

## Appendix A

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### Public Protection Partnership Priorities - Supporting Information

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#### 1.0 Background

- 1.1 The Inter-Authority Agreement that was agreed by the Council's on the 6<sup>th</sup> January 2017 contained a set of initial priorities. These had been drawn from the cross cutting and local priorities of the Councils. A summary of these can be found at **Appendix C** to this report. It is the view of the Joint Management Board and the Service Management Team that these remain relevant and provide a suitable basis for the Committee to deliver a service that is adaptable to local need and national and local policy trends and requirements.
- 1.3 At its inaugural meeting in March 2017 the Committee agreed to the adoption of the National Intelligence Model (NIM). At the heart of NIM is the need for an assessment of priorities based on the information at the time of preparation including a full examination of existing and emerging local and national priorities. This report puts before the Committee a Strategic Assessment which proposes a set of priorities for the service for the next 21 months. It is important to state that whilst priorities can be established at any given point in time, the situation remains dynamic and the service needs to be responsive to any change in local or nationally led demand. The most obvious example of this would be the ongoing role the service is playing in responding to the Covid19 pandemic and the uncertainty caused by variants of concern. Other examples of this would include large scale investigations, food poisoning outbreaks or an animal disease outbreak.

#### 2.0 Public Protection Service – Protecting Our Communities

- 2.1 The remit of the Public Protection has been brought into stark focus by the Covid19 pandemic which has shown the perhaps unique role it plays between community protection and its importance in the functioning of the local economy, often operating at the interface of those two aspects of the Covid response. Beyond this it is, at its central core, a law enforcement / regulatory body covering everything from private water supplies to smuggling and food safety to national fraud matters. Its sphere of influence is as wide as its remit and the Service is uniquely placed to deliver the services against the widest possible range of local priorities.
- 2.2 The Service operates in a local and national policy setting. Some matters such as air quality, fraud and private sector housing are matters of both local and national policy concerns. Others such as licensing (whilst having a national policy drive) maintain a distinctly local feel as priorities.
- 2.3 The Public Protection Partnership has a range of tools at its disposal to deliver against local and national priorities. As stated in 2.1 above it is primarily an enforcement service tasked with enforcing over a 100 pieces of primary and

enabling Acts of Parliament as well as many hundreds of pieces of secondary regulations, standards etc.

- 2.4 Effective legislative controls however have context and so it is with much of what the PPP are tasked to deliver. A lot of the work undertaken is statutory but the law, with a few notable exceptions e.g. food and feed, nuisance etc., does not lay down how the service is delivered. That is a matter for the Joint Public Protection Committee.
- 2.5 The approach of the Service Management Team in developing the work plan and priorities has been to look at the context of the law in the local setting and to consider how the primary aims of the legislation can best be delivered.
- 2.6 We have also looked carefully at how we can work with other key partners including the many internal partners such as Housing, Waste, Highways, Planning, Community Safety, Public Health and Adult Safeguarding Teams. Externally we work routinely with a range of partners including Thames Valley Police, National Trading Standards Board, Trading Standards South East Ltd and Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue.
- 2.7 Furthermore we have looked at the opportunities to increase capacity and resilience through working with others. The Joint Case Management Unit as an example serves all parties well by producing a critical mass of expertise. Other examples have been to apply for and be awarded grants in specific areas such as investigation and more recently the important £259K grant for air quality work.
- 2.8 The Service works in accordance with the National Intelligence Model and at its heart is the intelligence function and strategic and tactical tasking processes to keep under review resource and operational issues on a regular basis. There is also a project planning process that looks at how each priority areas can be addressed through:
  - **Prevention** – ensuring the public and businesses have the information they need to take informed choices to reduce detriment.
  - **Intelligence** – encourage reporting in priority areas and deploy the intelligence to ensure effective use of resources to tackle local detriment.
  - **Enforcement** – deploy enforcement as a tool to defend our communities including businesses and the wider economy from harm.

**2.9 Example 1 – Scams Doorstep Crime**

Scams and Doorstep Crime are two of the most aggressive forms of acquisitive crime. They are often linked to money laundering, forced labour and organised crime groups. It also often presents significant safeguarding issues with victims all too readily subject to ongoing financial abuse that effects their mental health and overall feeling of wellbeing and safety.

The approach taken by the Service looks at the issue from three angles. Prevention, Intelligence and Enforcement. Examples of tasks in these groupings are as follows:

Prevention	Intelligence	Enforcement
Working with community groups No cold calling zones	Intelligence gathering through patrols and reports	Rapid Action Team (RAT)
Routine Doorstep Crime Patrols	Suspect and victim profiling	Integrated operating model with TVP
Working with partner organisations e.g. TVP	Encouraging reporting through publicity and community engagement	Working with south east regional crime unit and HMRC
Publicity around successful detections and prosecutions	Actively looking for modern slavery and other forms of coercive behaviour	Specialist Acquisitive Crime Team
Referrals to and from safeguarding Teams		Financial Investigation for money laundering and confiscation
Fraud Victim Support Officer		Case Management

**2.10 Example 2 - Alcohol and Tobacco Control**

This is an area of national and local policy concern. The market is heavily regulated and local authorities have significant powers to act in particular around marketing and access. It is known that in respect of both products early understanding of risk by young people combined with a robust compliance regime can have significant effects on reducing consumption with the associated risks to health and effects on communities through alcohol related anti-social behaviour and crime. In this area of our work the approach includes:

Prevention	Intelligence	Enforcement
Licensing Act Policy	Consideration of complaints and SR's	Licensing Inspections

Careful consideration of licence conditions	Annual Pupil Survey	Trading standards test purchasing
Year 6 (Tobacco) and Year 9 (Alcohol and Tobacco) programme in schools	Working with Schools to identify risk premises	Enforcement: including seizure of counterfeit and smuggled goods
Production of a Tobacco Control Plan	Working with TVP licensing and Community Safety Teams	Licence Reviews and Member Training
Advisory visits to retailers	Responsible authority role	Legal actions
Community Alcohol Partnerships		
Member Training		

### 2.13 Example 3 – Air Quality

This is an area of national and local policy concern. The Service has been successful in securing a £259K grant to expand our particulate monitoring and community engagement work as well recent decisions to introduce idling enforcement and road side vehicle emissions testing. This in turn supports our work on Nitrous Oxide (NO) monitoring as well as the annual Air Quality Management Area Status Reports.

Prevention	Intelligence	Enforcement
Work with schools to raise awareness of air quality issues	Monitoring Nitrous Oxide Levels	Enforcement of idling provisions
Linking with individual climate change agendas.	Introduction of PM2,5 surveillance in all three areas (Wokingham already has some)	Road side emissions testing
Advice for residents and businesses on matters such as vehicle idling.	Encourage reporting of matters that may affect air quality.	Action against unlawful commercial sources of particulates.
Links to licensing agendas such promoting green taxi / private hire fleets		

2.12 These three examples are indicative of how the priorities can be addressed in practice. In essence we examine the evidence base, look at the problem from all angles and then develop an holistic approach to tackling the problem. This model enables us to work broadly across the Councils agendas by protecting the most vulnerable and communities more widely, protecting and improving health, protecting the environment and through assisting business to achieve compliance and protecting from unfair competition we are able to help strengthen the local economy.

2.13 There are also a number of cross cutting priorities identified for the Service. These include the original cross-cutting priorities:

- E-crime – this cuts across licensing and fair trading and environmental protection issues.
- Protection of vulnerable adults and children – this cuts across many aspects of the Service including scams, fraud, alcohol and tobacco, housing, food standards and safety etc.
- The priority area around modern slavery has been extended to include the broader priority of Safeguarding and includes modern slavery.

Two new priority areas have be introduced namely:

- Climate change – which encompasses our air quality work but also includes housing work around cold homes and energy efficiency and trading standards areas such as green energy fraud and energy performance certification as well the climate change agenda's potential links to licensing.
- Safer Streets – This has many links across licensing and trading standards and connects with the cross cutting agendas around safeguarding and protection of vulnerable adults and children. In West Berkshire Council the Team is working closely with the newly appointed Safer Streets Champion.

### 3.0 Developing the Priorities

3.1 An assessment has taken place to develop the priorities for the Service. This has included an analysis of service requests, consumer complaints about traders, and enquiries from businesses. We have also analysed the outcomes from the output of last year's work streams.

3.2 Local, regional and national priorities have also been considered alongside emerging priorities. Locally sources have included each Councils priorities, strategic needs assessment and local crime related matters. Nationally sources have included government departments such as BEIS, DEFRA and DCLG, NGO's such as the Food Standards Agency, Environment Agency and

Health and Safety Executive as well as co-ordinating bodies such as the National Trading Standards Board and Trading Standards South East.

- 3.3 Local priorities have also featured where non cross service initiatives will continue to be delivered. These include enviro-crime, London Road Landfill Site, abandoned vehicles, fly-tipping and issues such a road traffic overloading and weight restriction enforcement.
- 3.4 The Priorities also include matters that are described as cross-cutting such as safeguarding, e-crime and organised crime.
- 3.5 There are many aspects of the Service that do not feature in these plans. The so-called *business as usual* aspects of our work. These include areas like inspections, service requests, business advice, investigations etc. These remain as important as the priority areas in terms of addressing local need. On a day to day basis they integrate with the model as the examples shown above indicate.

#### 4.0 Delivering against the Priorities

- 4.1 If agreed the work plan will be delivered through a programme delivery model. In essence work streams will be and are being developed into project plans based on established project management principles. These will be delivered at team and project group level and monitored by the Joint Management Board and Service Management Team. Operational risks will be identified and the Strategic Tasking Group ensures appropriate resourcing and oversight.
- 4.2 Performance reporting will be an inherent part of the programme delivery model to sit alongside other areas of performance reporting such as response times and satisfaction ratings. The IAA also contained performance themes such as reducing detriment. Measures have been developed for these and an update on this appears elsewhere on this agenda.

## Equality Impact Assessment – Stage One

<b>What is the proposed decision that you are asking the Committee to make:</b>	To consider the 2021/23 Priorities and Work Plan for the PPP
<b>Summary of relevant legislation:</b>	See report
<b>Does the proposed decision conflict with any of the partnerships key objectives?</b>	No
<b>Name of assessor:</b>	Sean Murphy
<b>Date of assessment:</b>	01/06/2021

<b>Is this a:</b>		<b>Is this:</b>	
<b>Policy</b>	✓	<b>New or proposed</b>	✓
<b>Strategy</b>		<b>Already exists and is being reviewed</b>	
<b>Function</b>		<b>Is changing</b>	
<b>Service</b>			

<b>1. What are the main aims, objectives and intended outcomes of the proposed decision and who is likely to benefit from it?</b>	
<b>Aims:</b>	To set out the 2021/23 priorities for the PPP
<b>Objectives:</b>	This documents forms the basis of the work of the PPP for 2021/23 and sits alongside the food plan (to be presented in September). They are based on an assessment of intelligence and policy at the time of writing. By their nature they are designed to address the needs of local communities.
<b>Outcomes:</b>	A focussed locally delivered public protection service relevant to the needs of local communities and of all protected groups.
<b>Benefits:</b>	The delivery of the key PPP priorities of:  Community Protection and in particular the protection of the vulnerable Protecting and Improving Health Protection of the Environment Supporting Economic Growth Improving and Efficient Service Delivery

<b>2. Note which groups may be affected by the proposed decision. Consider how they may be affected, whether it is positively or negatively and what sources of information have been used to determine this.</b> (Please demonstrate consideration of all strands – Age, Disability, Gender Reassignment, Marriage and Civil Partnership, Pregnancy and Maternity, Race,
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Religion or Belief, Sex and Sexual Orientation.)		
Group Affected	What might be the effect?	Information to support this
Age	None	
Disability	None	
Gender Reassignment	None	
Marriage and Civil Partnership	None	
Pregnancy and Maternity	None	
Race	None	
Religion or Belief	None	
Sex	None	
Sexual Orientation	None	
Further Comments relating to the item:		

3. Result	
Are there any aspects of the proposed decision, including how it is delivered or accessed, that could contribute to inequality?	No
Please provide an explanation for your answer: The premises are accessibility compliant.	
Will the proposed decision have an adverse impact upon the lives of people, including employees and service users?	No