



Community Leadership and Libraries Committee

20th June 2022

Title	Community Safety Strategy Public Consultation Update: Approval to proceed to drafting and implementing a new Community Safety Strategy for 2022-2027
Report of	Chair of the Community Leadership and Libraries Committee
Wards	All
Status	Public
Urgent	No
Key	Non key
Enclosures	None offered
Officer Contact Details	Matt Leng, Community Safety Manager, 0208 359 2995 Matt.Leng@barnet.gov.uk

Summary

This report provides the Community Leadership and Libraries Committee with a summary of the Community Consultation feedback for a new Community Safety Strategy for 2022-2027 and invites the Committee to approve officers to proceed in drafting and implementing a new Community Safety Strategy for Barnet which will be shared at the Safer communities Partnership Board in July 2022.

Officers Recommendations

1. That the Community Leadership and Libraries Committee note and comment on the summarised feedback following the public consultation undertaken between January and March 2022.
2. That the Community Leadership and Libraries Committee is also requested to give their approval to officers to conclude drafting a new Community Safety Strategy for Barnet for 2022-2027 and share this draft at the Safer Communities and Partnership Board in July 2022 for approval and implementation.

1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED

1.1 There is need to redefine the current position for the Barnet Community Safety Strategy. Following the May 5th Local Elections, Barnet has a new Labour administration, who have made various commitments around delivering a 'Safer Barnet' in addition the London Mayor's 'Policing and Crime Plan for 2022-2025 for Londoners' has now been published

1.2 WHAT IS THE CURRENT LONDON AND BARNET COMMUNITY SAFETY STRATEGY STATUS'?

1.2.1 The current strategy is the 2015-2020 strategy which, due to the impact of Covid19, was authorised by the Mayor's Officer for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) to remain in place until after the deferred Mayoral election and then Mayor's Police Crime Plan consultation and new strategy being launched – (Dec 2021-March2022 respectively).

1.2.2 On the 24th March 2022 The Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, has published his plan for policing and keeping Londoners safe during this Mayoral term. Following consultation with nearly 4,000 Londoners, victims of crime, agencies, community groups and businesses, the Mayor's Police and Crime Plan sets out his vision for a city in which Londoners are safer – and feel safer.

1.2.3 The four key themes of the Mayor's Plan are:

- **Reducing and preventing violence** – preventing and reducing violence affecting young people; making London a city in which women and girls are safer and feel safer; tackling the harm caused by drugs; reducing reoffending by the most violent and high-risk groups; preventing hate crime; and working together to prevent terrorism and violent extremism.
- **Increasing trust and confidence** – increasing public trust in the MPS and reducing gaps in confidence between different groups; ensuring that the MPS engages with Londoners and treats them fairly; and ensuring that the MPS, borough councils and all community safety partners respond to neighbourhood crimes such as burglary and anti-social behaviour.
- **Better supporting victims** – improving the service and support that victims receive from the MPS and the criminal justice service; working to ensure victims receive a better criminal justice response and outcome; and reducing the number of repeat victims of domestic abuse and sexual violence.
- **Protecting people from being exploited or harmed** – reducing the number of young people and adults who are criminally exploited or harmed; keeping young people in the justice system supported and safe; and keeping people safe online.

1.3 The current priorities and intended outcomes for the Barnet 2015-2020 strategy are:

1.3.1 The overarching objectives:

- To provide a victim centred approach to victims of crime and antisocial behaviour.
- To maintain reductions in crime and anti-social behaviour.
- To improve the perception of Barnet as a safe place to live, work and visit.
- The Safer Community Partnership ensures the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults affected by crime and anti-social behaviour.

1.3.2 Priority intended outcomes:

- 1. Residents and businesses feel confident that the police and council respond to crime and ASB in their area.*
- 2. Residents and businesses are engaged and informed about community safety and the action we have taken in their area.*
- 3. The Safer Communities Partnership prevents violence against women and girls, improves outcomes for victims and their children and holds perpetrators to account.*
- 4. The Safer Communities Partnership provides a co-ordinated multiagency response to violence, vulnerability and the criminal exploitation of children and vulnerable adults.*
- 5. Sustained reductions in offending and re-offending.*
- 6. Sustained reductions in high-volume crime types (for Barnet this will be Burglary).*
- 7. The Safer Communities partnership supports the boroughs diverse communities by ensuring there are effective and wide-ranging partnerships in place between the local authority, statutory and non-statutory partners, community groups and faith institutions that help mitigate risks from terrorism, extremism and hate crime.*

1.4 Barnet Council's key community safety consultation themes (January 2022 – March 2022)

Below are the 3 key themes the Council consulted the community upon:

1. What were the public perceptions and experiences of crime and anti-social behaviour in their local area
2. What were the public feelings towards how well the Safer Communities Partnership is tackling crime and anti-social behaviour in their area
3. What was the public opinion of what they think the priorities should be for the borough and for their local area.

1.5 What were the results obtained from the consultation?

1.5.1 Overall crime and anti- social behaviour (ASB)

1.5.2 Crime

Overall, residents felt that crime had gone up in their local areas over the last 12 months or so (77%, or 112 of 145 responses);

- 71% (103 of 145 responses) reported that they felt crime had gone up over the last 12 months or so in Barnet;
- 65% (94 of 145 responses) said they felt crime had gone up in other parts of London and;
- 62% (90 of 145 responses) said they believed crime had gone up in Britain.

1.5.3 ASB

- 68% of residents said they felt anti-social behaviour (ASB) had gone up in their area over the last 12 months or so (98 of 145 responses);
- 57% of respondents said they felt ASB had gone up in Barnet;
- 57% of residents reported they felt ASB had gone up in other parts of London and;
- 56% said they felt ASB had gone up in Britain.

1.5.4 Resident's top concerns

The top 3 crimes residents reported as 'a very big problem' or 'fairly big problem' were:

- Vehicle crime (54%)
- Burglary (51%) and;
- Robbery (48%)

The top 3 types of ASB residents reported as 'a very big problem' or 'fairly big problem' were:

- Rubbish/litter laying around (47%)
- Drugs/drug dealing (40%) and;
- Vandalism, graffiti and other deliberate damage to property or vehicles (32%).

When residents were asked what the top 5 community safety issues in their local area were they said:

- Burglary (39%)
- Anti-social behaviour (33%)
- Motor Vehicle Crime (31%)
- Rubbish and litter laying around (31%)
- People dealing/using drugs (31%).

1.5.5 The Safer Communities Partnership

Of those who answered the question regarding what their awareness was of the Barnet Safer Communities Partnership and its work to tackle crime and antisocial behaviour:

- 67% of respondents said they were not aware of the Barnet's Safer Communities Partnership (92 of 138 respondents);
- 18% said they were aware (25 of 138 respondents); and;
- 15% (21 of 138 respondents) said they were aware but not sure what it does.
- 60% (83 of 138 respondents) said they were either 'fairly' or 'very dissatisfied' with the way that the police and Barnet council are dealing with crime and anti-social behaviour.

1.5.6 Communication/Being kept informed

84% of respondents who answered the question (116 of 138 responses) said they would like to be kept informed around the council's work on crime and anti-social behaviour. Of the methods chosen, the top 3 were:

- 47% (55 of 116 responses) said they would like to be kept informed via Barnet First Magazine
- 40% (46 of 116 responses) said they would like to be kept informed via e-newsletters and;
- 31% (41 of 116 responses) said they would like to be kept informed via Facebook.

1.5.7 Feelings of Safety

56% of those who answered the question reported they felt either 'fairly unsafe' or 'very unsafe' in their local area after dark (78 of 138 responses). When asked why, the top 3 responses were:

- 'Lack of police presence' (60 of 78 responses);
- 'unlit or badly lit areas' 45% (35 of responses); and;
- 'You becoming a victim of crime' (23 of 78 of responses);
- CCTV also featured (24% or 19 of responses).

1.6 **INITIAL CONCLUSIONS:**

1.6.1 The consultation was published on Engage Barnet
<https://engage.barnet.gov.uk/community-safety-strategy-2022>

- Residents' views were gathered via an online questionnaire.
- Paper copies and other alternative formats of the consultation were made available on request.

- The consultation was widely promoted via the council's residents' magazine, Barnet First, the council resident's e newsletter, Communities Together Network newsletter, the council's website, Twitter, and Facebook.

1.6.2 However; the Council only received 145 responses to the consultation.

1.6.3 NB: The prior consultation in 2014 only received 260.

1.6.4 It is apparent from the limited public feedback received summarised in section 1.5 of this report that there remains a consistent demand to fear and perception of crime and safety, tackle volume and acquisitive crime, violence against the person and anti-social behaviour in its various forms.

1.6.5 Therefore, it is proposed that the new strategy retains the four key themes as they are reflective and complimentary to the revised Mayor's Police and Crime Plan for 2022-2025.

- To provide a victim centred approach to victims of crime and antisocial behaviour.
- To maintain reductions in crime and anti-social behaviour.
- To improve the perception of Barnet as a safe place to live, work and visit.
- The Safer Community Partnership ensures the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults affected by crime and anti-social behaviour.

2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 For reasons stated in section 1.1 to 1.6 of this of this report the Committee is asked to note and comment on the summarised feedback following the public consultation undertaken between January and March 2022.

2.2 The Committee is also requested to give their approval to officers to conclude drafting a new Community Safety Strategy for Barnet for 2022-2027 and share this at the Safer Community Partnership board in July 2022

3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED

3.1 Do nothing – this option is not recommended.

To not progress with the drafting of a new strategy is not recommended as is a legally requirement to have a strategy in place and being adhered to by the partnership.

To do nothing also does not support the new Labour administration priorities of a safer Barnet.

- 3.2 Proceed to drafting and submission for approval/sign off at Safer Communities Partnership Board in July 2022– this option is recommended.

4. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION

- 4.1 If the Community Leadership and Library Committee agree the recommendations in this report the next steps will be for the Community Safety Team to undertake further engagement with colleagues, partners between now and July on the drafting of the final proposed Community Safety Strategy for 2022-2027 for approval and implementation.
- 4.2 The proposed new strategy will be prepared by the Community Safety Team and presented to the following meeting of the Community Leadership and Library Committee for approval and sign off.

5. IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION

5.1 Corporate Priorities and Performance

- 5.1.1 After the May 5th, 2022 elections the Council has a new Labour Administration. The new Labour Administration has made several commitments, one of which 'Safer Barnet', Safer Streets and ending Violence against women and girls. The proposal to give approval to now draft and implement new Community Safety Strategy for Barnet for 2022-2027 supports the new labour commitments and priorities.

5.2 Resources (Finance & Value for Money, Procurement, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)

- 5.2.1 There are no finance implications identified in this report. However MOPAC have agreed the Barnet Local Crime Prevention Fund bid awards which amounts to £344,004 annually for the period 2022-2025 (Totalling £1,032,012 for the period). This MOPAC grant funding has been approved and the money is allocated between Family Service and Assurance to assist resourcing and contribute to delivery of the themed projects:

- Trust and confidence increases
- Victims better supported
- Violence prevented and reduced
- Protecting People from Exploitation and Harm

- 5.2.1 There are no property implications identified in this report.

- 5.2.2 There are no staffing implications identified in this report.

5.3 Legal and Constitutional References

5.3.1 Under s.6 of the Crime & Disorder Act 1998, the Council with other partner authorities (chief of police, fire & rescue authority, probation service, CCG and Local Health Board) has a duty to formulate and implement a strategy for the reduction of crime and disorder in its area (including anti-social behaviour adversely affecting the local environment), a strategy for combating the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances in the area and a strategy for the reduction of re-offending in the area.

5.3.2 In formulating the strategy, the partner authorities must have regard to the police and crime plan for the area. 5.3.3 Under Crime and Disorder (Formulation and Implementation of Strategy Regulations 2007 (SI 2007/1830), the partner authorities must set up a strategy group who are collectively responsible for preparing strategic assessments and preparing and implementing the partnership plan.

The partnership plan shall set out the following:

- (a) A strategy for the partnership to seek to reduce antisocial behaviour in all its forms, a reduction of re-offending for the prevention of crime and disorder and for combating substance misuse in Barnet.
- (b) The priorities identified in the Strategic Crime Needs Assessment prepared during the previous year.
- (c) The steps considered necessary for the responsible authorities to take to implement the strategy and meet those priorities.
- (d) How the strategy group considers the responsible authorities should allocate and deploy their resources to implement that strategy and meet those priorities.
- (e) The steps each responsible authority shall take to measure its success in implementing the strategy and meeting those priorities.
- (f) The steps the strategy group proposes to take during the year to comply with its obligations in respect of community engagement, considering the extent that people in the area can assist in reducing re-offending, crime and disorder and substance misuse, and publicising that partnership plan.

As set out in Sec 1.6.1 of this report the consultation has so far as is reasonable reached (a) persons who appear to the strategy group to represent the interests of as many different groups or persons within the area as is reasonable; and (b) persons who appear to the strategy group to represent the interests of those groups or persons within the area likely to be particularly affected by the implementation of the partnership plan.

5.3.3 Under Section 17 of the above Act, it is also a duty of the Council (and other partner agencies, including but not limited to the Police, Fire & Rescue) when exercising its functions to have due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent crime and disorder (including anti-social behaviour), misuse of drugs, alcohol and

other substances and re-offending.

5.3.4 The Terms of Reference for the Community Leadership Committee are set out in the Council's Constitution (Responsibly for Functions – Annex A) and include:

a) Working together with partners on the Barnet Safer Communities Partnership including Police, Fire and Criminal Justice Agencies to help make Barnet a safer place.

b) Contributing to achieving better outcomes in the Safer Communities Strategy (referred to as the Community Safety Strategy in this report) through CCTV, fighting crime and anti-social behaviour, combating graffiti fly tipping and other environmental crime, action against Domestic Violence and any other relevant Council activity.

5.4 Insight data

5.4.1 There is no insight relevant to this report.

5.5 Social Value

5.5.1 Whilst there are no direct social value considerations for this report it is highlighted that the consultation undertaken with the public and the use by the partnership to actively listen to resident, business and elected members concerns show that it remains a priority for the Council and Partnership to not only take action to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour but be seen to do it. By doing so this will help to improve the resident's and business' satisfaction in the services we deliver to tackle and reduce crime and anti-social behaviour in Barnet and improve their confidence in reporting such issues to us.

5.6 Risk Management

5.6.1 Whilst the statutory process and guidance will be followed in the preparation of this new strategy it should be noted that the community has been afforded consultation via the Council's website and Engage Barnet processes and that officers will take into account the public consultation responses when preparing the strategy for the Committee to consider.

5.7 Equalities and Diversity

5.7.1 If the recommendations in this report are agreed, pursuant to the Public Sector Equality Duty under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, a new Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA) will be required to ensure the approach and proposed new strategy does not have a disproportionate adverse impact on persons, particularly those with protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010.

5.7.2 Being fair and giving equal chances to all our residents and businesses is central to the council's strategic equalities objective, (SEO), that "Citizens will be treated equally, with understanding and respect, and will have equal

access to quality services which provide value to the taxpayer". Barnet and organisations acting on its behalf are committed to fair treatment for all our citizens balancing their different needs and rights as we support our more vulnerable residents and incorporate the principles of equality into everything we do as a Council.

5.7.3 The public sector equality duty is set out in Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010. A public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to:

(a) Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;

(b) Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;

(c) Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

5.8 Corporate Parenting

5.8.1 The decision to proceed with the proposed strategy is not considered to have a direct impact on children in care and care leavers however should any person under 18 years old or care leavers be identified involved directly or indirectly they will be referred to the MASH in accordance with standard protocols for vulnerable young people.

5.9 Consultation and Engagement

5.9.1 The Safer Communities Partnership has a statutory responsibility to consult with residents on their Crime and Anti-social behaviour priorities and share the findings of the annual strategic crime needs assessment. This has been completed as set out in sections 1.4 and 1.5 of this report.

5.10 Environmental Impact

5.10.1 There are no direct environmental implications from noting the recommendations. Implementing the recommendations in the report will lead to a positive impact on the Council's carbon and ecology impact, or at least it is neutral.

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Recent papers to various committees on enforcement and some examples of web links to the council's service specific enforcement actions are listed below.

Crime and Disorder Act 1998:

[Crime and Disorder Act 1998 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1998/37)

Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014:

[Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2014/12)

Community Leadership and Libraries Committee; Agenda item 7 – Community Safety Annual report 2021 including the annual Strategic Crime Needs Assessment summary:

[Agenda for Community Leadership and Libraries Committee on Wednesday 6th October, 2021, 7.00 pm | Barnet Council \(modern.gov.co.uk\)](https://www.moderngov.com/committees/CLL/Agenda/Agenda-for-Community-Leadership-and-Libraries-Committee-on-Wednesday-6th-October-2021-7.00-pm)