

SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Cabinet **DATE:** 16 November 2020

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WARD(S): All

LEAD MEMBER: Councillor Mohammed Nazir, Cabinet Member for Housing & Community Safety

PART I

FOR DECISION

REFERENCE FROM OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY – COMMUNITY SAFETY

1. **Purpose of Report**

To update the Cabinet on the recommendation of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee, following its meeting with the Thames Valley Police and Crime Commissioner and the Chief Constable.

2. **Recommendation**

That Cabinet consider the Committee's recommendation, that:

Slough Borough Council should work with Thames Valley Police and others in the Safer Slough Partnership to develop a communications plan to improve residents' perceptions of the safety of Slough – with particular focus on the town centre - and to share examples of the positive partnership work that has already been undertaken.

3. **The Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy, the JSNA and the Five Year Plan**

3a. **Slough Wellbeing Strategy Priorities**

Implementing the recommendation would support the delivery of third priority of the SJWS - 'Strong, healthy and attractive neighbourhoods' - by improving residents' perceptions of Slough, and the town centre in particular.

3b. **Five Year Plan Outcomes**

The recommendation would support delivery of the third priority outcome of the Five Year Plan

- Outcome 3: Slough will be an attractive place where people choose to live, work and stay

4. **Other Implications**

(a) Financial

It is anticipated that the recommendation could be implemented within existing budgets, via the Safer Slough Partnership and SBC communications team.

(b) Risk Management

There are no identified risks to endorsing the Committee's recommendation.

(c) Human Rights Act and Other Legal Implications

There has not yet been an opportunity to conduct a legal assessment.

(d) Equalities Impact Assessment

It is not anticipated that the implementation of the recommendation would require an Equalities Impact Assessment.

(e) Workforce

The communications plan will require staff time and support from senior leaders.

5. **Supporting Information**

5.1 Background and rationale

The Overview & Scrutiny Committee received its annual presentation from Thames Valley Police and Crime Commissioner, Anthony Stansfeld, and the Chief Constable, John Campbell, on 4th November.

The Committee scrutinised a broad range of issues relating to policing and community safety, including:

- Resourcing, officer recruitment and retention
- COVID 19 enforcement
- Stop and search
- Serious violence
- Mentoring
- Attacks on officers
- Partnership working
- Drugs
- Cyber crime

The Committee welcomed the positive, collaborative work that has been undertaken between the Council, Thames Valley Police and others in the Safer Slough Partnership, across a number of areas.

However, Members felt that there remains a significant issue with the perception of safety in Slough, particularly after dark and around the town centre. It was felt that improved messaging was required in order to reassure the public.

The Committee therefore would recommend that the Council work with Thames Valley Police and other strategic partners to establish a communications plan to develop and disseminate this messaging.

Cllr Mohammed Nazir, Cabinet Member for Housing & Community Safety, further suggested that such a plan could include examples of the successful collaboration that has already taken place between the Council and Thames Valley Police.

6. **Comments of Other Committees**

This report has not been seen by any other committees.

7. **Conclusion**

The Committee has identified the need to improve messaging around safety in Slough, which presents an opportunity to build on successful partnership working between the Council and Thames Valley Police

8. **Background Papers**

1. Presentation from the Thames Valley Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable, Overview & Scrutiny Committee, Wednesday, 4th November, 2020 6.30 pm.