
Public Protection Partnership Priorities 2021 to 2023 – Refresh

Committee considering report:	Joint Public Protection Committee
Date of Committee:	13 March 2023
Chair of Committee:	Councillor Tom Marino
Report Author:	Sean Murphy
Forward Plan Ref:	JPPC4192

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To set out to the Committee emerging priorities and seek approval to update the Strategic Assessment approved by this Committee in June 2021 and extend until 31st March 2024.

2. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Committee:

- 2.1 **CONSIDERS** the emerging priorities set out in this report;
- 2.2 **RESOLVES** that the PPP Strategic Assessment of June 2021 be updated to reflect these emerging priorities; and
- 2.3 **RESOLVES** that the updated Strategic Assessment form the basis of the PPP priorities for 2023/24.

3. Implications and Impact Assessment

Implication	Commentary
Financial:	<p>These activities will be met from the base revenue budget or in those cases identified in the report from specific grants.</p> <p>Where appropriate, grants such as support for public health related activity or investigations will be sought and used to deliver the key work streams set out in this report. Working with other authorities as part of shared working arrangements to deliver efficiencies and effectiveness will also feature as a key priority.</p>
Human Resource:	<p>There are no specific staffing issues arising from the priorities set out in this report.</p> <p>Recruitment does, however, remain difficult and as set out in the Service Plan and Workforce Strategy before this Committee in January 2023 we have invested significantly in Apprenticeships (appointed four Level 4 Trainees) and Level 6 qualifications for</p>

	existing staff to become Environment Health Officers and Trading Standards Officers.
Legal:	<p>The functions delegated to the Joint Committee by the Councils have their basis in statute. In this respect many are statutory duties placed on the Councils. In some areas (such as food safety and standards, health and safety etc.) there is a high level of prescription about how elements of the service are delivered.</p> <p>In some areas there is a high degree of flexibility for local policy making. This paper invites Members to update the service priorities to meet prevailing need.</p>
Risk Management:	Project Management Methodology will enable early identification of operational risks. The biggest single risks are income and staffing (see above). Addressing both of these are service priorities.
Property:	None specifically arising from these proposals. The issue of accommodation and rationalisation of accommodation remains a priority for the service. As Bracknell and West Berkshire move to a rationalised property strategy and new working styles the service will look at its property requirements and in particular the role that the Theale Office is playing as a central delivery point.
Policy:	It is a key responsibility of the Joint Committee as set out in the Inter Authority Agreement (IAA) to set the strategic direction and priorities for the service. The Committee has approved two previous assessments of priorities. The proposed updated priorities before the Committee today build on these previous documents and also seek to address the IAA priorities set out at Appendix A .

4. Background

- 4.1 At the meeting of the Joint Public Protection Committee in June 2021 the Committee considered and approved the priorities for 2021/23. A copy of the Strategic Assessment at that time can be found here: [PPP STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT \(westberks.gov.uk\)](https://www.westberks.gov.uk/PPP-Strategic-Assessment).
- 4.2 The focus at that time included an emphasis on Covid response and recovery. Since then there have been a number of changes and factors that have affected the priorities of the service and these include:
- Wokingham Borough Council leaving the Public Protection Partnership (PPP) and forming a new shared service for trading standards, case management etc.
 - The Homes for Ukraine Scheme which has seen us involved in over 300 accommodation checks in Bracknell and West Berkshire as well as welfare checks in West Berkshire and hosting the Ukraine Hub.

- The challenges to residents and business faced by high energy costs and increased cost of living related issues. We have also hosted the Cost of Living Hub for West Berkshire.

4.3 In addition there have been a number of legislative changes; local and national policy changes and funding opportunities. This report sets out those changes and proposes that the existing Strategic Assessment be update to reflect the changes. It is also proposed that the updated version from the basis of the operational delivery priorities for 2023/24. For ease they have been broken down by priority areas in the 2021/23 assessment.

4.4 The proposed changes set out at **Appendix B** and **Appendix C** do not replace existing programmes unless indicated but set out more up to date context of the work-streams identified in the 2021 Strategic Assessment.

4.5 It is proposed that all the existing Strategic Assessment cross-cutting priorities remain the same as follows:

- eCrime;
- Climate Change and Environmental Protection;
- Protecting Vulnerable Adults and Children;
- Safeguarding;
- Safer Streets.

4.6 It is proposed that a new cross-cutting priority is added, namely

- Protecting and Improving Health

4.7 **Appendix B** sets out the additions and changes to existing priorities and **Appendix C** sets out new priority areas.

5. Conclusions

5.1 The proposed changes in this report are in some cases required by a change in law or policy or a change in demand. Examples include the Cost of Living, Homes for Ukraine and latterly increased focus on 'damp and mould'.

5.2 The PPP faces significant challenges in demands for the service and also matters that arise that were unforeseen such as the H4U or Covid response. The service has proved itself as agile and able to adapt at short notice. This is helped by the structure which means that we have the tools in place to adapt such as the intelligence, customer service, policy and communication functions.

5.3 There will no doubt be further changes in year and the service will continue to update the Committee at each meeting.

5.4 The Committee is asked to consider the proposed changes / additions to service priority areas and then amend and/or approve.

6. Appendices

8.1 Appendix A – IAA Priorities

8.2 Appendix B – Proposed Changes to Existing Priorities

8.3 Appendix C – Proposed Additions to Existing Priorities

Background Papers:

1. Strategic Assessment – June 2021
2. PPP Work Plan – December 2021
3. PPP Service Plan – January 2023

PPP Strategic Aims Supported:

The proposals will help achieve the following Public Protection Partnership aims as stated in the Inter Authority Agreement:

- 1 – **Community Protection**
- 2 – **Protecting and Improving Health**
- 3 – **Protection of the Environment**
- 4 – **Supporting Prosperity and Economic Growth**
- 5 – **Effective and Improving Service Delivery**

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