

Thurrock - An ambitious and collaborative community which is proud of its heritage and excited by its diverse opportunities and future

Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee

The meeting will be held at **7.00 pm** on **3 October 2019**

Committee Room 1, Civic Offices, New Road, Grays, Essex, RM17 6SL

Membership:

Councillors John Kent (Chair), Allen Mayes (Vice-Chair), Mike Fletcher, Garry Hague, Angela Lawrence and Elizabeth Rigby

Substitutes:

Councillors John Allen, Terry Piccolo, Sue Shinnick, David Van Day and Lynn Worrall

Agenda

Open to Public and Press

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To approve as a correct record the minutes of the Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 4 July 2019.	
3. Items of Urgent Business	
To receive additional items that the Chair is of the opinion should be considered as a matter of urgency, in accordance with Section 100B (4) (b) of the Local Government Act 1972.	
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Queries regarding this Agenda or notification of apologies:

Please contact Jenny Shade, Senior Democratic Services Officer by sending an email to Direct.Democracy@thurrock.gov.uk

Agenda published on: **25 September 2019**

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DECLARING INTERESTS FLOWCHART – QUESTIONS TO ASK YOURSELF

Breaching those parts identified as a pecuniary interest is potentially a criminal offence

Helpful Reminders for Members

- *Is your register of interests up to date?*
- *In particular have you declared to the Monitoring Officer all disclosable pecuniary interests?*
- *Have you checked the register to ensure that they have been recorded correctly?*

When should you declare an interest *at a meeting*?

- **What matters are being discussed at the meeting?** (including Council, Cabinet, Committees, Subs, Joint Committees and Joint Subs); or
- If you are a Cabinet Member making decisions other than in Cabinet **what matter is before you for single member decision?**



Does the business to be transacted at the meeting

- relate to; or
- likely to affect

any of your registered interests and in particular any of your Disclosable Pecuniary Interests?

Disclosable Pecuniary Interests shall include your interests or those of:

- your spouse or civil partner's
- a person you are living with as husband/ wife
- a person you are living with as if you were civil partners

where you are aware that this other person has the interest.

A detailed description of a disclosable pecuniary interest is included in the Members Code of Conduct at Chapter 7 of the Constitution. **Please seek advice from the Monitoring Officer about disclosable pecuniary interests.**

What is a Non-Pecuniary interest? – this is an interest which is not pecuniary (as defined) but is nonetheless so significant that a member of the public with knowledge of the relevant facts, would reasonably regard to be so significant that it would materially impact upon your judgement of the public interest.

Pecuniary

If the interest is not already in the register you must (unless the interest has been agreed by the Monitoring Officer to be sensitive) disclose the existence and nature of the interest to the meeting

If the Interest is not entered in the register and is not the subject of a pending notification you must within 28 days notify the Monitoring Officer of the interest for inclusion in the register

Unless you have received dispensation upon previous application from the Monitoring Officer, you must:

- **Not participate or participate further in any discussion of the matter at a meeting;**
- **Not participate in any vote or further vote taken at the meeting; and**
- **leave the room while the item is being considered/voted upon**

If you are a Cabinet Member you may make arrangements for the matter to be dealt with by a third person but take no further steps

Non-pecuniary

Declare the nature and extent of your interest including enough detail to allow a member of the public to understand its nature



You may participate and vote in the usual way but you should seek advice on Predetermination and Bias from the Monitoring Officer.

Our Vision and Priorities for Thurrock

An ambitious and collaborative community which is proud of its heritage and excited by its diverse opportunities and future.

1. **People** – a borough where people of all ages are proud to work and play, live and stay
 - High quality, consistent and accessible public services which are right first time
 - Build on our partnerships with statutory, community, voluntary and faith groups to work together to improve health and wellbeing
 - Communities are empowered to make choices and be safer and stronger together

2. **Place** – a heritage-rich borough which is ambitious for its future
 - Roads, houses and public spaces that connect people and places
 - Clean environments that everyone has reason to take pride in
 - Fewer public buildings with better services

3. **Prosperity** – a borough which enables everyone to achieve their aspirations
 - Attractive opportunities for businesses and investors to enhance the local economy
 - Vocational and academic education, skills and job opportunities for all
 - Commercial, entrepreneurial and connected public services

Minutes of the Meeting of the Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 4 July 2019 at 7.00 pm

- Present:** Councillors John Kent (Chair), Allen Mayes (Vice-Chair), Mike Fletcher, Angela Lawrence and Elizabeth Rigby
- Apologies:** Councillor Garry Hague
- In attendance:** Julie Rogers, Director of Environment and Highways
Daren Spring, Assistant Director – Street Scene & Leisure
Jahur Ali, Recreation and Leisure Manager
Phil Carver, Strategic Lead Enforcement and Community Protection
Michelle Cunningham, Thurrock Community Safety Partnership Manager
Vincent Taylor, Strategic Lead for Clean and Green Services
Lucy Tricker, Democratic Services Officer
-

Before the start of the Meeting, all present were advised that the meeting may be filmed and was being recorded, with the audio recording to be made available on the Council's website.

31. Minutes

The minutes of the Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 7 February 2019 were approved as a correct record.

32. Items of Urgent Business

There were no items of urgent business, but the Chair informed the Committee that Item 7 of the agenda was being brought forward and would be heard first.

33. Declaration of Interests

There were no interests declared.

34. Thurrock Active Parks Programme Update

The Chair asked Mr. Rob Groves, the Chief Executive of Hardie Park to come to the table and read his statement: *I would like to challenge the decision to forge ahead with the project to employ Parks Engagement Officers at the cost of £300k, (which are S.106 funds) over the next three years. It is my opinion, which is shared by other active citizens, that have been engaged with taking ownership of their local parks and open spaces, that this project is inconsistent with the partnership between the Council and Friends of Hardie Park, which should be one of cooperation with and support of local grassroots*

led initiatives that model Hardie Park as a mechanism of transforming parks, with little or no public funds. My current experience is that the partnership does not have the full support of Council officers with communications, including emails sometimes taking weeks or months to be replied to, or in some instances are ignored altogether. I feel deeply disappointed and hurt at the way the Council have not engaged residents in this decision and delivery of this project, at the cost of desperately needed funds earmarked for direct investment into communities bearing the brunt of developments.

The Recreation and Leisure Manager then introduced the report and stated that the Parks Improvement Programme had been envisaged in 2017, as around half of adults in Thurrock were not undertaking physical activity levels in line with the Chief Medical Officer's guidelines, and this was the highest level in Essex. He elaborated that a review had been undertaken in 2016/17 that had reviewed the use of park equipment and found that attendance in parks was low due to anti-social behaviour. He outlined that s.106 funding had been secured for three Park Engagement Officers whose job was to encourage activity, and help prevent anti-social behaviour in parks. The Recreation and Leisure Manager described how there were 72 parks across Thurrock, and more open spaces. He drew the Committee's attention to the Hardie Park Model and how this worked as it was community led. He stated that there were 4-5 other parks across the borough that could use the Hardie Park Model, but a flexible approach was needed, as not all parks were suitable.

The Recreation and Leisure Manager stated that the three Park Engagement Officers had begun work in April 2019 and were all NBG Level 2 qualified, and had so far engaged over 600 people. He mentioned that there were now 15 sessions per week during term-time, which lasted 8-10 weeks with holiday activities organised during school holiday periods. He summarised and stated that the Park Engagement Officers were also there to direct people to funding for their parks, and to help signpost where volunteers could become qualified.

The Chief Executive of Hardie Park queried whether s.106 funding could be used for staff salaries, and how the Park Engagement Officers would generate income. He stated that Hardie Park was 'grass-roots' led, but in the past had also suffered from problems with anti-social behaviour, but had now been voted the Best Park in Essex. He felt that parks needed a community presence and residents needed to take ownership. The Chair agreed and felt that the process for s.106 funding needed to be transparent and should have Member oversight. The Assistant Director – Planning, Transport and Public Protection clarified the process of collection of s.106 funding. He advised Members that the allocation of s.106 monies towards the Active Parks Programme was sound, as the project appeared on the Council's Infrastructure Requirements List and the nature of the project fit the scope of the obligations used. The Assistant Director – Planning, Transport and Public Protection advised Members that Thurrock has previously pooled s.106 contributions, but in 2015 the Government had introduced pooling restrictions upon Local Authorities, and in response to this the Council had started the Infrastructure Requirement List. He explained that the Infrastructure

Requirement List was a live document and communities could nominate projects, with expenditure being monitored by the s.106 Panel. He stated that the s.106 Panel was not a public meeting and was officer-led, with recommendations made being sent to the Director of Place for approval. He mentioned that a report had gone to the Planning, Transport and Regeneration (PTR) Committee in March 2019, which had scrutinised and agreed the process. He then advised Members that at the time of the PTR report in March, £23.5million had been received by the council from s.106 funding with 93% of this having been committed for infrastructure projects.

The Chair asked if the link to the infrastructure requirements list could be sent to committee Members for them to view, and stated that the fact community groups could add to the list needed to be better publicised. He felt that it was an unusual use of s.106 funds, and asked if there were any other recent examples of s.106 funds being used for salaries rather than infrastructure. The Assistant Director – Planning, Transport and Public Protection stated that, whilst not common, it met all of the legal criteria for allocation of s.106 funds, and would find other examples to send to the committee after the meeting.

The Chair questioned how the active parks strategy was sustainable. The Recreation and Leisure Manager replied that over a three year timeline, the Park Engagement Officers would develop and upskill a pool of volunteers who would then be able to run specific sessions. He stated that in year 2 of the project, the team would also look into external funding bids, which would be monitored by Active Thurrock.

Councillor Lawrence began the debate and stated that she felt this was a good project, but asked if local forums could become part of the consultation, as they could help with the recruitment of volunteers. She also asked if Ward Councillors could be made aware when S106 funding was being allocated to a project in their ward. Councillor Fletcher queried how much co-operation was ongoing between the community and the Park Engagement Officers, and requested that the Park Engagement Officers attended the next community forum meeting to clarify their work. The Recreation and Leisure Manager responded that the Park Engagement Officers were currently linking with community hubs, helping to set up 'hub fun days' and engaging them directly with the active parks programme. The Director of Environment and Highways clarified that the s.106 funding which had been used for the active parks strategy had been earmarked for health, and focussed on getting residents active and utilising space. She thanked community groups for their hard work in parks and supported their initiatives, and felt that the new Park Engagement Officers would help to support parks and engage residents. She reiterated that the council would try to find external funding, and would help and support the community to establish park engagement activities. Councillor Mayes asked how many other boroughs were running similar programmes, and whether more park engagement activities were being introduced for Tilbury. The Recreation and Leisure Manager stated that Tower Hamlets Council currently had 9 staff members within their sports and leisure team, helping run similar sessions and helping residents use park equipment, as

well as Barking and Dagenham, Camden and Westminster City Council who also had similar programmes. He added that those examples funded their programmes through their public health teams and were not self-sustaining. He mentioned that the council were currently bidding for Tilbury CLLD to help get residents active, and improve both physical and mental health. He mentioned that the council were also currently trying to seek funding for 15-20 volunteers in South Ockendon.

Councillor Rigby asked if there was a plan to provide open air gym equipment in all parks across the borough. The Recreation and Leisure Manager stated that the team were reviewing outdoor leisure stock as there was lots of demand for this equipment, but it had to be properly maintained and managed. The Chief Executive of Hardie Park stated that he wanted more community engagement in parks, as Hardie Park started with zero volunteers and now had 75, as they were community-led. He felt that parks needed regeneration and capital funding to provide equipment. The Chair then summarised debates and asked for an update report to be presented to committee in October on how the scheme had fared over the summer months.

RESOLVED: That:

- 1. The Committee noted the progress of the Active Parks Programme.**
- 2. The Committee requested an additional update report for the next meeting, detailing how the scheme had progressed over summer.**

35. Waste Strategy For Thurrock

The Director of Environment and Highways introduced the report and stated that in December 2018 Central Government issued their waste strategy for England with a focus on re-use, recycling and reducing packaging. She added that the Telegraph recently ran an article stating that “recycling rates have stalled at 45% since 2017”, with an impact assessment by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs accepting the UK will miss its target of 65% waste recycled by 2035. She added that Thurrock’s recycling rates had stagnated in the last few years at 36/37%. The Director of Environment and Highways requested that the Committee agree a sub working group be established to consider opportunities available and produce a vision statement by December 2019, enabling officers to draft a new waste strategy in the first quarter of the calendar year, with consultation and adoption of the strategy to follow. She added that in December 2020 the waste disposal contracts were up for renewal, with an option to extend, and felt it was essential that the new strategy inform future contract procurement.

Councillor Mayes commented that the report stated a new waste strategy would be ready in June 2020, and asked if this would give officers enough time to organise the procurement process. The Director of Environment and

Highways replied that if the vision statement remains similar then it would be possible to organise a procurement process in time for December 2020. She stated that if there was significant change, then the contracts could be extended for up to two years. Councillor Mayes felt that the separation of recycling, as outlined in the report, could be a good strategy, and asked if the team had considered the size of bins. The Director of Environment and Highways stated that this would form part of the review. She referred to the central government strategy, which was seeking increased recycling, stating that over the coming years central government would be undertaking consultation on issues such as free garden waste collection and whether food waste should be separated. Should the working group be approved she suggested that the first meeting be held in Bywaters Recycling Centre so Members could see first-hand where recycling is managed. The Director of Environment and Highways summarised that an annual increase in property number, also put pressure on waste management, as an increase of only 6000 homes meant an additional 3 crews were needed, one for each waste stream.

Councillor Rigby asked if the new system of placing stickers on contaminated bins was having an effect on recycling rates. The Director of Environment and Highways stated that the idea was working well, and added that in-cab facilities were due to go live in July, which would enable crews to input data as to why the bin was contaminated. She explained how in the future this would enable the Contact Centre to provide up to the minute updates in response to residents calling in to report missed collections. She commented that by not only advising the resident that the bin had not been collected due to contamination, that would help educate residents in what could and could not be recycled. Councillor Lawrence asked if new stickers could also be placed on bins. The Director of Environment and Highways explained that a pilot scheme was being undertaken in commercial buildings and flats which would help increase the amount of recycling, and where successful the promotional materials could be rolled out across the borough. Councillor Mayes highlighted point 3.1.4 of the agenda, and asked why other local authorities had increased recycling rates in comparison to Thurrock. The Director of Environment and Highways responded in most cases those local authorities had moved to two-weekly or three-weekly bin collections. She stated that the working group would also be encouraged to visit some best-performing recycling authorities to enable best practice to inform the new waste strategy.

RESOLVED: That:

1. The Committee agreed to a cross-party working group being formed. The purpose of the group to review current Waste arrangements from collection through to disposal and potential commercial operating solutions for Thurrock. The group tasked with producing a vision statement by December 2019, with a new waste strategy/policy to be drafted in the last quarter of the financial year and for agreement and adoption in June 2020.

2. The Committee agreed that the working group would be a sub-group of Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee with a minimum of two members from each political party.

36. Tree Planting Strategy - Update Report

The Strategic Lead – Clean and Green stated that this report was an update on the Tree Planting Strategy. He stated that the Tree Officer was now working with residents and councillors to facilitate tree planting across the borough, and planned to plant 10-12 fruit trees in Elm Road. He stated that the Tree Officer was also working with the transport team to identify areas where trees could be planted. He added that in December 2018, the Committee had agreed the Tree Planting Strategy, which had been agreed by Cabinet in February 2019. He clarified that the Strategy had agreed 66 new trees to be planted in three years at a cost of £9900, and now Members were being consulted when trees were removed in their ward. He added that since the Strategy had been agreed, 32 new trees had been planted, with the remainder to be planted in the autumn, when they had the most chance of survival. He drew Members attention to Appendix 1 that outlined the list of trees that had already been planted, and mentioned that once the location of trees to be planted in Autumn had been agreed, this would be shared with Members. He commented that an arborist apprentice was now employed by the council, and once they had completed their training they had the potential to become a full-time arborist, to fulfil a vacant post, and another arborist apprentice could be recruited. He added that a new water bowser had been purchased to maintain the trees, and a new electronic system for monitoring trees was also being implemented. He summarised that the council rarely removed healthy trees, and were always looking for more funding sources so trees could be purchased.

Councillor Lawrence asked where trees were purchased from, and if Members and residents could request trees for barren land. The Strategic Lead – Clean and Green replied that he believed the council purchased trees locally, and they were currently trying to buy larger trees rather than whips, and stated that the team welcomed suggestions for places to plant trees. The Chair stated that community groups could receive free trees from the Forestry Commission, although they were mostly whips. The Director of Environment and Highways stated that she encouraged local community groups to contact the Forestry Commission, but to liaise with the council's Tree Officer to ensure the right trees get planted in the right places. She added that the council needed to know where new trees were, particularly whips, so the council could protect and maintain them. The Chair asked if the new electronic system would allow Members to find out information on each tree in the borough. The Assistant Director Street Scene and Leisure replied that officers would be able to see that level of detail, and could then answer any questions that Members might have.

RESOLVED: That:

1. The report provided the Committee with an update on the Tree Planting Strategy, which was agreed by Cabinet on 12 February 2019.

37. Environment Enforcement Update

The Strategic Lead – Enforcement and Community Protection introduced the report and stated that the council now employed four Environmental Enforcement Officers, and one senior Environmental Enforcement Officer. He added that these officers were now undertaking a new accreditation from the Essex Police Commissioner so they had increased devolved powers, as outlined in 2.3.3. He stated that these powers included stopping cycling on the footpath, stopping underage possession of alcohol and tobacco, and stopping idling car engines, and would be well publicised so residents were aware. He stated that new legislation could be enforced through criminal courts, as well as residents receiving a fixed penalty notice. He outlined a recent issue that had been found with the enforcement contractor issuing fixed penalty notices through an automated system, which had recently been reported in the media. He advised that the council was dealing with this through the contract default process.

Councillor Lawrence felt that the new powers were good, particularly surrounding stopping car engines idling as this could help reduce pollution. She asked if the new powers could be used around schools, where pollution could get particularly bad at drop off and pick up times. She asked if an American carpool style lane could be introduced around certain schools. Councillor Mayes supported Councillor Lawrence, and added that the emphasis was on residents to look after their own waste, to ensure it was not being disposed of illegally. Councillor Mayes then asked if income generated from fines remained in the directorate. The Director of Environment and Highways replied that income generated from fixed penalty notices paid for enforcement officers, and other enforcement activity, ensuring the service remained cost neutral. She added that any surpluses generated were used for enforcement activity, such as court proceedings.

RESOLVED: That:

1. The Committee noted the performance and service achievements and supported the future priorities for Environmental Enforcement, which is linked to the Council's priorities.

2. The Committee supported the adoption of S34 – Duty of Care for domestic waste as stated in point 3.4 of this report, and recommend to Cabinet for approval.

3. The Committee supported the adoption of S42 – Idling engines in parked vehicles as stated in point 3.5 of this report, and recommend to Cabinet for approval.

38. Community Safety Partnership Report on Prevent

The Thurrock Community Safety Partnership Manager opened the report and stated that it was a statutory duty for local authorities to have due regard to Prevent and link it to the wider duty of safeguarding children and adults. She explained that the terrorism level had been at severe since 2014, which was the second highest level, and had only escalated in 2017 directly after the Westminster attacks. She described how the terrorism threat in Thurrock was no greater than anywhere else in the region, and a profile was received quarterly which outlined specific threats, but this was not available to the public. She discussed the greatest threats to Thurrock, and how the Prevent meeting looked at various strategies and action plans to target this. She stated that Prevent was an Officer group led by the Assistant Director Housing, and that they had recently completed the Home Officer Prevent toolkit. In addition, she spoke about the Member working group and encouraged attendance. She added that there was also a new escalation route for the Channel Panel as they now met monthly, rather than when a case was referred. She stated that this process would be reviewed in October.

RESOLVED: That:

- 1. The Committee noted the national risk.**
- 2. The Committee noted the ratings and actions against the benchmark in the *Prevent* duty toolkit for Local Authorities.**
- 3. The Committee supported the Local Authority to fulfil its obligations through encouraging members to attend the Member working group on *Prevent*.**
- 4. The Committee agreed to complete the online training at www.elearning.prevent.homeoffice.gov.uk .**
- 5. The Committee agreed to promote the important role that members play in community tension monitoring and reports.**

39. Work Programme

The Director of Environment and Highways stated that Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee had asked the Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee to focus on the missed Key Performance Indicator (KPI) regarding bin collection. She stated that since October 2018 this KPI had met target, barring March due to climate issues but this had only been missed by 0.03%. She stated that to meet Corporate Overview and Scrutiny's request a verbal update would be provided on a quarterly basis to keep Members aware. The Chair and Members agreed to these updates.

The meeting finished at 8.29 pm

Approved as a true and correct record

CHAIR

DATE

**Any queries regarding these Minutes, please contact
Democratic Services at Direct.Democracy@thurrock.gov.uk**

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3 October 2019		ITEM: 5
Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee		
Thurrock Community Safety Partnership Update		
Wards and communities affected: All	Key Decision: Non Key	
Report of: Michelle Cunningham, Community Safety Partnership Manager		
Accountable Assistant Director: Daren Spring, Assistant Director for Street Scene and Leisure		
Accountable Director: Julie Rogers, Director of Environment and Highways		
This report is Public		

Executive Summary

This report provides Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee the opportunity to review the performance, both qualitative and quantitative, of the Thurrock Community Safety Partnership (TCSP) in 2018/19 and provides insight into the priorities for the Partnership for 2019/20.

There has been an increase in Police reported crime in Thurrock, across Essex and nationally, leading to Central Government announcements of further funding for increased Policing.

The Essex Violence and Vulnerability Board, of which Thurrock is a Partner, have received additional funding for both proactive and reactive work in tackling crime of this nature.

Home office funding of an additional £93k has also been secured to address violence and vulnerability, improving awareness in schools and youth services.

There has also been increased investment from Thurrock Council in a Senior Gangs Officer, ASB Officer in Private Housing, ASB Officer within CSP and in Youth Services. Ongoing funding for Operation Raptor, to secure gang injunctions which are showing a very positive impact.

Investment for increased police resources in Operation Sceptre, targeted proactive operations to address knife crime, including knife arch accessing Lakeside and the additional 7 officers in our Town Centre Policing Teams.

TCSP continue to monitor, review and be flexible with activity to address the changing landscape and work proactively as well as reactively in a continued attempt to drive down crime and antisocial behaviour.

1. Recommendation(s)

- 1.1 That Overview and Scrutiny Committee note the performance of the Thurrock Community Safety Partnership for the year 2018/19**
- 1.2 That Overview and Scrutiny committee support the 4 priorities of the Community Safety Partnership for the year 2019/20, which are:**
 - 1. Tackling Offending**
 - 2. Violence and Vulnerability**
 - 3. Local Community and Visibility**
 - 4. Counter Extremism and Terrorism**
- 1.3 That Overview and Scrutiny committee recognise the links that have been made to Thurrock's Health and Well-being strategy.**
- 1.4 That Overview and Scrutiny Committee recognise the requirement to work collaboratively across Essex on the Police and Fire Crime Commissioners Violence and Vulnerability framework.**

2. Introduction and Background

- 2.1** All crime in Thurrock increased by 19.9% for the year 2018/19, when compared with the previous year, with a total of 17,271¹ crimes committed. This is a consistent theme across Essex with Essex Police reporting an 18.3% change in crime rates. It should be noted that some of this reported increase is attributable to the change in recording rules, particularly in relation to violent crime where all victims of 1 incident are now recorded.

N.B. national data is not yet published

- 2.2** There were 4,546² incidents of Anti-social Behavior (ASB) reported to Essex Police in Thurrock in 2018/19; this is illustrating a decrease of 10.4%, 527 fewer recorded incidents, than in the previous year. This compares favorably to Essex, reporting a 5.9% decrease in ASB.
- 2.3** The reporting of an increase in recorded crime, in particularly violent crime substantiates the concerns being raised by partners and communities throughout the year, and reflects the continued encouragement of communities to report hidden crimes such as domestic abuse, hate crime and possession of weapons. However the decrease in reported ASB does not

¹ . As recorded and reported by Essex Police statistics

² As recorded and reported by Essex Police statistics

correlate with what communities are telling us and confirms that a continued focus on police reporting is required.

- 2.4 The National perception, as measured by the Crime survey³, of people saying that crime has gone up has increased annually since 2016. This is in line with public perception of Thurrock residents and is attributable to concerns over lack of visibility of Police. The increase in crime and public concerns that policing numbers have reduced has been recognised by Central Government and the Essex Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner (EFCC) and additional funding is now being invested in increasing policing numbers. Locally this is being addressed through the increase in Community Policing Team and the new Town Centre teams which are funded through the PFCC (increase in policing precept). Through this additional funding there are now 17 Community Policing Officers (including 2 children and young people officers), 7 Town Team Officers and 3 Sergeants. Whilst the increase in reporting is of Local and National concern it is envisaged that through the increased funding residents will start to see a positive impact. The Police Public Perception survey results are showing a quarterly increase in confidence in policing in Thurrock. We are planning a series of workshops with the Community and Voluntary Sector which will enable us to further understand perceptions and develop responses
- 2.5 The Partnership Plan for 2018/19 identified 3 priorities from the partnership's Strategic Assessment. This allowed the opportunity to develop and plan our activities to address the priorities outlined in the assessment, whilst providing value for money, and an 'intelligence led' approach to community safety.

The priorities for 2018/2019 were:

1. **Reduce youth offending and re-offending of adults & young people:**
With a focus on the priority of Violent Crime with Injury
2. **To reduce harm to and safeguard vulnerable victims from:**
 - a. **Domestic Abuse**
 - b. **Sexual Offences, including Rape**
 - c. **Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse**
 - d. **Gang Related Violence**
 - e. **Hate Crime**
 - f. **Anti-Social Behaviour**
 - g. **Cyber Bullying**
 - h. **Honour Based Abuse i.e. Forced Marriage and Female Genital Mutilation**
 - i. **Serious Organised Crime in relation to Modern Day Slavery & Human Trafficking.**
3. **Violent Extremism:** Delivering the Governments Counter Terrorism Strategy, 'Prevent', locally.

³www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/adhocs/010241perceptionsofchangingcrimelvelsatnationalandlocallevelbyrollingquartersyearendingmarch2016toyearendingmarch2019

2.6 The priorities for 2019/20 have been refreshed in line with the findings of our strategic assessment and as a result, TCSP will focus on four core priorities which will all support the Chief Constables vision with regards to a focus on the four V's, namely:

- Violence
- Vulnerability
- Visibility
- Victims

2.7 In delivering the four identified priorities the Community Safety Partnership will ensure that there is a Victim centered approach toward:

1. Tackling Offending

- Preventing youth offending
- Targeting repeat and prolific offenders
- Reducing victims of burglary

2. Violence and Vulnerability

- Tackle violence with injury
- Tackle gang related activity and offensive weapons
- Ensure a coordinated approach to safeguard against gangs and child criminal exploitation
- Support all victims of domestic abuse, sexual offences including rape, child exploitation and abuse, stalking and honour based abuse i.e. forced marriage and female genital mutilation and target the perpetrators of those offences
- Tackle Violence Against Women and Girls in line with current strategy 2017/20

3. Local Community and Visibility

- Identify and tackle patterns, trends and hot spots for anti-social behaviour through increased visibility and enforcement
- Reduce harm to and safeguard victims from hate crime
- Community engagement

4. Counter Extremism and Terrorism

- Preventing violent extremism locally

2.8 In identifying these priorities we recognise the changing world we live in and will be closely monitoring any impact that the development of Thurrock's night time economy may have. We will be reviewing and refreshing the Violence Against Women and Girls strategy in 2020 to encompass all gender related abuse.

2.9 The CSP must pay due regard to the PFCC priorities, which are laid out within the 2016/20 Police and Crime Plan which sets out 7 focus areas:

- More local, visible and accessible policing
- Crack down on ASB
- Break the cycle of domestic abuse
- Reverse the trend in serious violence
- Tackle gangs and organised crime
- Protect children and vulnerable people
- Improve safety on our roads

3. Issues, Options and Analysis of Options

3.1 Summary of crime performance for 1/4/18 to 31/3/19 compared to 2017/18⁴:

Victim Based Crime Crime Type	Offences			
	2017/8	2018/9	# diff.	% diff.
Violence Against the Person	3940	5696	1756	44.6
Violence with injury	1297	1476	179	13.8
Violence without injury	1721	2257	536	31.1
Sexual Offences	315	344	29	9.2
Robbery	205	244	39	19.0
Burglary (all types)	1238	1134	-104	-8.4
Vehicle Offences (incl. Interference)	2012	2341	329	16.4
Theft ⁵	3219	3388	169	5.3
Criminal Damage incl. Arson	1652	1801	149	9.0
Racial/Religiously Aggravated Offences	185	212	27	14.6
Possession of Weapons	119	170	51	42.9

⁴ As provided by Essex Police from STORM data

⁵ Including theft from person, of a pedal cycle, shoplifting and other

- 3.1.1 There continues to be a rise in Violence against the Person (44.6%), of which 38.2% is domestic related (2176 incidents). This is comparable to an increase across Essex of 39.4%. The increase in possession of weapons is a worrying trend and is borne out by those coming into the Youth Criminal Justice System.
- 3.1.2 Whilst vehicle crime overall has increased there has been a 3% reduction in theft from a vehicle.
- 3.1.3 The increase in racial/religious offences follows a reduction seen in the previous year, however hate crime remains under reported. Based on the 2015/16, 2017/18 crime survey for England and Wales 53% of hate crime was reported to the Police⁶.
- 3.1.4 There were 6 case reviews of ASB requested in the year to March 2019, of which 1 met the threshold. This was successfully resolved through a house move.
- 3.1.5 The priorities for 2018/19 continued to focus on “hidden crimes” which often go unreported, but have a huge impact on vulnerable victims and lead to long-term health and well-being concerns and ultimately can lead to safeguarding procedures. In relation to gang related violence, there has been an increase in vulnerable person’s property being “taken over” (cuckooed) for profit.
- 3.1.6 The partnership continues to raise awareness of these crimes within the community and has action plans, which are continuously reviewed, in place to address.
- 3.1.7 Residents, through forums, local Councillors and community engagement events, continue to tell us that whilst recorded ASB has fallen in the year, this is not the perception of residents. To address this funding has been made available through Council surplus in 18/19 to support the Council and Police with additional operations and resources to address ASB and gang related violence. There is an ongoing challenge to encourage reporting through a number of channels to either the Police, Council or anonymously to Crimestoppers.
- 3.1.8 The TCSP also has a statutory duty for re-offending and all partners are required to prioritise, through the Integrated Offender Management (IOM) Scheme, those causing most harm to the community. The reduction seen in burglary can in part be attributed to the work of the IOM team in Thurrock, crime prevention advice provided to residents (including sheltered housing tenants) about distraction burglary, improved security measures through Well Homes, target hardening and improvements to enhance residents security, as well as the use of CCTV and the ongoing contribution from use of ANPR cameras, activity of Neighbourhood Watch and Active Citizens.

⁶ Home Office Hate Crime Report England and Wales 2017/2018

- 3.1.9 The revised priorities for 2019/20 have a greater emphasis on Violence and Vulnerability, in particular in relation to tackling gang related activity and offensive weapons, as well as addressing community concerns regarding ASB and visible policing.
- 3.1.10 The Strategic Assessment conducted in 2018 is based on a risk matrix which considers varying factors such as public concern, seriousness, harm and cost, and has been used to validate these priorities.

3.2 Activity to deliver on priorities 2018/19

3.2.1 Re-Offending

Partners worked together at a workshop to refresh the Integrated Offender Management Scheme in Thurrock, with a revised action plan driven by data from the Community Rehabilitation Company (CRC). This has led to an improved partnership response to support offenders.

Thurrock has made 38 referrals to the Restorative Justice Service between April and January.

Youth at Risk programme has been delivered in 5 schools, to 60 of our most vulnerable pupils.

3.2.2 Violence Against Women and Girls

A Coordinator has been recruited to develop our local response to the National strategy. This has improved governance and partnership working.

Thurrock hosted J9 training with 153 attendees including business representatives.

SERICC were commissioned to develop a similar training programme for Sexual Abuse with 173 people attending our “Challenging Myths Changing Attitude Training”.

3.2.3 Hate Crime

There have been 25 referrals to our Locality Action Groups with actions in place to safeguard victims.

Pop Up community engagement events were held to promote reporting in 2 hot spot areas.

Awareness raising was added to our Prevent training with 120 attendees.

All Waste Operatives, Environmental Supervisors and Managers attended an awareness raising session, in response to incidents reported.

3.2.4 Child Sexual Exploitation

Training has been delivered to all licensed taxi drivers in Thurrock and is now being rolled out to hotel premises.

3.2.5 Gang related Violence

Gangline delivered gang awareness in 6 schools and over 200 professionals attended their training.

Crucial crew included knife crime awareness sessions, the offer was to all schools in Thurrock, 21 of our primary schools took up this opportunity which reached 1100 year 6 pupils.

11 injunctions were secured against members of the C17 gang alongside 2 criminal behaviour orders. A further 2 have been obtained in 2019.

Additional funding supported the Op Raptor Team, enabling them to conduct 14 proactive patrols and enforcement of C17 injunctions, 1 covert operation with 10 officers, and a joint operation with the fraud team which resulted in 30 arrests and 6 breaches.

3.2.6 Violent Extremism

Prevent awareness workshops were delivered to 120 professionals.

The prevent duty toolkit has been completed and the action plan refreshed to reflect the learning from the training.

The Counter Terrorism Local Profile is being disseminated as appropriate and the risk assessment and action plan updated accordingly.

The Channel Panel has been refreshed and new process of referrals adopted.

3.2.7 Anti-Social Behaviour

Following concerns raised by residents, the Council allocated funding to encourage reporting and to support the activities of Op Raptor to tackle gang related violence and to develop initiatives to address anti-social behaviour.

Engagement with residents, partners from Police, Housing, Youth Services, PASS and community safety has resulted in a proposal being developed to address ASB in the borough through:

- Target Hardening areas to create barriers to causes of ASB
- Operations to increase visibility and enforcement
- Prevention to work with young people at risk of causing ASB, and;
- Engagement with residents

Essex Police completed additional hours of high visibility policing operations in Purfleet, Tilbury, Stanford Le Hope, Aveley and South Ockendon to combat ASB and for the period 1st October 2017 to 30th September 2018 they issued:

- 78 Community Protection Warnings,
- 6 Community Protection Notices and
- 2 Criminal Behaviour Orders

Improvements to CCTV to address ASB have been made on the Garrison Estate, in Derwent Parade and Seabrooke Rise

Enforcement of the Public Spaces Protection Order in Grays High Street, improved CCTV and additional resourcing of Op Raptor has led to a 44% reduction in ASB and 16% reduction in violent crime in Clarence St, The Mall, High Street and George St, between 2018 and 2017. This was supported by joint patrols of Essex Police Officers and Thurrock Environmental Enforcement Officers throughout the borough with a focus on Grays and Tilbury.

3.3 Thurrock Council now have four Quadrant Officers in place and are able to work effectively throughout the borough. The team attend to reported Environmental crime daily and are visible throughout the borough including completing area patrols. The Council's Environmental Enforcement Officers and ASB Officers have now been accredited under a Home Office initiative that enables the Chief of Police for Essex to designate limited police powers to employees of non-police organisation, who are in a community safety role and contribute towards community safety while maintaining a high profile enforcement presence on the streets. To achieve this the officers were required to undergo training and pass assessments which were conducted by Essex police.

3.3.1 Under the Community Safety Accreditation Scheme, Environmental Enforcement officers and the ASB Officers can now use the following powers:

- Power to issue penalty notices for disorder
- Power to issue fixed penalty notices for cycling on a footpath
- Power to require giving of name and address
- Power to deal with begging
- Power to require name and address for anti-social behaviour
- Power to require persons aged under 18 to surrender alcohol
- Power to seize tobacco from a person aged under 16
- Power to issue FPN for persons believed to be causing harassment, alarm or distress
- Consumption of alcohol by a person under 18 or allowing such consumption

3.3.2 Last year 3,011 service requests were issued to officers who investigated and responded and resulted in some of the following:

- 166 Fixed Penalty Notices [FPN's] were issued because of fly tipping incidents – a total of £66,400
- 77 vehicles were assessed and deemed to meet the criteria for abandonment – a total of £15,400. Of these 14 vehicles were removed by our contractor
- 132 Community Protection Warnings (CPW) and 13 Community Protection Notices (CPN) were issued in respect of various nuisances that were causing a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those living in the locality
- 61 unauthorised encampments were reported, with the majority dealt with by the council in partnership using the court process

3.3.3 A number of businesses were found to be non-compliant with their waste duty of care resulting in FPN's being issued totally £5,100.

3.3.4 Officers are now equipped with both digital radios and body worn cameras. This has enabled them to work in much safer environment especially when lone working. It also gives them easier access to other officers in different teams whilst also being able to capture evidence at the scene.

3.3.5 The additional funding also supported Op Caesar to combat motorcycle nuisance in Thurrock which saw in nine months a 50% reduction through Essex Police carrying out 120 actions against people carrying out these kinds of offences including;

- Six people arrested for various offences;
- 25 warnings issued about offences;
- Four letters sent to insurance companies reporting fraud;
- 41 people reported for having no insurance, driving without a licence and careless riding;
- Eight people receiving tickets for vehicle defects;
- 11 vehicles seized, two stolen vehicles received and one house searched;
- Six stop and search actions;
- One rider from South Ockendon banned and fined £1,040.

3.4 Work planned to deliver on priorities in 2019/20

3.4.1 Reduce Re-Offending

- Work with the Homeless Team to support access to housing through offenders and develop use of Well Homes project to support with intervention
- Develop work in children's social care to work with perpetrators of domestic abuse
- Support the Blue Light project to address alcohol as a high criminogenic need of our priority offenders
- Continue to promote restorative justice and improve positive outcomes

3.4.2 Tackle Gang Related Activity and Offensive Weapons

- Use the prevent, disrupt and enforce model to manage identified gang nominals who reside in Thurrock
- Continued use and enforcement of gang injunctions and Criminal Behaviour Orders
- Develop a plan to focus on criminal and sexual exploitation
- Develop and promote prevention & intervention programmes in schools
- Raise awareness of “cuckooing” amongst vulnerable communities

In addition the recently announced funding from the violence and vulnerability programme will allow us to work with Thurrock Youth services to deliver a mentoring programme for 20 young people, provide detached youth work in identified areas, deliver activities during holiday periods to those pupils at risk and referred by schools, and work with Youth forums to deliver bespoke pieces of work identified by themselves. We will also be expanding work within the school well-being service working with pupils at risk of permanent exclusion.

3.4.3 Tackle Violence against Women and Girls

- Refresh Thurrock VAWG action plan to reflect emerging trends and refresh our strategy in line with national changes.
- Continue to raise awareness of domestic abuse through J9 training to all staff, including our external partners and contractors
- Continue to raise awareness of sexual violence and abuse through Challenging Myths: Changing Attitudes training
- Support Thurrock Housing Safeguarding Team to obtain DAHA Accreditation; the benchmark for how housing providers should respond to domestic abuse in the UK
- Raise awareness of stalking with communities and professionals including the SET Domestic Abuse Board campaign launching in September
- Engage with the community liaison officers within the Housing Safeguarding Team to deliver practical support to identified individuals requiring assistance

3.4.4 Anti-social behaviour (ASB)

- High risk victims shared with partners through our Locality Action Groups (LAGs) to enable safeguarding and victim focused outcomes
- Continue to enforce Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO's) in Grays and West Thurrock
- Direct visible out of hours patrols to address ASB hot spots
- Through the Park Engagement Officers deliver activities in the parks across the borough and become a visual presence, directly working with the community to improve behaviour

- Through Thurrock Council's Environmental Enforcement Officers we will have a visible presence to reduce litter, flyposting and fly tipping.
- Increased Policing in Thurrock, increasing visibility, in particular in Grays, Ockendon and Stanford Le hope where the 7 Town Centre Policing Officers have been allocated. .
- Joint tasking of Police and Environmental Enforcement Officers, in relation to CSP Objectives.
- Application for Unauthorised Encampment injunction.

3.4.5 Hate Crime

- Share high risk victims with partners through LAGs to enable safeguarding and victim focused outcomes
- Continue to engage with our diverse communities to build confidence to report
- Raise awareness of hate crime in schools
- Continue to promote the hate crime ambassador role and promote hate incident reporting centres through "stop it now" project

3.4.6 Community Engagement

- Host partnership Pop up events to engage with residents in hot spots
- Continue engagement with Essex Police through "Coffee with Cops"
- Work with CVS and community groups e.g. neighbourhood watch to promote the "Report it" campaign

3.4.7 Counter Extremism and Terrorism

- Identify local threats and monitor
- Encourage greater awareness and challenge within communities including the offer of training to all elected members
- Safeguard those that are vulnerable to extremism
- Deliver appropriate intervention

3.5 The Community Safety Equality Impact Assessment has highlighted that there is a need to focus on the vulnerable within our communities as they are at greater risk of serious harm and that older people are at greater risk of distraction burglary and rogue traders. Young people are at greater risk of exploitation including sexual, trafficking, cyber bullying, radicalisation and gang related violence. Hate crime within the disabled, transgender and sexual orientation communities continue to have low rates of reporting. Learning disabled are at risk of "cuckooed" in relation to gang violence. Females are more likely to be a victim of domestic and sexual violence and abuse. There is also a gap around information about same sex domestic abuse victims.

3.6 The Thurrock Community Safety Partnership remains committed, through its members, to working with the PFCC to develop and implement innovative

programmes to tackle crime, keep our communities safe and improve support for victims.

- 3.7 Trend analysis, which formed part of the research to develop these delivery plans, confirmed that whilst reported levels of ASB continue to fall, reported crime is increasing, and particularly the categories of violence against the person; vehicle offences; and robbery, however burglary continues to show a reduction in offences.
- 3.8 Our multi-agency groups, set up to tackle operational issues around crime, offenders and anti-social behaviour continue to deliver improvements in community safety for our residents, in particular our most vulnerable through close working with adult safeguarding teams.
- 3.9 The biggest challenge facing the CSP continues to be to improve public confidence to continue to report community issues either to the Police, Council or anonymously to crimestoppers.

4. Reasons for Recommendation

- 4.1 The purpose of this report is to update the committee on the delivery of the Thurrock Community Safety Partnership (TCSP) priorities for 2018/19 and highlight the priorities and actions to deliver the priorities in 2019/20 based on the findings of the strategic assessment of 2018.

5. Consultation (including Overview and Scrutiny, if applicable)

- 5.1 N/A

6. Impact on corporate policies, priorities, performance and community impact

- 6.1 The Thurrock Community Safety Partnership is central to delivering Thurrock Council's priority of:

People – a borough where people of all ages are proud to work and play, live and stay.

This means:

- High quality, consistent and accessible public services which are right first time
- Build on our partnerships with statutory, community, voluntary and faith groups to work together to improve health and wellbeing
- Communities are empowered to make choices and be safer and stronger together

- 6.2 The Health and Wellbeing Board agreed to amend Goal 2 of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy earlier this year and **Goal 2** is now *Healthier and Safer*

Environment, however there are a number of areas that the CSP contribute to in ensuring residents of Thurrock are able to live healthier and safer.

- 6.3 The strategic assessment in identifying the 4 priorities took into account recent consultation with residents in some areas of the borough and it is our understanding that in many cases Anti-social behaviour is going unreported and therefore the reported reduction in ASB is not giving us an accurate picture.

7. Implications

7.1 Financial

Implications verified by: **Rosie Hurst**
Interim Senior Management Accountant

The CSP has a grant from the Police Fire and Crime Commissioner of £24,976, the same as last year and an £18,343 contribution from Thurrock Council. These funds have all been allocated to support delivery of the priorities.

A further £750K allocation of surplus funding 18/19 has been provided in response to resident concern and feedback, to tackle ASB and gang related violence across the borough over the next 3 years

The PFCC and partners have been successful in obtaining additional funds to support targeted work to tackle violence and vulnerability.

There are no financial implications from this report.

7.2 Legal

Implications verified by: **Tim Hallam**
Acting Head of Law, Assistant Director of Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer

There do not appear to be any direct legal implications arising from this report

7.3 Diversity and Equality

Implications verified by: **Natalie Warren**
Community Development and Equalities Manager

The Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) has been refreshed following the Strategic Assessment and the gaps identified in 3.5 are addressed within the action plans.

7.4 **Other implications** (where significant) – i.e. Staff, Health, Sustainability, Crime and Disorder, or Impact on Looked After Children

This report outlines the Council and its Partners commitment to ensuring they are delivering on Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act legislation.

8. **Background papers used in preparing the report** (including their location on the Council's website or identification whether any are exempt or protected by copyright):

- Partnership Strategic assessment 2018
- Partnership Delivery Plan

www.thurrock.gov.uk/community-safety-partnership/thurrock-community-safety-partnership

- Police and Crime Plan

www.essex.pcc.police.uk/priorities-for-essex/police-and-crime-plan/

- ASB case review report:

www.thurrock.gov.uk/sites/default/files/assets/documents/asb-scr-2018-v01.pdf

9. **Appendices to the report**

Appendix 1 - Essex Violence and Vulnerability framework

Report Author:

Michelle Cunningham
Thurrock Community Safety Partnership Manager
Environment and Highways

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**Safer Essex
Violence and Vulnerability Framework
June 2018**

Contents

- 1. Introduction**
 - i. Definition and Scope**
 - ii. National Background**
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- 2. Data and Understanding**

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- 4. Prevention and Interventions**
 - i. Interventions**
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 - iv. Challenges**
 - v. Outcomes**

- 5. Leadership, Partnerships and Co-ordination**

Why is it important?

 - i. Understanding**
 - ii. Information sharing**
 - iii. Cross-county and cross-district / partnerships**
 - iv. County Lines**

How can we make a difference?

 - v. Leadership and Responsibilities**
 - vi. Influence**

- 6. A Framework of Touchpoints**

APPENDICES

- A. Activity across Essex**
- B. Risk Factors for Gang Involvement**
- C. Suggested distribution network for this Framework**
- D. Bibliography, References and Links**

1. Introduction

i. Definition and Scope

This Framework is designed to create a set of principles to which all partners can work, helping to align and streamline activities that will raise awareness, act as interventions and support the vulnerable. We recognise that the Framework cannot dictate how individual organisations work, but its content sets the scene to facilitate the conversations necessary to create an environment of a co-ordinated approach. The Framework can be used to recognise the opportunities for joint-commissioning.

This Framework seeks to cover all types of serious violence and vulnerability including, but not exclusively, gangs and county lines activity.

The Home Office define a gang as being:

A relatively durable, predominantly street-based group of young people who

- ***see themselves (and are seen by others) as a discernible group***
- ***engage in criminal activity and violence and may also***
- ***lay claim over territory (not necessarily geographical, but can include an illegal economy territory);***
- ***have some form of identifying structural feature; and/or***
- ***Be in conflict with other, similar groups.***

This definition is useful because it covers the 'County Drug Line' activity which is the predominant manifestation of Gangs in Essex. Conflict between other 'County Drug Lines' or local dealing networks in an area can lead to the violence. This is the overriding concern in terms of risk.

This Framework acknowledges that there are clear links between gangs and other activity relating to violence and vulnerability. This widens the scope of the Framework to include

- Serious violence
- CSE
- Missing persons
- Modern slavery
- Human trafficking
- Drugs

Whilst all of these themes are important, and the recommendations made in this Framework are widely applicable, it is recognised that pre-existing work in some areas means that the starting points are different.

ii. National Background

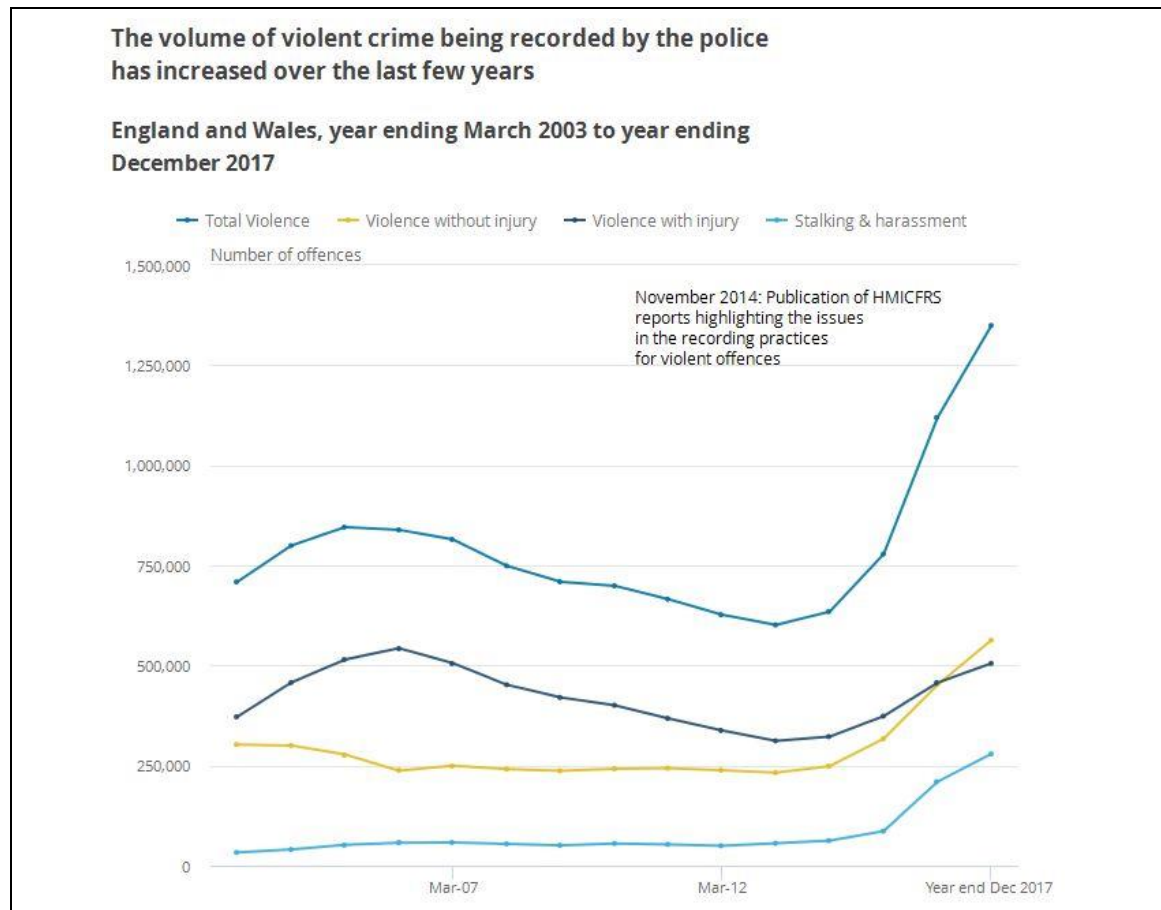
In April 2018 the Government published a **Serious Violence Strategy**, in response to recent increases in knife crime, gun crime and homicide. It makes specific reference to the rise in incidents involving corrosive substances and violence resulting from county (drug) lines.

The Serious Violence Strategy stresses the importance of early intervention and of Government, public sector, voluntary sector and private sector working together to respond collaboratively. It specifically references police, local authorities, social services, youth services, health and

education, as well as highlighting the roles of Police and Crime Commissioners and Community Safety Partnerships.

Also in April 2018 the Office for National Statistics published the Statistical Bulletin for Crime in England and Wales: year ending December 2017, which shows the total volume of (reported) violent crime increasing steadily since March 2013 (*illustrated in the graph below*).

The same publication shows the number of police recorded offences involving a knife or sharp instrument rising for three consecutive years since 2015.



Source: Police recorded crime, Home Office, via ONS

This was followed in May by the National Crime Agency's **National Strategic Assessment of Serious and Organised Crime**. This makes significant reference to gangs, violence and vulnerabilities (including Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and Modern Slavery).

These two documents were preceded by the **2017 Drug Strategy** (published in July 2017). The Drug Strategy makes links between drugs and other forms of crime – including acquisitive crime, sexual exploitation and violence. The social and economic cost of drug supply in England and Wales is estimate to be £10.7 billion per year. The strategy advocates a collective approach that will not only reduce drug use but will also 'reduce crime, improve life chances, promote better health and protect the most vulnerable in our communities'.

iii. The Essex Context

Although crime associated with violence and vulnerability has traditionally happened in private spaces we have also seen an increase in violence in the community. Exploitation of the vulnerable is a growing issue that requires a collective response. Gang activity driven by county lines is having significant impact on some areas of our county, while other areas are at risk of being affected. The range of impacts, on both children and adults, mean that a number of partners are, and must continue to be, engaged in how the issue is addressed.

iv. The Essex Response

In Essex we need our own local response to the issues of violence and vulnerability, but we also need to work with our partners in neighbouring areas, including London, Kent, Hertfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Suffolk. We know that there are significant links between London-based gangs and drug activity in Essex, through county lines. There are also links between activity in Essex and in other neighbouring counties – and it is vital that we work with our partners across borders to give a united and unified response to tackle this national problem.

We also know that instances of serious violence are still increasing. Gang-related recorded crimes increased from an average 3 per month in 2016 to 9 per month in 2017, and knife crime offences increased from 1,716 in 2015-6 to 2,321 in 2016-17. The problem we face is a growing one, and one regarding which we are still gathering intelligence to help our understanding. Only by having a joined-up approach can we have the scale of impact necessary to make a difference.

v. Intention and Goals

The intention of this Framework is to:

- **improve research and understanding**
- **raise awareness**
- **to co-ordinate the existing activities of partners across Essex, Southend and Thurrock**

The overall goals of this work are to:

- improve **visibility** and **awareness** of partnership activity around violence and vulnerability
- increase the occurrence and effectiveness of **prevention and intervention** activities
- to identify opportunities **to add value** to existing and planned activities
- **to identify gaps** in current and planned activities
- to highlight areas where **cross-border and partnership working** would be beneficial

The Framework is aimed at strategic decision-makers but will be made publically available for any interested party to access. Appendix B lists some of the partners who will be key in helping to share this Framework.

2. Data and Understanding

Understanding the current activity that is taking place (both what and where), and who and where those most vulnerable to harm are living, helps us to target prevention and intervention work to maximise impact.

Violence and vulnerability, particularly that involving gangs, is a growing and evolving challenge. Having up to date information, and identifying trends and changes, can help us to predict what is likely to happen in the future and enable us to find the best way of reducing harm.

Case Study: Essex Data Project

The Essex Data Project will collate data from a number of partners (including Education, Children’s Social Care (Assessment & missing), Adults Social Care, Youth Offending Service, Drugs & Alcohol, Community Rehabilitation Company, Police crimes, ASB and Missing persons data). This will be linked and reviewed to create dashboards which can guide targeted intervention. The Essex Data Project has brought together partners to develop a platform that will be able to build an accurate picture of Essex. The data will not be ‘live’ but will be updated to ensure a realistic and relevant information source is available. The data will be mapped against other information (such as location of key services) and used to inform a strategic intelligence product. There will also be a predictive element to help inform planned activities and behaviours. The Project is a good example of how joint-working is beneficial; partners have collectively scoped the requirements of the platform, shaped data sources that will add value, designed dashboards and signed up to an information-sharing protocol – as well as providing the data that will help to inform others.

As well as understanding the local data about activity and vulnerability, it is important to understand the drivers that lead people to make the choices which result in them engaging with gangs and becoming perpetrators of violence.

- Lack of role models
- Want of a family
- Not knowing how to exit
- Identity and belonging

The figure in appendix B shows a comprehensive list of risk factors for gang involvement.

Alongside statutory organisations who are responsible for delivering this framework, the voluntary sector also has a key role to play. It is important that their potential to add benefit is recognised. As well as assisting in awareness raising and delivering interventions voluntary sector organisations should be engaged in early stages of information gathering and analysis, so that they can be better sighted and have greater buy-in to subsequent delivery.

It is also important to listen to the voices of children and families who are and have been affected by issues of violence and vulnerability. This will ensure that language is appropriate and that interventions are most likely to have a positive impact.

We must:

- Ensure that we look at data about known vulnerabilities, as well as that which tracks incidents of violence
- Ensure that we know which partners hold data, and what this relates to
- Identify gaps in data that need to be filled
- Recognise the benefits of data sharing, understanding that sharing data helps others to better fulfil their objectives, contributing to a reduction in the overall impacts of violence and vulnerability on individuals and on society
- Ensure that we share intelligence wherever possible
- Ensure that we share information and data responsibly adhering to GDPR and information sharing agreements where appropriate
- Ensure that we understand how data can be shared in a secure environment
- Analyse collective intelligence together
- Ensure that where actions are identified that cannot be undertaken by the organisation holding that data, the recommendations should be shared with partners

3. Awareness and Education

Raising awareness of gang violence and vulnerabilities helps to tackle the cause of the problem. It can be used to identify children and vulnerable adults at risk but also highlight issues impacting communities. Awareness work does not single out individuals, but rather focusses on identified geographic, demographic or sociographic groups where it is believed it will have maximum effect or where need is believed to be greatest. There are existing local activities educating against the threat of violence and raising awareness to recognise the signs of vulnerabilities particularly with young people including:

- Localised commissioned school programmes for primary, secondary and parents (see appendix A)
- Localised commissioned awareness programmes for practitioners e.g. Gangsline workshops
- Crucial Crew for year 6
- Children's Society awareness programmes
- Essex Fire and Rescue – Fire break
- Community Safety Partnerships sharing knowledge, data and understanding of current picture with schools and agencies
- Essex Youth Offending Service – Gangs prevention service
- Essex Youth Service - Targeted Intervention through outreach youth workers in hotspot areas (disruption activity)
- Risk Avert Programme

Targeting children and young people who are in education is a key early opportunity to educate and reduce their vulnerability and risk to criminal activity. The Home Office Serious Violence Strategy (April 18) identifies education as critical as it is recognised that the majority of children and school-aged young people remain in school until they legitimately leave. There is evidence that identifies those that are in care, alternative education and school exclusions puts children at high risk of being exploited for offences such as drug market related violence. Targeted awareness in schools and with practitioners is essential to ensure awareness is created to the most vulnerable groups.

The primary threat of gang activity in Essex is drug related offences, with the significant and growing increase of county lines and the impact this is having on vulnerable individuals at the end of the supply chain. The Home Office 2017 Drug Strategy (July 2017) recognises that 'In 2015-16 17% of the young people accessing specialist substance misuse services were not in education, training or employment and 12% were looked after children'

There are opportunities to collaborate and work together with existing specialist drug programmes to support those most at risk.

Alongside local activity there has been a lot of national work that provides information and guidance on awareness raising and spotting the signs of vulnerability (see Appendix C). These resources should be utilised when raising awareness with practitioners and partner organisations. Awareness campaigns should not conflict or compete with existing activity ensuring resources are used efficiently. Safeguarding responsibilities also need to be considered when creating campaigns, ensuring that the content is age appropriate and factual.

Violence and vulnerability is sometimes a hidden harm with abuse occurring behind closed doors, often not recognised or reported. Awareness activity should also include public campaigns to empower all to spot the signs, report concern and seek support. To maximise any campaigns a multi-agency approach should be considered to increase coverage across Essex and deliver a consistent message.

Case Study: I Didn't Know Campaign

The multi-award winning I Didn't Know campaign in Essex was set up collaboratively between Essex Police and Southend, Essex and Thurrock's (SET) Local Safeguarding Children Boards. The SET CSE Strategic Group identified in 2015 that a public facing awareness raising campaign had not been implemented across SET and the concept for the campaign was inspired by the highly acclaimed film project designed and created by the Essex Children in Care Council. The original film won a local youth award and was shortlisted for the national Children & Young People Now Awards. The campaign was expanded in 2017 to shine a spotlight on how grooming and sexual exploitation can be a part of the wider exploitation of children, such as trafficking, criminal exploitation by gangs and organised crime networks and attempted to identify with young people who may feel trapped through the grooming process to commit crime and abuse other young people and importantly emphasise that they can get help and support too.

We must:

- Ensure that awareness messaging is factual and provides local context of current picture
- Ensure that awareness raising is age appropriate and inclusive
- Provide information on how to 'spot the signs' of those who are most vulnerable being targets
- Expand/review messaging on existing programmes to include violence and gang associated messaging e.g. Drugs programmes
- Engage with voluntary organisations to support and engage with any awareness activity e.g. Neighbourhood Watch, Active Citizens, Youth Clubs, Boys and Girls Clubs,
- Develop and use Multi agency campaigns to raise awareness
- Ensure that organisations link with the educational sector (both primary and secondary) to both encourage and support young people to remain in mainstream education for as long as possible and to support delivery of any violence and vulnerability programmes

4. Prevention and Interventions

Awareness activity can be a critical part of a response to violence and vulnerability however awareness itself does not create the necessary changes in attitudes or behaviours, therefore a preventative intervention activity is required. Preventing young people from becoming involved with gangs, violence and vulnerability is crucial if the cycle of gang violence is to be broken. Prevention is the stage after awareness, and includes diversionary activities and interventions targeted at those groups who are known to be most vulnerable (either vulnerable to becoming victims or to becoming perpetrators).

i. Interventions

If young people are to be persuaded to change their lives there must be a genuine offer of an attractive alternative to gangs. Interventions that support individuals need to be appropriate and fulfil their individual needs and focus on the positive; this should include making better use of the abilities, ambition and enterprise for young people. Appendix A shares current intervention activity that is happening across Essex.

Successful interventions for individuals known to be at risk can include:

- **121 support work and mentoring** – One to One non-judgemental relationship, where a mentor gives time to support and encourage another. The support can vary giving direct (attending and supporting appointments) and indirect emotional and role model led support. In Essex the Youth Offending Service – Gangs Prevention Service are providing tailor-made mentoring programmes of 2-12 sessions for individual young people.
- **Education** – Continuing to engage young people in education allows the opportunity to keep young people safe and give time and opportunity to educate in the risks of violence and associated activity. Those at risks are likely to be in alternate educational provisions including PRUs. This again has a vitally critical job to continue to ensure the young person remains engaged with educational activities. Educational establishments cannot do this on their own and require the support of a multi-agency approach. To increase engagement with education there is opportunity for community groups and 3rd sector groups to work together. Educational establishments can provide support further by ensuring information is shared through school transitions and with partners.
- **Social alternative** – Creating a suitable environment for gang exit means having in place a number of social opportunities. The following all play a part in persuading young people to leave a gang lifestyle:
 - Housing, which must be accompanied by ongoing support and advice
 - Employment, that is both legitimate and stable – In Essex we have an opportunity to work with large businesses who operate in Essex to create innovative employment initiatives.
 - Mental, emotional and physical health needs, which can be ongoing after exit need to be supported.
 - Enterprise opportunities
 - Support from community and third sector groups e.g. youth groups, sports clubs, music and art organisations
- **Transition service** – Interventions need to ensure that they are available for as long as the vulnerable person requires the support; this includes supporting young people transitioning

to adults. In line with the National Transfer Policy, Essex Youth Offending Service (YOS), National Probation Service (NPS) and Community Rehabilitation Company (CRC) have agreed to meet quarterly to consider all potential and actual transfers of young people aged 18 and open to Youth Offending Service.

- **Parent and Family support** – It is important to also support the families around the individuals, as they all face a mix of problems that could reinforce the risk of violence. It is important to utilise and collaborate intervention activity that supports the family. The Government’s Troubled Families programme is a programme of targeted intervention for families with multiple problems, including crime, antisocial behaviour, truancy, unemployment, mental health problems and domestic abuse. This programme is seeing a decrease in the proportion of individuals cautioned and convicted. (*DCLG, 2017, National evaluation of the Troubled Families Programme 2015 – 2020 Family Outcomes – national and local datasets*).
- **Young Offenders** – we recognise the benefits of developing programmes with Essex Police. It is important to engage with the Children & Young People and ASB Manager within the Local Policing Support Unit, who can help in developing the role of Essex Police.

Case study: Missing and Child Exploitation (MACE) meetings:

A MACE meeting is one meeting but in two parts to enable effective, timely and efficient information sharing: (1) reviewing plans for individual victims of exploitation and those whom are most vulnerable from missing episode(s); (2) identifying local responses to disrupt, locate vulnerable communities and vulnerable children and young people.

Information sharing across partners and understanding of criminal exploitation is improving, with greater focus on methods of exploitation such as cuckooing, drug running and debt bondage, whereas previous information focused heavily on female victims of sexual exploitation only.

An evolving picture of criminal exploitation is being identified through MACE part 1, which in turn has led to more effective information sharing around perpetrator behaviour and criminal exploitation methods in MACE part 2. Case study examples include:

- eight interventions through MACE part 2 which have taken place directly in the centre of an identified hotspot that was later removed, helping to evidence the effectiveness of interventions through MACE 2 in reducing exploitation across Essex.
- a request made to Tendring District Council to fund Youth Service outreach to disrupt anti-social behaviour and associated issues in Clacton town, which was agreed.
- a request made to Colchester Borough Council to raise exploitation awareness amongst the town bus drivers / companies.

ii. Workforce interventions

We also need to recognise windows of opportunity to intervene with young people on the occasions they come into contact with services, e.g. for emergency hospital treatment. Individuals who are vulnerable often have many organisations who are providing support, this becomes more prevalent when the individual is a child for example; a Doctor, Police, Youth Worker, Health Visitors, Teacher, Community Group may all have contact. Often, at least one of these practitioners would be a trusted individual with a strong relationship with the vulnerable person. Considerations should be given to upskill these practitioners to provide intervention support rather than commissioning new intervention agencies that creates another touch point. It is not necessarily appropriate to include another intervention practitioner into an already overcrowded support network. For interventions like this to succeed it is important that a

collaborative multi-agency approach is in place. This could be done by creating a 'team around the worker' approach which reduces the risk of fragmenting existing relationships.

iii. **Enforcement**

Enforcement has a role to play in reducing violence and putting an end to gang activity. Enforcement is arguably the most severe of interventions, and an essential tool to deal with those who choose, regardless of other options, to remain involved in gangs, violence and criminality. Often perpetrators could also be victims of crime. Enforcement activity needs to be considered alongside other intervention to ensure the right support for the individual is achieved and a positive outcome is reached. In order to achieve this a multi-agency response would be most appropriate.

Essex Police has a number of enforcement powers to disrupt and deter individuals and groups involved with violence and targeting vulnerabilities:

- **Community Protection Notices (CPN)** were introduced in the 'ASB, Crime & Policing Act 2014 and can be issued in order to tackle the issue of Anti-Social Behaviour. They can be issued by Police Officers, PCSOs and Local Authorities. Operation Raptor officers in Basildon and Southend were believed to be amongst the first in the UK to use CPNs to tackle gang activity. CPNs were issued to gang members who caused nuisance, annoyance or disorder in the community by dealing drugs on the street, taking over the homes of vulnerable people from which to deal (cuckooing) and using vehicles to transport and sell drugs.
- **Criminal Behaviour order (also known as a CBO or CRIMBO)** came into force in 2014 and is aimed at the most serious and persistent offenders where their behaviour has brought them before a criminal court. CBOs may be an appropriate response to any type of offending and are not limited to 'low level' antisocial behaviour. A CBO can be used to disrupt gang offending (such as drugs, firearms) with prohibitions to prevent gang offending including: non-association, exclusion zones, curfews and possession of unregistered mobile phones
- **Gang injunctions** introduced in 2011 gave police and local authorities new powers to deal with gang-related violence. A gang injunction is a court-issued order prohibiting gang members from participating in certain activities such as being in a particular area or association with particular people. The overarching aim of the gang injunction is:
 - I. To prevent the respondent from engaging in, or encouraging or assisting, gang-related violence or gang-related drug dealing activity; and/or
 - II. To protect the respondent from gang-related violence or gang-related drug dealing activity.

A gang injunction should be carried out using a multi-agency approach and should be supported by a wide range of evidence. It is important to identify if criminal proceedings are taking place in order to ensure the criminal and civil proceedings do not undermine each other.

- **Closure Order**— Where a property is cuckooed and this has led to an increase in antisocial behaviour a Closure Order can be applied for, so only the resident and any immediate family are allowed at the address. They would not be allowed any other visitors during the period the order is in force. A police officer of at least the rank of Inspector, or the local authority, may issue a closure notice if satisfied on reasonable grounds that:
 - I. the use of the particular premises has resulted or is likely soon to result in nuisance to members of the public OR

II. that there has been or is likely soon to be disorder near those premises associated with the use of those premises

- **Essex Police 'Operation Raptor' teams** cover all three Local Policing Areas (LPAs), in order to tackle drug dealing and gang-related crime. Raptor teams work with specialist colleagues from across the force, as well as from other forces and partnership agencies. Raptor teams are well established and well-regarded amongst partners and practitioners. They have made good links with Trident and other boroughs.

Enforcement is not only the responsibility of the Police, but also of other agencies involved including

- Local Authority – Health and Safety Enforcement, civil enforcements
- Crown Prosecution System and courts – Criminal Justice outcomes the use of alternative measures rather than custodial
- Housing enforcement
- Gangmaster Labour Abuse Authority – Licensing regulations
- Transport companies – ticket enforcement to identify vulnerable people
- Community Safety Partnerships with the development of local plans involving partners to drive appropriate visible activity around key locations, premises and individuals

How this is implemented will have a significant impact on the effectiveness of criminal intervention and enforcement. It is vital that the public have confidence that the Criminal Justice System and those agencies who make it work, will respond robustly to those people whose choice is to engage with gangs and violence.

Enforcement is a severe last resort and whilst those at risk of violence are often treated as offenders more focus needs to be recognising that often individuals are victims and enforcement and criminalising individuals is not always appropriate to stop the cycle of behaviour.

iv. **Challenges**

Whilst there is lots of good work evident in Essex, there are also some challenges to overcome.

These include:

- **Offenders as victims** – Many existing support mechanisms focus on treating those who leave gang lifestyles as offenders, but it is often the case that these people are victims. This aspect must not be ignored.
- **Gang Exit** – The absence of a clear pathway for Gang Exit for those who are already entrenched in a lifestyle of violence and vulnerability. For some people gang exit will require going through a managed exit programme.
- **Thresholds** – Some of the intervention services will have thresholds. These thresholds should not prevent a vulnerable person accessing support services, therefore a choice of interventions ought to be in place. Specific consideration should be given to those who have met a threshold and then, through change in age or circumstance, are no longer eligible for support. Services should be flexible to meet the demand and need of each individual.
- **Timeliness of interventions** – Sometimes a lack of understanding of the signs of vulnerability and/or lack of confidence to act, can lead to interventions not being put in place soon enough.

- **Long-term impact** – We need to place an increased focus and consistency on reacting to how people have been harmed through involvement with gangs – be it physical, mental or emotional harm.

v. Outcomes

When reviewing activity across Essex it is clear that there is not a consistent measurement of outcomes for programmes. It is recognised that no intervention is the same and that it is becomes difficult to evaluate the impact of early intervention activity however in order to have a coordinated response some measurement should take place. Standard measurements should be collaboratively agreed across partners when measuring the success of violence and vulnerability interventions. The themes of the measurements could include:

- Improved health, resilience and wellbeing
- Better able to cope with aspects of everyday life
- Increased feeling of safety
- Better informed and empowered to act (*Access education, employment or training*)

Taken from the Ministry of Justice Victims Commissioning Outcomes from the Code of Practice for Victims of Crime (October 2015)

We must:

- Ensure that we know what else exists and avoid duplication
- Ensure the best course of action is taken for all young people who are known to have committed a crime, and that these decisions are well informed and based on individual need
- Understand the reach of existing activities before new interventions are developed
- Ensure that new interventions are, wherever possible, linked to existing activity or introduced as an extension of that activity
- Ensure that interventions with common goals and working with a common audience, where possible, use common language, including in project names and branding
- Ensure that new interventions are consulted with key stakeholders before it is too late to re-design or make adjustments
- Use enforcement powers appropriately in line with other support and advice
- When reviewing intervention activity, be aware of dual status offenders, who are often also victims
- Ensure that interventions are sustainable and are available for as long as an individual requires, to ensure vulnerability risk is reduced
- Ensure that decisions about new commissioning activity involve partners, if only as information-givers, to enable best decisions to be made
- Ensure that where possible monies should be used in a complimentary way – this could be through pooling of financial resources, or by supporting activity that compliments planned or existing activity enabled by other funding
- Ensure that there is a consistent measurement across Essex in order to share best practice of successful intervention activity
- Ensure that existing workforces and practitioners are empowered to deliver interventions
- Identify the opportunities for joint commissioning and maximise the potential benefits
- Ensure that interventions are accessible, particularly where young people are concerned

5. Leadership, Partnerships and Co-ordination

Cross-border working refers to formal collaboration and less formal partnership working, where organisations reach across boundaries to work together. This includes joint-working with those outside Essex (e.g. Metropolitan Police, Kent, Herts, Cambs and Suffolk) as well as transcending district borders within the county.

It is important that we use partnerships to maximise the benefits of campaigns, activities and interventions, being best-informed, avoiding duplication, and adding value wherever possible.

Why is it important?

i. Understanding

Being aware of the intelligence and actions of those in neighbouring areas, and appreciating the reasons behind decisions and plans, places us in the best possible position to act with knowledge and insight.

ii. Information sharing

Information-sharing encompasses a range of activity – from sharing of specific intelligence relating to known gang members and vulnerable persons, through to informing partners about planned interventions, ensuring all opportunities for adding value can be recognised in a timely manner.

The prevalence of County Lines emphasises the importance of sharing information, as activity relevant to individuals and networks is occurring across multiple agency areas and Police Forces; only by sharing information can interventions and operations be targeted appropriately.

iii. Cross-county and cross-district / partnerships

Inconsistent use of tools and powers can create an advantage for gangs and county lines. There is a need for regions to link with large urban areas both strategically and operationally.

Within Essex, a county with one of the most complex local authority structures in the country, there is a lack of co-terminosity between boundaries adhered to by different bodies, including council, health and police. There are 12 districts and boroughs, 1 county council and 2 unitary authorities; 7 CCGs; 3 Local Policing Areas (plus Stansted airport).

An example of the need to work together can be seen where local authorities house residents in areas outside their authority boundary. An influx of residents to a new area may pose an opportunity or threat to gang activity and joint-working between the relevant authorities could help to alleviate these risks. A further example can be seen where young people are placed and their case management is dealt with by the quadrant from which they originate, which means agencies operating in the area they are now living are not fully engaged or informed.

Whilst cross-border working is important, this shouldn't lead to all areas being treated to the same. We must recognise that the prevalence of activity and risk differs between locations and that the response should be proportionate and relevant to the area concerned.

Case Study: Operation Henderson

Multi-agency data reports that public transport networks across Essex are often used by young people who may be vulnerable to CSE and other types of abuse. In a multi-agency response Operation Henderson was developed. Operation Henderson purpose was to increase identification and report around vulnerable young people on transport networks. Led by Essex Safeguarding Children Board and included multiple agencies such as Councils, Police and Transport providers delivered:

- Exploitation advisors who provide support in increasing identification and reporting around vulnerable children on transport networks through briefing and disseminating information to railway staff and organisations/business which utilise the station
- Media Campaign
- Awareness raising resources for members of staff
- Outreach work

Over 600 people were engaged by outreach workers and over 100 business were visited. The project is an example of agencies working in partnership sharing data and raising awareness to support those most vulnerable.

iv. County Lines

It is known that there are strong links between Essex and the London boroughs where county lines are concerned. For this reason it is essential that the response is joined up and safeguarding work takes these links into account.

How can we make a difference?**v. Leadership and Responsibilities**

One of the challenges of addressing the issue of violence and vulnerability is knowing where responsibility is and should be attributed. The impact of violence and vulnerability affects a number of agendas and agencies, making it difficult to identify who should take lead responsibility. Invariably this means that, albeit unintentionally, responsibility is deferred by all to all, and is not accepted by any individual party.

One of the aims of partnership working should be to ensure that for every action, plan and unresolved identified issue, a lead partner is agreed, so that accountability can be maintained. Recognising the collective public good, and holistic benefits that can be achieved, should be a primary aim of all agencies who have a genuine interest and desire to address this issue. In some instances responsibility is acknowledged by key staff, but this does not always filter up to senior leaders. By making senior leaders aware of the need to accept responsibility we gain accountability, and we ensure that the response of that agency is organisation-wide – not restricted to a designated department, but infiltrating the whole organisation, enabling all services to contribute to a shared goal.

vi. Influence

Senior Leaders should ensure that they use their influence to best advantage.

They are able to exert influence within their organisation by setting priorities that enable and empower staff to deliver on this agenda and by ensuring that adequate resources are available.

It is also possible for Senior Leaders to lay the foundations for joint-working, for example by signing up to information-sharing agreements.

Senior Leaders also hold the key to influencing other organisations. This might include Voluntary and Community Sector organisations – who may benefit from grants or service level agreements which can be tailored to include scope for work on this agenda, or who may require access to data or systems. This could also include private sector companies, identifying opportunities for them to fulfil Corporate Social Responsibility by assisting with prevention and intervention work – either directly or through sponsorship. Some companies, by virtue of their line of business, will have an opportunity to have a direct impact, e.g. train companies ensuring ticket enforcement can both limit travel of those who do not have tickets and increase the chance of intervention being possible if those travelling illegally are stopped.

Senior Leaders also have opportunities to influence their counterparts in Essex and beyond, and to campaign for change at a higher level.

Case Study: Cross-border Housing

In parts of Essex there are pockets of housing which are owned by authorities outside the county (i.e. London Boroughs). At present Essex agencies have no input or control over who is housed in this accommodation, creating risks of vulnerable people being housed alongside known gang members and rival gang members housed alongside each other. Only those in the most senior positions can create the relationships with those authorities who make these decisions, and explore ways of minimising risks of inappropriate housing allocations.

We must:

- Make senior leaders aware of the impact, extent and relevance of the violence agenda and the need to accept responsibility
- Enable senior leaders to use their influence to best advantage, both within the organisations they lead and with key partners and stakeholders
- Identify Single Points of Contact (SPOCs) in neighbouring areas to make communication easier
- Share information beyond our traditional boundaries
- Respect that interventions and responses must be tailored to the area that they operate in
- Work collaboratively with partners across Essex to review existing awareness activity (e.g. drug and alcohol awareness) to review if stronger links can be made to the violence and vulnerability agenda e.g. does it include links with criminal exploitation, gang activity
- Know who is leading on individual projects and actions and make sure that they can be held accountable
- Ensure that we are able to discuss violence and vulnerability cases at partnership meetings, be it making best use of existing meetings and governance, or by establishing a new meeting to meet this need
- Develop a better understanding of where vulnerable people are housed when borders are crossed
- Overcome the inconsistent use of injunctive tools and enforcements
- Introduce cross-referencing for gang case management
- Review and build on existing partnership infrastructure across county and in localities, including MACE , Stay Safe , Community Safety Partnerships , Youth Strategy Groups

6. A Framework of Touchpoints

This framework demonstrates the wide variety of influences and contacts an individual can experience. The inner network reflects the key areas and categories of contact, whilst the outer circle shows the individual people that those groups and organisations can be represented by. Whilst the framework shows a flow through a person's life, they may continue to have touchpoints with many of the organisations/individuals throughout their life.



APPENDICES

Appendix A : Activity/programmes across Essex

* Below are activities that the Community Safety Partnerships are familiar with. It is recognised that this list is not exhaustive and if your activity is not listed below you are encouraged to engage with partners.

District	Activity
Basildon	Crucial Crew Gangsline – Gangs awareness session Risky Behaviour Sessions for parents Basildon Walk online Roadshows Gangsline targeted awareness raising (PRU) Youth Offending Service – Gangs Prevention Service Essex Family Innovation Fund Basildon Go Girls Project Gangsline – 121 Mentoring Kids Inspire Essex (trauma based intervention) Children’s Society CARE team Phoenix Futures (Adults) Peabody South floating support service (Adults)
Braintree	St Giles Trust Chelsea’s Choice Community Safety Partnership Reach every Generation Drugs Alert Virgin Care/Barnados One Support – adults cuckooing
Brentwood	Youth Intervention Programme (YIP) Gang Awareness Assemblies Life Choices Firebreak (x2, 1 course free) Chelsea's Choice 2 Johns E-Safety Assemblies and parent / professionals evening The Power of Love Drug Talks Show Racism The Red Card Gang & Drugs Parent Session
Chelmsford and Maldon	Youth Groups Partnership awareness Project ‘giving advice to the homeless’ Crucial Crew Gangsline – Gangs awareness session St Giles Trust (Maldon) ASB youth forums (case manage young people) Strategy abuse meeting Youth group interventions supported by CSP

	Partnership intervention meeting with families (restorative approach) Gangline – 121 mentoring
Colchester	Gangline – Gangs Awareness session Virtual Crew Observers Project Detaches Youth Work/ Startwell ASB Firebreak Gangline – 121 mentoring Piloting Youth Offending Service Gangs prevention Service Mate Crime/County Lines/Cuckooing training Multi-agency Vulnerability and Exploitation Consultation/Forum with partners to identify all current services/provision and subsequent gaps Detached Targeted Youth Work Youth Service
Epping Forest	Crucial Crew Reality Roadshow delivery from Spark4Life TFL pilot fortnight project
Essex County Council	Risk Avert Children’s Society Safe in Essex
Harlow	Keep yourself safe (KYSS) Youth Offending Service Gangs prevention Service Firebreak Children’s Society - CARE Community Safety Team response e.g. cuckooing properties
Southend	Gangline interventions and awareness YOT prevention and early intervention work Op Raptor activity Joint partner tasking meetings (daily) CS Hub activity Re structure of CSP to respond to current priorities New Town Centre Partnership Group – town centre crime focused New Violence and Vulnerability Strategic Governance Group to coordinate / own partnership activity across all 4 strategic boards (CSP, LSCB, SAB and HWB). Focus will be Gangs, County Lines, Knife crime, MSL and exploitation / vulnerability including domestic abuse linked to these areas. Complete cross cutting work with partners and wider agencies such as MOPAC, Essex (SET) and London localities. Operational delivery group sitting below this. New data dashboard to capture partner violence and vulnerability data and support strategic group Two week violence and vulnerability multi-agency activity (enforcement and support) planned for October Ongoing town centre weeks of multi-agency action taking place
Tendring	Gangline – Gangs awareness session Crucial Crew London Theatre Company Gangline – 121 mentoring Detached Targeted Youth Work

	Youth Service
Thurrock	GRV Red Group RAG CSE missing LAG Vulnerable adults Gangline – Gangs awareness session Youth Offending Service in Schools St Giles Trust Gangline – 121 Mentoring Open Door Crucial Crew Firebreak

Appendix B : Risk Factors for Gang Involvement

Risk factors for gang involvement						
Domain	Ages 0-2	Ages 3-6	Ages 7-9	Ages 10-12	Ages 13-15	Ages 16-25
Individual	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct disorders • Hyperactivity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct disorders • Lack of guilt and empathy • Physical violence/aggression 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anti-social beliefs • Lack of guilt/empathy • Aggression • High alcohol/drug use • Hyperactive 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anti-social beliefs • Marijuana use • Previous violent activity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Displaced aggression traits • Anger traits • Aggression traits • Low guilt 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anti-social beliefs • Lack of guilt and empathy • Involvement in general delinquency • High alcohol/drug use
Family	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family poverty 	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family poverty • Broken home/change in caretaker • Parent pro-violent attitudes • Poor parental supervision 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family poverty • Siblings anti-social behaviour • Parent pro-violent attitudes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Broken home/change in caretaker • Delinquent siblings • Socioeconomic status • Poor parental supervision 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Broken home/change in caretaker • Delinquent siblings • Socioeconomic status • Poor parental supervision
School	-	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Frequent truancy • Low academic aspirations • Low school achievement • Low school attachment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low school commitment • Low school attachment • Low academic achievement in primary school 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low school commitment • Low school attachment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low academic aspiration • Low school attachment • Low parental aspirations for child
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning disability 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low school achievement
Peer group	-	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delinquent peers • Peer rejection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Associates with friends who engage in problem behaviours 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delinquent peers • Commitment to delinquent peers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delinquent peers • Association with gang-involved peers/relatives
Community	-	-	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marijuana availability • Neighbourhood youth in trouble 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exposure to drugs and alcohol 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Availability/use of drugs • Low neighbourhood attachment • Economic deprivation

*Risk factors highlighted in bold = strong predictions

Source: Early Intervention Foundation (commissioned by the Home Office), 2015, preventing gang and youth violence: A review of risk and protective factors

Appendix C : Suggested distribution network for this Framework

The Framework should be shared with as many partners as possible, using the following people, organisations and networks:

- Safer Essex
- Essex Assembly
- Essex Partners
- Essex Leaders and Chief Executives Group
- Police Fire and Crime Commissioner for Essex
- Essex Police
- Youth Offending Services
- Essex County Council
- District, Borough and Unitary Authorities (x14)
- Clinical Commissioning Groups (x 7)
- National Health Service
- Community Safety Partnerships
- Association of Secondary Headteachers in Essex (ASHE)
- Essex Primary Heads Association (EPHA)
- Essex County Fire and Rescue Service
- Safeguarding Boards
- Domestic Abuse Board
- Reducing Reoffending Board
- Criminal Justice Board
- Essex Alliance (voluntary sector)
- Essex Community Safety Network
- Drive Steering Group
- Trailblazer Steering Group (homelessness)
- MP's
- Home Office
- Essex Children's Partnership
- Essex Youth Service
- Essex Children's Partnership Board
- Local Children's Partnership Boards
- Local Stay Safe Groups.
- Essex CRC
- NPS
- Essex CVS Networks
- *All providers who are commissioned by the agencies listed*

Appendix D : Bibliography, References and Links

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Useful links

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https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/677325/Family_outcomes_national_and_Local_datasets_Part_2.pdf

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3 October 2019		ITEM: 6
Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee		
Linford Household Waste & Recycling Centre – Site Redevelopment update		
Wards and communities affected: All	Key Decision: Non-Key	
Report of: Daren Spring - Assistant Director of Street Scene and Leisure		
Accountable Director: Julie Rogers – Director of Environment and Highways		
This report is Public		

Executive Summary

Thurrock Council operates a single Household Waste and Recycling Centre (HWRC) at Linford. The site is operating significantly over capacity with the layout and infrastructure not being in keeping with modern sites. This reduces the opportunities to encourage re-use and recycling. The site was bought back in-house in June 2017 after the incumbent contractor rejected the opportunity to renew the contract for operating the site. This presented the Council with an opportunity to improve the site and take measures to encourage recycling and prevent unauthorised waste disposal at the site.

Subject to planning approval the Committee agreed to recommend to Cabinet and Cabinet approved to delegate authority to the Corporate Director of Environment and Place (now the Director of Environment and Highways) in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Environment for the procurement of contracts up to a value of £2.6 million for the redevelopment of the Household Waste and Recycling Centre. An update report was presented to Cleaner, Greener, Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 4 October 2018. This report provides an update on progress as requested at that meeting.

1. Recommendation(s)

That Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee note the report.

2. Introduction and Background

- 2.1 Thurrock Council has a statutory obligation under section 51 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 to provide residents with a facility for the disposal of bulky household waste. Thurrock Council currently operates a

single site at Buckingham Hill Road in Linford Household Waste and Recycling Centre, which is situated on a former Essex County Council Landfill Site. The land that the site sits on is fully owned by Thurrock Council. In line with Environmental Permitting Regulations Linford Household Waste and Recycling Centre is operated under licence from the Environment Agency with regular inspections being undertaken to ensure that the site is being run in accordance with the law. The site licence governs the site operations and the waste types that the site can accept; it also imposes requirements for site competent persons. Failure to comply with the terms of the licence can lead to the Council being prosecuted under Environmental Legislation or the restriction or closure of the site.

3. Current status of the site

- 3.1 The current HWRC is not in keeping with modern facilities at other boroughs. The size of the site is struggling to meet current demand and will not be able to support the boroughs projected growth agenda. As it currently stands, the site would not be able to be re-configured to support charged commercial waste deposits, a greater range of recycling containers or a dedicated re-use facility. Changes that have been made to the site since it has come back in-house has improved the site significantly.
- 3.2 A permit scheme was introduced in April 2018 this was to deter commercial vehicles and residents from outside the borough illegally disposing of waste at the HWRC. In addition to the cost implications to Thurrock Council, there is also a legal obligation to take steps to ensure that only permitted waste is deposited on site.
- 3.3 The permit scheme continues to have a high demand with 879 twelve-month permits and 85 seven-day permits being issued since April 2019. The site has had 48,611 visits since January 2019, with Thurrock's residents disposing of approximately 3000 tonnes of waste and recycling.
- 3.4 The service continuously explores new innovations, in conjunction with our waste disposal contractor, to increase reuse and recycling, the most recent introduced includes the recycling of hard plastics, which have now been diverted from landfill, and mattresses are now recycled through MAT UK.
- 3.5 A partnership has been established with the Active Travel Cycling Team to provide unwanted bikes from the HWRC. The main purpose of the cycle hub is to help people get active, assist with affordability and support residents to get to and from their place of work, education or job interviews, whilst encouraging sustainable travel. This is a not for profit scheme with any income being reinvested in the scheme to replenishing stock of spare parts etc.

4. Current status of the redevelopment project

- 4.1 Planning permission was granted in February 2019 for the development of a new HWRC on the existing site.
- 4.2 Procurement of the site construction contract is currently being undertaken via a procurement framework. Several contractors have expressed an interest, in line with the processes required under EU Procurement Regulations. The construction procurement process is expected to be concluded by the end of this calendar year.
- 4.3 Planning consent has been granted for the new HWRC to be developed on the footprint of the existing site. Appendix 1 of this report provides a copy of the site plan for the future design of the site. The new layout will segregate customer vehicle movements within the site from lorry's coming into the site to remove any full containers. Therefore further improving the safety of the site.
- 4.4 Construction work is anticipated to take between 6 – 9 months to complete and as part of the procurement process developers have been asked to consider, how a reduced service offer can be provided safely, at the existing site, while the site is being constructed.
- 4.5 Early discussions have indicated that whilst this may be possible it could potentially increase the length of time required for the construction of the site and/or reduce the service provision drastically, if it can be provided at all.
- 4.6 In the event that the timescales become too long, or the existing site cannot remain open while the construction work is carried out, the service is considering alternative options to ensure a sufficient level of service can be maintained.
- 4.7 *Contingency options being explored*
 - 4.7.1 Two temporary sites very close to the existing site have been considered and due to various contributing factors, one of the sites is no longer a viable option.
 - 4.7.2 Advice has been sought, from the Environment Agency, on what would be an acceptable standard of provision for a temporary site, which does not fall far short of the standards on the existing site. Planning consent would be required and costs are currently being explored for the temporary development. For both temporary sites, there would be a requirement to return the land to previous condition, further adding to abortive costs.
 - 4.7.3 In order to minimise cost and disruption for our residents a further option of a potential land swap, on adjacent land, is being considered. This would provide an additional benefit of enabling the existing site to remain functional while the new development is built. Once the new site is completed, the old HWRC land would be left fallow, again planning consent would be required and again this could potentially delay construction and impact costs in removing what is on the existing land.

4.7.4 Should the new development remain on its existing site and developers are unable to find a solution to provide safe services for our residents a further option is being considered, which is to provide an enhanced bulky waste collection service, with reduced or removed charges, alongside the provision of a number of temporary bring sites throughout the borough.

4.7.5 All options are being explored and costed and a further update will be provided once the procurement discussions are complete and it is known whether these contingency plans are required.

4.8 *Highways Access Improvements*

4.8.1 As part of the new HWRC scheme a dedicated right turn lane to reduce the queuing traffic on Buckingham Hill Road has received consent. In addition, the increased site area will allow for additional 'on-site' stacking reducing queuing on the Public Highway. The exit for Commercial Vehicles and HGV's servicing the site will also be segregated from car access and egress, which will greatly improve site safety.

4.9 *Significant Increase in Recycling and Re-use Facilities On-site*

4.9.1 An increased range of recycling and re-use containers on-site will allow for a greater amount of waste items to be recycled or re-used instead of them being disposed of via methods that are more expensive. Increased space will allow for greater opportunities for partnership with local re-use community groups, which will allow a greater number of items such as furniture, electrical items and even items such as crutches to find new homes.

4.10 *Introduction of a dedicated Commercial Waste Disposal Facility On-site*

4.10.1 The site throughput data prior to the permitting scheme being implemented showed that a large amount of commercial waste was being disposed of at the site. An improved site layout and infrastructure will allow the site to apply for an environmental permit for commercial waste disposal on-site. This will include the introduction of an electronic weighbridge with a dedicated commercial waste lane. This will provide an avenue for income generation and will provide commercial waste producers with a further avenue to dispose of their waste legally and responsibly.

5. Consultation (including Overview and Scrutiny, if applicable)

5.1 Cleaner Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee October 2017 and July 2018 and Ward Members prior to that meeting.

6. Impact on corporate policies, priorities, performance and community impact

This report supports the Councils priority a clean environment that everyone has reason to take pride in.

7. Implications

7.1 Financial

Implications verified by: **Mark Terry**
Senior Financial Accountant

Capital approved by Cabinet for site redevelopment is £2.6 Million.

7.2 Legal

Implications verified by: **Tim Hallam**
Deputy Head of Law and Governance

Under section 51 of the Environment Protection Act 1990 the Council has statutory obligation as a waste disposal authority to provide a facility for 'persons resident in its area' to dispose of household waste. Section 51(3) of the act makes provision for an authority to make changes for the deposit of Commercial or Industrial Waste.

The proposed value of the contracts for the redevelopment of the site was above the thresholds for the Public Contract Regulations 2015 and therefore a full and compliant EU Procurement process has been followed. In addition to the requirements of EU Procurement legislation the Procurement has met the Councils Contract Rules, which sit within the Councils Constitution.

7.3 Diversity and Equality

Implications verified by: **Becky Price**
Team Manager - Community Development and Equalities

The redevelopment site will result in improved access to the site for those with accessibility requirements. The removal of stepped access to container and dedicated parking bays will resolve significant impediments that currently severely restrict site access by disabled and elderly people. We will consider the temporary provision of the site once procurement discussions are complete. A full Community Equalities Impact Assessment will be required as part of any redevelopment.

7.4 Other implications (where significant) – i.e. Staff, Health, Sustainability, Crime and Disorder or Impact on Looked After Children)

Reduction in illegal waste disposal at Household Waste and Recycling Centre and the proposed Commercial Waste avenue at the redeveloped site has the potential to reduce fly-tipping and will therefore have a positive impact on crime and disorder in the Borough in line with our legal responsibilities towards Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998

- 8. Background papers used in preparing the report** (including their location on the Council's website or identification whether any are exempt or protected by copyright):

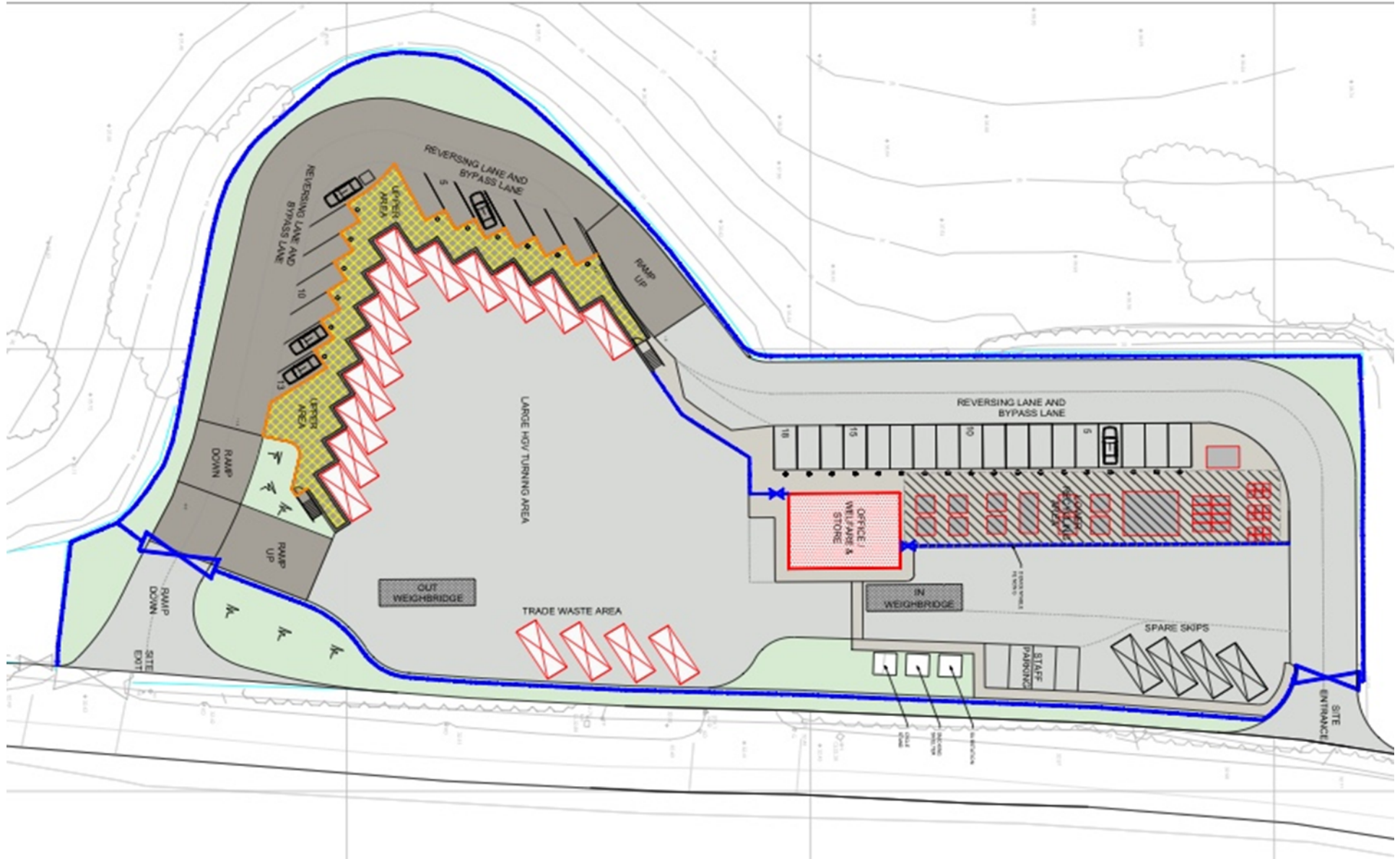
Cleaner Greener Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee reports of 12 October 2017 and 4 October 2018

- 9. Appendices to the report**

Appendix 1 – Future Site Plan

Report Author:

Daren Spring
Assistant Director, Street Scene and Leisure
Environment and Highways



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3 October 2019		ITEM: 7
Cleaner, Greener & Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee		
Park Improvement Programme Update		
Wards and communities affected: All	Key Decision: N/A	
Report of: Jahur Ali, Recreation & Leisure Services Manager		
Accountable Assistant Director: Daren Spring, Assistant Director, Street Scene and Highways.		
Accountable Director: Julie Rogers, Director of Environment and Highways		
This report is Public		

Executive Summary

In July 2017 CGS O&S Committee received a Clean it, Cut it Update report which included an appendix entitled '*Parks, Play and Open Space Improvement Plan Phase 1,*' The Committee requested updates of progress in relation to the improvement of parks, play and open spaces in Thurrock.

Thurrock is bucking the trend with investment in parks, at a time when nationally it is being reported that there is insufficient investment in parks, despite the important health and wellbeing benefits this brings to local communities.

Investment in our parks is complimented by the Active Parks programme, which was designed to encourage residents to "get out, get active and enjoy Thurrock's parks and open spaces."

The Park Improvement Programme identified 11 priority parks across the borough requiring investment over a three-year period. A programme of community consultation and stakeholder engagement aimed to ensure the parks are improved in line with local priorities, increased usage and encourage exercise and activity.

This report highlights progress to date.

- 1. Recommendation(s)**
 - 1.1 Cleaner, Greener & Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee are requested to note progress of the Parks Improvement Programme.**
- 2. Introduction and Background**

- 2.1 The council allocated funds to improve the provision of parks, play and open spaces in Thurrock across a three year programme, £500,000 in 2017/18, £725,000 in 2018/19 and £125,000 in 2019/20.
- 2.2 The programme was specifically intended to support the Council's priorities of:
- a) To "promote and protect our clean and green environment"
 - b) The Health and Well-being Plan objective of 'creating outdoor spaces that make it easy to exercise and be active'.
- 2.3 The first phase of the project identified a robust methodology to establish priority for investment. The second phase was a more detailed review of the areas identified and a rolling programme of individual plans developed for the sites prioritised. In some instances, where simple and immediate improvements could be made, they have been. In other areas where redesign is required, plans continue to be developed and consulted upon.
- 2.4 As previously outlined to CGS O&S, cross service Officers reviewed the approach and developed a methodology for prioritising investment in the parks and open spaces based on the following criteria:
- Quality and value findings from the Active Place Parks and Open Space needs assessment
 - Parks and Open Space public consultation
 - Residents survey
 - Health data
 - Known operational requirements and issues
 - Areas of Vandalism and Anti-Social behaviour
 - Health and Safety Issues
 - Physical Activity Levels (Adults)
 - Deprivation
- 2.5 Where significant works are required they are scheduled, where possible, for the winter and early spring when parks are less busy.
- 2.6 Below are illustrations of some of the conditions seen in play areas prior to the commencement of the investment programme.



2.7 Improvements have been made in Dilkes Park. Following a comprehensive consultation and design process with local Councillors, residents, community forum and other stakeholders, the key requirement identified was to improve fencing, lighting and footpaths. The fencing was completed in spring 2019 and the other works will take place during the winter, when the park is quieter.

2.8 The improvement works were complemented by a range of activities by the Active Parks team. This enabled a positive community spirit around the park and further dialogue on other long-term improvements that need to take place. Please see pictures below



2.9 Prior to any works commencement in the parks, the team ensure that the community are consulted, work closely with local friends of groups, and inform the local Councillors and other stakeholders.

2.10 Due to health and safety issues, identified through routine monitoring of the parks, the 30-year-old Log world play equipment at Horndon Recreation ground was removed. The Active Park team prioritised the park, working tirelessly to ensure this project was fast tracked. With the support of the local forum the new play equipment was installed in time for the children to enjoy it during the school summer holidays. Local school children submitted over 200 designs and their ideas were integrated within the final scheme.

Residents and visitors at the opening also enjoyed a range of activities including a sports day, as part of the Active Parks summer programme.

Well done and thank you to all involved, who made the event special for the community and involving local schoolchildren within the design process.



2.11 Similar to Horndon, a consultation with community groups/young people and local residents informed the location of new play equipment for Purfleet. Instead of investing in replacing the damaged equipment within Spiderfield Park, there was overwhelming support to improve the small play areas within the Garrisons estate at Marine Court, Saladin Drive and River Court.

2.12 At Gobions Park the entrance gates were replaced. The Big Project at Gobions Park is a new skate park that will replace the old one that was vandalised and burnt. Working with the Friends of Gobions Park, a consultation was completed to identify the priorities for the new skate park and other improvements required within the park. The Active Park Team also involved a representative of the Friends of Gobions Park on the procurement panel to ensure they were involved in selecting a contractor who could deliver on their aspirations. The new skate park will be completed by December 2019.



2.13 The parks have seen improved safety surfacing beneath play equipment. This was one of the key areas requiring attention to bring unsafe equipment back into safe use. Please see below pictures of areas that have been improved from Grays Town Park and Aveley Rec.



- 2.14 In addition to the 11 parks that have seen improvement, the council have supported community groups applying for funding to improve parks that have not been prioritised. The council has supported Grays Beach Riverside Park with the play equipment and safety surfacing within the Tot's Corner area of the park. Grays Phoenix community group successfully secured funding from CEDF to develop a new toddler's play area along the Wharf riverfront, along with two new outdoor gym areas to enable people to exercise and stay fit.
- 2.15 A timeline of the 11 parks improvement activity is attached in Appendix 1.

3. Issues, Options and Analysis of Options

- 3.1 The Park Improvement programme has shown a greater and wider community impact when new equipment is installed, Community groups have reported a reduction in anti-social behaviour, they feel that their parks are much nicer environments to take their families to and there are spaces which can improve their health and wellbeing.
- 3.2 The Park Engagement Officers have a pivotal role to play in the consultation of the development of the parks being improved by the inclusion of community groups, friends off park groups, sports clubs and local forums as well as local residents and children, helping to shape new play equipment required and the overall park improvements. Part of the consultation will ensure access for all and the ability to maximise use of our open spaces for recreation and leisure and form part of everyday health and wellbeing for our residents. A more detailed report of the Park and Engagement Officers was considered by CGS O&S on 4th July 2019.
- 3.3 Thurrock are bucking the national trend with no park closures and continued investment in our 64 play areas within Thurrock, which are inspected weekly. A continuous review of the equipment is required, to ensure when equipment reaches end of life there are plans in place to refresh and or replace as appropriate.
- 3.4 Due to soil composition some parks require re-laid footpaths, which are cracked due to movement of the clay soil, this is essential to ensure accessibility. Further investment will be required to improve all the footpaths within parks to ensure they can be used safely by people of all abilities.
- 3.5 A survey was commissioned to assess the play value of each park and the life expectancy of the equipment. Most of the parks within Thurrock will need play equipment replaced over the next 4-8 years; further funding bids will be submitted to ensure this work can take place.
- 3.6 It is vital that investment is phased to ensure a timely replacement programme can be undertaken and equipment is replaced naturally and prior to health and safety concerns being raised.

3.7 Park improvements, sports, recreation and leisure form part of the Health and Wellbeing agenda, with a key objective to encourage increased activity in our open spaces and parks. Park Engagement Officers will continue to work with local communities, sports groups and forums to provide training and support to enable more community led activity going forward. The sports and leisure strategy is currently being refreshed and will come to CGS later in the municipal year.

4. Reasons for Recommendation

4.1 To inform members of the Greener Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee of progress to date.

5. Consultation (including Overview and Scrutiny, if applicable)

5.1 N/A

6. Impact on corporate policies, priorities, performance and community impact

6.1 Please see section 2.2

7. Implications

7.1 Financial

Implications verified by: **Rosie Hurst**
Interim Senior Management Accountant

This project is funded as part of an overall £1.3m capital programme scheme.

7.2 Legal

Implications verified by: **Tim Hallam**
Acting Head of Law, Assistant Director of Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer

There are no direct legal implications arising from this report

7.3 Diversity and Equality

Implications verified by: **Becky Price**
Team Manager - Community Development and Equalities

This programme positively affects members of the Community in that activities are free and accessible to all members of the community. This community led approach helps to bring communities together and assist with cohesion.

7.4 **Other implications** (where significant) – i.e. Staff, Health, Sustainability, Crime and Disorder, or Impact on Looked after Children)

This programme supports Section 17 activity to drive down ASB and support the community. The staff will work closely with enforcement colleagues to report and tackle negative issues.

8. **Background papers used in preparing the report** (including their location on the Council's website or identification whether any are exempt or protected by copyright):

Cleaner Greener Update to Cleaner, Greener & Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee report 13 July 2017, 4 July 2019

9. **Appendices to the report**

Appendix 1 – Park Improvement Schedule

Report Author:

Jahur Ali
Recreation & Leisure Services Manager
Environment and Highways

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Appendix 1

Park Improvement Phase 1 timeline



Year	2018/19												2019/2020												2020/21											
Location	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Dilkes Park																																				
Grays Town Park																																				
Horndon Rec																																				
Purfleet Garrison																																				
Sobions Park																																				
Dejafield																																				
Koala Park																																				
West Thurrock Memorial																																				
South Ockendon Rec																																				
Aveley Rec																																				
Corringham Town Park																																				

Other parks and play areas were improved using specific funds such as CEDF, S106 funds and other sources including:

- Orsett Recreation Ground Outdoor Gym equipment
- Grays Phoenix Riverfront toddlers play area, junior and adult gym areas
- Grays Riverside Beach – Tots Corner

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3 October 2019		ITEM: 8
Cleaner Greener Safer Overview & Scrutiny Committee		
CCTV Public Identification Policy		
Wards and communities affected: All	Key Decision: Key	
Report of: Dulal Ahmed, Housing Enforcement Manager		
Accountable Assistant Director: Carol Hinvest, Assistant Director of Housing		
Accountable Director: Roger Harris, Corporate Director of Adults, Housing and Health		
This report is Public		

Executive Summary

On May 11 2017, the Cleaner Greener Safer Overview & Scrutiny Committee recommended the use of media outlets to appeal for information pertaining to the identity of those persons committing environmental crime where identities are unknown. The process to design a policy and business workflow to streamline this procedure has now been completed.

Having a CCTV Public Identification Policy encourages greater community safety protection and enforcement partnerships, as well as resident participation to help identify any offenders of anti-social behavior [ASB] and environmental crime, who are not known or could not be identified by any other means.

This report outlines the benefits of implementing a policy to tackle resident priorities, such as, ASB, fly tipping, criminal damage, and public nuisance, as CCTV is a powerful tool for addressing crime.

The CCTV borough wide service makes a positive contribution towards the council fulfilling its community safety obligation under the Crime and Disorder Act 1988, Section 17. The Council can publish images to prevent and detect crime in line with legislative requirements and the Community Safety Partnership will oversee the implementation and monitoring of this policy.

1. Recommendation(s)

1.1 Note and comment on the implementation of a Public Identification CCTV policy for enforcement purposes.

1.2 Note that CCTV images will be released in local publications and on the internet including the council's website

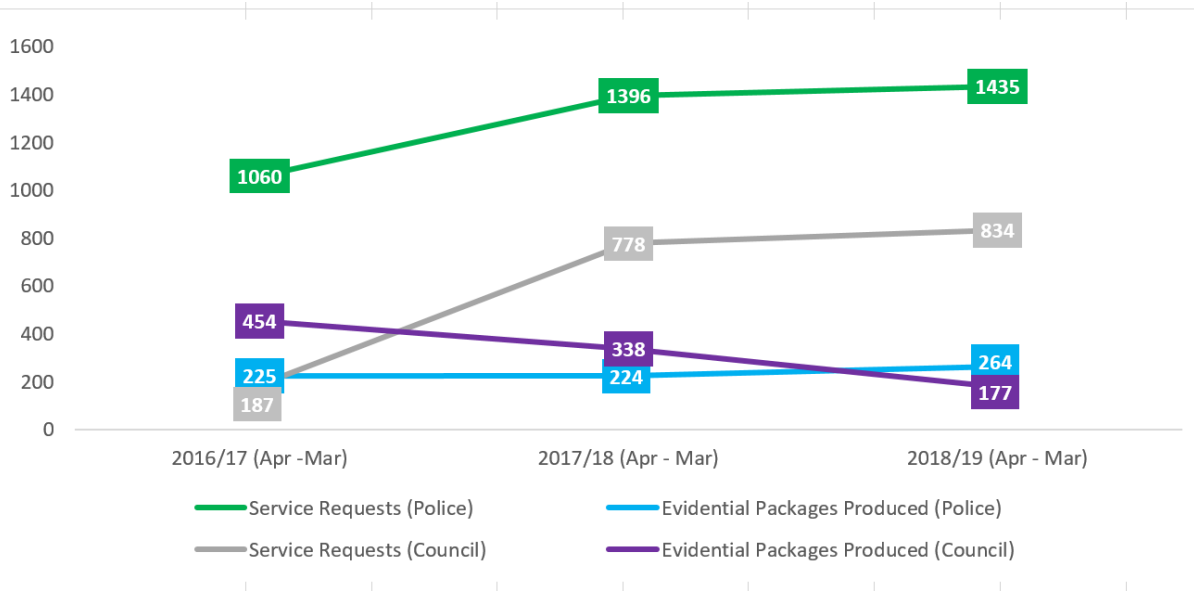
2. Introduction and Background

- 2.1 The Cleaner Greener Safer Overview & Scrutiny Committee recommended the use of media outlets to tackle environmental crime of those committing offences where identities are unknown.
- 2.2 Legislation provides the Council with the powers to take formal action under its Enforcement Policy and publish images to prevent, detect crime, apprehend and prosecute offenders.
- 2.3 Thurrock's Closed Circuit Television [CCTV] network is used for promoting community safety and reducing the fear of crime. The network has 600 fully live cameras borough wide, consisting of fixed and mobile cameras.
- 2.4 The CCTV service includes monitoring and escalation of incidents to Essex Police, who have access to the council's system and the Environmental Protection, ASB and Tenancy Management Teams for enforcement action.
- 2.5 A Public Identification policy will provide an effective and reliable process to help identify offenders who are not known, or could not be identified by any other means.
- 2.6 This approach will enable the Council and its partner agencies to actively encourage local communities and businesses to take a stand against the inconsiderate behaviour of a minority of people, whose actions blight a local area.

3. CCTV Enforcement in Thurrock

- 3.1 The Council's CCTV service has proved very successful in detecting crime, deterring criminals, assisting in the arrest of criminals and also as reassurance to the public.
- 3.2 The table on page 3 shows the total number of video package requests by the Police and council's enforcement team over the last three years has steadily increased. The service requests are incidents of interest for enforcement teams gathering evidence or clues for action.

Year	Service Requests (Police)	Evidential Packages Produced (Police)	Service Requests (Council)	Evidential Packages Produced (Council)
2016/17 (Apr - Mar)	1060	225	187	454
2017/18 (Apr - Mar)	1396	224	778	338
2018/19 (Apr - Mar)	1435	264	834	177



3.3 Examples of how CCTV identification tackled crime in the borough in conjunction with enforcement partners: -

- Derwent Parade- South Ockendon

Council residents reported young people aged 11- 16 years old were congregating in the communal areas from mid-afternoon to early hours of the morning. Many residents felt in fear of intimidation, criminal damage and vandalism if they got involved.

CCTV video images assisted both the police and council officers to identify the young people and engage with their parents and guardians to disrupt the anti-social behaviour.

- Grays Town Centre

CCTV operators gathered video images of young people and adults involved in dealing Class A drugs in the town centre and surrounding areas. This evidence helped Operation Raptor, Essex Police, prosecute four adults and five teenagers for a number of drug related offences and obtain a gang injunction excluding them from the town centre, Seabrook Rise and Grays Beach Riverside Park.

- King George Playing Field - Blackshots

The Police arrested a number of young people for nuisance motor cycling and off road quad biking with CCTV video evidence. This behaviour posed a real danger to our community and themselves at King George playing field. We received numerous complaints from members of the public about these incidents. The Police have taken action by serving notices on the riders and seizing their vehicles.

4. The benefits of a Public Identification Policy

- 4.1 CCTV can be used in court as evidence to prove someone was in a certain place or that they committed an offence. Use of CCTV evidence can increase the rate of prosecution of offenders.
- 4.2 The publicity of cases or images related to environmental crime and ASB offer a valuable approach in preventing, detecting crime and protecting the public from harm.
- 4.3 The policy framework outlines where, how, when and against who we will use media to help identify any offenders of ASB and Environmental crime whom are not known or could not be identified by any other means.
- 4.4 The policy complies with relevant legislation requirements and assists the Council in deciding whether such course of action is necessary and proportionate.
- 4.5 The Council will continue to share CCTV intelligence with Essex Police and other regulatory agencies where it is appropriate.
- 4.6 It will encourage residents to report crime and identify offenders.
- 4.7 Members of the public can identify the suspect anonymously either by phone or e-mail via a specified telephone number or e-mail address which would be given out when the images are published or via the Council's web site.
- 4.8 Information received would be passed onto the relevant council's enforcement teams to follow up. Any suspects identified in the process of released CCTV images will be interviewed under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 code of practice
- 4.9 The image will be taken down after a scheduled time period or once the identification has been completed
- 4.10 Many other Local Authorities already have this policy in place and it has been particularly useful in cases of fly tipping and ASB for example LB of Barking and Dagenham, LB of Newham and LB of Waltham Forest. Those authorities have found it improves how they work with other departments, investigating and tackling crime in an efficient and effective manner.

5. Approval steps before releasing a CCTV image

- 5.1 The release of images must be necessary for a legitimate purposes and in early consultation with Essex Police, Adult and Social Care services.
- 5.2 CCTV images would be produced and approved for publication for persons who are deemed to be over the age of 18 to ask members of the public to

help identify perpetrators via media publications and the internet who cannot be identified by other lines of enquiries.

- 5.3 Each case will be risk assessed to determine such a course of action is necessary and proportionate.
- 5.4 No images of persons known to be under the age of 18 years old will be published related to environment crime and ASB.
- 5.5 Safeguards will eliminate known suspects known to Adults and Children's social care.
- 5.6 Third party images and property will be masked to prevent unwarranted identification, where appropriate.
- 5.7 A clear picture of the suspect is published where there is sufficient evidence to prosecute or use a civil penalty notice in relation to the offence and description of the offences will be published.
- 5.8 The decision to publish an image will be triaged through the CSP, including early consultation with Essex Police.
- 5.9 The above steps need to be complied with before a CCTV image is published.

6 Legislation

- 6.1 Thurrock cameras are carefully positioned to respect people's privacy and do not overlook any areas where you would expect privacy. This ensures people's rights and privacy of the public are balanced with the law.
- 6.2 CCTV is used to assist investigations into ASB and crime such as fly tipping, graffiti, criminal damage and fly posting. Our cameras are overt to secure evidence at the scene of incidents.
- 6.3 The use of CCTV cameras will be considered in accordance with the following:
 - General Data Protection Regulations [GDPR] and UK Data Protection Law
 - ICO's Code of Practice for surveillance cameras and personal information
 - The Surveillance Camera Code of Practice
 - Criminal Procedure and Investigations Act 1996
 - The Protections of Freedoms Act 2012
 - The Human Rights Act 1998
 - Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000
 - Freedom of Information Act 2000
- 6.4 The CCTV team will process personal data in compliance with data protection

principles. Section 29 of the Data Protection Act allows for 'data to be used for prevention and detection of crime, or apprehension or prosecution of offender' are exempt from the first data principle [Principle 1 data shall be processed fairly and lawfully].

- 6.5 The performance of staff is regularly reviewed to ensure that controls are being adhered to and all systems and processes are regularly audited.

7. Reasons for Recommendation

- 7.1 A CCTV Public Identification Policy supports the council's overall package of tools to fight crime and disorder and ASB in the borough.

- 7.2 The CSP fully supports this policy to address crime and enforcement.

- 7.3 A safer and cleaner borough contributes towards public pride in the borough and creates a positive perception for investors and visitors.

8. Consultation (including Overview and Scrutiny, if applicable)

- 8.1 The CCTV service consulted the CSP on the implementation of this policy to help solve crimes and reduce disorder in the borough in line with Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1988.

- 8.2 A six month review of the CCTV Public Identification Policy and processes will be presented to the Councils Excellence Panel.

9. Impact on corporate policies, priorities, performance and community impact

- 9.1 The use of images will be restricted to tackle ASB and enviro-crime. This policy is aimed to resolve investigations with greater efficiency, to bring about general improvements in those neighbourhoods, affected by crime and disorder. This may result in greater resident participation and their role in evidence gathering and prevention.

10. Implications

10.1 Financial

Implications verified by: **Krish Angamuthu**
HRA and Development Accountant

There are no financial implications for the council that arise from this report at this time.

10.2 Legal

Implications verified by: **Simon Scrowther**

For Head of Legal Services

In its administration of its CCTV system, the Council must comply with the Data Protection Act 1998. Due regard is given to the data protection principles embodied in the Data Protection Act. These principles require that personal data shall be:

- a) processed fairly and lawfully;
- b) held only for specified purposes and not used or disclosed in any way incompatible with those purposes;
- c) adequate, relevant and not excessive;
- d) accurate and kept up to date;
- e) be kept longer than necessary for the particular purpose;
- f) processed in accordance with the rights of individuals;
- g) kept secure; and
- h) not be transferred outside the European Economic Area unless the recipient country ensures an adequate level of protection.

From 25 May 2018, the Council is required to comply with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). Due regard will be given to the data protection principles contained within Article 5 of the GDPR which provide that personal data shall be:

- a) processed lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner;
 - b) collected for specified, explicit and legitimate purposes and not further processed in a manner that is incompatible with those purposes;
 - c) adequate, relevant and limited to what is necessary in relation to the purposes for which they are processed;
 - d) accurate and, where necessary, kept up to date;
 - e) kept in a form which permits identification of the data subjects for no longer than is necessary for the purposes for which the personal data are processed;
- and
- f) processed in a manner that ensures appropriate security of the personal data, including protection against unauthorized or unlawful

processing and against accidental loss, destruction or damage, using appropriate technical or organizational measures.

10.3 **Diversity and Equality**

Implications verified by: **Rebecca Price**

Community Development Officer

A Communities and Equality Impact Assessment was completed. See Appendix 1. This mitigates against any negative impact on the community to ensure fair enforcement. Persons under the age of 18 years will be exempt from this policy.

10.4 **Staffing**

There are no staffing implication for the council that arise from this report at this time.

All staff receive rigorous Security Industries Authority [SIA] training that covers all aspects for the work including camera handling and relevant legal and data protection framework and required to undergo DBS checks.

11. **Background papers used in preparing the report**

11 May 2017, Cleaner Greener Safer Overview & Scrutiny Committee,
Contracted Environmental Enforcement Services

12. **Appendices to the report**

Appendix 1 - CCTV Public Identification Policy
Appendix 2 - Communities and Equalities Impact Assessment CCTV Public
Identification Policy

Report Author:

Dulal Ahmed

Housing Enforcement Manager

The CCTV public identification policy

1. Introduction

1.1 Thurrock Council – Vision

Thurrock Council's vision is to create an ambitious and collaborative community which is proud of its heritage and excited by its diverse opportunities and future. The council core priorities below reflect this ambition and cuts across the council's community safety partnership strategy on reducing crime and disorder in the borough.

- People – a borough where people of all ages are proud to work and play, live and stay
- Place – a heritage rich borough which is ambitious for its future
- Prosperity – a borough which enables everyone to achieve their aspirations

1.2 The Environmental Protection Act 1990, Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and Anti- Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014, set out the civil and criminal offences for enviro-crime and anti- social behaviour. These legislative framework were designed to address activities/behaviours which affect the quality of life of local residents and a deterrent for those who commit them.

1.3. In 2017 the Council adopted an Enforcement Policy. The policy sets out the Council's approach to enforcement, adopting a firm but fair approach which is considerate, proportionate, transparent and consistent.

1.4. This public identification policy provides the framework of where, how, when and against who we will use media to help identify any offenders of ASB/Environment crime who are not known or could not be identified by any other means.

2. Scope of Policy

2.1 This policy covers:-

- The publication of images of those people who commit criminal anti-social behaviour and enviro-crime where they cannot be identified by any other means.
- Publication of descriptions of individuals or groups where there is intelligence related to persistent anti-social behaviour or enviro-crime, where the persons cannot be identified by any other means.

Both actions require every possible step is taken to ensure that the person or persons are not under the age of 18. Publication in such circumstance will be considered as a last resort and only used where all other means of identification have taken place.

2.2. This approach will enable the Council and its partner agencies to actively

encourage local communities and businesses to take a stand against the inconsiderate behaviour of a minority of people, whose actions blight a local area.

3. Aims of the Policy

3.1 The publicity of cases or images related to enviro-crime and anti-social behaviour offer a valuable approach in preventing, detecting crime, and protecting the public from harm. The purpose of this policy is to assist the Council in deciding whether such a cause of action is necessary and proportionate. The aims are to:

- Provide clear and consistent guidance in establishing if it is necessary and proportionate to make a disclosure.
- Ensure that the Council acts in accordance with general public law principles, and with national guidance.
- Ensure that the Council fully considers Data Protection legislation and the Human Rights Act
- Protect the public and the public realm

4. General Principles of using publicity in anti- social behaviour and enviro-crime cases.

4.1 It is important to highlight that the ability for the council to publicise images for the purpose of preventing and detecting crime is defined through a legislative framework. The framework includes:-

- Data Protection Act 2018 – replaced DPA Act 1988 – this provides provision about the processing of personal data. The CCTV team will process personal data in compliance with data protection principles. Under law enforcement processing purposes it provides agencies the ability to share information for the prevention, investigation, detection or prosecution of criminal offences including criminal penalties.
- Crime and Disorder Act 1998 – Section 115 – provide statutory agencies, including the Council, with the ability to disclose information where it is necessary and expedient for the purposes of addressing anti- social behaviour crime and disorder.
- Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 Section 163 - provides local authorities with the power to record visual images in order to “promote the prevention of crime or the welfare of the victims of crime”.
- Local Government Act 1972 – Section 111 - provides local authorities with the power do anything “which is calculated to facilitate, or is conducive or incidental to, the discharge of any of their functions.” This power enables the local authority to release/publish images (“do anything”) with a view to identifying offenders (“facilitate, conducive or incidental to”) who have fly tipped or committed anti- social acts, so that they may be prosecuted, fined or cautioned (“discharge of any functions”).

- Human Rights Act 1998 – Article 8 – cover the right to a private life and would include a requirement for the local authority to balance the need to publicise images, the extent of publicity and the impact of publicity, specifically for vulnerable groups.
 - CCTV Code of Practice 2014 provides guidance to local authorities on the use of CCTV in public areas and the requirements to meet and protect the personal data of anyone captured on CCTV.
- 4.2 There must be a balance between the rights of an individual suspect and those of the wider community. Any decision to release an image must be for a legitimate purpose, be necessary and proportionate.
- 4.3 Any decision to release an image must take into account any impact on victims or witnesses. The release of images must be necessary for a legitimate purpose and early consultation with the Police and the Council’s Legal Services is encouraged.
- 4.4 A legitimate purpose may include, but is not limited to
- The prevention and detection of crime
 - Encouraging witnesses and/or victims to come forward
 - Discouraging offenders
 - Reassuring and informing the public
 - Reinforcing confidence in the criminal justice system
 - Identification of offenders
 - Raising public awareness
- 4.5. The council CCTV images are produced to high definition standards to prevent the risk of misidentification. No substandard or unclear images will be released under this policy framework.
- 4.6. In order for a release of the image to be necessary in pursuit of a legitimate purpose, all other reasonable means of tracing or identifying the suspect must have failed to be deemed not viable. A further consideration is that only the minimum necessary details are released, for example where there is a group of individuals out of which only one has been identified as offending, only the identified offender’s image should be released.
- 4.7 All of the circumstances of the case must be taken into account when considering whether it is proportionate to release the images. The nature of the offence will be highly relevant, and the more serious the offence the easier it will be to justify the release as proportionate. The following factors may also be considered:
- Nature of the offence
 - Age
 - Vulnerability of the perpetrator

- Vulnerability of any potential victims
- Level of impact on the environment
- Level of impact on the public/community and/or individuals
- Prevalence of local crime
- Repeat offending
- Public interest

5. Investigating complaints using CCTV images

5.1 Council officers investigating complaints that include CCTV public images must consider the impact on people's privacy if the images are to be shared with third parties.

The investigating officer is responsible to ensure using CCTV images in this way is justified, necessary and proportionate. It will be a requirement to obscure the faces of other people e.g. third parties that can be seen in the images to prevent unwarranted identification.

5.2 This process requires authorized officer[s] documenting their reason for disclosing a CCTV image and have this logged on the case file to ensure that information is used for its intended purpose to detect or prevent crime.

5.3 The council will block out intrusive footage of individuals and identifiable property where it may cause unwarranted harm or distress. Intrusive includes images of any identifiable private residential premises or any identifiable private vehicle captured during the CCTV incident not to be shared during this process.

5.4 Where it is not necessary to retain information/CCTV footage then it will be deleted in accordance to our Document Retention Policy and procedures.

5.5 Officers will follow the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 codes of practice when interviewing the suspect under caution about the alleged offence[s] when investigating complaints using CCTV images

6. Procedure for publicising anti-social behaviour and enviro-crime offences.

6.1 The following key criteria will be used in assessing appropriateness of using images of anti-social behaviour and enviro-crime.

- Publicising is in the public interest either due to the scale, location or impact of the

offending behaviour.

- No person known to be under the age of 18 will be named, or identified, in any publicity related to environ-crime or anti-social behaviour.
- Individuals with a known vulnerability, or businesses, or companies, or where there is a risk that a family member could become vulnerable through publicity, will not be placed in the public domain.
- No images which could incite community tensions will be publicized. This will be considered in partnership with the Police and community safety partners.
- No cases will be publicized which could result in any complainant or victim being identified. Where images are to be used such as CCTV images, these can only be published where they have been obtained through a public body, such as the Council or Police and not a third party, such as a private individual or private business. Images must be clear and innocent parties are suitably obscured before images are disclosed to the media or published on the Local Authority's website.
- Such images, or description of offenders, will only be publicized where the person or persons cannot be identified by any other investigative means. However, in such cases, the Council will undertake checks with relevant services such as social care, Essex Police, etc. to ensure the person or persons identified is not a vulnerable person, at risk, or is under the age of 18.
- Prior to any publicity, officers will ensure that the case does not form part of a wider investigation by another partner agency or Council service such as Environment, Waste, ASB, Housing, Legal or the Police. Consultation with these services will take place prior to the images or descriptions being released. This security check is recorded on the form in appendix A.

- 6.2 Care will be taken when releasing images of unknown offenders to ensure that the wording accompanying the image is accurate. Officers will take all necessary steps to ensure that they have a high degree of confidence that the person in the image is a clear suspect in the investigation.

Where the individual is known, it is unlikely to be appropriate to release the image, although there are always exceptions and the Council will seek specific legal advice before images of known individuals are released. Other means of tracing the individuals will need to have been exhausted first.

Officers should record the rationale for the decision to release the CCTV visibly within the investigation or other case management file. The council will not consider releasing images of offenders where the image is not clear and there is insufficient evidence to prosecute or issue a penalty notice in relation to the offence.

7. Decision to publish image procedure

7.1 A simple criteria form (Appendix A) will be used by the lead officer in all cases.

Once the form has been completed the details of the case will be provided to Legal Services to confirm that there are no legal concerns in terms of publicity.

7.2 The details will also be sent to safeguarding children and adult leads to verify if any named person is known to them. No publication will take place until checks with the Council's Children and Adult Safeguarding leads has taken place.

7.3 The officer will check if the person[s] identified does not form part of a wider investigation by another partner agency or council department.

7.4 The process will require a final approval by the relevant Strategic Lead /Senior Manager of the relevant service.

7.5 There will be a requirement that the person making the application retains a copy of the form and any images. The CCTV control room will also be required to maintain any application form and images requested for publicity.

7.6 The CCTV team will maintain a log of all anti-social behaviour and enviro-crime cases which have been published. This will include details of any CCTV images, where and when they were obtained, the date and time of any alleged offence.

7.7 The communications team will maintain a list of all press releases in relation to the publication of CCTV images which are available on the council's website at www.thurrock.gov.uk

8. Identification of a person through the publicising of images or descriptions person committing anti-social behaviour or enviro-crime offences

8.1. On the occasions when an individual is identified following the release of the images to the council, the communications team will inform the media that identification has been made, and similarly update the Council's website. However, if the person has been recognised and reported to the Police, we will work together with them on informing the media. Under no circumstances will the identification of the individual be released to the media or otherwise published on the Council's website.

8.2. If an individual featured in the images comes forward and is subsequently eliminated from enquiries, the communications team will be informed immediately so that the council's website and the media can be updated accordingly.

8.3. Identification issues will also be considered. The suspect may be the subject of

another investigation and it is possible the release of an image could compromise identification evidence in relation to another enquiry.

8.4 In such circumstances, the officers will follow Code D of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984. If there is any doubt, legal services will be consulted prior to release of any images or further information.

9. Working with Partners

9.1. Where appropriate, the images of descriptions of anti-social behaviour or enviro-crime, will be coordinated with other regulatory bodies and enforcement agencies. We will share intelligence with the Police, neighbouring boroughs and other regulatory enforcement agencies where it is appropriate in the prevention and detection of crime. This will include undertaking joint prosecutions.

10. Equal Opportunities and Diversity

10.1. The Council recognises the diversity of our community and enforcement activities will have due regard to the Equality Act 2010.

11. Review of Policy

11.1. We will review this policy and update it to reflect changes in its source documents and controlling bodies annually. We will also review its effectiveness in supporting the Council's and the Community's priorities.

11.2 We will consult with stakeholders before and after making any changes to this policy.

12. Monitoring Arrangements

12.1 The Council will monitor the activities set out in his policy through existing established reporting and management processes.

13. Complaints

13.1 Thurrock council provides a well published complaint procedure. This is accessible on the Council website at <https://www.thurrock.gov.uk/complaints/how-to-complain>

13.2 The complaints process will consider any complaints received following a disclosure under this policy.

Appendix A

MEDIA PUBLICITY PRO-FORMA CHECKLIST

Strictly confidential

NOTE:

There must be a balance between the rights of an individual suspect and those of the wider community. Any decision to release an image must be for a legitimate purpose, be necessary and proportionate.

Officers will obtain advice from the Police and Legal services before considering the publication of prolific or potentially dangerous offenders

This document must be completed before the release of any CCTV images for use in identifying offender's via media publication and use in public areas.

Images of minors (under 18 years) must not be released under any circumstances.

Any offenders that are considered as under age must be released to the Police and Council Officers only.

CCTV Images Only

Will the use of images help identify any offenders of ASB/enviro-crime who are not known or could not be identified by any other means?

Yes

No

Is the image[s] of good quality with third parties/ property / private business obscured before images are disclosed?

Yes

No

The release of any publicity, including images must be necessary for a legitimate purpose. Confirm which legitimate purpose(s) it is for and why?

PURPOSE	Yes/No	If Yes, please state why?
The prevention and detection of crime		
Encouraging witnesses and /or victims to come forward		
Discouraging offenders		
Reassuring and informing the public		
Reinforcing confidence in the criminal justice system		
Identification of offenders		
Raising public awareness		

Proportionality

Is the proposed action proportionate in relation to releasing the images to the effects of the offence(s)?

- Yes
- No

How serious is/are the offence(s) - was harm caused - if so, was it minor and was it a single incident?

Has the offence been investigated within a reasonable time?

- Yes, please explain
- No, please explain

Was there an element of fraud, negligence or recklessness?

- Yes
- No

Has there been a blatant disregard for Legislation / the Law? Please state

Consistency / equitable

Have we acted fairly?

- Yes
- No

Public interest

Is the action being taken within the statutory time limit in relation to the offence?

- Yes
- No

Is there sufficient evidence to prove the offence(s)?

- Yes
- No

Is the offence serious enough that prosecution or financial penalty is required?

- Yes
- No

What impact / risks has the offence had on the community?

Are there any financial effects on the community?

- Yes
- No

Was there any danger caused by the offence?

- Yes
- No

Have community concerns been taken into account?

- Yes
- No

Is the offence widespread in the area where it was committed?

- Yes
- No

Risk Assessment

Are there any known risks in releasing this image[s] in the public domain?

	Yes/No	How to mitigate the risk
Age of the person suspected below 18 years old		
Vulnerable suspect		
Impact on the safety of the witness[s]		
Impact on the safety of the wider community		
Known to Children services		
Known to Adult services		
Legal		
Business name and reputation		
Wider investigation by another partner or council department		

LAG (Local Area Tasking Group) Decision to publish image

- Yes
- No

Date	

Legal Advice Decision to publish image

Legal Officer	Date

Please state where images are stored?

CCTV control room	
ASB Team	
Tenancy Management	
Waste Enforcement	
Communications	

Do the needs of the individual or those persons responsible for the business; outweigh the needs of others in respect of detecting enviro-crime/ASB or preventing similar cases happening in the future? (Article 8 of the Human Rights applies).

- Yes
- No

It is recommended to use the image in the following ways:-

The individual/business photo is shown on a 'need to know' basis between agencies and witnesses.	
The description or image of a person/persons' unknown is published	
Local Press Release	
National Press Release	
Newsletter	
Social Media	
Notification to other agencies as appropriate	
Nothing to be published	

Any further information

Signed:	
Print name:	
Job Title:	
Date:	

Print Name of Service Manager	
Job Title	
Signed	
Date:	

Community and Equality Impact Assessment

As an authority we have made a commitment to apply a systematic screening process to both new policy development or changes to services.

This is to determine whether the proposals are likely to have a significant impact on different groups within our community.

This process has been developed, together with [full guidance \(PDF\)](#), to support officers in meeting our duties under the:

- Equality Act 2010.
- The Best Value Guidance
- The Public Services (Social Value) 2012 Act

In addition the guidance supports officers to consider our commitments set out in the [Thurrock Joint Compact](#) with the voluntary sector.

As well as supporting you to look at whether there is, or will be, a significant impact, the guidance will also consider ways in which you might mitigate this in the future.

About the service or policy development

Name of service or policy	CCTV Public Identification Policy
Lead Officer	Dulal Ahmed, Housing Enforcement Manager, CO2-2, ext 63457
Contact Details	

Why is this service or policy development/review needed?

To enable the publication of CCTV images on the Council’s website for the purposes of identification of offenders involved in crime, Anti-social behaviour and fly tipping within the Borough of Thurrock where all other avenues of identification have been exhausted.

1. Community impact (this can be used to assess impact on staff although a cumulative impact should be considered).

What impacts will this service or policy development have on communities?
Look at what you know? What does your research tell you?

Consider:

- National and local data sets – for example, [key statistics and ward profiles](#)
- Complaints
- Consultation and service monitoring information
- Voluntary and Community Organisations
- The Equality Act places a specific duty on people with ‘protected characteristics’. The table below details these groups and helps you to consider the impact on these groups.

	Positive	Neutral	Negative	What are the positive and negative impacts?	How will benefits be enhanced and negative impacts minimised or eliminated?
Local communities in general	/			To reduce crime and anti-social behaviour and to apprehend and prosecute offenders.	The Policy clearly explains how the use of images will be publicised and the restrictions imposed on their use.
Age		/		For both sexes prosecutions concentrate between the ages of 20 and 45 years old in the criminal	The community safety partnership agencies carry out a number of awareness campaigns aimed

COMMUNITY AND EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

				justice system. The boroughs population of this age group makes up 35%.	at this age group to deter this group committing crime. The council's corporate communication team will publish its own ASB and environment awareness campaigns to deter ASB and environment crime aimed at this age group. This is accessible on types of format eg social media, press, online etc
Disability		/		To reduce crime and anti-social behaviour and to apprehend and prosecute offenders.	This policy supports all residents regardless of your protected characteristic including hidden disabilities that have no physical signs.
Gender reassignment		/		To reduce crime and anti-social behaviour and to apprehend and prosecute offenders.	This policy supports all residents regardless of your protected characteristic.
Marriage and civil partnership		/		To reduce crime and anti-social behaviour and to apprehend and prosecute offenders.	This policy supports all residents regardless of your protected characteristic.
Pregnancy and maternity		/		To reduce crime and anti-social behaviour and to apprehend and prosecute offenders.	This policy supports all residents regardless of your protected characteristic.
Race (including Gypsies, Roma and Travellers)			/	White males and females are more likely to commit crimes in the	The council's corporate communication team will publish

COMMUNITY AND EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT	
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				<p>locality due to demographics of the borough. The number of white residents is disproportionately higher than the BME community at 81%. This is true in the Criminal Justice System. A higher proportion of white residents to BME residents.</p>	<p>its own ASB and environment awareness campaigns to deter ASB and environment crime. This is accessible on types of format eg social media, press, online etc</p>
--	--	--	--	---	---

Religion or belief		/		<p>To reduce crime and anti-social behaviour and to apprehend and prosecute offenders.</p>	<p>This policy supports all residents regardless of your protected characteristic.</p>
Gender			/	<p>Men are more likely to commit ASB and environment crime offences than females. This is true within the Criminal Justice System. Men are more likely to be prosecuted or issued a Penalty Notice. The reoffending rate for males is higher than for females. The borough is split 49% male and 51% female.</p>	<p>The councils corporate communication campaigns will deter residents to commit crime and encourage neighbours to report on others identified.</p>
Sexual orientation			/	<p>To reduce crime and anti-social behaviour and to apprehend and prosecute offenders.</p>	<p>This policy supports all residents regardless of your protected characteristic.</p>

COMMUNITY AND EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

<p>Any community issues identified for this location? <i>See above link to ward profiles.</i> If the project is based in a specific location please state where, or whether Borough wide. Please note any detail of relevance e.g. is it an area with high unemployment, or public transport limited?</p>		/	<p>The Policy will cover the entire Borough of Thurrock where CCTV is deployed.</p>	<p>Its aimed to increase public safety and reduce the fear of crime that the council will investigate and tackle ASB and environment crime.</p>
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2. Consultation.

<p>Provide details of what steps you have taken or plan to take to consult the whole community or specific groups affected by the service or policy development e.g. on-line consultation, focus groups, consultation with representative groups? <i>This is a vital step</i> – see full guidance (PDF).</p>
<p>The council's borough CCTV wide service is effective tool fighting crime. This policy utilises our 491 cameras to work closely with enforcement teams, prioritising ASB and environment crime to make our neighbourhoods safer and cleaner.</p> <p>The team has consulted our Community Safety Partnership, Corporate Communication, internal enforcement teams, and Essex Police on the implementation of this policy to help solve crimes and reduce disorder in the borough in line with Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1988. The partnership includes neighbourhood watch group representatives who represent the communities we serve affected by this scheme.</p> <p>In addition, Legal Services and Information Governance have approved this policy during the consultation process of writing this policy framework.</p>

3. Monitoring and Review

<p>How will you review community and equality impact once the service or policy has been implemented? <i>These actions should be developed using the information gathered in Section1 and 2 and should be picked up in your departmental/service business plans.</i></p>		
Action:	By when?	By who?
<p>All images will need to be vetted and approved before publication, no persons deemed to be under the age of 18 years will be publicised.</p>	<p>Before publication</p>	<p>CCTV Manager, Community Protection Manager, ASB Manager, Environmental Enforcement</p>

COMMUNITY AND EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

How will you review community and equality impact once the service or policy has been implemented?

*These actions should be developed using the information gathered in **Section 1 and 2** and should be picked up in your departmental/service business plans.*

		Manager.
Images of individuals will only be publicised of the offender, any images containing other persons will be edited using Image Redaction software before publication.	ongoing	CCTV Manager
Publication of offenders will only be used where all other avenues of identification have been exhausted.	Before publication	Community Protection Manager, ASB Manager, Environmental Enforcement Manager.
The scheme effectiveness to build resident confidence and reduce the fear of crime to be monitored within the council's ASB customer satisfaction survey.	Ongoing	Investment and Programme Analyst
A six month review of the CCTV public identification will presented to the council's Tenant Excellence Panel	April 2020	CCTV Manager

4. Next steps

It is important the information gathered is used to inform any Council reports that are presented to Cabinet or Overview and Scrutiny committees. This will allow Members to be furnished with all the facts in relation to the impact their decisions will have on different equality groups and the community as a whole.

Take some time to précis your findings below. This can then be added to your report template for sign off by the Community Development and Equalities team at the consultation stage of the report cycle.

Implications/ Customer Impact

COMMUNITY AND EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Implications/ Customer Impact

The Policy has been produced in line with current Human Rights, Data Protection and GDPR guidance and therefore covers all aspects of data protection issues and persons who may be identified.

The Policy has also been produced in line with the current Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and relevant legislation that permits prosecution of offenders where identified.

5. Sign off

The information contained in this template should be authorised by the relevant project sponsor or Head of Service who will be responsible for the accuracy of the information now provided and delivery of actions detailed.

Name	Role (e.g. project sponsor, head of service)	Date
Carol Hinvest	Assistant Director of Housing Services	11/09/2019



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**Cleaner Greener and Safer Overview & Scrutiny Committee
Work Programme
2019/2020**

Dates of Meetings: 4 July 2019, 3 October 2019, 5 December 2019, 6 February 2020

Topic	Lead Officer	Requested by Officer/Member
4 July 2019		
Community Safety Partnership Report on Prevent	Michelle Cunningham	Officers
Waste Strategy for Thurrock	Julie Rogers / Daren Spring	Officers
Tree Planting Strategy - Update Report	Vince Taylor	Officers
Thurrock Active Parks Programme Update	Jahur Ali	Officers
Environment Enforcement Update	Phil Carver	Officers
3 October 2019		
Thurrock Community Safety Partnership Updated	Michelle Cunningham	Officers
Linford Household Waste and Recycling Centre – Site Redevelopment update	Daren Spring	Officers
Park Improvement Programme Update	Jahur Ali	Officers
Verbal Update: Bin Collection Key Performance Indicator	Julie Rogers	Members
CCTV Public Identification Policy	Dulal Ahmed	Officers
5 December 2019		
Waste Vision and Strategy 2020-2030	Julie Rogers / Daren Spring	Officers
Fees and Charges Report	Julie Rogers	Officers

Recycling Officer Role and Activities	Daren Spring / Marcelle Puttergill	Officers
Trading Standards	Gavin Dennett / Charlotte Edwards	Members
Thurrock Active Parks Programme Update	Jahur Ali	Members
Air Quality	Mat Kiely	Members
Animal Welfare	Gavin Dennett/Charlotte Edwards	Members
6 February 2020		
Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy Re-Fresh	Michelle Cunningham	Officers
Council Funded Community Policing Team	Michelle Cunningham	Officers
Public Health and Wellbeing Report on Gangs	Michelle Cunningham	Officers
Verbal Update: Bin Collection Key Performance Indicator	Julie Rogers	Members
Sports Development		Members

Further Reports for potential discussion:

- Food Waste

Reports for 2020/21:

-

Clerk: Jenny Shade
Last Updated: June 2019