

**TOURISM, COMMUNITIES, CULTURE & LEISURE COMMITTEE****Thursday, 21 January 2021**

<b>REPORT TITLE:</b>	<b>COMMUNITY SAFETY STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT UPDATE</b>
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	<b>DIRECTOR OF NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES</b>

**REPORT SUMMARY**

This report outlines the development process for the Community Safety Strategy which will cover the period 2021-2025.

The report details the thematic framework within which the strategy will operate. These themes include;

- Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)
- Crime and Violence Reduction
- Modern Slavery
- Hate Crime
- Emergency Planning
- Road Safety
- Community Safety

In addition, the report presents the innovative approach to building the strategy in a collaborative, co-produced way with our partners. The strategy will be developed by working in partnership with key organisations across the borough to ensure comprehensive buy-in across the statutory, business, voluntary and community sectors and as a consequence, maximise the impact/outcomes of the strategy and our combined efforts to make a difference in our communities.

This report will affect all wards in the borough.

**RECOMMENDATION/S**

The recommendations of this report are that:

- The committee note the contents of the report.
- The committee endorse the co-production approach to developing the strategy

## **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

### **1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S**

- 1.1 It is considered best practice to adopt the innovative co-production methodology in developing the strategy.
- 1.2 This approach will produce better, long-lasting results, impacting significantly on safety and the feelings of safety for Wirral and its residents.

### **2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 2.1 Other options include developing the strategy as a single organisation. In effect, Wirral Council producing the strategy and then presenting it to partners. This was discounted as to ensure full partner buy-in and, in turn, maximum impact and improved outcomes for our local communities, requires the co-production methodology.

### **3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 3.1 Traditionally the Community Safety Strategy would be written solely by the Council and shared with partners in draft form, before final production.
- 3.2 Adopting a more innovative co-production model of strategy development, enables partner organisations to be heavily involved in developing the strategy. Partners can then take ownership of one or more component parts and feel more invested in ensuring that together, the delivery is stronger and gains maximum impact for our residents, businesses and communities.
- 3.3 In previous years, the Community Safety Strategy would tie-in directly to the Wirral Plan 2020 and describe delivery focused on Pledges 7 (Zero Tolerance to Domestic Abuse) and 19 (Wirral Neighbourhoods are Safe) respectively.
- 3.4 The new Community Safety Strategy will align to the Council's current Wirral Plan 2025. This Plan is currently being refreshed to reflect COVID, and to align with emerging Recovery Plans. Discussions are also ongoing with partner agencies to build on this Plan and agree the Wirral Partnership Plan 2025. This partnership approach fits seamlessly with the co-production method adopted here for the new Community Safety Strategy.
- 3.5 The co-production process will involve working closely with as wide a range of partners as possible to ensure the broadest possible coverage of our communities and local organisations.
- 3.6 The partners are many and co-production will ensure engagement with statutory organisations, emergency services, voluntary, community, faith, BAME and disability sectors, local residents, older people and young people, elected members, road safety partnerships, housing, mental health and domestic abuse organisations and the local business sector.

- 3.7 See attached **Appendix 1 ‘Community Strategy Roadmap’** which details the time frame for the implementation of the co-production process, leading up to the completed strategy date in April 2021.
- 3.8 This report provides an overview of the Community Safety Strategy, drawing on the main thematic drivers to help shape the process.
- 3.9 The process will utilise co-production methods, similar to that employed successfully in developing the recent Domestic Abuse Strategy.
- 3.10 It also builds on the collaborative approach developed throughout the current COVID pandemic. Community partnership work during the pandemic has achieved real results and the aim is to harness this learning to help build an outcome-rich, more inclusive Community Safety Strategy.
- 3.11 The thematic drivers include the following:
- Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)
  - Crime and Violence Reduction
  - Hate Crime
  - Modern Slavery
  - Community Safety
  - Domestic Abuse
  - Emergency Planning
  - Road Safety
- 3.12 Each of these themes will develop its own sub-strategy that will feed into the overall Community Safety Strategy.

The diagram below illustrates the nine key themes that will feed into the overall strategy.

## COMMUNITY SAFETY STRATEGY



### 3.11 The themes and a brief description of each.

- Modern Slavery - the illegal exploitation of people for personal or commercial gain, covering a wide range of abuse and exploitation, including sexual exploitation domestic servitude, forced labour, criminal exploitation and organ harvesting.
- Hate Crime – acts of violence or hostility (verbal and physical abuse/harassment/ threats/hoax calls/on-line abuse/graffiti /arson/malicious complaints) directed at people because of who they are or someone thinks they are. Hate incidents are typically but not exclusively based on disability, race, religion, transgender identity, sexual orientation.
- Crime and Violence Reduction – typically drug possession and trafficking, burglary (car/house/other), property and public order offences, threat or actual physical harm resulting in injury, death or psychological harm.
- Community Safety – this is more of a preventative measure, ensuring we talk to our residents, businesses and communities to ensure their safety and that they feel able and confident to share and report incidents. It also involves taking preventative measures and early actions to ensure people feel safe in their communities.

- Road Safety – this is not only about the technical and engineering aspects of our highways but also keeping pedestrians and road users safe, tying into the Neighbourhood Engagement theme. It may range from traffic flows and lights, installing new crossings, ensuring adequate street lighting, traffic calming measures, road user education and enabling residents to report any faults/concerns at the earliest opportunity.
- Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) – to reduce low-level crime and ‘misdemeanours’ to include breach of the peace, quadbike/pushbike/trial bike theft and misuse, petty theft, drunk and disorderly, noise pollution, neighbourhood disputes, graffiti and a multitude of other nuisance behaviours.
- Domestic Abuse – controlling and coercive or threatening behaviour, violence or abuse within a family setting. It can take the form of psychological, physical, sexual, financial or emotional abuse.  
Wirral have developed a co-produced Domestic Abuse Strategy.
- Emergency Planning - identifying potential risk and putting in place plans to prevent incidents occurring or to reduce, control and mitigate the effects should they happen. Typically plans are in place for weather extremes (winter/summer), business continuity, evacuations (fire/flood/other), natural disasters, chemical plants, major events, terrorism and extremes like the current COVID pandemic.

#### **4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report

#### **5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

#### **6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: STAFFING, ICT AND ASSETS**

- 6.1 The strategy and the co-production approach will be delivered within existing resources.

#### **7.0 RELEVANT RISKS**

- 7.1 There is a risk that partners won't fully engage. This is mitigated by the already established healthy partnership between the key players, brought closer together in recent months to tackle the COVID pandemic.

#### **8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION**

- 8.1 The primary aim of this report is to share the co-production intent in delivering a fully rounded and formed Community Safety Strategy. A co-production that adopts best practice in community and partnership engagement to not only produce better

shared outputs but working together to share knowledge and in doing so, finds ways of putting that knowledge to best use.

## **9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1 Wirral Council has a legal requirement to make sure its policies, and the way it carries out its work, do not discriminate against anyone. An Equality Impact Assessment is a tool to help council services identify steps they can take to ensure equality for anyone who might be affected by a particular policy, decision or activity.

## **10.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS**

- 10.1 The implications are to be developed. However, in developing the strategy environmental and climate considerations will be at the forefront of the strategic thinking in key areas, to include vehicular use, Emergency Planning for extreme weather, carbon footprint reductions in traffic/lighting installations and using local suppliers and Social Value considerations in any procurement exercise.

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## **APPENDICES**

Appendix 1 Community Strategy Roadmap

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

1. Wirral Domestic Abuse Strategy
2. Wirral Community Safety Strategy 2016-20

## **SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)**

<b>Council Meeting</b>	<b>Date</b>