

Decision Maker: THE LEADER

Date: July 2020

Decision Type: Non-Urgent Executive Key

Title: SAFER BROMLEY PARTNERSHIP STRATEGY UPDATE
(CRIME REDUCTION STRATEGY)

Contact Officer: Joanne Stowell, Assistant Director of Public Protection
Tel: 020 8313 4332 E-mail: Joanne.Stowell@bromley.gov.uk

Chief Officer: Director of Environment and Public Protection

Ward: (All Wards);

1. Reason for report

The overarching aim of the Safer Bromley Community Safety Board (SBPB) is to build safer, stronger, more resilient communities in Bromley and reduce the fear of crime.

This report sets out the high level ambitions and intentions of the partnership over the next 3 years as outlined in the Safer Bromley Community Safety Strategy' (2020 – 23) for formal approval.

The Safer Bromley Community Safety Strategy forms part of the Council's Policy Framework, and as such requires approval by full Council.

2. **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

The Leader is asked to:

1. **Agree the priorities within the Safer Bromley Community Safety Strategy (the Strategy);**
2. **Present the Strategy to full Council for formal adoption;**
3. **Agree that the Director of Environment and Public Protection, together with the Chair of the Safer Bromley Partnership Board, approve any minor changes required to the Strategy arising from emerging local crime priorities identified in the crime needs assessment.**

Impact on Vulnerable Adults and Children

1. Summary of Impact: The Safer Bromley Partnership Strategy 2020-23 (SBPS) is intended to serve all members of its communities, and to improve all forms of hate crime reporting and domestic violence and abuse related incidents which are under reported.
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Corporate Policy

1. Policy Status: Existing Policy:
 2. BBB Priority: Children and Young People Excellent Council Quality Environment Safe Bromley Vibrant, Thriving Town Centres:
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Financial

1. Cost of proposal: No Cost:
 2. Ongoing costs: Not Applicable:
 3. Budget head/performance centre:£170,520
 4. Total current budget for this head:£170,520
 5. Source of funding: Revenue Budget and grant funding from Mayors Office for Policing & Crime (MOPAC)
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Personnel

1. Number of staff (current and additional): Not Applicable
 2. If from existing staff resources, number of staff hours: Not Applicable
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Legal

1. Legal Requirement: Statutory Requirement:
 2. Call-in: Applicable:
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Procurement

1. Summary of Procurement Implications: Not Applicable
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Customer Impact

1. Estimated number of users/beneficiaries (current and projected): Borough Wide.
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Ward Councillor Views

1. Have Ward Councillors been asked for comments? Not Applicable
2. Summary of Ward Councillors comments: Not Applicable

3. COMMENTARY

Background

- 3.1 The Safer Bromley Partnership Board (SBPB) is a statutory partnership set up under Section 5-7 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998; the overarching aim is to ensure that Bromley continues to be one of the safest boroughs in London. There is also a statutory requirement to prepare and implement a local Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy every 3 years (known locally as the Safer Bromley Partnership Strategy (SBPS) Appendix 1)).
- 3.2 The SBPB (The Board) is chaired by the Portfolio Holder for Public Protection and Enforcement, and usually meets on a quarterly basis, however, the last board was cancelled due to COVID 19 pandemic. The Board has established a structure that brings together Partners at a strategic, performance and operational level. Membership of the Board is based on an individual's ability to represent their own organisational interests and further ability to embed jointly agreed actions into mainstream frontline business, commissioning and strategic plans. The Board has overarching responsibility for The SBPB members include senior representatives from: the Council, Metropolitan Police, the London Fire Brigade, National Probation Service, National Health Service, and other Non-statutory Partners.
- 3.3 In preparing 'The Strategy' there must be regard to:
- The local high volume crime priorities, together with the high harm priorities as set out in the Mayor's Police and Crime Plan 2017-2021 (see sections 3.12 – 3.15);
 - Feedback from Partners (see sections 3.16 -3.18);
 - Findings from the latest Strategic Assessment (ratified 2019);
 - Feedback from the public consultation exercise carried out in December 2019 (snapshot page 6 Appendix 1).
- 3.4 In attempting to maintain and indeed improve Bromley's current position, broad strategic themes have been identified as priorities within 'The Strategy'. This enables flexibility in responding to changing crime trends and any emerging local issues. Delivery will be reviewed annually in line with Bromley's annual strategic assessment and local trends, this will ensure that delivery reflects local need, whilst also maximising opportunities for joint working across the borough.
- 3.5 Delivering on the priorities outlined in 'The Strategy' requires a range of partner organisations working together to share the skills, powers and resources that are available to them. Such an approach is essential to improving community safety, as the drivers of crime and anti-social behaviour (ASB) are often multiple and complex, cutting across a range of different agencies and services. As a framework strategy, the intention is not to provide comprehensive, prescriptive detail on Partner actions. Instead it provides a broad outline of actions that will be taken by Partners in supporting the overall ambitions, and further signposts the partner strategies, policies and plans that contain the detailed actions. (Appendix 1 page 17).
- 3.6 This report presents the strategic priorities that have been chosen for approval. These priorities ensure that the strategic approach meets the local trends of crime and ASB in Bromley, and the operational landscape.
- 3.7 'The Strategy' was endorsed by the Chair of the SBPB in April 2020; and scrutinised by the members of the Public Protection and Enforcement Policy Development and Scrutiny Committee (PP&E PDS 10th June 20 ES 20031), and the Portfolio Holder for Public Protection and Enforcement agreed the recommendations. However, in accordance with the Constitution of Bromley Council for key strategies identified in the Council's Policy Framework, it must be presented to full Council prior to formal adoption.

How the Priorities Were Agreed

- 3.8 MOPAC consulted with local police leaders, Chief Executives and elected Leaders in every borough and developed a new system of agreeing local priorities that reflect local need. This means that local police teams are focusing on local priorities, backed up by data and evidence and local strategic assessments.
- 3.9 Under this system each borough selects three high volume local priority crimes, the first being ASB which is a mandatory priority for all London boroughs, and two additional priorities based on local knowledge, crime data and police intelligence.
- 3.10 In accordance with the Mayor's Police and Crime Plan 2017-2021, The Strategy must have priorities that tackle both high volume crime (see 3.11) and high harm crimes which reinforce the commitment to tackle violence, vulnerability and exploitation in the borough (see 3.15).

High Volume Crimes

Priority One: Safer Neighbourhoods (Appendix 1 p 7).

- 3.11 The following high volume crimes have been agreed with the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC):
1. Non-domestic violence with injury
 2. Residential Burglary; and
 3. ASB (mandatory for all London boroughs);
 4. Financial abuse of the elderly and vulnerable (a local priority)
- 3.12 Priority One Safer Neighbourhoods, addresses the crime and anti-social behaviour that concern our residents the most, and that MOPAC and the Police have identified as relevant to our borough. The specific high volume crimes (points 1-3 above) will be tackled, and resources will be targeted on those areas that are highlighted as hot-spots, through either the highest levels of crimes reported, or through noted increases. The aim within this Priority is to reduce crime, reduce ASB, improve the confidence of residents and provide reassurance.
- 3.13 Data analytical tools and partnership tasking groups (e.g. Police led Tactical Tasking Crime Group and the Council led Joint Action Group) will be used to track and respond to local crime trends in real time, and to provide local input to develop appropriate responses to borough concerns. This will include the development of a bespoke intelligence package, and the introduction of specific police tasking teams. These teams (the Serious Inquisitive Crime Team (burglary and motor vehicle theft) and the Violence Reduction Team)) are dedicated to reduce local priority crimes (see 3.11 above) across the Metropolitan Police South Borough Command Unit (BCU), together with motor vehicle theft.
- 3.14 An additional high volume crime has been included within Priority One Safer Neighbourhoods, that being financial abuse of the elderly and vulnerable. The proportion of older people in Bromley (aged 65 and over) is expected to increase to 18% of the population by 2022, additionally, the rise in the number of over 75 year olds since 2010 continues to have an impact on the provision of health and social care services within the borough. Although this is not a MOPAC priority, it has been included to capture the work carried out by Bromley Trading Standards in relation to scams. The aim of this priority's inclusion is to prevent older (and otherwise vulnerable) residents from becoming victims of scams and doorstep crime, enable

them to stay within their homes, and further contribute to reducing their dependence on social care support, which is a common outcome for those who become victims.

High Harm Crimes

- 3.15 'The Strategy' also has a strong focus on high harm crimes that have been identified as priority issues within the Mayor's Police and Crime Plan 2017-2021, and they reinforce the commitment to tackle violence, vulnerability and exploitation in the borough. These are:

Priority Two: Violence Against Women and Girls; (Appendix 1 page 9)

This priority looks at protecting women and girls from violence. Too many women and girls suffer harassment, abuse and violence on a daily basis, whether at the hands of partners, family members or strangers, this is always unacceptable. This priority supports MOPAC in their stance of taking a zero tolerance approach wherever this violence and abuse takes place. This does not mean that the suffering experienced by men and boys is diminished, and the services commissioned will support victims and survivors whatever their gender. The Metropolitan Police Service has made tackling domestic abuse a high priority and has a Community Safety Unit within the BCU. They will investigate all instances of domestic abuse, even in cases where a victim has not reported it themselves.

Priority Three: Keeping Young People Safe (Appendix 1 page 12);

This priority's ambition is for our borough to be safe for our children and young people, where they can grow up, thrive and have the best life chances in families who flourish and are happy to call Bromley home. To achieve this we want to improve neighbourhoods affected by ASB and crime, and reduce crimes that cause the most harm to children and young people by preventing crime and through early intervention for those who are at risk of offending or re-offending.

Priority Four: Stand Together Against Hate Crime and Extremism (Appendix 1 page 14)

This Priority focuses on work to tackle those crimes that are motivated by malice or ill will towards a social group on the basis of race, religion, sexual orientation, disability or gender identity. Communities that are divided and fearful are more susceptible to intolerance, hatred and targeting. In addition to the aforementioned often targeted groups, there is emerging recognition that financial abuse of the elderly (or other vulnerable residents) should also be considered as a hate crime, as in this area perpetrators deliberately choose their victims on the basis of their perceived vulnerability that may be associated with their age or otherwise.

Consultation and Engagement

- 3.16 In refreshing 'The Strategy' and priorities, consultation and engagement was undertaken with partners, stakeholders and relevant services within the council. The first SBPS draft was sent to partners and the Chair of the SBPB in March 2020 for comment, and subsequent feedback was included; the updated draft was agreed by the Chair of the SBPB in April 20. As the PP&E PDS committees have been suspended due to the COVID pandemic, the updated draft was sent to members by email for scrutiny on 10th June 20 (ES 20031). All comments were addressed, minor amendments to the Strategy made, and the Portfolio Holder for Public Protection agreed the recommendations.
- 3.17 The opinions of residents were sought via the Crime Survey 2019-20; 1,118 residents responded to a variety of questions, including feelings of safety and concerns about crime and ASB in the borough. With regards to perception of crime and particularly in relation to feelings of safety, 88% of residents reported feeling safe when in their local area during the day, 54% felt safe when out alone after dark, and 72% felt safe on public transport.

3.18 A snapshot of the responders opinions who perceived are highlighted on page 6 of ‘The Strategy’ (Appendix 1). It should be noted that the resident’s perceptions were not necessarily borne out of personal experience, but often influenced by the media or anecdotal experiences of others. The survey highlighted that 82% of responders thought that burglary and motor vehicle theft was a serious problem, and this was supported by Police and MOPAC data, as a result, residential burglary was an agreed high volume crime to be targeted in Priority One (see 3.11 above). Notwithstanding that motor vehicle theft was not specifically included as a priority; it is still being tackled by the newly formed Serious Inquisitive Crime Team (see 3.13 and Appendix 1 page 8).

IMPACT ON VULNERABLE ADULTS AND CHILDREN

4.1 The Safer Bromley Partnership Strategy 2020-23 (SBPS) is intended to serve all members of its communities, and to improve all forms of hate crime reporting and domestic violence and abuse related incidents which are under reported.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The Work associated with delivering the SBPS is funded by MOPAC and other third party funding, and also is undertaken by officers within existing budgets. As such, there are no direct additional costs arising as a result. However, should and external funding streams be reduced or cut, the ability to deliver to all the ambitions within the framework strategy, and associated partner strategies identified within, will be compromised.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 In line with the statutory duty under Section 6 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 the Safer Bromley Partnership must formulate and implement a strategy for reducing crime and disorder in the area (including anti-social and other behaviour adversely affecting the local environment).

Non-Applicable Sections:	POLICY IMPLIICATIONS, PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS; PROCUREMENT IMPLICATIONS
Background Documents: (Access via Contact Officer)	SBPS 2017-19