Director - Environment and Commercial responded that it had been assumed what the discounted rate would be and that there would be a fluctuation.

14.3 Councillor Ekpenyong queried the reduction in income from Stowmarket High School. The Assistant Director - Environment and Commercial responded that there had been lesser use of the sports halls over the pandemic by the school, however conversations with the school had been ongoing.

14.4 A short break was taken between 09:54-09:56am.

14.5 Councillor Scarff questioned page 12 of the papers annual increase of staffing cost and whether this included the 5% vacancy management factor. The Assistant Director – Corporate Resources responded that it had been based on full staffing and the pay inflation had been based on full staffing. However, 2% had been used as a benchmark for pay inflation.

14.6 Councillor Scarff questioned the risk that a savings programme for would not deliver on full effect. Could the Overview and Scrutiny Committee look at ongoing budget monitoring. Assistant Director – Corporate Resources responded that it had not been assessed in terms of savings. However, it could be useful role for Overview and Scrutiny to monitor once it had been developed.

14.7 Councillor Ekpenyong queried the whole budget in relation to staffing and the ability to recruit, salaries, and compensation packages. Councillor Whitehead responded that Mid Suffolk previously had a Transformation Fund, which was now the Growth Efficiency Fund, so there was resource for transformation.

14.8 Councillor Welham queried the £3.5 million that the Council had in reserves that had not been spent and whether this could have been better used in the communities. Councillor Whitehead responded that this would be considered by Cabinet.

14.9 Councillor Scarff questioned the housing carry forwards from the previous financial year and how it is ensured that this is spent in next financial year. The Assistant Director – Housing responded that the council had looked to move from surpluses and reserves and had limited who received grants. And additional money had been given by government. One way that housing had spent reserve was to appoint new roles and develop the renovations and empty homes work.

14.10 Councillor Caston queried the non-pay inflation of 2% and the reasoning of managers doing cuts to keep within budgets. The Assistant Director – Corporate Resources responded that 2% estimation had been built in for 23/24 based on government indicators. In addition to this, managers had been asked to take a different approach to the formation of their budgets due to previous underspend and include the inflation within their budgets.

14.11 Councillor Muller questioned the replacement of refuse vehicles. The Assistant Director – Corporate Resources responded that the majority would be replaced on a different schedule. Councillor Fleming added that there had been some uncertainty as to how they would need to be designed for a new waste system.

14.12 Councillor Scarff suggested that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee note the budget and ask the cabinet to note comments that the committee had made. Presented information should be given ahead of the meeting.

14.13 Councillor Scarff suggested that in the future the Overview and Scrutiny Committee look at the budget process including how transformation changes are monitored and how it is monitored during the year.

14.14 Councillor Ekpenyong stated that need to understand where the money is being spent in relation to the priorities – how we can seek to improve the budget process.

14.15 Members debated the issues, and the following suggestions were made:

- That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee notes the General Fund budget 2022/23 and Four-year Outlook and asks that the Cabinet Member for Finance and Officers take into consideration the comments made at the meeting.
- That the budget preparation process is reviewed by the S.151 Officer and the Monitoring Officer to ensure that the O&S Committee can be involved earlier in the development of the budget, enabling a more strategic approach to scrutinising the budget. Further that the Monitoring Officer and Constitution Working Group reviews the terms of reference for the O&S Committee and the JAS Committee to ensure that financial scrutiny is being undertaken in the most appropriate way.

14.16 Councillor Keith Scarff proposed these recommendations.

14.17 Councillor Sarah Mansel seconded this motion.

By a unanimous vote

It was RESOLVED: -

1.1 That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee notes the General Fund budget 2022/23 and Four-year Outlook and asks that the Cabinet Member for Finance and Officers take into consideration the comments made at the meeting.

1.2 That the budget preparation process is reviewed by the S.151 Officer and the Monitoring Officer to ensure that the O&S Committee can be involved earlier in the development of the budget, enabling a more strategic approach to scrutinising the budget. Further that the Monitoring Officer and Constitution Working Group reviews the terms of reference for the O&S Committee and the JAS Committee to ensure that financial scrutiny is being undertaken in the most appropriate way.

**1 MOS/21/02 DRAFT HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (HRA) AND FOUR -YEAR
5 OUTLOOK**

15.1 Councillor Whitehead introduced the report outlining the effects that the Covid-19 pandemic had on the new build schedule with issues around supply cost and availability of materials, and a backlog in maintenance and repairs on existing properties. Rent collections had not been affected however, rent increases would take place in the next financial year based on the government formula of CPI+1%. This would produce additional revenue for the HRA to break even.

15.2 Councillor Caston questioned how Right to Buy projections were estimated. The Assistant Director- Housing responded that they had been calculated by looking at and monitoring sales, however this had declined during the last year. The projection had been made based on trends over a 10-year period and were continuously adjusted.

15.3 Councillor Mansel queried whether dwelling rents for new properties had been included. The Assistant Director – Corporate Resources responded that new builds had not been included as an assumption as it is unknown when they would be completed.

15.4 Councillor Scarff queried the planned maintenance carry forward and how much of the total spend would be spent in the forthcoming year. The Assistant Director – Housing responded that to ensure the carry forward would be spent the staffing resource had been looked at and existing contracts and their renewal had been looked at. Also retrofitting would be a great percentage of the planned maintenance schedule.

15.5 Councillor Welham queried whether with the large number of properties that would need work to be updated, would there be a lack of finance. The Assistant Director – Housing responded that there was a significant investment required in existing properties and would be costly. Funding would be available through borrowing, however, the HRA would need to look at expenditure in the future

15.6 Councillor Mansel questioned what environmental improvements had been budgeted for. The Assistant Director – Housing responded that this related to

environmental work within estates and increased biodiversity.

15.7 Councillor Field queried the rise in rent in relation to issues with universal credit, and an increase in heating bills. The Assistant Director – Housing responded that rent reductions from 2015-2020 had an impact. Level of investment required for existing properties would be paid for by the increased rent. Rising fuel bill and UC. Feedback from tenants would be included in the HRA business plan.

15.8 Councillor Caston suggested that in the future More information surrounding the level of council house rent in comparison to other authorities' properties and how many residents have this subsidised in the current year. And that this information is made available before the full council meeting in February and to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee next year.

15.9 Members debated the issues, and the following suggestions were made:

- That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee notes the Housing Revenue Account 2022/23 and Four-year Outlook and
- That information is provided for the level of council rent compared with other authorities for benchmarking for the current year and the number of tenants receiving rent rebate in the current financial year be provided to Council in February and to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for their review of the Budget in the next municipal year.

15.10 Councillor Caston proposed the recommendations.

15.11 Councillor Ekpenyong seconded this motion.

By a unanimous vote

It was RESOLVED: -

1.1 That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee notes the Housing Revenue Account 2022/23 and Four-year Outlook and

1.2 That information is provided for the level of council rent compared with other authorities for benchmarking for the current year and the number of tenants receiving rent rebate in the current financial year be provided to Council in February and to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for their review of the Budget in the next municipal year.

16 FORTHCOMING DECISIONS LIST

The Forthcoming Decisions List was noted.

17 MOS/21/03 MSDC OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORK PLAN

It was RESOLVED:-

That with the following note the Mid Suffolk Overview and Scrutiny Work Plan be noted:

That the Corporate Manager check with the Community Safety Partnership that the review remains in March.

18 CALL IN OF MID SUFFOLK CABINET DECISION 6 DECEMBER 2021

18.1 The Chair detailed the Call-in process and the papers attached to the Agenda. He then outlined the scope of the Call-in based on the points set out in the Call-in Procedure.

18.2 Members considered and agreed the scope of the Call-in.

18.3 Councillor Keith Scarff proposed that the protocol for the Call-in Procedure be approved.

18.4 Councillor Sarah Mansel seconded this motion.

By a unanimous vote

It was RESOLVED: -

That the Protocol for the Call-in Procedure be approved.

19 CALL IN OF THE DECISION FROM THE MID SUFFOLK CABINET MEETING 6 DECEMBER 2021 MCA/21/32

19.1 The Chair invited the Lead Signatory, Councillor Mellen, to present his reasons for the Call-in.

19.2 The Lead Signatory presented the following reasons:

19.3 The Cabinet is the place where many decisions are formally made and whilst there are only 9 councillors on it, other Councillors can attend meetings to listen, to ask questions, and whilst we do not get a vote is an opportunity for the opposition to do its job and that is monitoring, scrutinising, and challenging the administration. We see this as an opportunity to improve decision making and ensure the best outcome for the people of Mid Suffolk.

This call in is the first one to have been done during this Council term, in fact the first one for several years and the reasons for doing so have been set out in the call-in request that you've just heard. I will go briefly through them now with the help of my colleague Councillor Stringer. We do accept that a lot of hard work has gone into the proposed policy by officers and councillors. However, the heart of the matter is this, we do not feel that the Cabinet had all the information needed on the new Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle policy in order to make a good decision on the 6th of December and hence we respectfully suggest that they need to have another look at it. Also, we do not feel that the decision to adopt this policy is compliant with other policies of the council specifically the July 2019 declaration of a climate emergency that was

agreed unanimously by all Councillors.

So just to take you briefly through the two reasons for the call-in. The first one is the environmental implications and, only one is listed and that is about the provision of infrastructure which is arguably not an environmental implication. Clearly electrical vehicles and, to a lesser extent, plug in hybrids will need to have charging infrastructure in order to operate. However, there are many more environmental implications which are not addressed in the report. For example, diesel engines and older petrol engines emit particulates such as PM2.5 which are known to be harmful to human health. In general diesel and petrol cars emit carbon dioxide in higher amounts per mile than their hybrid or EV equivalents and, of course, EVs in particular are zero emission at the tail pipe. Earlier switching to these vehicles would mean reductions in CO2 emissions and other pollutants. The government has set 2030 as the deadline when no petrol or diesel cars can be bought. And obviously 2030 is also significant date for this authority and that is the next point of this call in. The proposed policy proposes little that moves Hackney Carriages and Private Hire Vehicles towards more environmentally friendly or zero carbon choices apart from a strong recommendation. And this is where the proposed taxi policy is clearly at odds with another policy and that is the overarching aspirations of carbon neutrality by 2030. If we are to achieve this ambitious target it cannot all be done at the end. There needs to be progression towards that goal over the eight years the remain with deadlines along the way. For example, you could say, after 2024 no new diesel vehicle will be licenced, or after 2027 only vehicles emitting less than 100 grammes of carbon per kilometre will be licenced. Operators would adapt if given time to plan but what they do not need is a sudden change in the rules later on. However, the proposed policy only recommends a change to hybrid or electric vehicles. There is an opportunity here to steer operators in the right direction using a combination of carrot and stick. However, no specific carrot or sticks are proposed.

The second part of the call in is to do with the debate was had prior to this coming to Cabinet. At the Cabinet on the 6th of December the new policy was simply introduced as having been agreed by the Licencing Committee. I think Cabinet Members may have taken a different view had they been aware that there had been an extended debate on those proposals and that the draft policy had only been voted through on the Chair's casting vote.

- 19.4 The Lead Signatory called on Councillor Stringer, a signatory, to contribute to the statement.
- 19.5 We are acutely aware that within the cabinet system that the authority is delegated to a number of people to carry out decisions on behalf of the council. But quality of those decisions is directly proportionate to the amount of accurate information going into that decision making process. And, we certainly feel, that in this case had more information gone into that process the outcome may have been different. Even if it was still in agreement that somehow nuanced. And that comes out of the debate that was held at the original licencing meeting and, subsequent Freedom of Information requests where we now learn more about the timetable of events. Both of those sets of documents have been submitted to this meeting but because of how late the freedom of Information timetable was it's been ruled that you cannot see them

today because they were only with us yesterday. Anyway, that aside, going back to the why the decision may be flawed is that extra information. In the timetable of looking at this licencing policy you need to put in the public domain, and with the trade the likely travel is within the policy, and what policies will be in it. So, before we went to public consultation, before even the licencing panel had looked in it, we had taken the decision to strip out of the consultation a compulsory move to lower emission vehicles. Which means the trade did not get to debate that with us, and we then had a debate about that at our meeting, but then legal representation then ruled that you could not add that now because that would be a wholly different policy which you had not been consulted on.

So even from the start if we wanted to help or compel the trade to go to zero emission vehicles it was already hold below the waterline before we started because it had been removed from the original consultation. So even if the Cabinet had said no, we have declared a climate emergency we are going to move to zero emissions vehicles faster than the government is saying we have to by law, they would not have been able to do it because it had been ruled out of the discussion before we even had the discussion, which is worrying. That is why the debate at the licencing hearing ended up quite split, and why it was a very difficult decision at that hearing. And if you read the transcript of the debate the final thing that triggered those members for not insisting on exploring that zero-emission pathway earlier was because of the legal advice that came in to say you had not been consulted on it therefore it is a whole new policy, so you have to go through the whole framework again. Also not put in front of the decision makers was the risk to move to a zero-emission taxi licencing policy, but also was not put in front of the committee was the risk in having no framework to do that.

Transitions to new technologies normally happen on something called S curves which means that the migration to a newer technology does not happen incrementally it happens on an S curve. and the migration to electric vehicles and zero emission vehicles is moving along a perfect S curve. Two years ago, zero emission and low emission vehicles were 4% of the market in 2022 that's that yearly target is now up to 20% that is highly likely to not be gradual lift it's like to be on an S curve is going to be steeper which means our taxi service and those having licenses will need support in that migration. Because if they do delete the transition, they may be economically disadvantage, and that risk was not debated by the cabinet. So that's why we would suggest that that a decision the cabinet was flawed because of an element of the process and all of the relevant information being put in front of them.

- 19.6 The Cabinet Member for Environment, Councillor Fleming provided a summary of the events at Cabinet. I will say that I am disappointed that some members have seen fit to call in the draft Hackney Carriage and Public Hire Licencing policy. This document is the result of extensive consultation and much hard work by our officers in close accord with local providers. Also, the licencing committee in August approved the policy where a question concerning support for EVs was posed and answered. An almost identical question was put to me at the 6th of December Cabinet meeting by Councillor Mellen which also answered. It is relevant that the main objectives of this policy are to provide a uniform set of standards and expectations for the taxi

and private hire vehicles trade and protect the public in terms of safety and security and ensure that there is a reasonable access to taxi and services for all users in the district. That is the main objective of this policy. To clarify my understanding of aspects and dispute, I understand the main issues relate to the desire for a mandatory timetable for transition to EVs and that the wider implications of this transition were not fully considered. The call in also mentions incentives to transition to EVs and an incentive scheme but seeks a plan and timetable the details of such a scheme we've already agreed to prepare. These need to be worked up separately though to the policy and is an action I fully support. Work behind developing the policy indicated a significant risk from an accelerated mandatory approach to transition that could lead in fact to fewer taxis providing a more expensive service, which would be a huge loss both socially and environmentally and counter to our aims to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030. The hackney carriage public hire providers are in a vulnerable position in this area given the pandemic and the reduction in passengers using public transport and getting around. That they provide a valuable and necessary service to residents and businesses is undisputed and both their viability and their capacity to provide affordable services as central to our economy into the functioning of society here general. Licensees offer a commercial service, and they need as much freedom as possible to operate. This policy will be reviewed again in three years on the question of fuel transition will be examined then along with other relevant matters and following an extensive consultation. For our local providers at this time the transition away from fossil fuels and the interests of the environment which, we all in this room I think want, will be more successful if pursued through encouragement rather than mandate and this approach is reflected in the policy. I believe that cabinet had more than adequate information about which to make its decision and that the policy should be taken forward as it stands.

- 19.7 Committee Members were invited to ask questions of the Lead Signature and Cabinet Members.
- 19.8 Councillor Ekpenyong questioned whether the trade had been consulted about a move to zero emissions in the formation of the policy. Councillor Jessica Fleming responded that they had, and the result was in the December report to Cabinet. There had been no comments from the trade were asking for the transition to electric vehicles.
- 19.9 Councillor Welham questioned whether there had been a formal consultation with drivers over mandatory Electric Vehicles. Councillor Fleming responded that there had not been a question on this in the formal consultation. The Assistant Director - Environment and Commercial added that currently there was insufficient infrastructure for EVs and a timetable would need to be developed with SCC as they had authority over taxi ranks and EV charging points.
- 19.10 Councillor Mansel queried whether the Overview and Scrutiny Committee could ask for a second consultation. The Monitoring Officer responded that they could.

- 19.11 Councillor Scarff queried whether the Cabinet and the Licensing Committee had been aware that the mandate was removed from the previous consultation. The Assistant Director - Environment and Commercial responded that the Cabinet and the Licensing and Regulatory Committee had been aware. And that appendix b of the Cabinet report had shown that amendments had been made following trade consultation.
- 19.12 Councillor Welham queried whether the Cabinet was aware of the infrastructure issues due to SCC being the authority on taxi ranks and on street EV charging points. Councillor Fleming responded that the Cabinet would look at provision of taxi ranks and work with SCC on locations for ranks and EV charging and that this would be reconsidered in 3 years' time.
- 19.13 Councillor Mansel asked Councillor Stringer whether the Licensing and Regulatory Committee had been made aware of the informal process. Councillor Stringer responded that this had been referenced in the informal consultation.
- 19.14 The Chair invited the Cabinet Member for Environment to present their summary.
- 19.15 Councillor Fleming – Cabinet Member for the Environment summarised that in order to have a environmentally secure service the policy needed to be approved. It is the result of both informal and formal work which had produced a balanced policy that provides safety and accessibility for taxi and private hire vehicles.
- 19.16 The Chair invited the lead signatory Councillor Mellen to present his summary.
- 19.17 Councillor Mellen summarised that he believed that much of the policy had been well considered, however it should be revisited in order to align with Mid Suffolk's environmental objectives. A timetable would also be needed in order to provide incentives to the trade around mandating EVs, and formal responses around this issue were needed.
- 19.18 Councillor Mellen, Councillor Stringer and Councillor Fleming left the meeting at 13:05.
- 19.19 Councillor Caston questioned whether a consultation with the operators would produce different information. He stated that he believed that Cabinet had made a solid decision. And that a push towards EVs would be more effective when the infrastructure had put in place to support this. In addition to this, a forced change could negatively affect the disadvantaged.
- 19.20 Councillor Ekpenyong stated that he believed that information about the consultation had been available. And that the Council should not mandate when people should make the change. In addition to this against a wider background of central government policy, the trade was aware of the shift to EVs, and availability and affordability of EVs was on a timeline.
- 19.21 Councillor Muller stated that he believed that the report to Cabinet was fair and

accurate, and that EVs should not be mandated as it might turn people away from joining the trade.

- 19.22 Councillor Mansel raised concern information on informal consultations had not been provided to Cabinet Members.
- 19.23 Councillor Scarff raised concern that that if central government mandated and increase of EVs it would be rapid and it would be possible that the existing infrastructure could not support a rapid change.
- 19.24 Councillor Welham believed that Cabinet should have been given more information than what had been included in the report. Information around pre consultation and how Mid Suffolk had planned to provide taxi ranks and charging points off street should have been included.
- 19.25 Councillor Caston raised concern that if another consultation with trade took place that the voice of all taxi drivers might not be considered.
- 19.26 Councillor Paul Ekpenyong proposed that the decision be upheld and implemented immediately.
- 19.27 Councillor Dave Muller seconded this motion.

With 3 votes for, and 3 votes against

On the casting vote of the Chair the motion was lost.

19.28 A short break was taken between 13:37 – 13:45pm.

- 19.29 Councillor Sarah Mansel proposed that the Overview and Scrutiny committee refer the matter back to the Cabinet for reconsideration, together with the observations of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Cabinet will then take a final decision and that decision cannot be called in.

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee refers the matter back to Cabinet with the following observations:

- That Insufficient evidence of the pre-consultation regarding mandating conversion of vehicles to EV and further consultation with trade is recommended
- That Cabinet needs further information in respect of plans to provide on- and off- street taxi ranks, and on-and off- street EV charging, following further consultation with taxi providers.
- That an action plan is needed to be agreed for the incentive scheme as mentioned in 6.1.1 of the Cabinet report.
- That cabinet needs to give further consideration of the discussion of the licensing and regulatory committee and its reasons for recommending the policy to cabinet

- 19.30 Councillor Keith Scarff seconded this motion.

With 3 votes for, and 3 votes against

On the casting vote of the Chair.

It was RESOLVED: -

That the Overview and Scrutiny committee refer the matter back to the Cabinet for reconsideration, together with the observations of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Cabinet will then take a final decision and that decision cannot be called in.

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee refers the matter back to Cabinet with the following observations:

- That Insufficient evidence of the pre-consultation regarding mandating conversion of vehicles to EV and further consultation with trade is recommended**
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- That an action plan is needed to be agreed for the incentive scheme as mentioned in 6.1.1 of the Cabinet report.**
- That cabinet needs to give further consideration of the discussion of the licensing and regulatory committee and its reasons for recommending the policy to cabinet**

The business of the meeting was concluded at 13:50pm.

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Chair

Agenda Item 10

BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL and MID SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL

COMMITTEE: Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee	REPORT NUMBER: JOS/21/25
FROM: Cllr Derek Davis- Babergh Cabinet Member for Communities & Chair of the Western Suffolk CSP Cllr Sarah Mansel – Lead WSCSP member for Mid Suffolk and Vice Chair of the Western Suffolk CSP	DATE OF MEETING: 21/03/2022
OFFICER: Vicky Moseley – Corporate Manager Communities	KEY DECISION REF NO. Item No.

REVIEW OF WESTERN SUFFOLK COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP (WSCSP)

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide the Overview & Scrutiny Committee with an update on current work and projects completed during 2021/2022 by the Western Suffolk Community Safety Partnership (WSCSP). Members will have a greater understanding of the work of the partnership, how the current priorities are being tackled and the breadth of joint working with the partners of the WSCSP. The report highlights the fact that Western Suffolk continues to be a safe place in which to live, work and explore.
- 1.2 Section 19 of the Police and Justice Act requires every local authority to designate a committee to review and scrutinise the activities of crime and disorder partnerships and the activities of its partners. The committee may examine the activities of partners but only in so far as these relate to the partnership.

2. OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 None.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 To review and scrutinise the community safety activity of the WSCSP
- 3.2 That the Committee note the contents of this report.

REASON FOR DECISION

For the committee to fulfil its statutory duties under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, the Police and Justice Act 2006 and the Crime and Disorder Overview and Scrutiny Regulations 2009

4. KEY INFORMATION

- 4.1 Community safety requires various agencies working together within the local community to tackle persistent crime and disorder issues that affect the quality of life of local residents. The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 places a statutory duty on responsible authorities to implement strategies to reduce the levels of crime and disorder in the area in which they operate. This

involves working in partnership with a wide range of agencies, such as the probation service, fire service and health authority, and the local voluntary sector and business community, as well as local community groups.

- 4.2 It is acknowledged that the previous two years has been a challenging time for all the partners, but the partnership has continued to meet virtually. Since the start of the Covid 19 Pandemic the WSCSP has evolved to support the statutory and voluntary partners deal with the issues that emerged during this time.
- 4.3 The WSCSP Action Plan (Appendix 1) sets out how it will address local priorities to reduce crime and disorder across the districts and all the activities ongoing or completed to date.
- 4.4 The WSCSP is made up of statutory representatives from Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils, West Suffolk Council, Suffolk Police, Suffolk County Council, Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service, West Suffolk Clinical Commissioning Group and Ipswich and East CCG, National Probation Service and the Elected Members from Babergh, Mid Suffolk and West Suffolk District Councils and Suffolk County Council.
- 4.5 Registered Social Landlords and Youth Offending Service are co-opted as additional non statutory members.
- 4.6 The WSCSP meets quarterly throughout the year and its aims are:
- To work collaboratively to prevent and reduce crime, disorder, and the fear of crime, following an evidence-based approach, to promote the sharing of good practice and divert people away from crime and anti-social behaviour.
 - To promote a wider understanding of the contributions and responsibilities of individual agencies and develop a shared commitment to partnership working.
 - To encourage and support collaborative partnerships between local communities, statutory and non-statutory organisations.
 - To support non-statutory, voluntary and community groups in accessing funding to deliver community safety projects that address the strategic priorities across the Western Suffolk CSP area.
- 4.7 Over the past year the WSCSP discharged its statutory duties by:
- Carrying out an assessment of crime and disorder in the area (Strategic Assessment)
 - Continuing to deliver actions against the three-year plan and action plan to reflect the priorities of the Partnership; and
 - Carrying out Domestic Homicide Reviews.
- 4.8 The WSCSP covers a huge geographical area, it is the largest CSP in Suffolk and has the largest population. It is made up of West Suffolk Council area as well as Babergh & Mid Suffolk.
- 4.9 As mentioned above, before formulating an action plan, the partnership must carry out a review of the levels and patterns of crime and disorder in the area. This review is called a Strategic Assessment and is an in-depth analysis of crime, anti-social behaviour and other partnership data over a one-year period that feeds into the priorities for the forthcoming financial year.
- 4.10 At its last meeting in December 2021 the WSCSP voted Cllr Derek Davis as Chair of the WSCSP and Cllr Sarah Mansel as Vice Chair.

5. STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT 2020 - 23

- 5.1 The purpose of the Strategic Assessment is to assist the Partnership in understanding the patterns and trends relating to crime, disorder, anti-social behaviour and community safety issues affecting the WSCSP area and to help identify which priorities to focus on in the coming years.
- 5.2 By identifying the local issues which are of most concern, cause the greatest harm and are most likely to occur, informs the development and revision of the WSCSP Action Plan and allows the partnership to better understand and meet the challenges faced.
- 5.3 During early 2021/22 a Strategic Assessment was completed for the WSCSP identifying areas which the partnership could focus its work, to add value, to ongoing community safety work in the Western area.
- 5.4 This assessment set out an evidence base for decision making and recommendations for prioritising activity
- 5.5 The priorities identified are not the only priorities which are addressed by the partnership and allows for emerging issues to be prioritised when there is a clearly evidenced need.
- 5.6 Based on the outcomes of partnership discussions the following priorities remained the focus for the WSCSP during 2021/22 with the addition of Modern Slavery.

WSCSP Priorities:

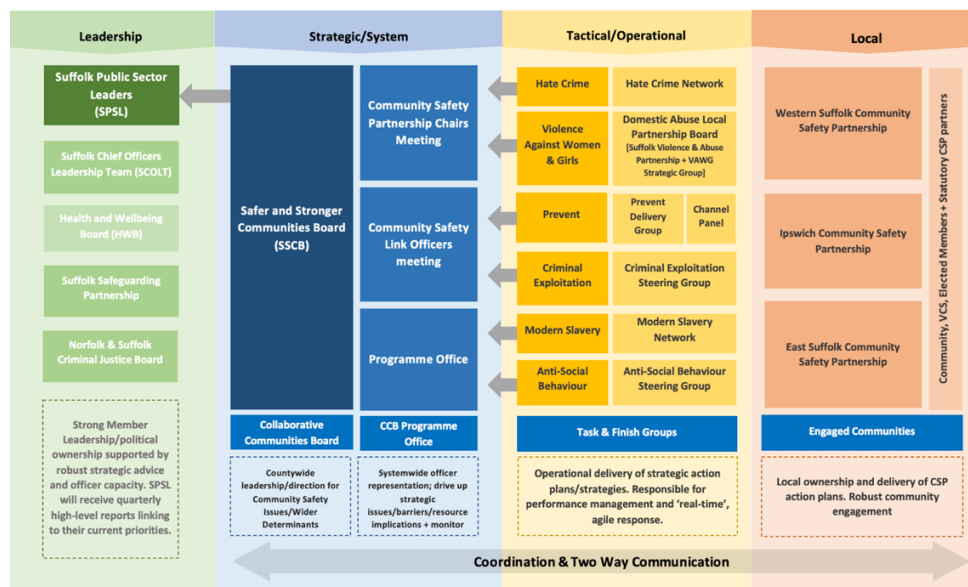
- **Criminal Exploitation:** including supporting victims, engaging with communities, agreeing an awareness and training programme, tackling drug dealing and supply, safeguarding vulnerable adults at risk and young people being criminally exploited.
 - **Violence against Women and Girls:** This priority includes actions to address domestic abuse, sexual violence, modern day slavery and sexual exploitation.
 - **Hate Crime:** including the identification and support for victims of hate crime, working with partners to raise awareness and continue to build confidence in our communities to report hate crime incidences.
 - **Prevent:** as part of the Government's CONTEST strategy to counter terrorism, "prevent" aims to raise awareness within our communities to stop people being drawn into terrorism and ensure they are given appropriate advice and support at an early stage.
 - **Modern Slavery:** Modern slavery is a serious crime being committed across the UK in which victims are exploited for someone else's gain. It can take many forms including trafficking of people, forced labour and servitude.
- 5.7 In addition to the above 5 priority areas that comprise the CSP action plan, the partnership maintains a close focus on Anti-Social Behaviour and Domestic Homicide reviews

- **ASB:** ensuring that CSP continues to monitor ASB activity across the Western Area and works collectively on community safety initiatives to support sustainable and safer communities.
- **Domestic Homicide reviews:** ensuring the WSCSP continues to carry out effective reviews, develop appropriate action plans and shares learning across organisations in Suffolk.

6. SAFER STRONGER COMMUNITIES BOARD

- 6.1 The Safer Stronger Communities Board (SSCB) oversees a wide range of community safety priorities for Suffolk, which are delivered through a multi-agency governance structure, as detailed below.
- 6.2 The Board's aim is to provide strategic direction and leadership on wider issues and determinants arising from the following agreed priorities:
- Violence Against Women and Girls
 - Criminal Exploitation
 - Modern Slavery
 - Hate Crime
 - Preventing Radicalisation
 - Anti-social Behaviour
- 6.3 The board has several key responsibilities, including:
- Receive exception reports on successes, opportunities, and progress
 - Unblock system barriers
 - Harness / unlock system capacity and resources
 - Provide leadership and direction to tackle the wide determinant issues or causal issues such as health, education, and housing
- 6.4 The Safer Stronger Communities Board meets quarterly, and membership is made up of senior elected members and officer roles, from a range of organisations including County, District and Borough councils, Suffolk Police, Police and Crime Commissioner, Community Safety Partnerships (CSOs), Suffolk Safeguarding Partnership, Norfolk and Suffolk Criminal Justice Board and Clinical Commissioning Groups. It is supported by a programme office that oversees the delivery of issues that present the greatest threat, risk, and harm to Suffolk residents, and reports regularly to Suffolk Public Sector Leaders and Community Safety Partnerships.
- 6.5 The WSCSP is a member of the SSCB and information is fed up and down through the structure below

Safer and Stronger Communities Governance



6.6 Suffolk County Council Community Safety Team undertakes a Strategic Assessment for each CSP in Suffolk every three years as part of the statutory duties under the crime and disorder Act 1998 and is refreshed annually. The Last Strategic Assessment was undertaken 2020-2021 and as a result of the identified priorities, WSCSP developed their current action plan.

6.7 For all the priority areas of work there is a county wide strategy, action plan and set of working groups that feed into the Safer Stronger Communities Board.

7. THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER PLAN 2022 - 25

7.1 The Police and Crime Commissioner for Suffolk has published his second Police and Crime Plan following consultation. The Plan gives the Constabulary the clarity it needs to take the PCC's vision forward and gives the public a clear picture of the PCC's objectives to make the County a safer place in which to live, work, travel and invest.

7.2 The Police and Crime Plan outlines a number of priority areas to be delivered over the next three years structured around the following four key objectives.

- **Objective 1:** An efficient and effective police force for Suffolk
- **Objective 2:** Provide services which effectively support victims of crime and invest in initiatives which reduce crime and disorder
- **Objective 3:** Engage with communities to understand their views about policing and crime and keep them informed and updated about the work of the PCC and the Constabulary
- **Objective 4:** Work in partnership to improve criminal justice outcomes and enhance community safety

7.3 The above objectives reflect the key responsibilities for the PCC and will be supported by areas of focused activity.

7.4 Some national agendas are critical to the period of this plan and will directly impact local policing such as: Violence against Women and Girls, referred to nationally as an epidemic,

has received strengthened attention. There are expectations on how partners (including the police and voluntary sector) support victims of sexual and domestic abuse and how agencies consider public perception of safety, including what more can be done to help women and girls feel safe. Further joined up working is required from partners across the criminal justice system to support victims properly.

- 7.5 The Home Office has provided additional government funding for police officers in Suffolk. This investment is aimed at cutting neighbourhood crime and anti-social behaviour (ASB) linked to drugs, amenity and community, drug supply and county lines and restoring confidence.
- 7.6 Allied to the uplift in police officers, the government has set out national policing priorities to track the impact of its investment. Chief Constables and PCCs will be expected to monitor progress to support the Government's Beating Crime Plan. The national policing priorities are:
- Reduce murder and other homicides
 - Reduce serious violence
 - Disrupt drug supply and County Lines
 - Reduce neighbourhood crime
 - Tackle cyber crime
 - Improve satisfaction among victims - with a particular focus on victims of domestic abuse
- 7.7 The WSCSP has supported many of the PCC priorities through the delivery of projects and campaigns as part of its action plan.

8. **PROGRESS AGAINST PRIORITIES**

Hate Crime

- 8.1 Hate crime can take many forms such as physical abuse, verbal abuse, emotional and psychological abuse, sexual abuse and financial abuse. It can range from non-verbal intimidation to physical violence. We know that rates of reported hate crime is significantly under-reported and we know the significant impact this type of crime can have on a victim.
- 8.2 Encouraging people to report hate crime and encouraging people to seek help has been a priority for Suffolk and the WSCSP for some time. Working in partnership we have looked to increase visibility of what hate crime is and ensure there are effective routes for reporting and seeking support – this has been achieved through our Hate Crime Network and through representation on the Engaged Communities Group.
- 8.3 Hope Awards: The HOPE Awards were created by Suffolk Police and Suffolk County Council to celebrate the contribution young people make in Suffolk and to formally recognise all the outstanding things they do in the community.
- 8.4 In the first year of operation these awards have been hugely impressive with participating schools and the amazing examples of kindness, determination and teamwork expressed through the nominations.
- 8.5 Hate Crime Awareness Week: Every year partners across Suffolk come together for a dedicated week of action to raise awareness of hate crime, the affects it has and how victims can report and seek help. Previous focus of the campaigns supported by the WSCSP has been on upskilling front line officers, raising awareness amongst young people and the creation of the Hope Awards. #NoHateInSuffolk

Prevent

- 8.6 Prevent is about stopping people from being radicalised and becoming terrorists supporting terrorism. At the heart of Prevent is safeguarding children and adults and providing early intervention to protect and divert people away from being drawn into terrorist activity. Safeguarding vulnerable people from radicalisation is no different from safeguarding from other forms of harm.
- 8.7 Suffolk has a programme which focuses on providing support at an early stage to people who are identified as being vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism. Section 26 of the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 placed a duty on specified agencies to have "due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism". Local authorities are included in this duty.
- 8.9 Suffolk Police have quarterly internal 'Hate Crime Scrutiny Panels' established in each of their policing areas and have enabled learning points which had led to offering focused support to organisations tailored to the protected characteristics. Findings from panels will regularly be shared with investigating officers.
- 8.10 Police Officers also have access to an 'Aide Memoir' which provides quick access to Support Organisations to refer victims to.
- 8.11 For National Hate Crime Awareness Week (October 9th – 16th October) the WSCSP supported a joint press release focussed on bystander approach to witnessing hate crime within the community and practical steps people can take. Education packs were also delivered within schools. The WSCSP Action Plan includes further details.
- 8.12 Suffolk has a multi-agency Prevent Delivery Group which brings together a whole range of agencies to work together to meet the Prevent Duty - they have a 3 year Prevent Delivery Group Strategy in place.

Violence Against Women and Girls

- 8.13 Domestic abuse, or domestic violence, is defined across Government as any incident of controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour, violence, or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are or have been intimate partners or family members, regardless of their gender or sexuality. Anyone can be a victim of domestic abuse and sexual violence. It can occur in both heterosexual and LGBTQ+ relationships, and can affect anyone, young or old, any ethnicity or sexual identity, any religion and social background.
- 8.14 We are fortunate to have strong partnerships across Suffolk that work together to address several key community safety issues which cause the greatest risk, threat and harm. Specifically, our priority to tackle VAWG is underpinned by robust governance that brings together the voice of victims and survivors, practitioners, service providers, decision makers and elected members. Those partnerships include:
- Safer & Stronger Communities Board (SSCB)**
- 8.15 The SSCB is responsible for providing strategic direction and leadership on wider issues and determinants arising from agreed priorities. Members include Chief Officers and Elected members from Suffolk County Council, District & Borough Councils, Police, Police & Crime Commissioner, Suffolk Safeguarding Partnership, Community Safety Partnerships, Health, Probation and Criminal Justice Board.

Violence Against Women & Girls Steering Group

- 8.16 The VAWG Steering Group is responsible for co-ordinating and developing quality services to effectively meet the needs of Suffolk residents. This includes direct service provision for victims-survivors, perpetrators, and their children, holding abusers to account and reducing the prevalence of VAWG. Membership includes strategic managers from Adult and Children Safeguarding, Community Safety & Public Health, Police, Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner, Probation, Health, Voluntary & Community Sector.

Suffolk Violence & Abuse Partnership (SVAP)

- 8.17 The SVAP is an information sharing network established to strengthen collaboration and encourage innovation across the Suffolk system. Membership includes 180+ interested individuals with a personal or organisational interest in Violence Against Women and Girls, including; victim/survivors; voluntary and community sector providers; academics; military; volunteers; By and For services; and elected members.

Domestic Abuse Partnership Board

- 8.18 The DAPB functions are undertaken by both the VAWG Steering Group and SVAP as above and are responsible for assessing the scale and nature of need, preparing and publishing a domestic abuse accommodation strategy, commissioning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting on progress.

Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy and Action Plan

- 8.19 This strategy sets out the key high-level ambitions for Suffolk from 2022-25, co-produced with victims, practitioners and decision makers. It reflects on the success during the lifetime of the last strategy, outlines new, robust governance arrangements, is cognisant of other key strategies and documents that are aligned/connected to VAWG and most importantly, provides a strategic direction for the next phase of this strategy which is to develop an action plan that will drive forward change through effective partnership working.

Suffolk Safe Accommodation Strategy

- 8.20 Under the Domestic Abuse Act 2021, upper tier local authorities have a requirement to undertake a Needs Assessment and publish a Safe Accommodation Strategy. The strategy for Suffolk was consulted on from 26 October to 13 December 2021 and was published on 5 January 2022.

- 8.21 The strategy sets out how Suffolk County Council and CSPs and other partners propose to meet the needs for domestic abuse accommodation and associated support services across the council over the next 3 years.

- 8.22 Housing Solutions have been awarded £32,619 in Babergh and £31,832 in Mid Suffolk from the MHCLG Domestic Abuse New Burdens Funding, and will help with supporting victims of DA.

- 8.23 B&MSDC has also been awarded £90k to fund a Domestic Abuse Link Worker who started at the Councils on 1st March 2022 following a previous role as the Domestic Abuse Locality Lead with Anglia Care Trust.

Domestic Abuse Champions

- 8.24 Many organisations struggle to support people experiencing Domestic Abuse and are sometimes not confident enough to talk to someone about it or encourage them to disclose. Our Domestic Abuse Champions offer consistent information, advice and support which is helping to bring lasting positive changes for victims across Suffolk. Reaching victims as early as possible will prevent further harm.

- 8.25 Suffolk County Council with support from CSPs has set up a Network of Champions across the County with over 700 already trained. The Champions are provided with free training to

have the skills to spread awareness to other colleagues and act as the 'Go to Person' for Information between their own agency and local support services.

- 8.26 Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Council have a number of Domestic Abuse Champions who have developed into a working group and will lead on developing projects and initiatives that will support the WSCSP priority but also contribute to the County wide VAWG Strategy and Action plan.
- 8.27 The Police also has a VAWG Delivery Plan for the Western area of Suffolk which is discussed at monthly Western Area Local Management Meetings. Progress has been made in areas of Domestic Abuse including promotion of positive action, use of orders such as Domestic Violence Protection Notice/Domestic Violence Protection Order/SPO and 'voice of the child'
- 8.28 Each locality has Night-time economy plans with specific focus on VAWG including 'Operation Lester' in response to the incidents of 'spiking'.

Modern Slavery

- 8.29 Modern slavery is a serious crime being committed across the UK in which victims are exploited for someone else's gain. It can take many forms including trafficking of people, forced labour and servitude. Victims are often hidden away, may be unable to leave their situation, or may not come forward because of fear or shame.
- 8.30 A new Modern Slavery Network was formed in June 2021 and aims to share best practice across the Suffolk System, share data and information, develop training and awareness raising campaigns and communicate to wider partners about developments from central government. Much of the activities delivered in the WSCSP area is set out in the action plan, but greater detail is included in the county wide Modern Slavery Network Action Plan.
- 8.31 The Modern Slavery Network is also working closely to support and link into two other priorities of the SSCB and WSCSP;
- Violence Against Women and Girls (including exploitation through prostitution) and
 - Criminal Exploitation (including trafficking, forced or compulsory labour through organised crime relating to drug markets),

Both of which have strong synergies with Modern Slavery. This reduces duplication but also strengthens the system responding to issues through greater partnership working.

Modern Slavery Strategy and Action Plan

- 8.32 This strategy sets out the key high-level ambitions for Suffolk, co-produced with practitioners and decision makers. It reflects on our current systems in place to mitigate risk and harm to those that are exploited. The strategy sets out four key priorities:
- Identifying Victims
 - Supporting Victims/Survivors
 - Preventing Exploitation
 - Protection & Enforcement
- 8.33 The strategy is supported by an Action Plan that is currently being developed by the Suffolk Modern Slavery Network. Many of the activities developed as part of the action plan will also form part of the WSCSP action plan but will also be developed at a more local level for B&MSDC specifically.

- 8.34 BMSDC recognises that it is well placed to be at the forefront of the fight against modern slavery and part of the District Councils' role is to develop and publish its Modern Slavery Statement.
- 8.35 The purpose of the Statement is to report on the Councils action to identify, assess risk and take mitigating steps to prevent the occurrence of modern slavery, human trafficking and other human rights abuses.
- 8.36 The Police have a number of operations running in the West currently in support of the Modern Slavery priority and include:
- Operation Sistine - Revolves around the operation of Brothels in the West Suffolk area, which were run by a single person. Both premises (Haverhill and Newmarket) had Chinese females working within. None of the females have engaged as victims. Significant progress has been made and a case is being prepared for Court
 - Operation Ascent - To identify people using Adult Sex Worker sites to advertise their services. The Operation is very much focused on Safeguarding. The workers are visited by police officers on the basis of checking their safety, they are working of their own volition, and are signposted to any support agencies. The officers will also assess community impact during the visit. Follow up visits will now be undertaken by a member of the Police Modern Slavery and Vulnerable Communities Team
 - Responsible Car wash Scheme - Home office funded project where car washes are inspected for various aspects of their operation including health and safety, accounts, fire regulations and welfare of staff. The group will write a report that can be shared with partners for consideration of any further actions. The pilot project will then award a 'Responsible Car Wash Scheme' approved status and publicise this. Billboards will be displayed in the town. The work is designed to provide members of public an informed choice about where they get their cars washed.

Various car wash sites have been visited in Sudbury and we are waiting for initial report. The car washes will be revisited.

Criminal Exploitation

- 8.37 Criminal Exploitation is a lesser-known type of Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking that involves recruitment, movement, harbouring or receiving of children, women or men through the use of force, coercion, abuse of vulnerability, deception or other means for the purpose of exploitation.
- 8.38 In Suffolk we have a system-wide work programme to tackle Criminal Exploitation. The work programme, which is supported by data and evidence, has nine priorities:
- Leadership
 - Prevention and Education
 - Intervention and Exit
 - Innovation and Learning
 - Community Response
 - Enforcement
 - Safeguarding Adolescence

- Transitional Safeguarding

8.39 This work is managed via a multi-agency action plan which is overseen by a Criminal Exploitation steering group.

Multi Agency Criminal Exploitation Panels

8.40 Multi Agency Criminal Exploitation (MACE) panels were introduced in June 2021. There are three MACE panels across Suffolk with the objectives of protecting young people from harm due to exploitation and to disrupt perpetrators.

Criminal Exploitation Hubs

8.41 Criminal Exploitation Hubs were launched in May 2021 and build on the success of the Suffolk Gangs Against Exploitation Team. Working with key partners, voluntary groups, communities, children, and families to support, disrupt and empower children and communities from the risk of exploitation.

8.42 The CE Hubs are now working across a range of locations and include direct work with young people and the community. The approximate number of outreach sessions delivered at quarter 3 reporting was 63. The outreach areas are directed through police intelligence and MACE panels.

8.43 In addition, throughout the year a significant number of initiatives have been developed to support professionals and practitioners to spot the signs of exploitation and include:

- Postcards developed by Suffolk Police and shared with our Licensing Teams to Support Taxi Drivers know what to do if they have concerns about a young person in their cab
- Hotel Back and front of House staff Posters - supporting hotel staff to look out for signs of exploitation
- #lookcloser – which included a week long programme of learning based on the Prevention Programme, The Children’s Society and CSP partners to tackle child exploitation and harm
- Grab Bag Leaflet Campaign
- Operation Strobe - Focused specifically on CSE offences, supporting victims and pursuing perpetrators. The operation is used when there is an ‘emerging threat’.

Anti-Social Behaviour

8.44 Antisocial behaviour is defined as 'behaviour by a person which causes, or is likely to cause, harassment, alarm or distress to persons not of the same household. There are three main categories for antisocial behaviour, depending on how many people are affected:

- Personal antisocial behaviour is when a person targets a specific individual or group.
- Nuisance antisocial behaviour is when a person causes trouble, annoyance or suffering to a community.
- Environmental antisocial behaviour is when a person’s actions affect the wider environment, such as public spaces or buildings.

8.45 Suffolk has a countywide steering group for ASB including an action plan that brings consistency of response across all districts and borough areas. In recent months we have established a robust community trigger process for those who have reported ongoing ASB but feel that no action has been taken to resolve it.

- 8.46 It should be noted that our districts are safe places to live and is demonstrated in the overall crime stats shared in Appendix 2, however, we do recognise that some of our communities are not immune from crime and disorder, including anti-social and other behaviour affecting the local community. Tackling issues when they arise, collaboratively and professionally remains a key priority for the partnership.
- 8.47 Effective partnership working on community safety is key to sustainable and safer communities and is crucial in effectively tackling the range of issues that ASB involves. In order to respond to the needs of victims and witnesses in an effective way, agencies must work together to identify their areas of expertise and to give a rounded solution to the problems our communities face.
- 8.48 ASB which is not assessed as high risk, can be referred by members of the community, Police or Councillors. This information is passed to our Community Safety Team at B&MSDC and partners to resolve issues, support victims and investigate the use of our enforcement powers in the first instance. We recognise the need for adopting early, low level intervention in anti-social behaviour cases, as mild cases can often escalate if not addressed.
- 8.49 Our two ASB 'professionals' Panel focus on high risk, repeat and/or vulnerable victims and each case is managed through the shared case management system and data sharing protocol. From time to time high risk ASB incidents occur and it is imperative that both our partnership ASB arrangements and internal ASB arrangements are fit for purpose, well understood and effectively delivered.
- 8.50 Significant focus has been given to B&MSDC ASB arrangements during the last 20 months because of the Stella Maris review and has led to many developments including the implementation of the E-CINs case management software, and the on-going development of a Council-wide ASB Policy. The districts and partners work in this space is well presented in a previous report to Overview and Scrutiny Committee in September 2021 (Appendix 3)
- 8.51 We are confident that E-CINs will help us log and better manage our ASB cases, improving joint working both between Council teams, and with partner agencies. Several higher-level cases have already been uploaded onto the system, and some 'super-users' identified within our teams who will support their colleagues adopt to the new ways of working. E-CINs, if adopted widely enough, will improve communication, reduce silo-working, and produce much better outcomes for victims of ASB.
- 8.52 Alongside E-CINs the Councils have been developing a Council-wide ASB Policy and accompanying procedures including a very clear escalation process to manage high risk ASB cases. Previously our ASB Policy has only referred to Council housing, but this initiative should enable us to deliver a tenure-neutral service. The Policy, and its many associated documents, have recently been reviewed and updated.
- 8.53 A new ASB process initiated across the whole of the Suffolk Constabulary was launched on 27/10/21 with the aim of making improvements to the handling of ASB from receipt of call to outcome. Work is still ongoing and is due to be evaluated but significant improvements have already been realised.

CCTV

- 8.54 Following the Babergh Cabinet Meeting of July 2020 BMSDC which agreed to replacing the CCTV cameras for both Hadleigh and Sudbury, roll out has now been completed for each town. In Sudbury there is 18 PTZ (Pan, Zoom, Tilt) cameras and 10 'static' view cameras in place and, in Hadleigh we have 8 PTZ cameras installed and one deployable camera.

- 8.55 A CCTV Operation Group has since been formed, which receives a data analysis report for each town to show the diversity of types of crimes captured. The reports will be produced annually and assessed by the Group in more detail and will demonstrate the value of the scheme. So far 96 incidents have been recorded across both towns leading to 43 arrests being made.
- 8.56 A deployable mobile CCTV camera has also been placed in a 'hot-spot' area in Hamilton Road, Sudbury due to the persistent vandalism to the bus shelters there. Since the deployment there has been no further incidents recorded so the deterrent value appears significant here and this is being monitored over a 3-month period.

Domestic Homicide Reviews

- 8.57 A DHR is a review of the circumstances in which the death of a person aged 16 or over has, or appears to have, resulted from violence, abuse or neglect by a person to whom he was related or with whom he was or had been in an intimate personal relationship, or a member of the same household as himself, held with a view to identifying the lessons to be learnt from the death. Intimate personal relationships include relationships between adults who are or have been intimate partners or family members, regardless of gender or sexuality. This can also include suicide.
- 8.58 The purpose of conducting a DHR is to establish what lessons are to be learned from the domestic homicide, regarding the way in which local professionals and organisations work individually and together to safeguard victims.
- 8.59 This includes:
- Identifying clearly what those lessons are both within and between agencies, how and within what timescales they will be acted on, and what is expected to change as a result.
 - Applying the lessons to service responses including changes to policies and procedures as appropriate.
 - Preventing domestic violence homicide and improving service responses for all domestic violence victims and their children, through improved intra and inter-agency working. The rationale for the review process is to ensure agencies are responding appropriately to victims of domestic violence by offering and putting in place appropriate support mechanisms, procedures, resources, and interventions with an aim to avoid future incidents of domestic homicide and violence. The review also assesses whether agencies have sufficient and robust procedures and protocols in place, which were understood and adhered to by their staff.
- 8.60 A DHR Review Panel is led by an independent chair and reviews each agency's involvement in the case and makes recommendations to the WSCSP to improve responses in the future. The panel will also consider information from the victim's family, friends, and work colleagues.
- 8.61 During 2021/22 the WSCSP had 3 active cases. One in Mid Suffolk and two in West Suffolk. The action plan developed in response to the Mid Suffolk DHR is almost complete and will now be incorporated into the wider action Plan. The further two DHRs are still ongoing and will be reviewed quarterly by the WSCSP.
- 8.62 A review of all historic DHRs is currently being undertaken to capture all lessons learnt, to ensure responses and activities undertaken in response to a DHR are embedded within the

relevant organisations and shared with practitioners to develop confidence and experience within the CSP and responsible authorities.

9. CONCLUSIONS

9.1 As stated above the purpose of this report is to provide the Overview & Scrutiny Committee with an update on current work and projects completed and ongoing during 2021/2022 by the WSCSP.

9.2 The WSCSP Action Plan demonstrates the significant amount of work that has taken place over the past year in support of its five priority areas and development and delivery of:

- Awareness Raising activities and initiatives,
- Increased levels of communications and campaigns.
- Delivery of key projects, strategy development and e-learning packages
- Community Resilience initiatives

9.3 Members will hopefully now have a greater understanding of the work of the partnership, how the current priorities are being tackled and the breadth of joint working with the partners of the CSP. The report highlights the fact that Western Suffolk continues to be a safe place in which to live, work and explore.

9.4 A refresh of the Strategic Assessment is currently taking place for 2022/23, and although it is unlikely that this will significantly affect the current priorities of the CSP it will most likely influence the activities agreed and developed in the action plan to deliver the priorities.

9.5 With an increased focus on the VAWG priority both nationally and locally, Overview and Scrutiny may wish to review the work planned for priority area during 2022/23.

10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

10.1 There are no financial implications directly associated with this report.

11. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

11.1 Community Safety Partnerships were created in accordance with Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 which gave local authorities and the police new responsibilities to work in partnership with other organisations and the community to draw up strategies to reduce crime and disorder.

12. RISK MANAGEMENT

12.1 This report does not link directly to the Council's Corporate / Significant Business Risks however there is an operational Risk:

Risk Description	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigation Measures
The Statutory requirements of the Community Safety continues to	Highly Probable	Significant	Regularly review the Partnerships budgets, funding

<p>increase. This, together with the rising need to tackle County-wide issues places significant additional pressures on Partnerships in terms of resources and capacity.</p> <p>Risk to our communities around any reduction in partnership working, including appropriate information sharing in relation to community safety. This may arise due to loss of resources, return to silo working practices and non-engagement of partners.</p>	Unlikely	Significant	<p>allocation and capacity.</p> <p>Seek alternative funding streams to ensure the Partnership is enabled to fulfil its statutory duties.</p> <p>This can be mitigated by the continued commitment of the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) and Councillors to support Partnership working and to embed this into all areas of Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Council activities.</p>
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13. CONSULTATIONS

13.1 A range of consultations with relevant WSCSP partners and other partners relating to wide ranging community safety issues.

14. EQUALITY ANALYSIS

14.1 The content of this report is such that there are no equality issues arising from this report although the review itself may consider any equality impacts.

15. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

15.1 None

16. APPENDICES

Title	Location
Western Suffolk Community Safety Action Plan 2021/22	Appendix 1
ASB Crime Stats for Babergh and Mid Suffolk	Appendix 2
O & S Review of ASB	Appendix 3

17. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

17.1 The Suffolk Police and Crime Plan 2022 – 2025 published by the Suffolk Police and Crime Commissioner.

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APPENDIX 1 - Western Suffolk CSP Action Plan

Activity Type	Ref	Priority	Objective	Activity	Origin of activity	Link to other strategies/action plans	Lead	Start Date/Sequence	Est Completion date	Measure	Current status	Activity Update Q3 (2021 - 2022)	Activity Update Q2 (2021-2022)	Activity Update Q1 (2021 - 2022)	Activity Update Q4	Activity Update Q3
Awareness Raising	1	VAWG/HB	All CSP member organisations to refresh their understanding of the reporting routes for Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence and to promote these within their networks	Presentation at x2 CSPs within the year about the correct referral routes for Domestic Abuse cases. Printed/digital media to be given to all members and a request for this to be shared within their networks	WSCSP Action Planning Event		SCC	Lead to set start date.	Ongoing	Increase in confidence in CSP members.	Western Suffolk CSP: 24/7 DA helpline promoted through vaccine and testing sites, GP's and pharmacies. Since May 2020, the helpline has received 798 calls. WSC: Ongoing intranet presence for support and information which outlines how to report and manage, as well as refresher training. BMSDC: New employee DA Champions group established which is developing a programme of internal and external comms and will update and manage relevant information shared on the Councils intranet and internet. BMSDC: Discussions with police with regards to CCTV operatives being aware to monitor those key areas in our towns and to concentrate on identifying potential vulnerable women/girls being followed/approached.	Western Suffolk CSP: Continue to raise awareness. June: All libraries are now trained to be safe spaces for victims of DA. (https://www.eadt.co.uk/news/suffolk-libraries-safe-space-for-domestic-abuse-victims-8056460). Domestic Abuse Champion Trainers continue to offer to all partners to provide training and awareness raising WSC: Ongoing intranet presence for support and signposting. Domestic Abuse Awareness raising now part of L&D package with four awareness sessions available for staff and members. BMSDC: Domestic Abuse training received by all locality officers within the Communities Team as well as Tenet Manager Services. A number of Locality Officers are also now fully trained as Domestic Abuse Champions and will promote the DA work with the community groups they engage with as part of their locality work. Working with the I&ECCG and the Stowmarket Integrated Neighbourhood Team to host an event at the Mix in Stowmarket to promote support and awareness of domestic abuse. A primary focus has been to engage with and work with local business especially those where they have a customer focused approach with their clients. Much of the planning has taken place during August and September and the event will take place 18th Oct.	Western Suffolk CSP: Continues to promote the DA helpline, work is ongoing to raise awareness within libraries and make them safe net premises for victims of abuse. WSC: Continues to promote intranet information which outlines how to report and manage, as well as refresher training. BMSDC: Ongoing Intranet presence for support and signposting and staff training arranged for July for community officers	24/7 DA helpline extended through to Sept 2023 (aligned with the end of the current outreach contract). Promoted through vaccine and testing sites, GP's and pharmacies. Since May 2020, the helpline has received 343 calls. https://www.eadt.co.uk/news/suffolk-domestic-abuse-survivor-on-how-she-escaped-6871916	Leaflets detailing specialist support services for DA and SV have been produced and in the process of being circulated to partners. During covid 19 stepped up 24/7 helpline through ACT. Supported comms to promote helpline through supermarkets, pharmacies, social media and prominent public places.	
	2	Hate Crime	Raise awareness and challenge attitudes	Create a 'Good Role Models' campaign which would challenge behaviours in educational settings & communities	WSCSP Action Planning Event	SLO + Suffolk Youth Parliament	Kerry Cutler + Charlotte Sanderson	Lead to set start date.			Measures + evaluation would be developed with the project	Western Suffolk CSP: SCC released a joint press article for National Hate Crime Awareness Week which focussed on bystander approach to witnessing hate crime within the community and practical steps people can take. Widened at our recent attendance at the Engaged Communities Group. Education package also delivered within schools to complement this 'theme'.	Western Suffolk CSP: This project not yet started. BMSDC: Hate Crime Guidance and Reporting processes have been drafted which sets out the roles and responsibilities of Management, Employees, Councillors and residents with guidance on 'how to' report a Hate Crime. Improvements made recently to B&M online ASB reporting page provides a clearer process of how to capture a Hate Crime	Western Suffolk CSP: This project not yet started.	Western Suffolk CSP: This project not yet started.	
	3	Hate Crime	Engage with communities at risk of Hate Crime to raise awareness of what constitutes a Hate Crime/hate incident, where to report and where to get support	1. Identify communities at risk of Hate Crime using the CSP partners and Suffolk Hate Crime Network 2. Use current materials to raise awareness in identified communities and look for opportunities for engagement	Hate Crime Continuum Improvement Plan	Suffolk Hate Crime Partnership	Charlotte Sanderson + Franstine Jones + Lesley-Ann Keogh	Lead to set start date.	Ongoing	Number of communities identified + number of awareness events taken place	Western Suffolk CSP: supported National Hate crime awareness week ran from 9th - 16th October 2021. Across Suffolk partners supported the week by raising awareness of the crime and promoting ways in which victims can report and receive support. SCC led with some paid for boosted posts on social media which focussed on 'online hate' and hate crime on public transport. The Hate Awards: Following on from the success of last year's awards during the awareness week Suffolk Police and Partners launched the second Hate Awards - designed to celebrate the contribution young people make within their communities. CSP Chairs and wider partners will be invited to join the county panel to judge the applications in mid 2022.SCC: Taxi driver survey extended to include Hate Crime Awareness Week 9th - 16th October 2021. WSC: representation on the quarterly Hate Crime group and areas of concern identified. Intelligence submitted through appropriate channels. PREVENT training provided to communities if appropriate. Initial discussions started with SALC to raise awareness within our parish councils as part of their learning and development. BMSDC: Continued support to three supported living schemes and targeted community engagement surrounding those schemes. Continued representation at the quarterly Hate Crime County Working group.	Western Suffolk CSP: All local authorities within Suffolk have completed self assessment which identifies areas of concern and agree to take back into own relevant authority and progress. WSC: Ongoing training through the councils L&D process. Hate Crime was included in virtual crucial crew (still collating feedback from schools). Intelligence shared with West Suffolk in terms of potential concerns or rises in Hate Crime in certain areas. No external PREVENT training requested during Q2 BMSDC: Currently working with a number of supported living schemes in the districts subject to reports of ASB by the wider community. This has included working with the complainants to help them understand what a supported living scheme is and the types of conditions those living in such schemes are living with.	Western Suffolk CSP: All local authorities within Suffolk have completed self assessment which identifies areas of concern and agree to take back into own relevant authority and progress. WSC: Included in virtual Crucial Crew for the first time, also promoting awareness raising through safe guarding and PREVENT/Hate Crime now established through our learning and development team and providing four sessions a year as well as ad hoc when requested. BMSDC: Promoted International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia. Also developing an annual Community Engagement Plan for awareness raising activities	Western Suffolk CSP: Difficult to engage with communities during lockdown, this activity will be easier to progress once restrictions have been lifted. Where opportunities arise to raise awareness or identify communities these are taken. A new website has recently been launched by the Home Office to support the prevent agenda. The website encourages the reporting of suspicious behaviour, and also includes the ACT early campaign to support concerns about a family member. WSC: Further online training session has taken place in Q4 with 6 members of staff (rough sleeper team) trained. Hate Crime is referenced in council safeguarding and further safe guarding training has taken place during Q4 with all new employees trained in safe guarding as well as 6 members of staff.	WCS: During covid 19 has been difficult to engage with communities therefore the council has taken this opportunity to restart training packages for staff and moving them on line: Hate Crime and Prevent: Our e-learning portal has seen 21 officers complete the e-learning training between September 20 to October 20. Prevent training has also moved online and our Prevent trained officer has delivered two sessions (alongside the e-learning module). One dedicated just to West Suffolk housing team and one for internal officers. BMSDC: Hate crime training was delivered to Councillors to support them to identify, signpost and report Hate Crime	
	4	Prevent	Ensure that community based organisations and community leaders have Prevent awareness	1. Identify community based organisations/leaders 2. Contact these groups and signpost to awareness raising/training	Suffolk Prevent Action Plan	Suffolk Prevent Delivery Group	Franstine Jones + Lesley-Ann Keogh	Lead to set start date.			Number of connections made + Increase in confidence of community based leaders to report	Western Suffolk CSP: Limited progress in relation to this action, now been identified as an area of concern within the PREVENT action plan. WSC: Community Safety representation on our Strategic Enforcement group where PREVENT intelligence can be shared and vulnerable areas identified. BMSDC: Prevent Partnership Action Plan updated quarterly and development of a draft Situational Risk Assessment. The assessment identified a number of key risks which will be reviewed during Q4 and mitigations included in an action plan which will include the sharing and dissemination of information with community based organisations.	Western Suffolk CSP: Limited progress in relation to this action, now been identified as an area of concern within the PREVENT action plan. WSC: through families and communities work starting to re-establish links with our community based organisations and leaders, a lot of this work is being done through our CCG funded post that is looking at working with hard to reach communities in relation to vaccine roll out, this has enabled us to make new links. BMSDC: Currently reviewing with an implementation start TBC.	Western Suffolk CSP: Limited progress due to lockdown restrictions.	Western Suffolk CSP: Limited progress due to lockdown restrictions. BMSDC: Work with County Wide group 'Suffolk Moving Forwards' will hopefully enable work to progress	WCS: This has been delayed due to covid 19. Officers within the council will start to engage with our community leaders in Jan 2021
	5	Modern Slavery	Ensure that specific front line staff are aware of Modern Slavery, how to spot it and how to report it	1. All CSP members to have a Modern Slavery awareness raising session 2. Identify front line staff that require Modern Slavery training and signpost to local training offer	WSCSP Action Planning Event		Chris Woods	Lead to set start date.	Ongoing	Modern Day Slavery Awareness Session for CSP + numbers of staff trained in MDS	Western Suffolk CSP: Two Suffolk Modern Slavery films produced - one focusing on HMO scenario and one Criminal Exploitation and County Lines scenario to raise awareness of Human Trafficking, Modern Slavery and National Referral Mechanism (NRM). Multi-agency partner input to scenarios, scripts and accompanying resources. Soon to be screened. Training packs being developed to support the resources. Modern Slavery E- Learning package in development, contains recent Suffolk Case Studies and stats. The Training will be available in January 2021 Modern Slavery Network established, attended by CSP Leads. The Modern Slavery Network is currently consulting with CSPs and wider partners, developing a Suffolk Strategy and Action Plan. This action plan will include working with local businesses to raise awareness of Modern Slavery within their organisations and supply chains. Modern Slavery, Human Trafficking and NRM included in Criminal Exploitation training and awareness raising. WSC: Dedicated intranet page for staff as well as webpage for communities. MDS included in our annual learning and development package for staff. BMSDC: Same as Q2, revised Safeguarding strategy almost complete. The revised Strategy will be delivered with the appropriate training towards end of Q4/early Q1 2022/23. Further training attended by communities staff	Western Suffolk CSP: Modern Day Slavery filming almost completed (one film completed and one to be completed by the end of quarter). Training package to be worked up and then roll out to partners can commence. E Learning package being worked on for use across the system. WSC commitment to roll out the training package as and when ready to go live. MDS included in member induction briefing in relation to the F&C team, and mentioned made in safeguarding training. BMSDC: Revised Safeguarding Policy completed in draft and focusses to a greater degree on Modern Day Slavery and strengthening the role teams such as Procurement and Commissioning have when procuring services to ensure providers are also aware of Modern Slavery and how to spot it. Training will be further developed to cover this and rolled out early in the new year.	Western Suffolk CSP: MDS is being progressed through the recent funding application around prevention work. Awaiting the training roll out and awareness toolkits (limited due to covid). WSC took part in MDS Awareness Raising week in April - actions included awareness raising through social media, launching the councils new work statement on MDS as well as links to support and advice for staff. Also included as part of safe guarding training and currently undertaking and audit on our reporting processes on MDS. BMSDC: took part in MDS Awareness Raising week in April, including sharing information on how to #spothesignsinsuffolk. This was also shared with staff in our internal weekly newsletter and will be schedule into the developing Community Engagement Plan. SCC: 2 x Modern Slavery training/awareness raising films, filmed in Suffolk, are being developed following a successful funding application to the Modern Slavery Transformation Fund (£3k) and match funding from SOPCC (£1.5k) and SCC Community Safety (£1.5k). Filming for the first film will be completed by end of June. Filming for the 2nd film should commence in July. Both training films which will be used for frontline practitioners i.e. Housing, Police, Fire, Trading Standards, Environmental Health, Health etc will be available from September 2021. WSCSP have agreed to fund Suffolk Police for Go Bags (£225) which is being matched funded by Suffolk Police and East Suffolk CSP. Ipswich CSP are also expected to match fund for the initiative. The 'Go Bag' will be designed as an emergency provision for a short period of time (24/48hrs). The idea of the Go bag is to provide a few basic essentials	Western Suffolk CSP: Attendance at the last CSP meeting from John French the new MDS and Vulnerable person officer for Suffolk Police. The Home Office funding application (of £3k per PCC area) for Modern Slavery prevention work has been successful. Suffolk County Council and Suffolk OPHC are providing match funding (total £3k) to support two approaches: practitioner training on the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) and the development of two awareness raising/training films filmed in Suffolk for frontline professionals to identify and refer potential victims of exploitation and trafficking. Both activities will help to prevent Modern Slavery in the communities and sectors most at risk in Suffolk. Filming will commence in the coming months when lockdown restrictions have eased. WSC: MDS is currently included in our safeguarding training although progress is being made to develop stand alone MDS training which will then be rolled out for staff. The council is progressing with its review of our MDS policy/statement and website page being drafted for staff to ensure correct signposting can take place. BMSDC: Our comms team are preparing to support the A Modern Slavery awareness raising campaign scheduled to take place across Suffolk during April 2021. Due to the current Covid restrictions this first campaign will take place over social media	WCS: The council has agreed to undertake a review of our current policy around modern day slavery. Initial steps have been taken to strengthen our safeguarding training to include modern day slavery more in-depth and also further guidance around NRM has been sent to all appropriate officers reminding staff how to spot and how to report.	
Communications	6	VAWG/HB	Increase visibility of national campaigns encouraging reporting and potential referrals	Support countywide campaigns: White Ribbon: November 2020 Forced Marriage: April 2020 Sexual Violence: Feb 2021	WSCSP Action Planning Event		Franstine Jones + Lesley-Ann Keogh	Lead to set start date.	Ongoing	All CSP members to report back on what they have done within their organisations	Western Suffolk CSP: White Ribbon Campaign promotion through school networks via the RSHE Portal and Social Media over the 16 days of activism. A social media campaign using the hashtag #Suffolk16daysofaction - Visiting some of the rural food banks to raise awareness - Working with schools to promote and raise awareness - Promoting and working with our partner organisations to share local messages Photo event at Endeavour House on 25th Nov with pledges poster. WSC: Launched dedicated intranet page for Domestic Abuse Champions and held partner open day on 30th November which external speakers offer support and advice to staff. Other events during the first few days included an open event at Women's Aid outreach centre as well as being part of the SCC social media campaign. BMSDC: Employee DA Champions Group established to develop a work programme to develop activities in line with national campaigns with wider community engagement to improve our reach and encourage more community based DA champions.	WCS: White Ribbon Campaign for 2021 to be discussed at local forum in September and included on the councils comms plan to ensure included on councils social media platforms. Will link in with local SNTs during the days of action. BMSDC: In support of the act and coming DA event due to take place with the I&ECCG at the Mix in Stowmarket, The Communities Team have worked alongside the Economic Development Team to target businesses and go out to speak with them to raise awareness and invite them to attend the DA event on the 18th Oct.	Western Suffolk CSP: Supported all three of the campaigns through social media channels and will continue to support future campaigns as and when identified - for example: On Monday 14th June 2021, Suffolk Libraries will be launched as safe spaces for victims of domestic abuse to seek information, advice and guidance on the support available. Staff have been trained as Domestic Abuse Champions and will be in a position to offer initial support as well as signposting to local specialist services. If required a private room will be made available so victims can call support and information will be prominently displayed so that anyone with concerns can access advice as well as Euro Tournament campaign: Nationally during major football tournaments, domestic abuse increases by a third. The tournament begins on the Friday 11th June 2021 and we will be using our social media channels to call out abusive behaviour and make sure that victims know support is available to them when it is safe for them to access it	Western Suffolk CSP: Have supported all three of the campaigns through our social media channels as well as being part of countywide working groups to promote the campaigns. Update can be found Q3. WSC: In Q4 supported the Sexual Violence awareness campaign through our social media channels as well as staff having access to internal intranet on appropriate signposting and reporting.	WCS: The White Ribbon Campaign was 16 days of action taking place late November. Working with our learning and development team, West Suffolk Council launched a dedicated staff page under Health and Wellbeing providing support and guidance to staff and manager's around domestic abuse. We are also working with the Domestic Abuse Champion Trainers and providing additional awareness raising sessions for staff. As part of the council's response to covid 19 the council updated our webpage for communities to be able to access advice and information around support available. Also supported the county wide campaign through social media channels	
	7	All	Use our existing communications teams within the CSP membership and develop our branding to deliver positive comms messages, supporting every activity within the CSP action plan, capitalising on our success and maximising our impact wherever possible	1. When developing actions within this Action Plan consideration of how we will promote the results will be a standing item for discussion [car washes] 2. Specific targeted campaigns using social media, i.e. - Modern Slavery	WSCSP Action Planning Event		Chris Woods + Clair Harvey	Lead to set start date.	Ongoing	All CSP members to report back on what they have done within their organisations	Western Suffolk CSP: continue to use internal comms teams where appropriate and social media utilised for larger campaigns as well as promoting projects and activities supported by the CSP. This quarter focus is White Ribbon Campaign, developed for 25th November 2021 using the hashtags: #Suffolk16daysofaction + #AllMenCan. Within the first 4 days there were 11k views, 1k engagements including 64 likes. Full statistics for the campaign will be available from community.safety@suffolk.gov.uk in mid December. WSC: During Q3 WSCSP comms team continue to support the CSP with media releases: examples include: https://www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/news/pr211103ws01.cfm https://twitter.com/suffolkcc/status/1464628030404546566 https://twitter.com/West_Suffolk/status/1448639629729701895 BMSDC: Internal Comms Team promoted the White Ribbon Campaign with multiple media releases and internal comms.	Western Suffolk CSP: Continue to use our internal comms teams where appropriate. Social media is utilised for larger campaigns as well as promoting projects and activities supported by the CSP. WSC: example of comms for a successful project: https://www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/news/pr210813ws01.cfm https://www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/news/pr210719ws01.cfm https://twitter.com/West_Suffolk/status/1418537829198704642 BMSDC: The Comms Team continues to deliver media releases on all campaigns in support of the WSCSP work, including Suffolk Hope Awards, the Holiday Activity Funded activity for free school meals, as well as with a more local focus such as the new CCTV for Sudbury and Hadleigh. Teams also supported the week long ASB campaign 19th-25th July by website promotion and public engagement resulting in an increase in case reviews and new referrals being received.	Western Suffolk CSP: Continue to use our internal comms teams where appropriate. Social media is utilised for larger campaigns as well as promoting projects and activities supported by the CSP. WSC: example of comms for a successful project: https://twitter.com/West_Suffolk/status/138453152624790850	Western Suffolk CSP: Continue to use our internal comms teams where appropriate. Social media is utilised for larger campaigns as well as promoting projects and activities supported by the CSP. WSC: example of comms for a successful project: https://www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/news/pr200127ws01.cfm launch of Newmarket Pony Academy	WCS/BMSDC: Our comms team have supported both Hate Crime Week and White Ribbon Campaign during the last quarter.	

Activity Type	Ref	Priority	Objective	Activity	Origin of activity	Link to other strategies/action plans	Lead	Start Date/Sequence	Est Completion date	Measure	Current status	Activity Update Q3 (2021 - 2022)	Activity Update Q2 (2021-2022)	Activity Update Q1 (2021 - 2022)	Activity Update Q4	Activity Update Q3	
	8	All	For all areas of prioritisation within the Action Plan a calendar of events for proactive promotion and communication is recommended. As well as the CSP supporting national campaigns we will also identify key events within our organisations and communities where we are able to raise awareness of community safety issues and promote the work of the CSP. Although this will be coordinated by a small working group the responsibility to be involved in communications and promotion of the CSP achievements will be held by all CSP members. Below are the national campaigns that are related to our priority areas in sequence working from April 2020 onwards. The action contained in the above action plan could be timed for launch with the national campaigns where possible for maximum impact. Work with local DA Forums on DA and SV campaigns to maximise impact. Anti-Social Behaviour - March/April 2020 (30 Mar - 05 Apr) Forced Marriage - April 2020 Missing children - May 2020 (25th) Hate Crime - October 2020 (10th - 17th) White Ribbon - November 2020 (23rd - 27th)										Western Suffolk CSP: During Q3 the CSP have supported the White Ribbon Campaign and launched the Hope Awards as well as supporting National Hate Crime Awareness Week	Western Suffolk CSP: During Q2 the CSP have supported the following: ASB awareness re launch of the Community Trigger process (July). MDS multi agency days of action Sept (two days of action) - BSE, Newmarket, Sudbury and Stowmarket - one intel gathering and second enforcement. Preparations taking place for the following: Hate Crime 9th October - 17th October. County Lines Awareness Week date 11 - 17 October. Modern Day Slavery 18 October. White Ribbon Campaign Nov. 25 November (16 days of action)	Western Suffolk CSP: Week beginning 19 April was MDS awareness week, due to covid 19 restrictions the partnership utilised social media channels as well as local support and awareness raising	Western Suffolk CSP: From 1st-7th February, partners across Suffolk came together to raise awareness of sexual violence and abuse, signposting to local specialist support services and using every opportunity to promote it using social media platforms. WSP: During Q4 marked both Holocaust Memorial and Sexual Violence. Supported through our social media channels and internal communications. Work has started on Modern Day Slavery campaign ready for later in the year BMSDC: Comms Teams have supported Hate Crime Week including media releases on #worldkndnesday sharing the message that no-one should become a target of abuse because of their race, religion, sexual orientation, transgender identity or disability, a press release marking Holocaust Memorial Day and White Ribbon Campaign #itsnotokayouarenotalone	WSP: During the last quarter West Suffolk Council has focused on the main campaigns around Hate Crime (dedicated Hate Crime Week) and Domestic Abuse (White Ribbon Campaign). Domestic Abuse campaign support (see above Communications 6). Hate Crime and Prevent: During Hate Crime Week the council supported the countywide campaign through our social media channels with messages around support and how to report a hate crime being promoted daily. The council has reviewed their Hate Crime webpage to include links to partner pages, how to report and support that is available countywide. The Western Suffolk Community Safety Partnership also supported the Crimestoppers Campaign that took place during the week.

	9	Hate Crime	Support the creation of a specific Hate Crime scenario for all Crucial Crews	Use local providers to co-design a Crucial Crew scenario ensuring a consistent message is given in terms of reporting and where to get help	Hate Crime Continuous Improvement Plan	Suffolk Hate Crime Partnership	Charlotte Sanderson + Claire Prosser	Lead to set start date.	Jul-21		All crucial crews in Western Suffolk have a Crucial Crew scenario planned for 2021	WSP: Crucial Crew virtually took place across West Suffolk including an input on Hate Crime (http://www.suffolkrucialcrew.uk/teaching-resources/west-suffolk-crucial-crew/). June CYP in partnership with the council and other partners held Y9 and Y10 enrichment days held at a secondary school in BSE with 9 safeguarding scenarios being addressed over the two days. Now developing Crucial Crew+ which will also include Hate Crime. BMSDC: Crucial Crew activities limited for 2021 but BMSDC will continue to work with the Rotary Club and the Mix to develop the offer for 2022. We have Crucial Crew and we have Crucial Crew Plus (which is for 11 plus age groups) and programme event discussions already taking place. We are looking to run a knife crime event and in addition, we are considering a separate ASB session	WSP: Virtual Crucial Crew will be launched across West Suffolk Council area on 21st June - all schools will be provided with footage of seven scenarios as well as activities to do in the classroom and useful resources provided. This year Hate Crime will be included. BMSDC: Crucial Crew activities limited for 2021 but BMSDC will continue to work with the Rotary Club and the Mix to develop the offer for 2022.	WSP: Crucial Crew will again not take place this year due to covid restrictions however work is being undertaken on making crucial crew virtual. Ipswich BC have shared with us contacts and access to video clips that can be used by the schools to provide a virtual crucial crew. WSP are engaging with their schools to determine support for the virtual event. Hate crime has been confirmed as a scenario BMSDC: Crucial Crew is delivered by the Rotary Club in Babergh and the Mix in Mid Suffolk. Conversations have started with both to discuss what is what is possible to deliver and what support they may need to deliver it.	WSP: due to covid 19 Crucial Crew has been postponed this year and currently engaging with our schools to determine if crucial crew can be held next year. East Suffolk have started to develop a Crucial Crew online pack for staff within schools and requested information on this to progress in Western Suffolk schools
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Training & Education	10	Criminal Exploitation	Support targeted training and education package for partners and community groups	Work with SCC officers to identify priority areas and undertake training as and when opportunities are identified	Criminal Exploitation Plan	Criminal Exploitation Steering Group	Claire Prosser, Franstine Jones + Lesley-Ann Keogh	Lead to set start date.	Ongoing	Agreed ongoing training and education plan		Western Suffolk CSP: Suffolk County Council officer lead for criminal exploitation has completed the following: Presented criminal exploitation workshop for Community Action Suffolk VCSE Safeguarding conference. #AreTheySafe? held on 2 November 2021. WSCSP area partners attended criminal exploitation workshop delivered for Rural Youth Work Conversations event held on 17 November 21 as part of Youth Focus support for the sector, partners from WSCSP area attended. Two criminal exploitation workshops delivered during Safeguarding Professional Development Forum 15th to 19th November 2021 Attended by WSC Families and Communities Team Leader and WSCSP area partners. Two Criminal Exploitation Workshops delivered on 25 October 2021 delivered by CYP First. Bespoke Suffolk case study for breakout room MACE panels, based on Home Office Toolkit Schools & Education Partners 'Criminal Exploitation & County Lines, Recognising & Responding to the Needs' - Junior Smart OBE St. Giles Trust held on 22 October 2021. Attended by WSCSP area school partners. Final draft taxi driver training package developed to support Section 6 https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/928583/statutory-taxi-and-private-hire-vehicle-standards-english.pdf . Criminal exploitation audio resource for parents / carers disseminated via Suffolk Headlines All Schools Bulletin for upload onto school websites	Western Suffolk CSP: Criminal Exploitation Audio awareness workshop has been disseminated to all Western Suffolk schools, via Suffolk Headlines (parent and carer audio workshop https://musercontent.com/5c2782ab1264cda5bb7f549a9/files/5f6fbd15-c6a4-89e6-8af5-c6b109432a95/Criminal_Exploitation_and_County_Lines_Workshop_for_school_websites.pdf). CYP First Criminal Exploitation Disruption Training for MACE panel partners (13 Sept 21) a further session due on 25 October 21. Taxi driver survey (https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/preview/TaxiPH/6016DF11943D6F9CE0DD4931175CC) gone live open till mid October 21. Taxi Driver and private hire training programme being adapted (looking at the countylines and exploitation element of the training), working with a number of partners. Working with partners on adapting the survey to roll out to Air BnB/hotels during County Lines Intensification Week, this will link in with police work and visits to hotels. Live webinar for Adult Community Services (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wA2mVtK5GWA). St Giles Trust commissioned to do Parent Webinars in October. Individual Training delivered to West Suffolk College and Suffolk One PD day. Delivered criminal exploitation training as part of safe guarding BMSDC: Officers attended "Disrupting Exploitation" training session rolled out by Andrew Thompson www.cypfirst.co.uk . Liaising with newly appointed school liaison officer across both districts and will be working with them on a delivery plan	Western Suffolk CSP: The partnership continues to target training around criminal exploitation through our links with SCC officer. WSP: Our county lines trained officer continues to provide awareness raising sessions for community groups and education as and when requested. April one session develop to a school in BSE, provided awareness raising to 25 teaching staff. BMSDC: no further update	Western Suffolk CSP: January Western Suffolk CSP Criminal Exploitation & County Lines Recognising & Responding to the Needs' on line interactive training with Junior Smart St Giles Trust. 43 attendees. March Drug Awareness Webinars for West Suffolk Partners with Renato Masetti Essex Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust - 36 attendees. Disrupting Exploitation for Western area CSP partners delivered by CYP First - 16 attendees. WSP: Our county lines trained officer has delivered a further staff training session online engaging with 10 members of staff, as well as safe guarding training for 6 members of staff (which also covers CL). One primary school in Newmarket received training with 15 members of staff and governors receiving awareness raising. BMSDC: A number of officers across the Councils attended the above CSP online sessions. No further internal training provided during this quarter. Reduce levels within the Communities Safety Team will increase during 2021/22 where the opportunity to train members the team to the train others across the organisation and in our communities can happen.	WSP: Our county lines trained officer has delivered four training sessions online engaging with 42 officers. Also attended one school PD day in September refresher training for staff Western Suffolk CSP: commissioned Junior Smart to provide a number of sessions prior to lockdown in March and April 2020. Junior Smart has been able to provide the previous training through a virtual workshop and we have held two of the four sessions. Approximately 50 officers from the Newmarket Youth Action Group (all partners working with vulnerable young people in the Newmarket area) and one dedicated for Housing providers. These sessions have engaged with approx. 50 officers from a number of partners and feedback has been extremely positive. A further two sessions are planned for the new year. Suffolk County Council provided three training sessions on Disrupting Exploitation in October, these sessions were extremely popular with 25 officers from West Suffolk Council attending over the sessions and a number of partners from with the CSP also benefited from this training. BMSDC: A number of officers across the Councils attended the above CSP online sessions. No further internal training provided during this quarter.
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Page 54	11	VAWG/B	Encourage and support employers within Suffolk to adopt Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Policies for their organisation.	1. All CSP partners to identify if their organisation has a Domestic Abuse policy and if this is relevant/up to date 2. All CSP members to identify appropriate staff to become DA Champions (at least 2 Champions per organisation) 3. Work with local businesses to support them implement Domestic Abuse policies or refresh existing ones where needed	Suffolk VAWG Action Plan	Suffolk VAWG Strategy	SCC + CSP Members	Lead to set start date.		All CSP members to report back on what they have done within their organisations When businesses have been identified and approached this needs to be captured and reported back to the CSP		Western Suffolk CSP: Suffolk County Council leading on the review of Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy for Suffolk. Revised strategy and action plan to be completed by Q1 2022. Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Strategy out for consultation and circulated to partners. Suffolk Violence Abuse Partnership: continues to meet regularly. Suffolk Police and Suffolk County Council together with all local authorities have purchased and distributed Drink spiking advice and testing kits, working with licensing teams to identify premises and need. Future off of first aid training for licensed premises being progressed with Suffolk Police and licensing teams. WSP seven members of staff trained as DA Champions and dedicated resource for staff. Working with HR team to look at policies in place addressing domestic abuse. BMSDC: Established Employee DA Champions working Group. One DA event delivered in Stowmarket working alongside the INT and local businesses. A calendar of events to be scheduled by this group which will be delivered throughout the year across the districts.	WSP: Review of our current policy still to be undertaken. BMSDC: All Communities Officers to be trained and DA champion as part of Locality Role (to start in July)	WSP: Staff continue to attend the Domestic Abuse Trainer training and a member of the Families and Communities team attended the training in January who is the contact point for our team, part of this role is to share up to date information and signposting information to the team. Review of current policy still to be undertaken BMSDC: Locality Officers within the Communities Team have been identified to become DA champions to support internal teams but to also support their role in the communities.	WSP: West Suffolk Council launched a dedicated staff page under Health and Wellbeing providing support and guidance to staff and manager's around domestic abuse. As part of the White Ribbon Campaign we have worked with Suffolk County Council staff to provide three training sessions for staff during the campaign. The council commissioned three sessions with 40 officers attending the training. The council has agreed to undertake a review of our current policy around domestic abuse and ensure that a robust policy is in place. BMSDC: Posters of our Council leaders showing their support for the campaign on our twitter and Facebook channels and promotion of #itnotokayouarenotalone in our staff magazine and Working Together.
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Projects	12	Modern Slavery	Engage with local parish councils + housing + businesses and forums to encourage the reporting of potential Modern Slavery	Deliver Modern Slavery awareness raising to key local businesses to encourage reporting	WSCSP Action Planning Event		Chris Woods + Melanie Yolland	Lead to set start date.		TBC		Western Suffolk CSP: Two Suffolk Modern Slavery films produced – one focusing on HMO scenario and one Criminal Exploitation and County Lines scenario to raise awareness of Human Trafficking, Modern Slavery and National Referral Mechanism (NRM). Multi-agency partner input to scenarios, scripts and accompanying resources. Soon to be screened. Training packs being developed to support the resources. Modern Slavery E-Learning package in development, contains recent Suffolk Case Studies and stats. The Training will be available in January 2021. NRM awareness raising for MACE Panel partners being explored as part of CE training bespoke training package building on success of Disruption Training case study approach - lunchtime mini panels / interactive case studies,	Western Suffolk CSP: E learning will be roll out to our business community as well as partners	Western Suffolk CSP: Training package being developed and links made with Suffolk Police team for the west	Western Suffolk CSP: Training package being developed and links made with Suffolk Police team for the west (attended last CSP meeting)
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	13	VAWG/B + Hate Crime + County Lines	Explore the creation of a Safe Places Scheme (across Suffolk) which will provide areas of safety for those that feel vulnerable or at risk This will span all priority areas for the CSP	1. Develop a proposal for the scheme in partnership with all CSPs across Suffolk 2. Create a start and finish group for the project Notes: This is likely to be a long term project and will need specific funding to support the scheme	WSCSP Action Planning Event		Charlotte Sanderson + Franstine Jones + Lesley-Ann Keogh	Lead to set start date.		Measures + evaluation would be developed with the project		Western Suffolk CSP: Discussed at countywide link officers meeting in February and agreed to delay start of the scheme	Western Suffolk CSP: Discussed at countywide link officers meeting in February and agreed to delay start of the scheme	Western Suffolk CSP: Discussed at countywide link officers meeting in February and agreed to delay start of the scheme	Western Suffolk CSP: Discussed at countywide link officers meeting in February and agreed to delay start of the scheme
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	14	Criminal Exploitation	Diversionary Activities	1. Develop, with partners projects that identify and work closely with vulnerable young people 2. Identify opportunities to work in partnership and provide diversionary activities for vulnerable young people	Criminal Exploitation Plan		Lesley-Ann Keogh + Franstine Jones	Sep-20	Ongoing	Measures + evaluation would be developed with the project		Western Suffolk CSP: Community Safety Leads across west Suffolk continue to engage with the CE Hubs and share intelligence around areas of concern. Youth Focus Suffolk Rural Youth Work conversations: raising awareness of CE Hubs and CSP's to support diversionary provision. Liaising with Safeguarding in Sport Lead NWG Exploitation Response Unit to secure CE training for activity providers. WSP: three year funding for the continuation of the HAF programme has been confirmed. Christmas plans have been confirmed and multiple offers will be made available through out the christmas holidays. Engaging with seven local providers. Reestablishment of Positive Futures free boxing events in Newmarket, Brandon and Mildenhall. Continue to work with Pushforward on a number of new initiatives. Continue to promote diversionary activities through Pastoral Network meetings. BMSDC: Active Suffolk/Porch Project/BMSDC partners to develop diversionary activities in Belle Bue Park, Sudbury in the summer and have continued discussions during Q3 to look ahead to 2022 and the providing of similar activities building on the success of this summer.	Western Suffolk CSP: Continues to identify opportunities for diversionary activities: The Mix a successful CSP bid last quarter and Push Forward started work across the area. Sept 18 held an engagement event at Bury Skate Park (area experiencing concerns around CE and vulnerability) links made to the CE hub and identified as an area of concern. WSP: Completed the Summer HAF programme and made connections with additional providers of activities. Awaiting formal evaluation and starting to make plans for Christmas programme. Links made with Youth Focus Strategy group and input in the Youth Intervention Fund process with the west of the county receiving funding for a number of youth projects. Working with Abbocroft Leisure to re-establish Teen Chill across West Suffolk. Programme of diversionary activities being discussed with housing providers in Brandon and Mildenhall. BMSDC: Partners to consult with both Leisure providers (Abbeycross & Everyone Active) and arts and culture organisations to develop a mix of Half Term and Christmas Holiday HAF activities. Working on the development of a number of projects to support young people including the development of a Youth Social Prescribing Programme. A business case is fully worked up and will be presented to potential partner organisation on 14th October. Working with Active Suffolk and Positive Futures to consult with and empower young people in Sudbury. Aim of consultation will be to develop a list of their priorities and develop a number of diversionary strategies to support them. Refer - see further update on this?	Western Suffolk CSP: Continues to identify opportunities for diversionary activities. Push Forward project currently being developed (funding bid previously circulated) which will work in areas of vulnerability as well as individuals identified within those areas. WSP: Working with external partners to provide summer programme of HAF after successfully co-ordinating Easter programme. Evaluation being completed. BMSDC: Working with both Leisure providers (Abbeycross & Everyone Active) and arts and culture organisations to develop a mix of summer holiday of HAF activities. Working on the development of a number of projects to support young people including the development of a Youth Social Prescribing Programme with IECCG and other partners. Supported the Mix in Stowmarket with successful application to the WSCSP to fund additional youth work. Working with Active Suffolk and Positive Futures to consult with and empower young people in Sudbury. Aim of consultation will be to develop a list of their priorities and develop a number of diversionary strategies to support them.	WSP: During Q4 work has continued to develop the Newmarket Pony Academy and link with those partners working with vulnerable young people. Funding has been secured to launch the project in April after a successful pilot and possibility to widen across Western Suffolk (https://www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/news/pr200127ws01.cfm). Part of the programme will now be working with young people at risk of exploitation. HAF programme (Holiday Activity & Food) has been developed and a package of diversionary activities will be funded through the Easter Holidays engaging with young people, our young people's officer has been working with key partners to ensure vulnerable young people at risk of exploitation can be referred into the programme. BMSDC: HAF programme (Holiday Activity & Food) has been developed for the Easter Holidays engaging with young people. The communities team have been working with schools and key partners to ensure vulnerable young people can be referred into the programme.	The Academy has been a development project over the past six months in partnership with British Racing School, Godolphin and Newmarket Academy. A week long project took place on Monday 28 September engaging 10 year 7 pupils from Newmarket. The project is using equine therapy to engage with vulnerable young people to enhance their confidence, in their transitioning to high school, and often the time when vulnerability can be exploited. The course was funded by the British Racing School and Godolphin for the pilot and a full evaluation is currently being completed. Officers at West Suffolk Council have linked Make a Change and Youth Justice officers into the pilot. Since the conclusion of the Academy pilot West Suffolk Council have been approached by other exciting opportunities to explore Equine assisted therapy / interaction
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	13	Hate Crime + Prevent	Utilise engagement opportunities within communities. Continue to build on relationships with key community contacts, particularly within faith groups	1. Ensure all members of the CSP are WRAP trained 2. Promote the WRAP training schedule within the CSP and to elected representatives including Parish Councils & faith groups.	Suffolk Prevent Action Plan	Suffolk Prevent Delivery Group	Charlotte Sanderson + Franstine Jones + Lesley-Ann Keogh	Apr-21	Ongoing	TBC		Western Suffolk CSP: Suffolk County Council has released INCELS training package to support local delivery.	Western Suffolk CSP: no progress made to date in relation to WRAP training for officers.	Western Suffolk CSP: All local authorities within Suffolk have completed self assessment which identifies areas of concern and agree to take back into own relevant authority and progress.	Western Suffolk CSP: A new website has recently been launched by the Home Office to support the prevent agenda. The website encourages the reporting of suspicious behaviour, and also includes the ACT early campaign to support concerns about a family member	WSP: Hate Crime and Prevent: Our e-learning portal has seen 21 officers complete the e-learning training between September 20 to October 20. Prevent training has also moved online and our Prevent trained officer has delivered two sessions (alongside the e-learning module). One dedicated just to West Suffolk housing team and one for internal officers.
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Activity Type	Ref	Priority	Objective	Activity	Origin of activity	Link to other strategies/action plans	Lead	Start Date/Sequence	Est Completion date	Measure	Current status	Activity Update Q3 (2021 - 2022)	Activity Update Q2 (2021-2022)	Activity Update Q1 (2021 - 2022)	Activity Update Q4	Activity Update Q3
Community Resilience	14	VAWG + Hate Crime + Prevent	Engagement with traditionally 'hard to reach' communities and groups	<p>1. Identify places and spaces where there are community tensions and anticipate where community tensions may occur.</p> <p>2. Be proactive in our awareness raising/messaging in these places and spaces utilising the best medium for maximum impact - social media, posters, leaflets, adverts in GP surgeries, educational settings etc.</p> <p>3. Support community events designed to bring communities together</p>	WSCSP Action Planning Event		SCC + Franstine Jones + Lesley-Ann Keogh	Apr-21	Ongoing	TBC		<p>Western Suffolk CSP: SCC and CSP Leads are currently undertaking the creation of a Situational Risk Assessment for Prevent - this involves combining information from the counter terrorism local profile with other local datasets and knowledge. these have been collated into a countywide situational risk assessment which informs the joint action plan (Prevent delivery group)</p>	<p>Western Suffolk CSP: Police meeting with Stella Franglington currently working in South of the county in relation to diverse communities. Identified possible other areas of work that is working with hard to reach groups (Community Engagement Claudia Parrino and Katrina Hawker COVID work) BMSDC: Working closely with Active Suffolk and over the 6 week school holiday term sessions were arranged for football coaching courtesy of Ipswich Town Community Trust, skateboarding and basketball coaching. We are still looking at longer term diversionary measures but it was notable that the number of ASB incidences reported fell once engagement had taken pace in the park.</p>	<p>Western Suffolk CSP: Continue to identify opportunities to work with our hard to reach communities, including linking into the countywide covid recovery scheme - including Youth Focus work, Community Restart work and Foodbank work.</p>	<p>VAWG: Alumah (DA charity and chair of West Suffolk DA Forum) have received funds through the Hidden Groups work to engage with the LGBTQ+ community on a specific freedom programme. BMSDC: Working with County Wide Covid recovery group 'Suffolk Moving Forwards' looking to support Parish Councils, Village Halls and Community groups to understand how they can open up safely again. This work will be supported by communities officer to progress and when we have an idea of timeframes will develop an engagement programme to bring communities back together and raise awareness where community tensions may occur.</p>	<p>VAWG: Established a Hidden Groups working group, with representatives from specialist support services from across the county to develop an action plan looking to remove barriers to access support. Hate Crime: Suffolk Police are working with Suffolk Coalition of Disabled People to promote consultation around matters affecting disabled individuals across Suffolk. Part of the consultation will focus on safety and concerns and will allow the WSCSP to have a better understanding of issues affecting victims of hate crime.</p>

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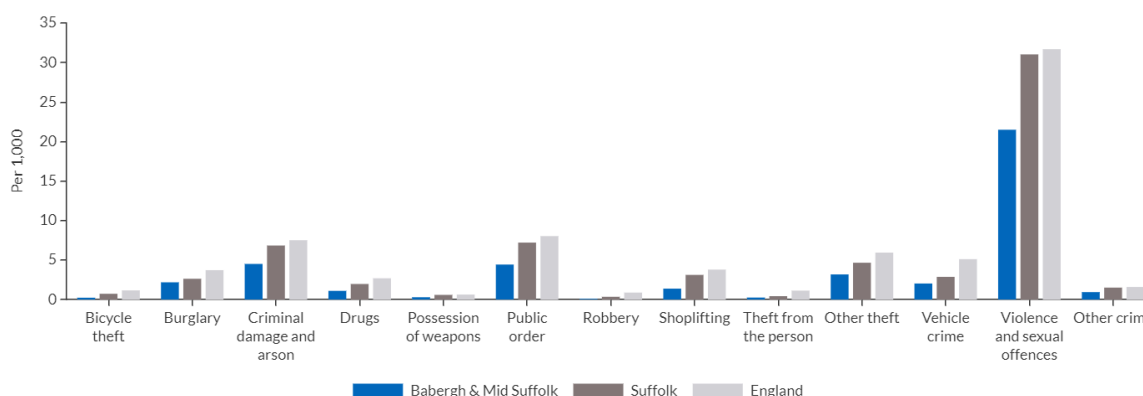
The absence of a safe and secure place in which to live can have an extremely negative impact on physical and emotional health and wellbeing. This report displays data on overall crime and a breakdown of crime types for Babergh & Mid Suffolk.

Single crime case data have been aggregated for Babergh & Mid Suffolk and rates are calculated per 1,000 population. 12-month rolling figures use an average of the population monthly figures over the same period. Where the dates for the crime data exceed the latest available date for population estimates, the latest population figure was used for any crime rates after that date (no extrapolating).

Crime at a glance...

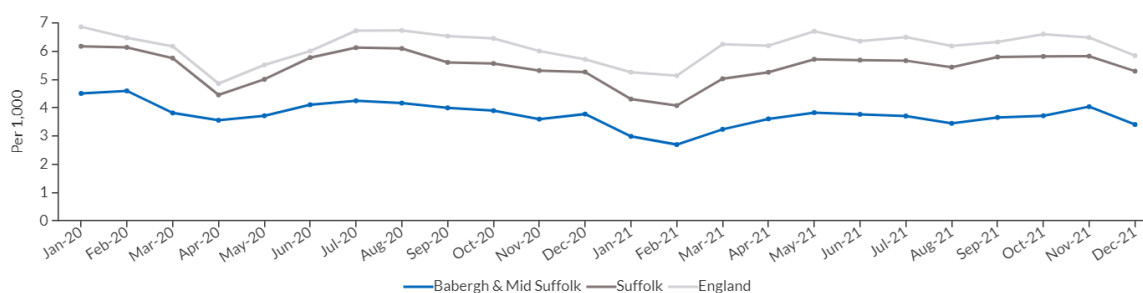


Crime rate by type of crime



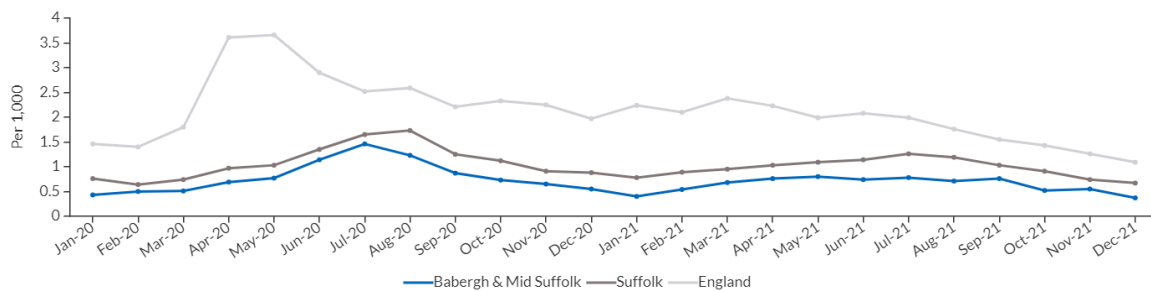
Date: Jan-21 - Dec-21 Source: data.police.uk

Change in the overall crime rate



Source: data.police.uk

Anti-social behaviour rate



Rates (per 1,000)



Report for: -	Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Date of Meeting	Monday 20th September 2021
Part	Part 1

Title of Report:	Anti-Social Behaviour within both Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Council.
Author:	Peter Watson- Community Safety Project Manager
Purpose of Report:	To update members of the current arrangements for managing anti-social behaviour across the Council and to provide data both on a local and national scale.
Recommendations:	That, members consider the report and make comments as felt appropriate.
Corporate objectives:	Working in partnership to create a borough that enables Babergh and Mid Suffolk's communities to thrive and prosper. A clean, safe, and enjoyable environment and to build strong and vibrant communities.
Risk Implications:	Failure to effectively deal with anti-social behaviour places a reputational risk on the Council which could be held to account through residents raising a Community Trigger or report to the Victims commissioner.
Health and Safety implications:	Effective management of Anti-social behaviour reduces the risk of physical harm to staff and residents
Consultees:	Ian Rafferty – Community Safety (ASB) Officer. James Buckingham-Environment Assistant Manager. Roan Morling- Housing and Engagement Team Manager. Suffolk Constabulary
Glossary of acronyms and any other abbreviations used in this report:	ASB- Anti- social Behaviour

	ASBCPA- Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014. ECINS- Empowering Communities Inclusion and Management System. BMSDC- Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Council.
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1. Introduction

Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils recognise that the issues created by antisocial behaviour need to be dealt with in a robust but proportionate manner. Residents are entitled to live in a quiet and peaceful environment, so when appropriate BMSDC will aim to work quickly and efficiently to tackle incidents of ASB. There has been a significant continuation of improving our stance in our communities, and our footing with other agencies, in that BMSDC has undergone a transformational path in the last 12 months to undertake, review, and implement new policies, procedural arrangements and training that have added layers of improvement from grass root level to the assisting ably with requirements of the internal strategy plans and contributing to the priorities in the overarching Western Community Safety Partnership arrangements. Within Community Safety the ASB sits on a plateau to cover a range of issues such as Safeguarding, Criminal Exploitation, Hate Crime, Modern Day Slavery, Domestic Homicide Reviews, County Lines and Case Reviews under the Community Trigger process.

ASB is signposted to one of any 3 service areas within BMSDC namely: -

Environmental Protection- This sits within 'Public Protection' and deals with environmental nuisance complaints, which can often entail an element of anti-social behaviour such as noise complaints and waste accumulations from residential and commercial premises. The team also deals with 'enviro-crime' enforcement including littering, fly-tipping, and graffiti. The work often requires a multi-agency approach with internal partners and external agencies including the Police, Housing Associations and Social Services.

Tenant Management – This sits under the tenancy services arm of the housing department. The team deals with many aspects of tenancy related issues including death, assignments, permissions, exchanges, and Anti-Social Behaviour. They now have a suite of tools available to them to assist in the support and/or enforcement of the 7500 council tenancies that they manage across the two districts.

Community Safety- This sits within 'Communities' and deals with all remaining complaints which are not designated to fall under the remit of either Environmental Health and/or Tenant Management to include the private sector, commercial premises, open spaces, case reviews (AKA 'Community Triggers'), and hosting the multi-agency ASB panel meetings. The work undertaken is particularly focussed on high-risk/complex management cases.

To aid our work BMSDC has now firmly put in place a software system called Ecins which allows a legal pathway to work collaboratively across several key agencies, and internal service areas, so that both transparency and accountability can be demonstrated. The model is still being rolled out to some agencies as the cornerstone of joint agency work comes to the fore and bring new efficiencies required and an improved case management system to all.

In addition, training awareness sessions on ASB have also been conducted with members to promote, signpost, and offer transparency to members as we strive to improve communications and understanding from victim to specialist BMSDC officer.

In line with this external training was also undertaken in June 2021 to identified key staff at BMSDC so that they became more accustomed on the tools that are available under the ASBCPA 2014 to include (but not limited to) understanding the theory and practice related to community protection notices, criminal behaviour order and closure orders and to recognise that quintessentially the new 'Act' is about putting the victim first so that they have a bigger say in what happens during the ASB process.

2. National Picture

The Crime Survey of England & Wales (TCSEW) - Anti-social behaviour up to March 2021 provides a recent landscape of data on the national picture detailing 2 million incidents of anti-social behaviour (ASB) in the year ending March 2021.

There was a shift in trend as there had been a 48% increase compared with the year ending March 2020 and some of this was partly attributed to the effects of the post Covid-19 pandemic encountered nationally with the largest increase seen in April to June 2020, with incidents up 83% compared with April to June 2019.

The TCSEW also showed that 29% of adults personally witnessed or experienced anti-social behaviour in their area in the last 12 months.

TCSEW estimates also showed that 9% of adults experienced being insulted, called names, threatened, or shouted at in public spaces in the year ending March 2021. Where a specific perceived reason for the harassment was given, the most common was because of the coronavirus pandemic (20%). This included experiences related to social distancing and lockdown restrictions.

The most common non-coronavirus-related perceived reason for these experiences was their education, income level or job (10%), followed by race or ethnicity (8%). A higher proportion of females (8%) thought that the reason for their experience was their gender, compared with fewer than 1% of males

The excel spreadsheet attached details the ASB recorded incidents in England by police force area, so we have 'East' covering the Suffolk area in rows 34-40 which covers the period March 2008 to March 2021.

There is a significant amount of data on the attached however the salient points to reflect upon are shown below: -

APRIL 2018- MARCH 2019

COUNTY	Number of incidents	Number per 1000 population
Bedfordshire	17223	26
Cambridgeshire	16001	19
Essex	46425	26
Hertfordshire	26498	22
Norfolk	15026	17
Suffolk	8553	11

APRIL 2019- MARCH 2020

COUNTY	Number of incidents	Number per 1000 population
Bedfordshire	12817	19
Cambridgeshire	15599	18
Essex	41187	22
Hertfordshire	25345	21
Norfolk	14594	16
Suffolk	8161	11

APRIL 2020- MARCH 2021

COUNTY	Number of incidents	Number per 1000 population
Bedfordshire	15740	23
Cambridgeshire	15716	18
Essex	60278	33
Hertfordshire	27690	23
Norfolk	14296	16
Suffolk	10346	14



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Challenges

Through the numerous professional multi-agency meetings attended, the challenges nationally and locally are significantly different to pre covid-19 pandemic.

At an Area Safeguarding Forum Teams event during April 2021 it was revealed that referrals to social services for both adult and children had increased exponentially with a social worker's case load increasing from an average of 41 to 94 during the previous 12 months (April 2020- March 2021). This is just one indicator of the scale of the effect of the pandemic and the increase in ASB cases being seen nationally.

Domestic abuse showed a 33 % increase nationally during lockdown so when we look at the combined effects of these within our own area this means that there are more referrals will be sent to us which places a greater demand on capacity to our service areas.

To counteract this, we have reviewed our first point of contact and devised an improved on-line reporting form to the public so to streamline the work.

We are reliant on multi-agency working with cases where mental health issues are a concern and there has been a noticeable shift in these coming to the fore with pressure on our housing solutions team to assist rehoming those that present the most challenging behaviours. The interaction with Mental Health Trust on cases reveal the tremendous burden they are placed under with increased volumes of cases which understandably causes delays in treatment in some cases causing the ASB to be managed on a more victim focused basis.

Other challenges include reaching out to the younger generation so that we can listen to their 'voice' and understand their needs better and to offer support and guidance to steer away from the diversity that ASB covers one main area being criminal exploitation, so the 'Youth Project' is a stepping-stone to help and support.

Once firmly established, the Community Safety team will utilise the Communities Team 'locality' role to both acquire information from our 'communities' but to also reach out to those that remain a 'silent' victim, unaware of the services and assistance we can offer. This is very much an area that we wish to promote and develop during the next 12 months as it recorded that among those that have witnessed or been a victim of ASB in the past 3 years, 56% did not report it to anyone. Of those that were victims only 16% reported it to their council or social services which is why we in community safety are resolute on focusing strongly on engaging with our own communities.

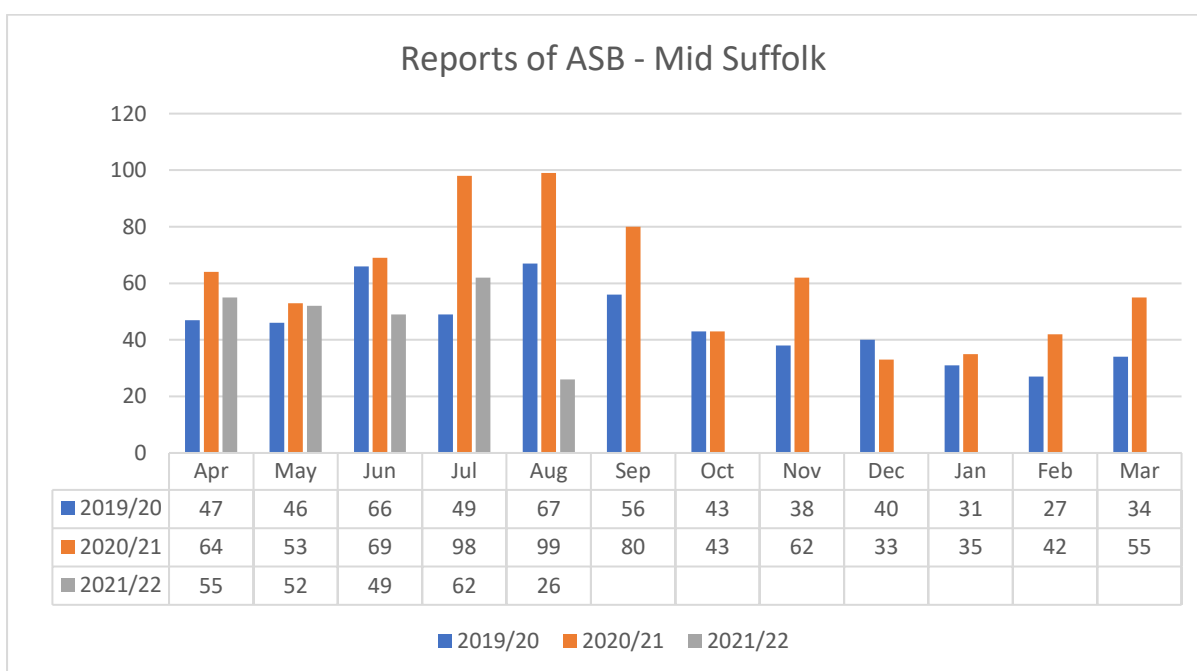
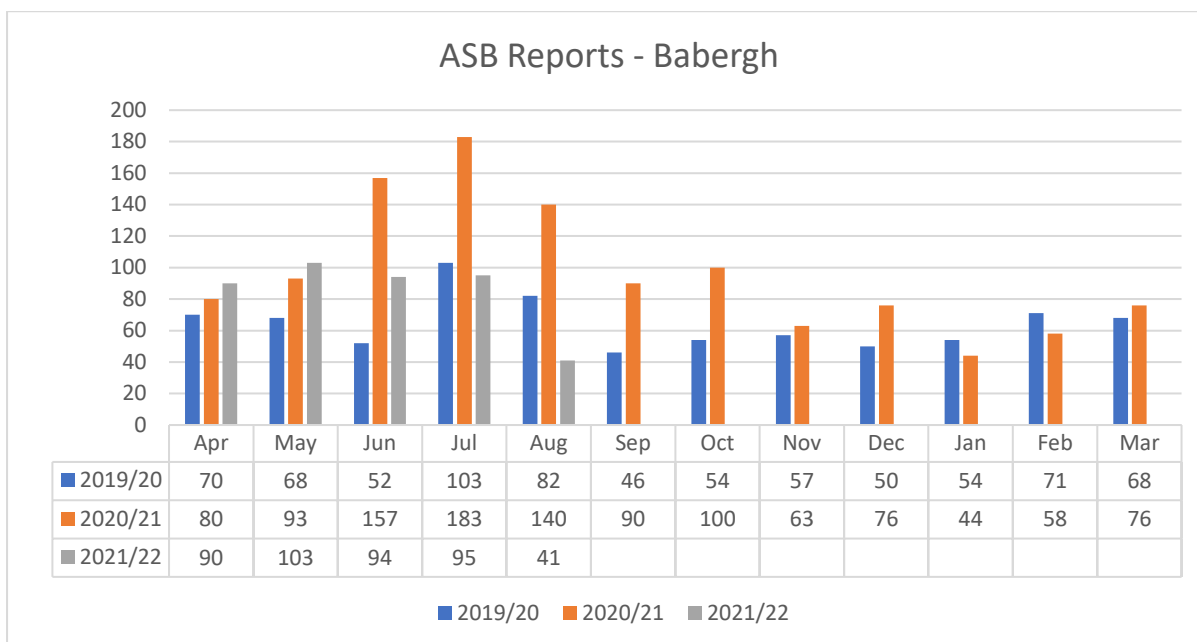
To address some of the challenges BMSDC has faced there has been significant step changes to both capacity and capability within community safety which has added resilience to the team.

3. Local Picture

Below are two charts, one for Babergh the other for Mid-Suffolk, which provide a snapshot of the ASB in these areas which show peaks during main summer months where incidents can be higher due to youths gathering and causing nuisance for example. There are, of course, other factors however seasonal ASB is a common feature nationally and is useful when doing a predictive case management study on where to deploy resources to most effect.

For clarity purposes, the data in the charts are representative of 'reports' made and recorded however, it is worth noting that not all reports will actually get promoted to a full case management status for a variety of reasons to include: -

- The report fails to meet the ASB definition.
- The report needs to be signposted to a different agency.
- There will be reports that require a quick and simple intervention without the necessity of going onto the case management system.
- It is possible that you get duplicate reports (usually this would be noise nuisance being reported on a frequent basis) which can distort the figures.



When we analyse the Suffolk crime stats for July 2020 to June 2021, we find that anti-social behaviour crime was the fastest growing crime and it increased by 18.4% over the last twelve months.

Part of the reasons for this have been alluded to earlier but other factors other than Covid 19 are likely to include: -

- People being less tolerant to ASB and reporting it, whereas in the past they may not have done so.
- Over the years better access to on-line reporting offered.
- Non- statutory agencies providing signposting to clients on who to report matters to.

- Promotional campaigns.
- Community Safety at BMSDC has improved its front-line service. A case in example during April 2016 to December 2020 no case reviews requested under the community trigger process. However, since the beginning of 2021 we have received 5 such requests.
- Improved recording of ASB. Here at BMSDC we now have Ecins as our case management.

Where does ASB 'sit' within the local picture within Suffolk?

For the period July 2020 to June 2021 Violent crime accounted for 39.7% of all reported crime in Suffolk.

In the same period ASB made up the 2nd largest number of reported crimes, accounting for 17.3%. So ASB accounts for more than 1 in every 6 crimes reported.

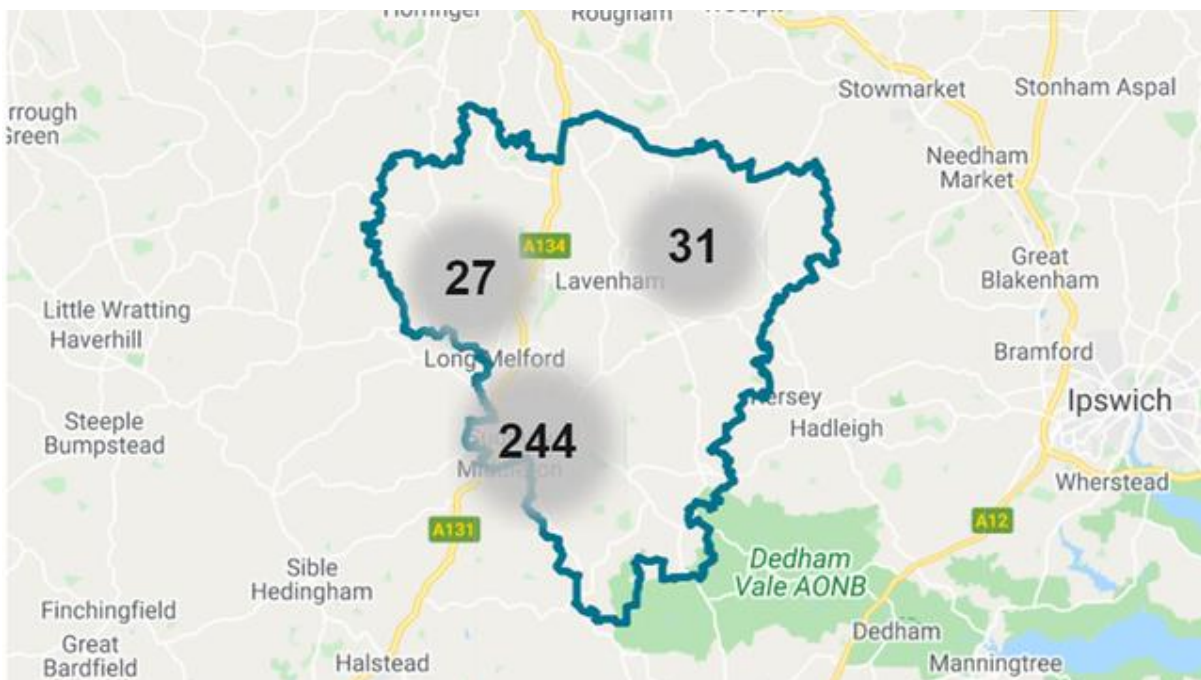
This number has increased by 18.4% when compared year-over-year in the period of July 2020 - June 2021.

Local Monthly comparison – June 20/ June 21

The latest crime figures released by Suffolk police show there was a drop in police activity in some areas of the region in June compared to a year ago. Even though last year the country remained under some lockdown restrictions in June 2020, there were more crimes reported to police than in June 2021.

Sudbury area

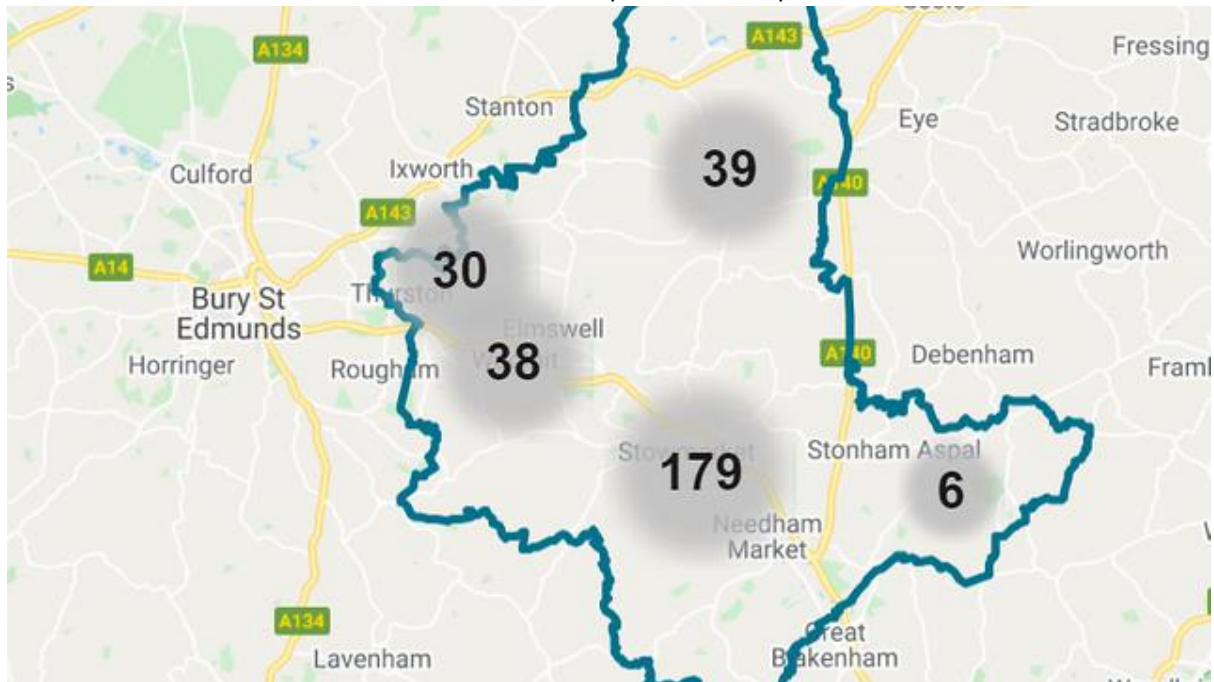
Throughout June 2021 there were 302 crimes reported to police which shows a positive decline from June 2020 when there were 400 crimes reported.



The most reported crime for Sudbury was violence and sexual offences - 119 reported. There were also 30 reports of criminal damage and arson within the area.

Stowmarket

The area has seen a fall in the number of crimes reported in comparison to June 2020.



There were 353 crimes reported in June 2020 compared to 292 in June 2021.

There has been a rise in the number of violence and sexual assaults reported with 139 reported in June 2021, compared to 128 in June 2020.

'Hot-spots'

Following the Stella Maris Inquiry 2020 by Anthony Douglas CBE, part of recommendation number 18 highlighted the placement of management to 'hot-spot' areas and an accompanying escalation process. To this end with the advent of Ecins we are now able to record and highlight areas which are either deemed 'temporary' or 'indefinite' in their nature.

Within the period I have held post the geographical areas that have been subject to most complaints are identified as: -

- Belle Vue Park, SUDBURY
- Minden Way/Cavendish Road- SUDBURY
- Pykenham Way- HADLEIGH
- Cats Lane, Great CORNARD

These are 'hot-spots' based on volume of reports not necessarily the content of the reports as they do vary.

In each of the areas given, appropriate measures have taken place (or continue to be) including diversionary arrangements and preventative measures (i.e., CCTV).

During 2021 the community safety team will extrapolate data and use this to focus on trends which includes hot-spot mapping and proactive management to these. Part of these will be to roll out perception surveys (street surveys) so that we gain an informed insight from the public on what the key areas are. This will enable us to deploy our resources more effectively.

4. Closed Circuit Television Video (CCTV) for Babergh area

The Council has statutory responsibilities under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to, “Do all that it reasonably can to prevent crime and disorder in its area.” Part of this can be connected to having an effective CCTV system, though it should be said this is a discretionary service.

However, it has been effective against various types of crime but particularly in reducing the fear of crime and one which the Community Safety team recognises and supports as part of a wider remit.

The current CCTV system was installed in 2000 and was deemed outdated. So, in July 2020 a report was produced to seek approval from Cabinet to upgrade the CCTV system and enter into a legal agreement to transfer the monitoring and maintenance arrangements to West Suffolk Council.

Significant points: -

- New town centre CCTV schemes in both Sudbury and Hadleigh are anticipated as going ‘live’ in August/September 2021.
- Capital funding (up to £183k) from BMSDC with annual contributions to the running costs (£42k/year) from Sudbury & Hadleigh Town Councils (£10k & £7.7k respectively).
- Monitoring/maintenance service delivered by West Suffolk Council’s CCTV monitoring facility.
- Suffolk Police led on the CCTV site location elements of the project.
- 18 CCTV locations in Sudbury
- 8 in Hadleigh.
- 1 new location in Minden Rd Sudbury is a residential area, predominantly to monitor ‘county lines’ type activities (but also other related ASB). Tenancy management have worked closely with the police to ensure the positioning of the camera provides as much information as possible, should it be required.
- 1 new location near Pykenham Way skatepark, Hadleigh, (an ASB hot spot).
- A further proposal for CCTV based within Belle Vue Park, Sudbury (in response to a recent spate of vandalism) is yet to gain full approval/revenue funding – (another ASB ‘hotspot’).

CCTV Operations Group comprising all stakeholders, to meet 3 times a year, coordinated by the author of this paper post late August 2021.

Recordings are categorised as follows: -

- **Serious Offences** –drugs/ rape/ ABH, robbery.
- **Minor Offences** – indecent exposure/shoplifting/criminal damage.
- **Traffic** – drink driving/no insurance/ section 59.
- **ASB** – Begging /fighting /public order.
- **Other** – vulnerable person / missing person / suicidal person.

At the time of writing this report we are not receiving reports in, as the system is still in its roll out stage. However, the quality of the CCTV footage has been seen and examined and is of exceptionally high standard which will further enhance the work of managing ASB in our communities and assist significantly the partnership working with the police.

The author of this paper will be leading the CCTV operational group to its conclusion expected in Autumn 2021 then a roll over review in 2022 to maintain cohesion and direction where necessitated.

Closed Circuit Television Video (CCTV) for Mid Suffolk area

Since around 2006 Mid-Suffolk have contracted direct to West Suffolk and have a part-time co-ordinator.

5. CASE STUDY –

At the inception of a referral being made by one of our customers it is signposted automatically to the correct service area.

However, there will be times when there will be a crossover of work in that the referral may need to be signposted to more than one area by its very nature.

BACKGROUND TO CASE

Individual male adult who suffered brain injury at a young age leaving him with mental health issues which affects his behaviour.

Placed in one of our BMSDC properties.

His behaviour was having a detrimental effect to the quality of life in those in the immediate area.

ACTION TAKEN

- Case reported via housing officer and opened onto case management system.
- RAM (Risk Assessment Matrix) taken, and case graded as 'HIGH' due to impact to complainant (who also had mental health issues) but also to consider potential harm to perpetrator.
- Housing officer to look at relocating subject away from area into supported care.
- Mental Health (NSFT) engaged.
- Headway (registered charity that specialises in people with brain injury) engaged.
- Regular attendance to address to gain further information on complainant.

OUTCOMES

The case warranted urgent attention but was compounded by the behaviour of the complainant whose actions were giving cause for concern by antagonising the perpetrator. As a result of this a separate course of action was taken against them by way of a sanction so to protect both parties.

The perpetrator has suicidal thoughts and through engagement with Probation and Headway we engineered a trigger identification for this person so that we could then counteract this with breaking the cycle to reduce this thought process whilst rewarding them to leading a better lifestyle.

6. ASB Multi-Agency Panel Meetings

We have a statutory duty under Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to consider the impact of all the functions and decisions on crime and disorder in our area and one way we comply with this is by hosting ASB Multi-Agency Panel meetings.

This is a platform where high risk/complex cases are raised to be discussed by fellow professionals from a multitude of backgrounds to include police, social services, Norfolk and Suffolk NHS, providers of social housing etc to highlight the concerns of an individual and the effect a case has on the community involved.

The ASB panel meetings have evolved over the last 12 months and been reviewed with -

- Increased frequency of meetings from bi-monthly to monthly.
- SMART approach adopted.
- Introduction of 'risk' matrix used to accentuate and allow escalation process to commence.

With the advent of ECINs we are looking to host panel meetings via this arrangement soon which will afford an improved efficiency on resources and specifically that of time management.
Data on cases held within the two panel meetings (last quarter).

DATE	BABERGH	MIDSUFFOLK
APRIL 2021	1 x Community Trigger, Neighbour Disputes, Drug Activity, Noise ASB 1 x Hoarding, Mental Health 1 x Domestic Violence, Noise ASB 4 x Mental Health 1 x NB, Animal Nuisance 1 x Alcohol Issues, Neighbour disputes 1 x Domestic Abuse, Drug Activity 1 x Drug Activity, Domestic Abuse, Alcohol Issues 1 x Vermin 1 x NR?	1 x Mental Health, Alcohol Issues 1 x Drug Activity, Mental Health 1 x Mental Health 1 x NB, Drug activity 1 x Mental Health 1 x Neighbour Disputes, Noise ASB, Waste, Animal Nuisance 1 x Drug Activity, Hoarding 1 x Illegal Encampment, Assault/Threat
TOTAL	13	8
MAY 2021	1 x Hoarding, Fire Risk 1 x Domestic Violence 1 x Mental Health, Noise ASB	1 x Mental Health 1 x Drug Activity, Cuckooing, Exploitation 1 x Missing Person
TOTAL	3	3
JUNE 2021	1 x Noise ASB, Drug Activity 1 x Neighbour Disputes, Alcohol Issues 1 x Fly Tipping 1 x Drug Activity	1 x Drug Activity, Cuckooing, Exploitation, Mental Health
TOTAL	4	1

7. Street based interventions

The Mix Stowmarket

The Mix is a youth work charity based in Stowmarket who work with young people from across Mid Suffolk and beyond. They are committed to effective partnerships with agencies, charities, and businesses to ensure young people can co-create and access the best youth work support available.

The Policy and Project Officer (Health and Wellbeing) in the Communities Team has been linking with The Mix on our Youth Social Prescribing Project as the organisation has already completed a lot of groundwork with Stowupland High School and local young people in Stowmarket and surrounding areas.

The Mix already works with other similar organisations such as The Porch in Hadleigh which is advantageous for us as our Youth Project will be linking with similar organisations throughout the two Districts. We continue to work closely with The Mix to help enhance the Youth Project with their guidance and expertise to support young people with their interests and concerns including their mental health wellbeing.

The Youth Project can also link with Safeguarding and Anti-Social Behaviour reduction as it gathers momentum and the community safety team have already earmarked this as a proactive measure to both promote the work the team is involved in but to lay foundations for future improvements within this important sector for the next generation.

Recently the community safety team combined on a collaborative basis to work with the Porch Project and Active Suffolk to focus on the younger generation to provide recreational activities in 'hot spot, in this case Belle Vue Park in Sudbury, to bring communities together and act as a diversionary means to those that caused problems within the area.

8. Mediation Services

Mediation was recognised as a tool to be offered as part of effective ASB management by the Stella Maris report and as such offers the opportunity to utilise an independent mechanism before considering taking more stringent action on cases involving ASB where a solution can be found by offering mediation to both parties.

Catch 22 was recognised for this need and have a background in working with the Police, Local Authorities and Housing Associations to provide a skilled, practical, flexible service focussed on resolving community conflict, unhampered by the constraints the referring professionals face.

The objectives for Catch 22 being: -

- To save referring officers time and resources by offering an independent service that gives residents the best possible chance of resolving their issues in a lasting way, reducing their need to call on the Council further now and in the future.
- To help residents find ways out of conflict, improve their wellbeing, and reduce stress by helping them to find resolution safely and constructively in the best way that their situation

allows. To aim for long lasting solutions leaving people better able to manage conflict in the future.

Catch 22 are a company known and respected nationally who we opened discussions with from early Spring with a view to securing a 12-month contract to offer up to 30 referrals being made during that period at a total cost of £12443.00 with a contract secured until 4th August 2022.

There will be a review in spring 2022 to establish the effectiveness of this arrangement with the option to extend for a further 12 months to Summer 2023.

9. ASB Awareness Week-Making Communities Safer

This was held between 19-25th July as part of a national campaign bringing people and organisations across the country together to take a stand against ASB and make communities safer.

This was recognised by the West Suffolk Community Safety Partnership as the ideal time to bring a uniform approach to the community trigger case review process and promote this to the more vulnerable groups by way of advertising and media campaigns.

BMSDC dedicated a page on our website to promote the campaign and was supported by representatives attending a 'Pop-Up' event in Sudbury to allow a face-to-face engagement with members of the public to consider their concerns, provide advice to and gather reports from and generally raise the profile of the ASB team.

During the period April 2016 to January 2021 no requests for a case review were made however since this date we have had 5 such requests showing the success of promoting our work to the community.

10. Closing statement

Work developed on ASB has in recent months gathered momentum and the improvements made has laid the foundations to meet both the legislative requirements imposed upon BMSDC but also the moral responsibility we behold to our customers.

There are challenges ahead that we face with confidence and the vision is to work even more effectively within the team as we engage and embrace our communities. We will endeavour to understand their issues and needs better, whilst offering a platform to them when required.

Importantly the facts and figures provided in this report support that we benefit in living in a low crime area statistically however, the ASB team will not remain reactively static but build on the successes to date and become more proactive to move forward and establish further innovative ways to engage, support and assist going forwards.

Agenda Item 12

BABERGH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PLAN 2021/22:

TOPIC	PURPOSE	LEAD OFFICER	CABINET MEMBER	PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED TO COMMITTEE
21 MARCH 2022 – JOINT				Chair: Cllr Mary McLaren
Crime and Disorder Panel meeting	The Committee conduct a scrutiny review of the SWSCP to fulfil the Councils Statutory requirements	Assistant Director – Communities and Wellbeing Community Safety Professional Lead - Communities	BDC Cabinet Member for Communities MSDC Cabinet Member for Communities	22 March 2021 JOS/20/17
25 APRIL 2022 – JOINT				Chair: Cllr Keith Welham
Draft Empty Homes Policy	A review of the Draft Empty Homes Policy.	Assistant Director - Housing	Cabinet Members for Housing	
Work Plan Planning	To consider and establish topics for the coming year Including Representative on Outside Bodies	Assistant Director Law and Governance		
23 MAY 2022 - JOINT				Chair: Cllr Mary McLaren
Review of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2020/21	Review of the work conducted throughout 2020/21 – Lessons learnt, improvements and achievements	Corporate Manager – Democratic Services Senior Governance Support Officer		
27 JUNE 2022 – JOINT				Chair: Cllr Keith Welham
CIFCO Performance Report and Business Plan	To scrutinise the Business Plan	Assistant Director for Assets and Investment	Cabinet Member for Assets and Investments	28 June 2021 JOS/21/2
18 JULY 2022				
The Infrastructure Delivery Plan	Scrutiny of the infrastructure Delivery plan before being presented to Cabinet.	Assistant Director for Planning and Building Control Professional Lead for Key Sites and Infrastructure		

22 AUGUST 2022				
19 SEPTEMBER 2022				
24 OCTOBER 2022				

Topics identified for review but not currently timetabled:

Improving Access to the Private Rented Sector - Chairs to discuss the timing for bringing this to Committee

Scrutiny of the delivery of services for Transport for both Town and rural areas.

The Census reports to be scrutinised in 2022

Scrutiny process with SCC for Anti-Social Behaviour - To be considered for between December 2021 and February 2022.

Other topics identified:

- Suggestion: Scrutiny of ABS projects and policies – Suggested at the meeting on the 22 March 2021
- Review of Suffolk Association of Local Councils (SALC) and the support they provide to Parishes across Babergh and Mid Suffolk.
- Information Bulletin updating Members on the Electronic Complaints system.
- Scrutiny of the Cabinets’ Communication and Sharing of Information
- Stella Maris Review
- Land Adoptions Policy
- Information Bulletin on the cost of maintenance of tenanted properties.

Agenda Item 13

MID SUFFOLK OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PLAN 2021/22:

TOPIC	PURPOSE	LEAD OFFICER	CABINET MEMBER	PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED TO COMMITTEE
21 MARCH 2022 – JOINT			Chair: Cllr Mary McLaren	
Crime and Disorder Panel meeting	The Committee conduct a scrutiny review of the SWSCP to fulfil the Councils Statutory requirements	Assistant Director – Communities and Wellbeing Community Safety Professional Lead - Communities	BDC Cabinet Member for Communities MSDC Cabinet Member for Communities	22 March 2021 JOS/20/17
25 APRIL 2022 – JOINT			Chair: Cllr Keith Welham	
Draft Empty Homes Policy	A review of the Draft Empty Homes Policy.	Assistant Director - Housing	Cabinet Members for Housing	
Work Plan Planning	To consider and establish topics for the coming year Including Representative on Outside Bodies	Assistant Director Law and Governance		
19 MAY 2022 – JOINT			Chair: Cllr Mary McLaren	
Review of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2020/21	Review of the work conducted throughout 2020/21 – Lessons learnt, improvements and achievements	Corporate Manager – Democratic Services Senior Governance Support Officer		
27 JUNE 2022 – JOINT			Chair: Cllr Keith Welham	
CIFCO Performance Report and Business Plan	To scrutinise the Business Plan	Assistant Director for Assets and Investment	Cabinet Member for Assets and Investments	28 June 2021 JOS/21/2
14 JULY 2022				
The Infrastructure Delivery Plan	Scrutiny of the infrastructure Delivery plan before being presented to Cabinet.	Assistant Director for Planning and Building Control Professional Lead for Key Sites and Infrastructure		
18 AUGUST 2022				

15 SEPTEMBER 2022				
20 OCTOBER 2022				

Topics identified for review but not currently timetabled:

Crime and Disorder Panel meeting

Required to take place at least once a year, provisionally agreed to take place in March 2022.

Improving Access to the Private Rented Sector - Chairs to discuss the timing for bringing this to Committee

Scrutiny of the delivery of services for Transport for both Town and rural areas.

Scrutiny of the Infrastructure Delivery Plan

The Census reports to be scrutinised in 2022

Scrutiny process with SCC for Anti-Social Behaviour - To be considered for between December 2021 and February 2022.

Other topics identified:

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