

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

Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee

The meeting will be held at **7.00 pm** on **10 September 2024**

Council Chamber, Civic Offices, New Road, Grays, Essex, RM17 6SL

Membership:

Councillors Gary Byrne (Chair), Paul Arnold, Daniel Chukwu, David Day, Aaron Green, Mark Hurrell, Tom Kelly, Steve Liddiard, Fraser Massey, Sue Shinnick and Cathy Sisterson

Sue Hodgson, Housing Tenant Representative

Substitutes:

Councillors Qaisar Abbas, Deborah Arnold, John Fox, Clifford Holloway and Ryan Polston

Agenda

Open to Public and Press

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To approve the minutes of the Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on the 16 July 2024.	
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.	
4 Declaration of Interests	
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Queries regarding this Agenda or notification of apologies:

Please contact Emma Trencher, Senior Democratic Services Officer by sending an email to direct.democracy@thurrock.gov.uk

Agenda published on: **2 September 2024**

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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

Non-pecuniary

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

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.



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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;
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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.

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Minutes of the Meeting of the Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 16 July 2024 at 7.00 pm

Present: Councillors Gary Byrne (Chair), Paul Arnold, Daniel Chukwu, Aaron Green, Mark Hurrell, Steve Liddiard, Fraser Massey, Sue Shinnick and Cathy Sisterson

Sue Hodgson, Co-Optee Member

Apologies: Councillors Victoria Holloway, Valerie Morris-Cook

In attendance: Councillor Lee Watson, Portfolio Holder for Good Growth
Claire Demmel, Executive Director Place
Claire Dixon, Scrutiny Officer
Lucy Tricker, Scrutiny Officer
Ashley Baldwin, Chief Planning Officer
Paul Crick, Chief Operations Lead- Place
Michael Dineen, Assistant Director Counter Fraud, Enforcement and Community Safety
Paul Southall, Assistant Director Street Scene and Leisure
Emma Trencher, Senior Democratic Services Officer

Before the start of the meeting, all present were advised that the meeting was being live streamed and recorded, with the video recording to be made available on the Council's Youtube channel.

1. Items of Urgent Business

There were no urgent items of business.

2. Minutes

The Minutes of the Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on the 5 March 2024 were approved as a correct record.

The Minutes of the Planning Transport and Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on the 21 February 2024 were approved as a correct record.

The Minutes of the Cleaner Greener Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on the 7 September 2023 were approved as a correct record.

The Minutes of the Cleaner Greener Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on the 7 November 2023 were approved as a correct record.

The Minutes of the Cleaner Greener Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on the 19 March 2024 were approved as a correct record.

3. Declaration of Interests

There were no declarations of interest.

4. Overview and Scrutiny Committee Responsibilities

There were no questions raised on the Overview and Scrutiny Committee responsibilities agreed at Full Council in March 2024.

5. Thurrock Scrutiny Protocol - Working Document

There were no questions raised on the Scrutiny Protocol agreed at Full Council in March 2024.

6. Parking at Schools Task and Finish Group: Scoping Report

The Scrutiny Officer presented the report, advising this had come from a motion brought by former Councillor Redsell at the end of 2023.

Members raised the following points:

- Before agreeing to the Task and Finish Group, it was noted there needed to be very clear terms of reference for the group, to avoid it being led off task when consulting all schools in the borough.
- Could head teachers be asked to give evidence and/or be added to the membership.

Action arising

If the group felt it would be beneficial head teacher could be co-opted members to the group. Alternatively head teachers could be invited to a witness session or evidence session. Schools should be contacted to ascertain their individual parking problems and to ascertain if there was a common theme.

- Members questioned whether there were enforcement officers that patrol the schools. If so, how many? How does the enforcement work? Was enforcement a deterrent?
 - A. The Borough had 18-20 Civil Enforcement Officers, that operate on a rota around the borough. Data analysis determined where they were focused. However, the committee was advised that although enforcement could play a part, it was not the solution to school parking problems as there are procedures that needed to be followed.

Action arising

The Task and Finish Group could look at different parking restrictions around schools, i.e. remove double yellow lines and replace with no waiting.

- Timelines were questioned when to start the Task & Finish Group, given schools would be on summer holidays soon until September.

Action arising

Desktop analysis to be undertaken over the coming months, looking at complaints received, traffic hot spots and previous data in preparation for starting formal discussion in September.

- Membership to the Task & Finish Group was discussed.

Action arising

Communication would be made with absent Councillors to confirm whether they would like to be part of the Task & Finish Group.

RESOLVED:

- 1.1 The Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed to a 10-week time limited Parking at Schools Task and Finish Group.**
- 1.2 Members commented on and suggested relevant amendments to the Draft Terms of Reference (Appendix 1) and Scoping Document (Appendix 2), in accordance with the updated overview and scrutiny guidance from the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny (CfGS).**
- 1.3 As the Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed with recommendation 1.1: the Members agreed the size and membership of the Task and Finish Group should be 6 members (3 labour, 2 conservative and 1 independent) and will commence in September 2024 for a 10 week period.**

7. Lower Thames Crossing (LTC) Task Force Report

The Scrutiny Officer presented the report. Following the General Services Committee recommendation to change the current Lower Thames Crossing Task Force and replace with a Task and Finish Group.

Members noted and raised the following points:

- It was acknowledged that the LTC Task Force had done some very good and valuable work since it had been established, it was felt it should remain in place.
- As there had been a change of government and there was now a new Minister for Highways, who would be making the decision over the LTC. Members questioned whether Thurrock should write to the Minister setting out Thurrock's opposition to the scheme and their current position.

Action arising

This would be looked at outside of the committee by officers and a decision would be made and reported back to the committee.

RESOLVED:

- 1.1 The Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee endorsed the continuation of the LTC Task Force until the Development Consent Order (DCO) decision was published; at which point officers will review the request for a standing or time limited LTC Task and Finish Group, in accordance with the new overview and scrutiny operating model and would present a further report to Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee Members.**
- 1.2 The Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed that in advance of the government's DCO decision, the Place Directorate commit to providing LTC Task Force Members with regular monthly email updates regarding the scheme.**

8. Future of the Delivery of Private and Housing Stock Task and Finish Group

The Scrutiny Officer presented the report.

Members noted and raised the following points:

- Could officers and Portfolio Holders advise what were their recommendations and priorities.
 - A. It was advised there were a list of priorities and this would be brought back to committee via the Work Programme.
- As the Housing Strategy was a fluid policy and was being developed, it was felt the Task and Finish Group should be decommissioned and the Housing Strategy should be brought to the Committee under the Work Programme.
- It was acknowledged there was a shortage of houses. It was asked, how many people were on the housing allocation waiting list in Thurrock?

Action arising

Officers to provide this information.

- Councillor Green proposed an alternative recommendation for officers to bring a report back to the Committee setting out their highest housing priorities and for the Committee to then decide if a Task and Finish Group would be beneficial to look at the recommended priorities.
- It was requested for information to provide clarity over what crosses over with the People O&S Committee as there was some confusion.

Action arising

A revised list would be looked at clarifying the remit of each committee to avoid any duplication and further confusion.

RESOLVED:

- 1.1 Place O&S Members agreed to decommission the Delivery of Private and Housing Stock Task and Finish Group. This was the recommendation supported by senior officers, however it was noted Councillor Green voted against this.**

9. Work Programme

The Scrutiny Officer asked if there were any changes or additional reports the committee would like to add to the Work Programme.

Reports requested:

- Section 106 Money
- Derelict land within the borough

Action arising

The Scrutiny Officer to liaise with Committee Members to obtain their views on what they would like to be added to the Work Programme.

A full recording of this meeting can be found from the following link:

[Place Committee - Tuesday 16 July 2024, 7:00pm - Thurrock Council committee meeting webcasts \(public-i.tv\)](#)

The meeting finished at 7.59 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**

10 September 2024	ITEM: 5
Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee	
Annual Report of Thurrock’s Community Safety Partnership	
Wards and communities affected: All	Key Decision: Non-key
Report of: Michelle Cunningham, Community Safety Partnership Manager	
Accountable Assistant Director: Michael Dineen, Assistant Director for Counter Fraud, Enforcement and Community Protection, Corporate Services.	
Accountable Director: Daniel Fenwick, Executive Director, Corporate Services	
This report is public	
Version: Final	

Executive Summary

The Thurrock Community Safety Partnership (TTCSP) is a statutory body as laid out in the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. This legislation places a joint responsibility upon specific agencies, namely the Local Authority, Essex Police, Essex Fire and Rescue Service, the Probation Service and the Integrated Care Body to work together to protect their local communities from crime and to help people feel safer. These partners are required to formulate and implement strategies to tackle local crime and disorder in the area and to have in place a partnership plan for that area, setting out the TTCSP priorities.

This report summarises the statutory requirement of the strategic assessment which is produced annually to highlight areas of risk and vulnerabilities and makes recommendations to address whilst determining our priorities for the following year, in this case for 2024/25. The TTCSP plans’ for the year to respond to these priorities are summarised within this report which should be read in conjunction with:

- Annual report of the Thurrock Community Safety Partnership 2023/24 (*Appendix 1*)
- TTCSP strategic assessment 2023 (*Appendix 2*)
- TTCSP priorities and delivery plan 2024/25 (*Appendix 3*)

In addition to our local priorities the plan must also have regard for the police and crime objectives set out in the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioners (PFCC) Police and Crime Plan (*Appendix 4*) as well as take the lead on fulfilling the Councils statutory responsibilities in respect of:

- The Prevent Duty 2015 (revised guidance 2023)
- The Serious Violence Duty (from January 2024)

Version Control (delete as appropriate)

Version 1 - First draft ready for DMT, SLT and Commissioner input; **Version 2** - Second Draft ready for Portfolio Holder, Leader and other Member Input; **Version 3** - Third draft for any further comments; **Version Committee** – Draft ready for submission to public committee; **Version Cabinet** – Final version ready for Cabinet/Executive decision

- The Domestic Abuse Duty 2021
- Domestic Homicide Reviews
- Anti-social Behaviour Case Reviews

Commissioner Comment:

n/a

1. Recommendation(s)

1.1 Members comment on the Annual Report of Thurrock’s Community Safety Partnership

1.2 Members confirm that they are satisfied that the local authority is discharging their functions in relation to their statutory duties that the Community Safety Partnership takes a lead on.

2. Introduction and Background

2.1 This is the annual report of the Community Safety Partnership for Thurrock and provides members of the committee with the information required to ensure that as a Local Authority we are fulfilling our statutory responsibilities in terms of Crime and Disorder. Our local delivery plan sets out how the TTCSP would deliver on the priorities as identified in the Strategic Assessment for 2023. A Strategic Assessment is a statutory requirement for Community Safety Partnerships to complete on an annual basis. The aim and purpose of the Strategic assessment is to assist the TTCSP to determine the strategic priorities. Areas of risk and vulnerability are highlighted, and based on intelligence, priority issues are identified, alongside recommendations to address. These priorities assist in identifying what the TTCSP should collectively work towards over the following year to ensure that all partnership data is managed in a consistent way, and that the right priorities are identified, a risk matrix is carried out before the Strategic Assessment is written. Using this process ensures that crime types within the partnership area can be compared against each other in an intelligent and structured way to determine the priorities for the TCSP.

2.2 Annual Performance Report

The TCSP Annual report can be found at Appendix 1. This gives a summary against the TCSP priorities for 2023/24. The key headlines for each of the priorities are:

2.2.1 Priority 1: Tackling disproportionality in relation to Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)

- Start of implementation of Bystander training, with the new Transport Safety Officers being the first to receive training in Thurrock.
- Op Minerva implemented in Corringham with increased high visibility patrols, work with school in relation to VAWG and improvements to CCTV.
- OP Make-safe, which concentrates on hotels and their response to child sexual exploitation. “Test purchase” operations have been undertaken, with improvements seen across all areas.

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2.2.2 Priority 2: Breaking the cycle of Domestic Abuse (DA)

- Performance indicators continue to show benefits of the new support within safe accommodation through new burdens funding.
- Uptake of the new services continues to grow, especially the children's tuition with positive feedback of its impact received from schools and the support staff at refuges.
- There is a SET (Southend, Essex and Thurrock) wide commitment to further joint commissioning.
- Completion of Thurrock first joint Domestic Homicide Review /Safeguarding Adults Review with a partnership webinar detailing the recommendations.

2.2.3 Priority 3: Violence and Vulnerability

- The Essex Violence and Vulnerability Unit has completed a needs assessment and we have adopted the Essex wide strategy with a Local plan to deliver.
- Specialist intervention delivered within Grays and Tilbury secondary schools.
- Our Criminal Exploitation and gangs lead has supported over 16 young people a quarter and 75% of those aged under 18 on the gang matrix.
- Since inception, our secondary outreach programme supported 154 pupils at risk of exclusion with only two being permanently excluded.
- Youth workers attended Burger King for 6 weeks to provide trusted adults in a hot spot with staff reporting increased feelings of safety
- A closure order was placed on a vape store that sold illegal vapes to residents and visitors to Thurrock.

2.2.4 Priority 4: Counter Extremism and Terrorism

- The Thurrock strategy has been refreshed to reflect changes in the Prevent Duty guidance that was issued.
- Training continues to be a focus for the TCSP, with 7 training sessions being conducted a misogyny webinar, briefing for Designated Safeguarding Leads on neurodiversity, members of Hidden and Extreme Harm Committee attended face to face training and all members were offered a session through Essex. The training delivered is revised quarterly in line with the latest threat and risk assessments.
- 71 officers attended a Prevent webinar in relation to Mental Health and neurodiversity. Afterwards 66% reported good knowledge and understanding & 32% able to champion confidently.

2.2.5 Priority 5: Reduce harm to and safeguard victims from Hate Crime

- The TCSP has delivered training to carers and all 4 Thurrock Lifestyle Solutions community venues have had visits and signed up to be Hate Incident Reporting Centres
- 'Easy Read' hate crime leaflet launched
- Delivered 6 hate crime ambassador, 6 hate crime awareness, & 4 refresher training sessions as well as targeted training for Thurrock Lifestyle Solutions, Sunshine centre and Staff forum. We now have 262 ambassadors
- Op Sacred is in place with regular visits to all faith groups.

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2.2.6 Priority 6: Tackling Community based Anti-social Behaviour and Safeguarding victims

- Reports of cruiser activity in West Thurrock are on a downward trajectory since July, with 45 Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO) tickets issued between Apr and Nov 23. Op Dial is in place contributing to a 58% reduction in crime at Chafford Hundred train station.
- Operations and action plans in place to address the issues in Grays and the youth/motorbike nuisance in Tilbury.
- There have been 45 referrals made by partners to the Locality Action Groups (no change on 22/23)

2.2.7 Priority 7: Human Trafficking and Modern-Day Slavery and Organised Immigration Crime

- 4 training sessions delivered; uptake has reduced with 32 attendees in total
- Information shared with all community forums and presentation to 3.

2.2.8 Priority 8: Safer Streets through Increased Visibility and Community Engagement

- 3 Walk and Talk events held and Let's Talk events held at 17 locations
- Attended 5 Big lunches, 3 Community Safety events, 7 Engagement events (including 16 days action and hate crime awareness)
- Operation Grip patrols in Grays where highest levels of 'violent offences' are committed, as well as monthly pop-up events.
- Although vehicle offences have increased, solve rates of theft of motor vehicle have also increased and all are continuing to use different tactics to tackle this including dedicated team of officers and detectives targeting vehicle offences (Op Ignition).
- In addition: Digital newsletter launched Essex Police, Op Dial engagement events, Weekly articles in CVS newsletter over 20,000 viewed in 7 months to Aug, Engagement at: 2 open days, Orsett Show, Horndon Fayre, Alzheimer's, U3A, NHW & Royal British Legion groups, youth cabinet, Thurrock refuge, walk online roadshow with year 5, 5 School and College fetes and safeguarding events.

2.2.9 Priority 9: Tackling offending

- An Alcohol & Substance Misuse: epidemiological population health needs assessment for Thurrock was completed in August 2022 and re-commissioning process completed for all-age service.
- Violent crime - 10.6%, Acquisitive Crime (Robbery, Burglary, Vehicle) + 7.3% (+10.8% vehicle) (data for 12 months ending September 23)
- Number of interventions are offered including Thinking Skills Programme (general offending) and Building Better Relationships (Domestic abuse)

2.3 Crime Performance to end March 2024

Below is a summary of Essex Police **crime performance** for 1/4/2023 to 31/03/2024 compared to 2022/23

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Essex Police data	12 months April 23 to March 24	
Offence	Total	% Change
All Crime	16014	-5.7%
Violence Against Person	5688	-6.2%
Sexual Offences	507	-0.2%
Robbery	189	18.9%
Burglary	671	-3.6%
Vehicle Offences (incl. interference)	2216	-11.6%
Shoplifting	1525	17.7%
Criminal damage (incl. arson)	1472	-7.4%
Hate Crime (HO def)	428	-15.2%
Domestic Abuse	1750	-8.7%
ASB (antisocial behaviour)	2405	-16.9%

2.4 Key Findings:

From analysis of the partnership data contained within our strategic assessment 2023 (*appendix 2 is the executive summary*) (data for 12 months ending September 23) the key findings are:

- (i) When asked to prioritise certain crime and ASB types for action by Thurrock Community Safety Partnership, residents ranked People Using or Dealing Drugs highest (78. %) followed by knife crime (67.9%) and Gangs/County Lines (66.7%)
- (ii) Year on year we have seen a decrease in the percentage of residents who have confidence in police in Thurrock and think that they're doing a good job however positively the percentage of residents who think crime and anti-social behaviour has become more of a problem has also reduced
- (iii) Thurrock has seen a decrease in all crime offences of -747 (-4.4%), which is slightly lower than across Essex, who had a -6.8% decrease. Notably decreases were seen in offences of violence against the person (-10.6%), burglary (-1.2%), domestic abuse (-11.2%), hate crime (11.9%) and robbery (3%) Increases were seen in reports of vehicle crime (10.89%) and theft offences (7.3%)
- (iv) There has been a 12% decrease in crimes recorded by British Transport Police at our railway stations, including a 58% decrease at Chafford Hundred.
- (v) Across Essex, there was a decrease in incidents of ASB reported to Essex Police of -8,732 (-55.3%), compared to Thurrock who had a decrease of -831 (-32.7%) of which 57% were nuisance related. The wards of West Thurrock/ Purfleet & Lakeside, Tilbury and Grays Central accounted for 45% of reported ASB.
- (vi) Thurrock ranked 13th highest of all 14 Districts for fire incidents attended by ECFRS (Essex County Fire and Rescue Service), an increase of 39% (613) of which 80 were Accidental Dwelling Fires. Of the Home Safety Visits carried out in Essex, 6.5% were in Thurrock, ranked 7th.
- (vii) Domestic Abuse decreased across all harm levels, with an overall reduction of 11.2%.
- (viii) Sexual Offences increased (3.8%) mainly in the category of 'other sexual offences.'

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- (ix) Hate crime in Thurrock remains high with 2.66 offences per 1,000 population compared to 2.07 offences /1,000 in Essex, however we have seen a 11.9% decrease, but this is less than that seen across Essex (14.6%). We have seen a 5.7% improvement in solved rates to 13%. Whilst decreases in reporting were seen in racial and disability reports all other strands increased but this is a crime which often goes unreported. West Thurrock/Purfleet and Grays Riverside were the top 2 wards. 42% of offences were violence against the person, followed by public order offences (33%), non-crime (13%) and damage/arson offences (7%)
- (x) There was a decrease of 32% (16) of reported Modern Slavery & Human Trafficking Offences on the previous 12 months.
- (xi) There are no known county lines operating currently in Thurrock, but there are 3 drugs 'lines.'
- (xii) Thurrock has seen a decrease of 24 (-18.8%) Serious Violence Offences and ranks 4th in Essex. 2 wards accounted for 45% of all the offences: West Thurrock and South Stifford (25) and Grays Riverside (22).
- (xiii) Thurrock has the third highest cohort of number of offenders open to probation in Essex of which 32% are in relation to violent crime. At the time of sentencing by the local court 5.6% (36) of Thurrock cohort were homeless, 10% were female and 90% male. Ethnicity (by group, where recorded) 5.8% Asian, 12.5% Black or Black British, 3.8% Mixed, 1.4% Other, and 70.7% White. Thurrock has a lower % of offenders assessed as Very High risk and Low risk compared to Essex but greater % assessed and High and Medium risk of reoffending. 18% were offenders of domestic abuse and 48% were aged over 35. The Integrated Offender Management scheme manage 26 prolific offenders currently.
- (xiv) The Youth Justice Service continue to see a decline in young people accessing their services due to offences of possession of bladed articles and in relation to drug supply offences committed by children resident in Thurrock.

2.5 Priorities:

The findings of this assessment have informed the decision to select the TCSP Priorities for 2024/25 as:

- (i) Breaking the cycle of Domestic Abuse: in line with the Domestic Abuse Duty and needs assessment
- (ii) Reduce harm to and safeguard victims from Hate Crime
- (iii) Engaging with residents to Tackle Community based Anti-social Behaviour and Safeguard victims
- (iv) Preventing Serious Violence: Tackling the causes of drug driven violent crime in our communities (including robbery) through driving down gang related activity including offensive weapons
- (v) Tackling disproportionality in relation to Violence Against Women and Girls – including sexual offences, stalking and rape, whilst recognising that men and boys can also be victims

In addition to the above priorities the TCSP will ensure that plans and appropriate governance is in place to deliver our duties in relation to:

- (i) Prevent Duty Revised 2023

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(ii) Reduce Reoffending

We have a one-year delivery plan to deliver on these priorities (Appendix 3) which also supports our responsibility to deliver on Domain 6 'Community Safety' of Thurrock's Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2022/26.

2.6 Prevent Duty

2.6.1 The Prevent Duty, under the Counterterrorism and Security Act 2015

This requires all specified authorities to have "due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism"; local authorities and their partners therefore have a core role to play in countering terrorism at a local level and helping to safeguard individuals at risk of radicalisation.

2.6.2 Prevent Local Authority – Prevent Duty Guidance Self-Assessment Thurrock 2024

The letter to the Local Authority dated 24th May 2024 from the Home Office summarises the assurance outcomes as:

As part of the process the following strengths were identified as part of your Prevent delivery for financial year 2023/24.

- 1. Multi-Agency Partnership Group (MAPG)- Thurrock has a strong and well attended MAPG, with excellent engagement across the partnership.*
- 2. Training Programme - There is excellent work happening in Thurrock around Prevent training.*

The process also identified the following actions/recommendations to assist you in improving your level of Prevent delivery, namely:

- 1. Reducing permissive environments (RPE) - To formalise the local authority response to RPE*
 - Ensure RPE is a standing agenda item at the MAPG.*
 - Update the MAPG Terms of Reference to reflect requirements of an exceptional meeting in relation to RPE (membership, expectations).*
 - Establish an RPE process (flowchart, written process) to be agreed at the MAPG.*
- 2. Training programme – To build on the training offer within the local authority in line with the release of the new Home Office face to face training product.*

2.6.3 Our annual Channel Panel Assurance statement

This has been submitted identifying 2 minor areas for improvement (refresh of terms of reference and additional attendees at panel) which will be in place by July meeting 2024.

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2.6.4 Thurrock's Prevent Partnership Strategy 2024/2027

This is the local response to the revised [Prevent Duty Guidance](#) which came into place 31st December 2023 and outlines our multi-agency aim to **help prevent the risk of people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism** and ensures that we respond to the duty placed on specified authorities locally through a proportionate response reflecting local context and risk.

The objectives of Thurrock's prevent strategy are aligned to those of the Home Office guidance in that we will:

- **tackle** the ideological causes of terrorism
- **intervene** early to support people susceptible to radicalisation
- **enable** people who have already engaged in terrorism to disengage and rehabilitate

2.6.5 The Commitments for 2024/25 are:

- Publish our revised strategy in line with National Update to Prevent 2023 by end Q1
- Action Plan in place by end Q1
- Offer regular training sessions 9 across the year
- Deliver 4 Webinars on ideology
- Provide training for prevent Champions by end Q3
- Implement Actions to Reduce Permissive Environments – by end Q4
- Review of progress workshop held Q3

2.7 Serious Violence Duty

2.7.1 Serious Violence Duty

The [Serious Violence Duty](#) has now been brought into law as part of the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 (Chapter 1 of Part 2). It came into force on 31 January 2024.

S6 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 has been amended to require TCSPs to formulate and implement a strategy to prevent and reduce serious violence.

In considering serious violence, the Duty outlines that there should be a focus on:

- ✓ Public space youth violence including homicide.
- ✓ Violence against the person which may include both knife crime and gun crime, and areas of criminality where serious violence or its threat is inherent, such as in county lines drug dealing.

2.7.2 Within the Duty there is a requirement to publish a needs assessment by Jan 2024. Essex's has been completed and highlights 3 key themes:

1. Age isn't just a number: the assessment identifies a steep incline in serious violence at age of 12 which peaks at 15 and begins to reduce then we see a sharp rise again at 17. **Primary Prevention** – 'inoculate' the wider community against the risk of becoming either a victim or perpetrator of serious violence.
2. The impact of being well: Wellbeing, including mental health has an impact on the propensity of an area to increase the risk of serious violence and hospital

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admission. **Secondary prevention** - Intervention with those with existing risk factors to amplify protective factors and mitigate risk.

3. A culture of normalised violence Where there is violence within households: 43% of violent offenders have some connection to domestic violence. This is not solely as a perpetrator but also as victim or interested party. **Tertiary intervention** 'Treatment' of perpetrators and victims of violence to reduce further harm.

4.

2.7.3 Through the Essex Violence and Vulnerability Partnership (VVP)

There is work being completed across Southend, Essex, and Thurrock (SET) to provide a coordinated approach. The VVP influences, co-ordinates and delivers activity which addresses issues which lead to a reduction in serious violence, The focus of the Essex Violence and Vulnerability Partnership as outlined in the Essex Serious Violence Strategy 2024/25 is to tackle serious violence and drug driven harm linked to gangs and County Lines, particularly for those under 25 years of age (based on the evidence of those most likely to be involved).

2.7.4 In Thurrock our Commitments for 2024/25 are:

- Action plan to be in place end Q1 in line with Serious Violence Duty and Greater Essex Strategy.
- Improve understanding, raising awareness and developing the workforce.
- To improve use of data to inform our understanding of the problem of serious violence across Thurrock.
- Through targeting interventions - delivering programmes which prevent and reduce serious violence.
- Develop a plan to improve partnership response to drivers of violence.
- Seek funding for a service provision for women and girls at risk of serious sexual violence/abuse (this has been actioned but was not successful).

2.8 Reducing Re-offending Duty

2.8.1 Community Safety Partnerships (TCSPs)

The TCSP has a statutory duty to assist with reducing reoffending. Reducing reoffending¹ is fundamental to reducing crime in local communities and benefits everyone:

- every offender who becomes an ex-offender means safer streets and fewer victims.
- turning people away from crime means less pressure on the resources of the criminal justice system and its delivery partners.
- offenders who stop reoffending get the opportunity to repay their debt to society and improve their own life chances, as well as those of their children and families.

2.8.2 The strategic aims of the Essex Reducing Reoffending Strategy 202-24 are:

- Reduce Reoffending
- Make our communities safer places to live and work
- Enable the public to have confidence in services which tackle reoffending.

¹ [Home Office National Support Framework](#)

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- Improve opportunities and outcomes for people who offend.
- Ensure that victims are satisfied with criminal justice outcomes.

2.8.3 In Thurrock our Commitments 2024/25 are:

- Host a Stakeholder workshop by Q1
- Develop a 3-year reducing re-offending action plan by end Q1
- Review options in relation to accommodation
- Embed new drug and alcohol providers within Offender Management Q2

2.9 [Domestic Abuse Act 2021](#)

2.9.1 The DAA introduced a new statutory definition of domestic abuse with an aim to ensure that it is properly understood, considered unacceptable and actively challenged across statutory agencies and in public attitudes. Part 4 of the Act places several statutory duties on tier 1 local authorities in England relating to the provision of support for victims and their children residing within relevant safe accommodation. Local Authorities have been awarded 'new burdens' funding by the Department for Levelling Up Housing and Communities (DLUHC) to deliver the new duties.

2.9.2 Thurrock continue to meet their obligations as set out by the Act.

The Thurrock VAWG Strategic Board remains the 'domestic abuse local partnership board' for the local area. We are currently undertaking our second needs assessment for accommodation-based domestic abuse support, for survivors and their children in their area, including the need of those coming from outside the area. This is a 3 yearly requirement.

2.9.3 Thurrock's Domestic Abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls [Strategy 2023-2026](#)

This aims to tackle the continuum of Violence against Women and Girls, including domestic abuse – in Thurrock. The Overall vision is: Reduce the prevalence of VAWG crimes and ensure that where they do happen, all those affected get the right support. The priorities for the strategy are: Positive communities, Prevention, Partnership, Provision, Protection, and Participation: Ensure survivors voices are heard

2.9.4 In Thurrock our Commitments 2024/25 are:

- Conduct a full 3-year local needs assessment to determine the level of need for support within safe accommodation in Thurrock. Outcome: Identify any new needs and respond to these through implementation of support services
- Submit voluntary quarterly and annual data to DLUHC on support services within safe accommodation Outcome: Understand trends of service use occurring in safe accommodation.
- Increase the number of completions of the DA and stalking offer internally and across the wider partnerships. Outcome: Greater awareness and understanding of domestic abuse, sexual violence and abuse and how to respond appropriately to disclosures
- Further development of SET wide commitment to joint commissioning from April 2025. Outcome: New SET wide DA support services contract in place from April 2025

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3. Issues, Options and Analysis of Options

3.1 Members should be aware of the following identified risks to Community Safety in Thurrock:

- Areas of the borough are seeing an increased issue of ASB and racism requiring multi-agency responses through additional operations and having an impact on wider members of the community.
- Contextual safeguarding risks: An increasing no. of young people are being exposed to risky behaviour particularly in regard to vaping, nitrous oxide and edible cannabis.
- The National issue of gang related violence continues to be a risk to the communities of Thurrock and whilst positive activity to address there is an ongoing risk in relation to emergence of gangs to fill any vacuum.
- The inclusion of violence against women and girls within the national threat level highlights the importance of recognising this crime as a risk to society and ensuring a robust response.
- Online risk to exploitation remains including in relation to radicalisation and concerns over Tik Tok.
- S114 notice served on Thurrock Council limiting spend and resources means the TCSP should focus on High Harm High Risk priorities.
- Drug and Alcohol Services: New single service provider from April 24 covering all ages.

3.2 The partnership is aware of the following policy activity at a national level:

- Review of Community Safety Partnerships:
- Revised Prevent Duty Guidance:
- Serious Violence Duty:
- Victims & Prisoners Bill:
- Offensive Weapons Homicide Reviews:
- Online Safety Act 2023

4. Reasons for Recommendation

4.1 This report has allowed Members of the crime and disorder committee to review or scrutinise decisions made, or other action taken, and ensure appropriate discharge by the responsible authorities in respect of their crime and disorder functions.

4.2 That this report has provided Members of the crime and disorder committee with the relevant information to be satisfied that the local authority is discharging their functions in relation to the statutory duties in relation to prevent, serious violence, reoffending and domestic abuse.

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

5.1 Thurrock TCSP Strategic Assessment 2023

This was developed with input from partners and considered Thurrock residents who contributed to the Safer Essex Community Safety Survey 2023. This informs the TCSP about the scale and scope of crime and community safety issues in Thurrock and has determined our priorities for the forthcoming year.

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5.2 The TCSP must pay due regard to the The Police Fire and Crime Commissioner (PFCC) priorities. Our priorities for 24/25 take into account priorities as laid out in The Police and Crime Plan 2021/24 and have been shared with the PFCC office as part of our sign off.

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

6.1 The work of the Community Safety Partnership supports delivery of the Council's priorities of **People** – a borough where people of all ages are proud to work and play, live and stay and **Prosperity** – a borough which enables everyone to achieve their aspirations.

6.2 The Community Safety Partnership delivers on Domain 6 'Community Safety' of Thurrock's Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2022/26. The aims and ambitions of Domain 6 are:

- Thurrock is a place where people feel and are safe to live, socialise, work and visit.
- We will also ensure that victims/survivors of crime are able to access support to cope and recover from their experiences, should they need it.

6.3 The community safety partnership also impacts on:

- Youth Justice Plan
- Brighter Futures Childrens Partnership Strategy [Brighter Futures Children's Partnership Strategy 2021-26 \(PDF 7.22MB\)](#), and
- Thurrock's Housing Strategy 22-27

7. Implications

7.1 Financial

Implications verified by: **Laura Last**
Finance Manager, Place

The funding for 2024/25 is detailed below:

Funding Stream	24/25 Budget (including grant income)	Commentary
PFCC	£24,976.16	Grant funding to deliver on our priorities (being invoiced)
Council	£18,347.00	Community Safety Budget
Op Dial	£16,231.00	Home Office funding for ASB hot spot patrols W Thurrock (due to be received)
Domestic Violence	£23,666.00	Council contribution to SET wide Independent Domestic Violence Advocacy Workers
Violence and Vulnerability Unit	£35,000.00	Grant funding for tertiary intervention to reduce serious violence (due to be received)
New Burdens DA Duty allocation	£381,970.00	*There is a carry forward of £315,452 from 23/24 in addition to this £381,970 of which £644,562 has been spent / allocated. £52,860 remains to allocate to identified need

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Council Vacancy Factor	-£5,068.00	Vacancy Factor savings target (in salary budgets across the council)
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* As reported in previous papers, this funding was running a year in arrears. This has resulted in a cumulative carry forward from previous allocations into 24/25.

7.2 Legal

Implications verified by: **Helen Nicol**

Assistant Director Legal and Governance Deputy Monitoring Officer

7.2.1 Community Safety Partnerships (TCSPs) were introduced by Section 6 of the [Crime and Disorder Act 1998](#) and bring together local partners to formulate and implement strategies to tackle crime, disorder and antisocial behaviour in their communities.

7.2.2 The Annual Report of Thurrock’s TCSP demonstrates how it has met its statutory duties and outlines its plans for the year ahead.

7.2.3 S. 19 Police and Justice Act 2006 requires that every local authority has a committee (the “crime and disorder committee”) with power:

(a) to review or scrutinise decisions made, or other action taken, in connection with the discharge by the responsible authorities of their crime and disorder functions;

(b) to make reports or recommendations to the local authority with respect to the discharge of those functions.

At Thurrock Council, the Place Committee is the designated Crime and Disorder Committee, and has the powers outlined above. The Annual Report of Thurrock’s TCSP provides information to the Committee to allow them to review and scrutinise decisions made and action taken in discharge of this function.

7.3 Diversity and Equality

Implications verified by: **Roxanne Scanlon**

Community Engagement and Project Monitoring Officer

A Community Equality Impact Assessment (CEIA) is in place for:

- Thurrock Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) and Domestic Abuse (DA) Strategy.
- Preventing Serious Violence Action Plan
- Prevent Strategy 2024/27

The CEIA for this delivery plan has been produced to ensure that due consideration has been given to the Councils statutory Equality Duty to eliminate unlawful discrimination and ensure

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no negative impacts on communities, workforce and/or the health and wellbeing of local residents whilst identifying any opportunity to level the playing field.

The Delivery plan:

Recognises that crime is more prevalent in some areas and responds appropriately:

- Recognises and responds to the risks to young people of being exploited and that those with a learning disability are more vulnerable to exploitation
- Recognises that there is an under reporting of hate crime in relation to the protected characteristics of Disability, Gender Reassignment, Race, Religion/Belief, Sex, and Sexual Orientation and seeks to raise awareness and build trust in communities to report.

Our VAWG and DA strategy responds to the disproportionate impact that this crime has across the protected characteristics.

7.4 Risks

We have one risk identified on the Corporate Risk Log- No. 21: Failure to comply with the Prevent Duty 2015.

The Prevent Duty under the Counterterrorism and Security Act 2015 requires all specified authorities to have “due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism”; local authorities and their partners therefore have a core role to play in countering terrorism at a local level and helping to safeguard individuals at risk of radicalisation.

Failure to work with local partners to protect the public; prevent crime; promote strong/integrated communities and prevent people from being drawn into terrorism will result in the authority not complying with the Prevent Duty 2015 and may lead to increased acts of crime, lawbreaking, extremism, and terrorism.

The revised Prevent Duty Guidance 2023 S121 now includes: Additionally, local authorities should include Prevent within their corporate risk register.

7.5 Other implications (where significant) – i.e. Staff, Health Inequalities, 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): Essex Violence and Vulnerability Needs Assessment and Strategy: www.essexvvu.co.uk/vvu-documentation/

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9. Appendices to the report

- Appendix 1 Annual report of the Thurrock Community Safety Partnership 2023/24
- Appendix 2 Strategic assessment 2023 Executive Summary
- Appendix 3 Delivery plan 2024/25
- Appendix 4 The Police and Crime Plan 2021/24 plan www.essex.pfcc.police.uk/

Report Author:

Michelle Cunningham

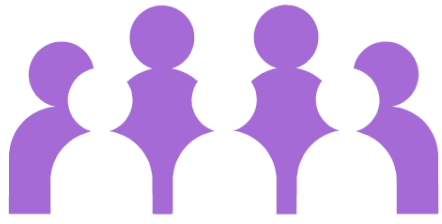
Community Safety Partnership Manager

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Thurrock Community Safety Partnership



THURROCK

Community Safety Partnership
Making Thurrock Safer

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Annual Report 2023-2024

Reporting on our Priorities for 2023/24

Thurrock partnership set the following priorities within its 2023/24 Community Safety Plan:

1. **Tackling disproportionality in relation to Violence Against Women and Girls** – including sexual offences, stalking and rape, whilst recognising that men and boys can also be victims
2. **Breaking the cycle of Domestic Abuse:** in line with Local Authority duties under the Domestic Abuse Act 2021
3. **Violence and Vulnerability:** Tackling gang related activity and offensive weapons to reduce drug driven violence
4. **Reduce harm to and safeguard victims from Hate Crime**
5. **Tackling Community based Anti-social Behaviour and Safeguarding victims** - including response to car cruising
6. **Counter Extremism and Terrorism:** Preventing Violent Extremism locally
7. **Human Trafficking and Modern-Day Slavery and Organised Immigration Crime**
8. **Safer Streets through Increased Visibility and Community Engagement**
9. **Tackling offending** –reducing offences in relation to theft (predominantly burglary and vehicle crime)

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Priority 1: Tackling disproportionality in relation to VAWG

Reporting Against our Commitments 23/24:

What we said we would do:	Progress Made :
<p>1. Sign off and implement the action plan to deliver on the refreshed multi-agency VAWG strategy to drive effective partnership working</p> <p>2. Deliver Bystander training and awareness</p> <p>3. Respond to the findings within Op Minerva</p> <p>4. Work with the Local Safeguarding Children's Partnership to safeguard young people from CSE through Op Makesafe (ensuring hotel staff are able to recognise risks and respond)</p> <p>5. Consider the "walk and talk" initiative to understand what women need to make them feel safe</p> <p>6. Promote the reporting of hate crime due to sex/gender</p> <p>7. Promote the training opportunity that covers Honour Based Abuse, FGM and forced marriage, available on the LSCP e learning programme.</p>	<p>1. Draft action plan presented to VAWG Board Nov 2023- amendments noted. Final sign off Feb 2024</p> <p>2. Train the trainer Bystander training received- new Transport Safety officers to be the first to receive training.</p> <p>3. Op Minerva underway in Corringham with increased high visibility patrols, work with school in relation to VAWG and improvements to CCTV.</p> <p>4. 2 ops undertaken, 4 passed 2nd visit, improvements seen across all. Training launched on line</p> <p>5. Walk & Talk delivered in Stanford Le Hope, Corringham in October and in Grays during 16 days of Activism.</p> <p>6. There continues to be low reports of hate crime due to sex/gender, mainly female but also a male and 'other</p> <p>7. Training opportunities continue to be promoted and note in several partnership newsletters including LCSP, TSAB.</p>

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Priority 2: Breaking the cycle of Domestic Abuse

Reporting Against our Commitments 23/24:

What we said we would do:	Progress Made :
<p>1. Sign off and implement the action plan to deliver on the refreshed multi-agency VAWG strategy to drive effective partnership working</p> <p>2. Continue to deliver a range of support, through New Burdens funding, within Safe accommodation as identified in the needs assessment as priority areas for victims including financial inclusion, specialist drug and alcohol support, trauma informed psychological support for resident adults and children, support to move on, working with young people who are victims including tutoring.</p> <p>3. Review needs assessment to ensure it is meeting the intended needs, once services are commissioned</p> <p>4. Continue to explore and respond locally to the TONIC recommendations with SETDAB, including the mechanism for survivor engagement</p> <p>5. Progress the DAHA accreditation</p> <p>6. Ensure method of hearing DA survivor voices is implemented as part of DA Act.</p> <p>7. Respond to recommendations from any Domestic Homicide or Safeguarding Adult Reviews as appropriate.</p>	<p>1. Draft action plan presented to VAWG Board Nov 2023- amendments noted. Final sign off Feb 2024.</p> <p>2. KPIs continue to show benefits of the new support within safe accommodation due to new burdens funding. Progress is reported to VAWG Board.</p> <p>3. Uptake of the new services continues to grow, especially the children's tuition with positive feedback of its impact received from schools and the support staff at refuge</p> <p>4. Following the TONIC recommendations, there is a SET wide commitment to further joint commissioning. Full report due to Thurrock Cabinet February 2024.</p> <p>5. Housing seeking an assessment date with DAHA assessors</p> <p>6. Survivor engagement key agenda item at VAWG Board meeting. Further development of VAWG Board views ideas is underway. Survivors currently engaging via commissioned services.</p> <p>7. Completion of Thurrock first joint DHR/SAR. Delivered a partnership webinar detailing the recommendations with the Report author.</p>

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Priority 3: Violence and Vulnerability

Reporting Against our Commitments 23/24:

What we said we would do:	Progress Made :
<p>1. Ensure Thurrock meets its Duty in respect of Serious Violence by 31/1/24 through having needs assessment and strategy in place with a local plan</p> <p>2. Preventative work focused in the localities of Grays, Tilbury and West Thurrock through outreach youth work and specialist focused intervention within schools – both secondary and primary</p> <p>3. Support secondary preventative work to address risk in Ockendon</p> <p>4. Intensive work with those most at risk through the CE and gangs lead and exploitation worker</p> <p>5. Support to schools' regards offensive weapons to mitigate risk and reduce exclusions</p> <p>6. Respond to the Youth Listening Project and concerns raised</p> <p>7. Respond to the deep dive of all non-domestic violent crime</p> <p>8. Support implementation of the Youth Justice Plan 21/24 to deliver an effective youth justice service</p> <p>9. Continue to support Op Henderson, an operation focusing on addressing CSE and CCE in relation to transport hubs</p> <p>10. Through the IAG establish a stop and search panel</p>	<p>1. The Essex Violence and Vulnerability Unit has completed the needs assessment and we will adopt their strategy with a Local plan to deliver</p> <p>2. Specialist intervention within Grays and Tilbury secondary schools. Primary Outreach in the Prevention of Permanent Exclusion supported aa schools with outreach provided to 20 pupils with 11 accessing a placement. Where attendance was an issue (N/A 5) improvements seen for 13 pupils, 2 N/C</p> <p>3. Regular meeting held with professionals to discuss concerns and intervention workers provide school drop ins.</p> <p>4. Our CE and gangs lead has supported over 16 young people a quarter and 75% of those aged under 18 on the gang matrix</p> <p>5. Since inception, our outreach programme supported 154 pupils at risk of exclusion with only two being permanently excluded. The protocol has been refreshed and shared through headteacher forums .Secondary schools have had visits from the education officers who have completed a knife crime input</p> <p>6. Youth workers attended Burger King for 6 weeks to provide trusted adult in a hot spot. A closure order was placed on a vape store</p> <p>7. No new findings, continued focused work in Grays, W Thurrock and Tilbury. Op Dial started July including licensing visits in W Thurrock</p> <p>8. The MOJ reoffending data published in June 2022 (YDS 110) indicates that Thurrock's reoffending rate for the yearly cohort was 36.4% This indicates a very slight increase over the financial year and is being monitored at the Youth Crime Governance Board (YCGB)</p> <p>9. Intervention workers and Children and Young Peoples Officers travelled on trains engaging with public regarding exploitation, where to report concerns across two dates in 23/24</p> <p>10. This is established and has met 3 times and feeds back to the YCGB and Youth Cabinet</p>

Priority 4: Counter Extremism and Terrorism

Reporting Against our Commitments 23/24:

What we said we would do:	Progress Made :
<p>1. Review and refresh Thurrock's Prevent strategy for 2023/26 in line with the National review of CONTEST</p> <p>2. Utilise the Prevent Communications Toolkit to improve dialogue and awareness with our communities</p> <p>3. Continue to offer programme of training across partners</p> <p>4. Respond to current risks in relation to vulnerabilities due to mental health and those aged under 18 hosting an event for practitioners</p>	<p>1. Workshop held with Board, currently drafting to consult with members and sign off by CSP Board March 24</p> <p>2. Action plan in place, tension form reviewed, web site updated, Channel posters shared, advice to home educators refreshed. Continued Promotion of messages in Thurrock resident's newsletter and to staff required</p> <p>3. Delivered 7 training sessions, hosted misogyny webinar, briefed Designated Safeguarding Leads on neurodiversity, members of HEHC attended face to face training and all members offered session through Essex. Training is revised quarterly in line with the latest threat and risk.</p> <p>4. 71 people attended Prevent webinar in relation to Mental Health and neurodiversity. Afterwards 66% reported good knowledge and understanding & 32% able to champion confidently</p>

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Priority 5: Reduce harm to and safeguard victims from Hate Crime

Reporting Against our Commitments 23/24:

What we said we would do:	Progress Made :
<p>1. Commitment to engagement with the learning disabled community through professional's carers awareness raising and community visits.</p> <p>2. Refresh of an easy read hate crime reporting leaflet</p> <p>3. Refresher training 23-24. Training is now updated to reflect and include gender/ sex based.</p> <p>4. To attend the multi-agency event in May around mental health.</p> <p>5. To host a pop up event at Sikh Temple.</p> <p>6. Utilise calendar of events to target all strands across the year</p> <p>7. Offer a drop in coffee with cops and create safety packs for our care homes and sheltered housing schemes</p>	<p>1. Training with carers complete. All 4 TLS community venues will have had visits by end of year and be HIRCs</p> <p>2. Easy Read hate crime leaflet drafted with support of TLS to launch by end of year</p> <p>3. Delivered 6 hate crime ambassador, 6 hate crime awareness, & 4 refresher training sessions as well as targeted training for TLS, Sunshine centre and Staff forum. We have 262 ambassadors</p> <p>4. Information shared but no opportunity to engage. Prevent webinar held in relation to MH including handouts on hate crime in relation to MH</p> <p>5. Complete & CPT and TCT through Op Sacred now regularly visit all faith groups</p> <p>6. Hate crime ambassadors receive monthly update on relative topic for that month</p> <p>7. Safety packs created, Lets Talk offered to all and 3 visited</p>

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Priority 6: Tackling Community based Anti-social Behaviour and Safeguarding victims

Reporting Against our Commitments 23/24:

What we said we would do:	Progress Made :
<p>1. To continue through multi-agency work and funding to target enforcement of the West Thurrock PSPO in relation to cruisers through Op Irish lions and looking at innovative responses through the strategic and tactical groups</p> <p>2. Ongoing localised targeting of hot spots through multi-agency action plans</p> <p>3. That Police, Fire and housing data is overlaid to identify areas to focus on</p> <p>4. To continue to use our Locality Action Groups to work in partnership to safeguard victims</p> <p>5. To promote ASB case reviews and respond accordingly to findings</p> <p>6. To implement the Action plan for Ockendon</p>	<p>1. 12m ending Sept 23 259 reports 57% increase on previous 12m, - downward trajectory since July. 45 PSPO tickets issued between Apr and Nov 23. Op Dial in place contributing to 58% reduction in crime at C100 station</p> <p>2. A Joint Action Group developed Op Zap and action plan was put in place to address the issues in Seabrooke Rise Op Velour & Op Bike in place to address the youth/motorbike nuisance in Tilbury PSPO for Grays High Street renewed and extended to Grays Town Park</p> <p>3. We are awaiting data from ECFRS community safety to look at how progress</p> <p>4. There have been 45 referrals made by partners to the Locality Action Groups (no change on 22/23)</p> <p>5. 7 applications for ASB case review Apr – Nov 23, 4 accepted, 3 declined due to i) complaint ii) new case opened, iii) open service request. One outcome has been appealed. 2 Process changes in order to manage expectations</p> <p>6. Complete – CCTV improvements unable to be made due to funding and insufficient data to support</p>

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Priority 7: Human Trafficking and Modern-Day Slavery and Organised Immigration Crime

Reporting Against our Commitments 23/24:

What we said we would do:	Progress Made :
<p>Page 35</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Complete the LGA MSHT self-assessment and develop action plan in response• Continue to offer training on MSHT• Data collection from all Thurrock systems and police systems including qualitative data• Briefing to community forums to raise awareness by Community Safety and Engagement Officers• Posters and awareness to businesses and offer to attend training• Develop and implement innovative and shared disruption approaches• Use intelligence to ensure that multi-agency operations are effectively targeted	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• This is drafted and waiting on Director agreement to proceed• 3 sessions delivered from April –Dec 2023 all offering 25 spaces- Uptake has reduced -21 attendees in total. 11 attendees booked onto the session in February 2024• Data collection is outstanding• Information shared with all forums, 3 requested attendance 1 to schedule• Training scheduled for promotion via business buzz newsletter alongside the SME toolkit from stopthetraffik

Priority 8: Safer Streets through Increased Visibility and Community Engagement

Reporting Against our Commitments 23/24:

What we said we would do:

1. Enable people to report confidently where they do not feel safe through Promotion of safer streets
www.essex.police.uk/notices/street-safe/street-safe
2. To implement measures to improve people's safety in areas recognised within the street safe project (Op Minerva)
3. Apply for funding for round 4 of safer streets to tackle ASB and VAWG
4. Post regularly Coffee with cops across the borough
5. Post monthly partnership street pop ups in areas of concern
6. Sustain the surgeries being held monthly in Grays as part of safer streets legacy
7. Deliver a safe well and secure event with ECFRS
8. Provide and maintain a resource pack for all Council community venues.
9. In response to increase in vehicle crime continued running of Op Sculpture and Op Alien locally and working cross border to identify and target known offenders

Progress Made :

1. Walk and Talk events (Op Brave) held in Stanford, Grays and Corringham, results to be evaluated and responded to
2. CCTV upgrade in Corringham and additional high vis patrols in area in Q4
3. Delayed due to requirement for match funding
4. Let's Talk events at 17 locations, Café Connect and regular attendance at Community Forums by CPT
5. Attended 5 Big lunches, 3 Community Safety event events at College, 7 Engagement events (including 16 days action and hate crime awareness).
6. Operation Grip patrols in Grays where highest levels of violent offences as well as monthly pop-up events.
7. ECFRS have been attending pop ups. Event to plan
8. Resource packs created for all Council community venues.
9. although vehicle offences have increased, our solved rate of theft of motor vehicle has increased by 44% YTD vs LYTD. TFMV has reduced by 12% in the last 3 months. We are continuing to use different tactics to tackle this including dedicated team of officers and detectives targeting vehicle offences (Op Ignition)

In addition:

- Digital newsletter launched [Essex Police \(govdelivery.com\)](http://EssexPolice.govdelivery.com)
- Op Dial engagement events
- Weekly articles in CVS newsletter over 20,000 view in 7 months to Aug
- Engagement at: 2 open days, Orsett Show, Horndon Fayre, Alzheimers, U3A, NHW & Royal British Legion groups, youth cabinet, Thurrock refuge, walk online roadshow with year 5, 5 School and College fetes and safeguarding events

Priority 9: Tackling offending

Reporting Against our Commitments 23/24:

What we said we would do:

- Through the Combatting Drugs Partnership respond to the Public Health detailed needs assessment in relation to drugs and alcohol. Once completed review re-offending plan to address any gaps.
- Partners continue to support the IOM scheme through monthly meetings. The focus of IOM continues to with Serious Acquisitive Crime – including vehicle crime & Gangs, Knives and OCG's.
- IOM partners will work to prevent acquisitive offending through interventions and support for prolific offenders in the community. Thurrock CSP remains a key partner within the IOM
- Offenders failing to engage or returning to criminality will be returned to the justice system.
- Continued piloting of the Acquisitive crime electronic monitoring pilot this will include offenders with vehicle crime convictions and vehicle offences remain part of the daily scans sent to the MOJ.
- Probation Data required against each of the 9 pathways to shape services locally and to know what success looks like
- That concerns around disproportionality in relation to BAME cohort are shared and actions identified within re-offending plan
- Continue to promote the use of Essex Restorative Justice Mediation Services in particular in relation to ASB, neighbour disputes and hate crime.

Progress Made :

- An Alcohol & Substance Misuse: epidemiological population health needs assessment for Thurrock was completed in August 2022 and is published [here](#) .Re-commissioning process completed for all-age service. New transitional worker and Dependency and Recovery worker in place at adult provider.
- Violent crime - 10.6%, Acquisitive Crime (Robbery, Burglary, Vehicle) + 7.3% (+10.8% vehicle)
- Number of interventions are offered including Thinking Skills Programme (general offending) and Building Better Relationships (Domestic abuse)
- 30% (8) were recalled in 12m ending March 23
- 5 offenders currently managed through electronic tag
- This has now been provided and Thurrock performs well in regards to employment, accommodation and substance misuse. Greatest needs in relation to Lifestyle, Thinking & Behaviour
- This is being led by Youth Crime Governance Board and Essex Criminal Justice Board. Ethnicity (by group, where recorded) 5.8% Asian, 12.5% Black or Black British, 3.8% Mixed, 1.4% Other, and 70.7% White
- 5 less referrals in 22/23 than in previous year

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Thurrock

STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT

2023/24



Document Owner: Thurrock Community Safety Partnership

Author(s): Michelle Cunningham

And partners from Thurrock Council Housing team, Environment, Public Health, Youth Offending Service, British Transport Police, Synergy, Essex Police, Essex Probation and Essex Fire and Rescue service

Date: Feb 2024

Version Executive Summary

A more detailed breakdown of all crime types is available on request from: Safer.thurrock@thurrock.gov.uk

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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1. Aim & Purpose

Every Community Safety Partnership (CSP) is required by the Crime & Disorder Act 1998 (Statutory Instrument 1830) to prepare an annual Strategic Assessment, in order to assist them in revising its partnership plan.

The strategic assessment should include:

- Analysis of the levels and patterns of crime and disorder and substance misuse in Thurrock.
- Analysis of the changes in those levels and patterns since the previous Strategic Assessment.
- Analysis of why those changes have occurred.
- The matters which the responsible authorities should prioritise when each are exercising their functions to reduce crime and disorder and to combat substance misuse in Thurrock.
- The matters which the persons living and working in the Thurrock area consider the responsible authorities should prioritise when each are exercising their functions to reduce crime and disorder and to combat substance misuse.
- An assessment of the extent to which the Partnership Plan for the previous year has been implemented.
- Details of those matters that the strategy group considers should be brought to the attention of the county strategy group to assist it in exercising its functions under these Regulations.

In order to inform the Strategic Intelligence Assessment and Partnership Plan, the Strategy Group is expected to obtain the views of those who live or work in Thurrock about:

- The levels and patterns of crime and disorder and substance misuse.
- The matters which the responsible authorities should prioritise when each are exercising their functions to reduce crime and disorder and to combat substance misuse.

As part of this process, the Strategy Group should hold one or more public meetings during the year, to be attended by those in a senior position within each of the responsible authority.

1.2. Data Parameters

Unless otherwise stated all data will be from 01 October 2022 to 30 September 2023.

Data sources are referenced at the start of each section.

1.3. Key Findings

From analysis of the partnership data contained within this assessment, the key findings are:

1. When asked to prioritise certain crime and ASB types for action by Thurrock Community Safety Partnership, residents ranked People Using or Dealing Drugs highest (78. %) followed by knife crime (67.9%) and Gangs/County Lines (66.7%)
2. Year on year we have seen a decrease in the percentage of residents who have confidence in police in Thurrock and think that they're doing a good job however positively the percentage of residents who think crime and anti-social behaviour has become more of a problem has also reduced
3. Thurrock has seen a decrease in all crime offences of -747 (-4.4%), which is slightly lower than across Essex, who had a -6.8% decrease. Notably decreases were seen in offences of violence against the person (-10.6%), burglary (-1.2%), domestic abuse (-11.2%), hate crime (11.9%) and robbery (3%) Increases were seen in reports of vehicle crime (10.89%) and theft offences (7.3%)

4. There has been a 12% decrease in crimes recorded by British Transport Police at our railway stations, including a 58% decrease at Chafford Hundred.
5. Across Essex, there was a decrease in incidents of ASB reported to Essex Police of -8,732 (-55.3%), compared to Thurrock who had a decrease of -831 (-32.7%) of which 57% were nuisance related. The wards of West Thurrock/ Purfleet & Lakeside, Tilbury and Grays Central accounted for 45% of reported ASB.
6. Thurrock ranked 13th highest of all 14 Districts for fire incidents attended by ECFRS, an increase of 39% (613) of which 80 were Accidental Dwelling Fires. Of the Home Safety Visits carried out in Essex, 6.5% were in Thurrock, ranked 7th.
7. Domestic Abuse decreased across all harm levels, with an overall reduction of 11.2 %.
8. Sexual Offences increased (3.8%) mainly in the category of 'other sexual offences'
9. Hate crime in Thurrock remains high with 2.66 offences per 1,000 population compared to 2.07 offences /1,000 in Essex, however we have seen a 11.9% decrease but this is less than that seen across Essex (14.6%) We have seen a 5.7% improvement in solved rates to 13%. Whilst decreases in reporting were seen in racial and disability reports all other strands increased but this is a crime which often goes unreported. West Thurrock/Purfleet and Grays Riverside were the top 2 wards. 42% of offences were violence against the person, followed by public order offences (33%), non-crime (13%) and damage/arson offences (7%)
10. There was a decrease of 32% (16) of reported Modern Slavery & Human Trafficking Offences on the previous 12 months
11. There are no known county lines operating currently in Thurrock and 3 drugs lines
12. Thurrock has seen a decrease of 24 (-18.8%) Serious Violence Offences and ranks 4th in Essex. 2 wards accounted for 45% of all the offences: West Thurrock and South Stifford (25) and Grays Riverside (22).
13. Thurrock has the third highest cohort of number of offenders open to probation in Essex of which 32% are in relation to violent crime. At the time of sentencing by the local court 5.6% (36) of Thurrock cohort were homeless , 10% were female and 90% male. Ethnicity (by group, where recorded) 5.8% Asian, 12.5% Black or Black British, 3.8% Mixed, 1.4% Other, and 70.7% White. Thurrock has a lower % of offenders assessed as Very High risk and Low risk compared to Essex but greater % assessed and High and Medium risk of reoffending. 18% were offenders of domestic abuse and 48% were aged over 35. The Integrated Offender Management scheme manage 26 prolific offenders currently.
14. Our Youth Justice Service continue to see a decline in young people accessing their services due to offences of possession of bladed articles and in relation to drug supply offences committed by children resident in Thurrock.

1.4. Strategic Priorities

To ensure that all partnership data is managed in a consistent way, and that the right priorities are identified, a Risk Matrix is carried out before the Strategic Assessment is written. Using this process ensures that partnership issues can be compared against each other in an intelligent and structured way. Thurrock's risk matrix for 2023 is at Section 11 *Appendix 1*.

The findings of this assessment have informed the decision to select the CSP Priorities for Thurrock which will be:

1. **Breaking the cycle of Domestic Abuse:** in line with the Domestic Abuse Duty and needs assessment
2. **Reduce harm to and safeguard victims from Hate Crime**
3. **Engaging with residents to Tackle Community based Anti-social Behaviour and Safeguard victims**
4. **Preventing Serious Violence:** Tackling the causes of drug driven violent crime in our communities (including robbery) through driving down gang related activity including offensive weapons
5. **Tackling disproportionality in relation to Violence Against Women and Girls** – including sexual offences, stalking and rape, whilst recognising that men and boys can also be victims

In addition to the above priorities the CSP will ensure that plans and appropriate governance is in place to deliver our duties in relation to:

- Prevent Duty Revised 2023
- Reduce Reoffending

And that we will commit to deliver on year 3 of our action plan to address Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery.

1.5. Matters for the Attention of Safer Essex

Through the analysis contained within this assessment the Thurrock partnership would like to draw the attention of Safer Essex to the following:

1. The reduction in serious violence that we have seen in Thurrock could not have been achieved and will not be sustained without the continued support of funding allocated through the Violence and Vulnerability Unit
2. Schools are supportive of and welcome OP Encompass, however, still feel that there are gaps in the information being shared in a timely manner and would appreciate a further review and discussion. They would also like to be included in MARACs, where their pupils are being discussed
3. We would support further collaboration with initiatives led by Safer Essex such as Op Dial and particularly ensuring this is inclusive of specialist resources e.g. business crime team and road policing
4. We have data gaps from Police within the assessment in relation to local data on Female Genital Mutilation and Honour Based Abuse related crimes.
5. We would welcome the Safer Essex approach to the community safety survey again in 2024
6. Safer Essex to consider data exploration in regard to the numbers of reported rapes and sexual offences in hospital settings following concerns raised Nationally

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2.1. The Partnership

In addition to the statutory partners of Thurrock Council, Essex Police, Essex County Fire and Rescue Service (ECFRS), the National Probation Service and Mid and South Essex Integrated Care Board the Partnership maintains links to the voluntary sector, business partners and our communities through the CVS and Independent Advisory Group to Essex Police.

2.2. Horizon Scan

The partnership should be aware of the following policy activity at a national or local level:

- **Review of Community Safety Partnerships:** Consultation on Phase 1 of the review (those requiring legislative changes) was carried out in May 2023, focusing on aligning the work of CSPs and PCCs more closely. Further details from this have yet to be announced. The timescales for announcements on Phase 2, which will look more at guidance for how CSPs are run, are not yet known but a working group has been set up by Government. This will be a key area of focus for Safer Essex when announced.
- **Revised Prevent Duty Guidance:** The revised guidance was released in September 2023, with an implementation date of 31 December 2023. The guidance reflects the changes in risks outlined in the revised CONTEST Strategy 2023. The guidance strengthens the expectation on authorities around leadership, partnership working, understanding and managing risk (with a focus on training) and reducing permissive environments. The Prevent Delivery Group will lead on this work and will report regularly to Safer Essex.
- **Devolution:** Essex County Council, Southend-on-Sea City Council and Thurrock Council (known collectively as Greater Essex) have been discussing devolution with the government. The Essex Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner (PFCC) have been involved in these discussions. The councils have confirmed Greater Essex will work towards a Level 2 devolution deal. A Level 2 devolution deal would create a new single body, the Greater Essex Combined Authority. The three councils and the PFCC would take collective decisions on the devolved powers and budgets. A Combined Authority would not be a merger between Essex County Council, Southend-on-Sea City Council and Thurrock Council. Each authority would remain independent. The deal would also see Essex city, district and borough councils have prominent roles within the Combined council.
- **Serious Violence Duty:** The Duty requires local authorities, the police, fire and rescue authorities, specified criminal justice agencies and health authorities to work together to formulate an evidence based analysis of the problems associated with serious violence in a local area, and then produce and implement a strategy detailing how they will respond to those particular issues. The Strategy for Essex is being developed by the Violence & Vulnerability Unit in line with the requirements of the duty. Regular updates are provided to Safer Essex.
- **Victims & Prisoners Bill:** The Bill includes enshrining the Victims Code in law, improving performance and accountability of criminal justice agencies and placing Independent Sexual Violence Advisors (ISVAs) and Independent Domestic Violence Advocates (IDVAs) on a statutory footing. It also places a duty on relevant local bodies to collaborate when commissioning support services for victims of domestic abuse, sexual abuse and serious violence, as well as to prepare, publish and implement a joint local strategy to set out the aims and approach for commissioning relevant services from each agency and an explanation of how the duty requirements have been met. Safer Essex will act as a supporting for the Criminal Justice Board in implementing any subsequent legislation locally.
- **Offensive Weapons Homicide Reviews:** Pilots of these reviews have been established under the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022, ending in September 2024. Essex

will look to build on the learnings from the pilot site in its preparations for expected implementation in 2025 and governance arrangements will be established prior to this.

- **Online Safety Act 2023** takes a zero-tolerance approach to protecting children from online harm, while empowering adults with more choices over what they see online.

National Threat

The 2023 Strategic Policing Requirement (SPR)¹ sets out the Home Secretary’s view of what the current national threats are, and the national policing capabilities needed to counter them.

The national threats set out in the latest SPR are:

- Violence against women and girls
- Terrorism
- Serious and organised crime
- A national cyber incident
- Child sexual abuse
- Public order
- Civil emergencies.

Local Risks

The following have been identified within Thurrock’s risk log as of December 2023:

Political	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Threat level in relation to Counter Terrorism remains substantial -meaning attack likely. There is no current specific threat to Thurrock, however we recognise the current global tensions 2. Elections in May 2023: both locally and PFCC with potential for General Election in the year. Risk of change to national, regional and local priorities. 3. Essex County Council, Southend-on-Sea City Council and Thurrock Council (known collectively as Greater Essex) have been discussing devolution with the government
Environmental	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Thurrock has 3 ports and borders National Road network and has been identified as a hot spot for Organised Immigration Crime 5. Residents of West Thurrock continue to be adversely impacted by the car cruisers as the PSPO is flouted and risk to all in relation to road safety 6. Lower Thames Crossing implications as yet unknown for Community Safety
Social	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. Areas of the borough are seeing an increased issue of ASB and racism requiring multi-agency responses through additional operations and having an impact on wider members of the community 8. Contextual safeguarding risks: An increasing no of young people are being exposed to risky behaviour particularly in regard to vaping, nitrous oxide and edible cannabis. 9. The National issue of gang related violence continues to be a risk to the communities of Thurrock and whilst positive activity to address there is an ongoing risk in relation to emergence of gangs to fill any vacuum. 10. The inclusion of violence against women and girls within the national threat level highlights the importance of recognising this crime as a risk to society and ensuring a robust response. OP Brave is highlighting the concerns of women in areas of our community.
Technological	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 11. Online risk to exploitation remains including in relation to radicalisation and concerns over Tik Tok and suicide ideation 12. Online scams continue to increase including romance and investment scams 13. There is a risk to all public sector bodies in relation to cyber-attacks.

¹ www.gov.uk/government/publications/strategic-policing-requirement-2023

Economic	<p>14. S114 notice served on Thurrock Council limiting spend of Council and resources means the CSP should focus on High Harm High Risk priorities</p> <p>15. Cost of living crisis and risks to number of areas across community safety as outlined in LGA cost of living briefing</p>
Legislative	<p>16. Serious Violence Duty – Essex Violence and vulnerability unit are developing the Essex Strategy; we will require a local plan to respond</p> <p>17. Victims and Prisoners Bill – placing IDVAs and ISVAs on a statutory footing</p> <p>18. Revised Prevent Duty Guidance - strengthens the expectation on authorities around leadership, partnership working, understanding and managing risk, and reducing permissive environments</p> <p>19. Review of Community Safety Partnerships- phase 1 completed with recommendations on better alignment between PFCC and CSPs. Phase 2 will look at guidance for running CSPs.</p> <p>20. Online Safety Act 2023 takes a zero-tolerance approach to protecting children from online harm, while empowering adults with more choices over what they see online.</p>
Organisation	<p>21. Impact of financial situation in Thurrock Council leading to an ongoing restructure of the organisation affecting Leadership, including CSP chairing arrangements</p> <p>22. Drug and Alcohol Services: Currently tendering for a single service covering all ages.</p> <p>23. Integrated Care Board will have a new structure from 1/1/24 and involves changes in Thurrock</p>

2.3. Police Fire & Crime Commissioner

The priorities set out in the Police & Crime Plan 2021-2024 are as follows:

- Further investment in crime prevention
- Reducing drug driven violence
- Protecting vulnerable people and breaking the cycle of domestic abuse
- Reducing violence against women and girls
- Improving support for victims of crime
- Protecting rural and isolated Districts
- Preventing dog theft
- Preventing business crime, fraud and cyber crime
- Improving safety on our roads
- Encouraging volunteers and community support
- Supporting our officers and staff
- Increasing collaboration

2.4. Essex Police

The Crime Prevention Strategy 2021-2025 has five strategic aims (or “assets”):

- i. We will promote safer communities
- ii. We will cut crime and criminality
- iii. We will evolve our workforce, culture and infrastructure
- iv. We will support Safer Essex to realise partnership capabilities and capacity
- v. We will support ECVS to unlock community potential, develop and deliver community led solutions.

Across the five strategic aims, the Crime Prevention Strategy covers 14 priority Areas organised into four categories:

- Serious Violence
 - Knife crime
 - Rape
 - Night-time economy
- Organised Crime
 - County lines / exploitation
 - Serious organised crime
 - Cybercrime and fraud
- Complex Needs
 - Child abuse / child sexual exploitation
 - Domestic abuse
 - Drugs and alcohol
 - Mental health
- Vulnerabilities
 - Places
 - Dwelling burglary and street robbery
 - Prevent
 - Hate crime

2.5. Essex County Fire & Rescue Service

The Essex County Fire & Rescue Plan 2019-2024 sets out the following priorities:

- Protection and response
- Improve safety on our roads
- Help the vulnerable to stay safe
- Promote positive culture in the workplace
- Develop and broaden the roles and ranges of activities undertaken by the service
- Be transparent, open and accessible
- Collaborate with our partners
- Make the best of our resources

2.6. Safer Essex

Safer Essex has the strategic lead for co-ordinating the partnership response to community safety issues and initiatives across Essex, Southend and Thurrock. Safer Essex acts as the county-wide Strategy Group for community safety.

Safer Essex brings together key partner organisations / stakeholders to work jointly and effectively to facilitate a collaborative approach between agencies and partnerships in delivering the following community safety outcomes:

- i. Prevent crime and anti-social behaviour
- ii. Prevent fires from happening
- iii. Understand and tackle hate crime
- iv. Understand and tackle violence, including violence against women and girls
- v. Improve community confidence in the multi-agency response to community safety issues
- vi. Continue to deliver effective Community Safety Hubs across Greater Essex.

2.7. Thurrock Council

Thurrock's Community Safety Partnership (CSP) supports the ambitions of Thurrock Council as set out in the [Vision and Priorities for Thurrock](#) agreed in January 2018²

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

² www.thurrock.gov.uk/our-vision-and-priorities/vision-and-priorities-for-thurrock

Through the priorities 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.

Place – a heritage-rich borough which is ambitious for its future.

This means:

- 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

Prosperity – a borough which enables everyone to achieve their aspirations.

This means:

- 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

The focus for Thurrock's Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2022/26³ is: "**Levelling the Playing Field**".

The Community Safety Partnership has responsibility to deliver on Domain 6 of the strategy: '**Community Safety**'.

The aims and ambitions of Domain 6 are:

- **Thurrock is a place where people feel and are safe to live, socialise, work and visit.**
- **We will also ensure that victims/survivors of crime are able to access support to cope and recover from their experiences, should they need it.**

We want Thurrock to be a place where people feel and are safe, whether this is in the community, schools, workplaces or within homes. We want to prevent and safeguard the most vulnerable in our society from being victims of crime, abuse, and exploitation. In the tragic instances where this does occur, we want to ensure that victims/survivors are able to access appropriate support to cope and recover from their experiences.

In addition, the CSP supports delivery of the following:

- Thurrock's Housing Strategy 22-27⁴ including providing safe accommodation for those fleeing domestic and sexual abuse
- Youth Justice Plan 21/24 in relation to priority 1 violence and vulnerability

³ www.thurrock.gov.uk/health-and-well-being-strategy/health-and-well-being-strategy-2022-20

⁴ www.thurrock.gov.uk/housing-strategies/housing-strategy-2022-202

3. POPULATION

3.1. Borough Profile

Data Source: Thurrock Council

Thurrock is situated on the north bank of the River Thames and borders Essex, East London and Kent, and has over 18 miles of riverfront, scenic countryside and a rich cultural heritage. Grays, Tilbury, Purfleet-on-Thames, Corringham and Stanford-le-Hope are the main towns in the borough. Rural, picturesque villages and market towns are set into the 70% of the borough which is green belt. Nature reserves, heritage locations and sites of special scientific interest abound.

- Thurrock's population increased by 11.6% from 157,700 in 2011 to 176,000 in 2021.
- 69,535 dwellings recorded as of April 2022 including a stock of 10,000 council houses of which 1,200 are sheltered and extra care homes.
- 35 minutes by train to the City of London
- Leading centre in ports & logistics, retail and creative industries and is the location of one of 8 Freeports – Thames Freeport
- Thurrock Council is one of the largest local employers with over 2,500 staff – 67% of whom are residents
- Overall levels of deprivation in Thurrock are lower than the national average, but some areas of Thurrock are among the 20% most deprived in England.
- Thurrock has a young population compared with the rest of England.
- 7.7% of the population is 0 to 4 years-old, whilst 27.1% is 0 to 19 years-old. The number of 0 to 19 year-olds in Thurrock is expected to pass 50,500 by 2037
- The proportion of 16 to 19 year-olds who are not in education, employment or training (NEET) has decreased to 4.8% in recent years, but this is still higher than the national average
- Council has 49 councillors covering 20 wards: Conservative: 25 seats, Labour: 18 seats, Independents: 5 seats, Other: 1 seat.
- From 2025 all Councillor posts will be up for election at the same time.
- The Borough has two parliamentary constituencies: Thurrock (Jackie Doyle-Price MP) and South Basildon and East Thurrock (Stephen Metcalfe MP)
- Thurrock Council served a Section 114 notice in December 2022 due to being unable to balance their budgets. There is an Enhanced Improvement and Recovery Plan in place focusing on 3 priorities: i) improving leadership to increase the rate of change ii) improving governance and controls and iii) improving financial sustainability

3.2. Population Profile

Data Source: The Office of National Statistics (ONS) is responsible for [Census 2021 data](#) and publishes regular updates.

Summary of population of Thurrock is below:

Thurrock has a diverse population that is increasing by over 10% every decade and is becoming more and more diverse with 66.2% of residents identifying as White British in 2021 compared to 80.91% in 2011.

In 2001, our population was 143,300, and by the time of the Census in 2011 it had risen to 157,700. Since then it has increased by 11.6%, with the Census of 2021 reporting the population to be 176,000.

- 51% of our population are female and 49% male
- 21% are aged 0-14, 11% aged 15 -24 and 14% are 65 years or older

Figure 1: Population Identity:

<u>Ethnic group - Census Maps, ONS.</u>	Thurrock	Region	England
White: British	66.20%	78.49%	73.54%
White: Irish	0.60%	0.91%	0.87%
White: Gypsy or Irish Traveller	0.20%	0.14%	0.11%
White: Roma	0.20%	0.15%	0.18%
White: Other White	9.60%	6.78%	6.35%
Total: White	76.80%	86.48%	81.05%
Black: African	9.20%	1.87%	2.6%
Black: Caribbean	1.20%	0.66%	1.1%
Black: Other Black	1.40%	0.38%	0.52%
Total: Black, Black British, Black Welsh, Caribbean or African	11.80%	2.92%	4.22%
Asian: Bangladeshi	1.40%	0.8%	1.11%
Asian: Chinese	0.60%	0.61%	0.76%
Asian: Indian	2.30%	2.16%	3.26%
Asian: Pakistani	1.20%	1.57%	2.78%
Asian: Other Asian	1.50%	1.27%	1.69%
Total: Asian, Asian British, or Asian Welsh	7.00%	6.41%	9.61%
Total: All Mixed or Multiple ethnic Groups	3.00%	2.84%	2.96%
Total: All Other ethnic group	1.50%	1.36%	2.18%
<u>Religion - Census Maps, ONS</u>	Thurrock	Region	England
Christian	51.70%	46.70%	46.2%
No religion	34.70%	40.2%	37.2%
Did not answer	5.20%	6.10%	6%
Muslim	4.90%	3.7%	6.5%
Hindu	1.4%	1.4%	1.8%
Sikh	1.2%	0.4%	0.9%
<u>Main language - Census Maps, ONS</u>	Thurrock	Region	England
English	88.69%	89.61%	87.9
Romanian	2.90%	0.98	0.82
Polish	1.51%	1.06	1.05
Lithuanian	1.44%	0.48	0.21

3.3. Health Profile

Data Source: Thurrock Health and Well Being Strategy

www.thurrock.gov.uk/sites/default/files/assets/documents/hwb-strategy-2022-v01.pdf

The Health and Well Being Strategy details Thurrock compared with England and the east across a range of health indicators (appendix 1 within link above). Notably for this partnership at 35.5 violent offences per 100,000 population we are considerably worse than East of England at 28.8 and England at 29.5

The strategy highlights that the playing field is not level in many key areas that impact each one of the council's priorities of People, Place and Prosperity.

- Smoking and obesity are key drivers of unequal health outcomes. Both smoking and obesity are significantly worse in Thurrock than across England and drive premature deaths from health conditions such as heart disease.
- Around two thirds of people with long term health conditions such as high blood pressure and mental ill health are not diagnosed and not receiving support. We know that certain communities have higher rates of these conditions including people living in less affluent areas, men, people with learning disability, young people and older adults, unpaid carers, certain minority ethnic groups, LGBTQ+ people
- People who felt most lonely and disconnected from their local community prior to COVID-19 in the UK now have even higher levels of loneliness. This includes young people, people living alone, those on low incomes, those out of work, or those living with a mental health condition and/or learning disability.
- Residents are concerned about the ease of seeing a GP, and we know that access and capacity in primary care differs across the borough, and sometimes within the same Ward. Quality of care also varies for both physical and mental health conditions.
- Educational attainment is generally good across Thurrock, but children who are NEET, have SEND, are Children Looked After or In Need, and from some minority ethnic groups do not achieve the same levels as their peers. While overall, 61% of GCSE pupils in Thurrock achieved 9-4 in 2019, only 10% of pupils with three disadvantages did.
- The proportion of adults in employment, the claimant count and the impact of economic growth varies between communities in Thurrock. Groups that experience inequality in employment include 18 to 24 year-olds, those living with a physical or learning disability and those with chronic diseases such as serious mental illness and musculoskeletal conditions.
- Housing affordability is a major challenge in Thurrock, with over half of households not being able to purchase a home in the borough. The fear and risk of crime continues to be a challenge for many community groups.
- The rates of recorded violent crimes are higher in Thurrock compared to England and have risen sharply since 2013. The Thurrock Youth Offending Service are seeing young people with a more entrenched pattern of offending and a greater degree of complexity and risk. National data indicates that 1 in 5 working-age women have experienced sexual violence

4. ASSESSMENT OF PARTNERSHIP PLAN 2023/24

4.1. 2023/24 Community Safety Plan Priorities

Thurrock partnership set the following priorities within its 2023/24 Community Safety Plan:

1. **Tackling disproportionality in relation to Violence Against Women and Girls** – including sexual offences, stalking and rape, whilst recognising that men and boys can also be victims
2. **Breaking the cycle of Domestic Abuse:** in line with Local Authority duties under the Domestic Abuse Act 2021
3. **Violence and Vulnerability:** Tackling gang related activity and offensive weapons to reduce drug driven violence
4. **Reduce harm to and safeguard victims from Hate Crime**
5. **Tackling Community based Anti-social Behaviour and Safeguarding victims** - including response to car cruising
6. **Counter Extremism and Terrorism:** Preventing Violent Extremism locally
7. **Human Trafficking and Modern-Day Slavery and Organised Immigration Crime**
8. **Safer Streets through Increased Visibility and Community Engagement**
9. **Tackling offending** –reducing offences in relation to theft (predominantly burglary and vehicle crime)

4.2. Implementation of 2023/24 Community Safety Plan

Our annual report summarising delivery against these priorities is at *appendix 2*

5. PUBLIC PERCEPTION

5.1. Safer Essex Community Safety Survey 2023

Data Source: Essex County Council. Data for 2023 survey.

Across Essex, the crime type that most respondents were concerned about was Burglary (82.9%), followed by Theft of/from a car/motorbike (80.6%) and Fraud/Scams (77.4%). In Thurrock the crime type that most respondents were concerned about was burglary followed by Theft of or from car/motorbike

Figure 2: residents who said they were concerned:

Crime Type	#	%	Rank
Burglary	70	87.5%	1
Theft of or from your car/motorbike	69	86.3%	2
Physical assault or robbery	62	79.5%	3
Criminal damage to your home or property	63	78.8%	4
Fraud and/or scams (either online or offline)	59	74.7%	5

Across Essex, the crime type that most respondents said they had been a victim of was Fraud/Scams (10.1%), followed by Criminal Damage (8.9%) and Theft of/from a car/motorbike (6.0%). In Thurrock the crime type that most respondents said they had been a victim of was Theft of or from car/motorbike followed by criminal damage.

Figure 3: residents who said they had been victims:

Crime type	#	%	Rank
Theft of or from your car/motorbike	7	8.8%	1
Criminal damage to your home or property	6	7.5%	2
Hate crime	5	6.3%	3
Fraud and/or scams (either online or offline)	5	6.3%	3
Sexual harassment or assault	4	5.0%	5
Burglary	3	3.8%	6
Physical assault or robbery	3	3.8%	6
Theft of your bicycle or scooter	2	2.5%	8
Theft of your personal belongings	1	1.3%	9
Domestic Abuse	1	1.3%	9

Across Essex, the ASB type that most respondents said they had seen in their area was Fly Tipping (58.3%), followed by Groups hanging around (56.0%) and People using drugs / evidence of drug taking (55.8%). In Thurrock the crime type that most respondents said they had seen in their area was groups hanging around followed by vehicle nuisance: car cruising.

Figure 4: residents who said they had witnessed:

Type of Behaviour	#	%	Rank
Groups Hanging Around	57	71.3%	1
Vehicle Nuisance: Car Cruising	53	66.3%	2
People Using / Evidence of Drugs	52	65.0%	3
Vehicle Nuisance: Off Road Motorbikes	51	63.8%	4

Across Essex, when asked to prioritise certain crime and ASB types for action by CSPs, People Using or Dealing Drugs was ranked highest (71.6%), followed by Knife Crime (63.5%), Gangs/County Lines (63.3%) and Burglary (62.8%). In Thurrock, People Using or Dealing Drugs was ranked highest (78.2%) followed by knife crime (67.9%) and Gangs/County Lines (66.7%)

(Note that respondents were asked to pick 5, though they were able to pick more than 5.)



Figure 5: residents priorities for action:






Priority	Essex			Thurrock		
	#	%	Rank	#	%	Rank
Aggressive Begging	331	25.7%	22	13	16.7%	23
Burglary	808	62.8%	4	40	51.3%	9
Criminal Damage	647	50.3%	8	35	44.9%	13
Domestic Abuse	499	38.8%	13	35	44.9%	13
Drunken Behaviour	471	36.6%	14	28	35.9%	19
Fly Tipping	673	52.3%	6	40	51.3%	9
Fraud and/or Scams	528	41.1%	11	33	42.3%	14
Gangs/County Lines	814	63.3%	3	52	66.7%	3
Graffiti	242	18.8%	23	17	21.8%	22
Groups Hanging Around	596	46.3%	9	43	55.1%	6
Hate Crime	456	35.5%	15	31	39.7%	15
Knife Crime	817	63.5%	2	53	67.9%	2
Modern Slavery	390	30.3%	20	25	32.1%	21
Nuisance Neighbours	340	26.4%	21	28	35.9%	19
People Using or Dealing Drugs	921	71.6%	1	61	78.2%	1
Physical Assault or Robbery	670	52.1%	7	45	57.7%	5
Preventing Terrorism	433	33.7%	16	30	38.5%	16
Sexual Harassment or Assault	562	43.7%	10	37	47.4%	11
Theft of Bicycles or Scooters	429	33.4%	17	29	37.2%	17
Theft Of or From Cars/Motorbikes	673	52.3%	6	46	59.0%	4
Theft of personal belongings (pick pocketing)	414	32.2%	18	25	32.1%	21
Vehicle Nuisance: Off Road Motorbike Nuisance	395	30.7%	19	40	51.3%	9
Vehicle Nuisance: Street Racing / Car Cruising	519	40.4%	12	41	52.6%	7
Other	67	5.2%	24	8	10.3%	24

5.2. Essex Police Public Perception Survey

Data Source: Essex Police. Quarter 2 2023/24 Survey.

Figure 6: Summary of Police Perception Survey

Confidence Measure	Sept 23	Sept 22	% change	Direction of travel
Residents who think local police are doing a good or excellent job	70%	76%	-6%	
Residents who agree they have confidence in the police in this area	60%	68%	-8%	

The proportion of Thurrock residents surveyed who think crime and ASB has become more of a problem	30%	34%	-4%	
Residents who agree EP understand issues affecting their community	52%	52%	0%	
Residents who think a regular uniformed police presence is very important	67%	76%	-9%	
Residents who agree EP are dealing with crime and ASB in their area	42%	48%	-6%	
Residents who are very/fairly confident of receiving a good service if they were to report a crime	69%	72%	-3%	
Residents who feel well informed about what police are doing in their area	43%	42%	+1%	

5.3. Feedback from Thurrock Annual Public Meeting

Data Source: Community Safety Partnership

1. Policing – concerns that the increase in recruitment has only brought us back to 2010 levels, concerns that the 4 Thurrock Council funded posts were cut and lack of visibility due to closure of police stations and not utilising community spaces e.g. Corringham fire station
2. Requesting that Police support an investigation in relation to Thurrock Council finances
3. The positive message in relation to decrease in crime was welcomed with some cynicism that not all anti-social behaviour is reported due to frustrations with 101 and online directs you to report to the Local Authority
4. Tilbury: concerns in relation to joy riders and fireworks in Koala Park
5. Corringham: request for funding of shop safe radios for businesses as per Grays. Positive reflection on visible police patrols
6. Chafford Hundred South: welcomed work around station but concerns in relation to drug dealing
7. Woodside estate: vandalism and ASB in the park and vehicle crime (theft of)
8. Chadwell St Mary: lack of street lighting in Ruskin Road

5.4. Other Local Consultation & Engagement

5.4.1 Member Enquiries:

Data Source: Member Enquiries received by the CSP

Whilst we have seen a reduction in member enquiries in relation to motorbike nuisance in the East of the Borough, we have had an increase in the West and complaints remain static with 14 in the period Oct 22 – Sep 23 compared to 13 in the previous year. Concerns remain in relation to car cruising in West Thurrock.

Members have also brought to our attention concerns in relation to:

- Nitrous oxide across the borough
- Neighbour disputes particularly with regards to parking
- Youth Nuisance – predominantly in Tilbury and Chadwell St Mary
- Street Drinking in Ockendon
- Speeding and youth nuisance in Corringham

5.4.2 Hate Crime Survey:

Data Source: Hate Crime Officer, Essex Police

As part of National Hate Crime Awareness Week Oct 2023, we carried out a short survey both online through hate crime ambassadors (HCA) and in Grays High Street.

Figure 7: response to hate crime survey

Question	Responses	YES	NO	% Yes	Comments
Do you know what Hate Crime is	58	52	6	90%	
Have you ever witnessed or experienced Hate Crime?	58	30	28	52%	Concerns due to dress
Do you know how to report Hate Crime?	58	45	13	78%	
Would you like to become an HCA?	58	19	32	33%	7 people responded that they are already an ambassador.

5.4.3 Thurrock IAG

Thurrock has a strong Independent Advisory Group (IAG) to Essex Police which meets bimonthly and discusses a range of topics. Common concerns raised by members include:

- Road Safety: speeding / motorbikes in Tilbury and E-scooters
- Reports of robberies at Lakeside
- Stop Search and they have set up a panel to review
- Engagement with underrepresented communities

5.4.4 Youth Listening Survey 2022/23

Data Source: Essex Council for Voluntary Youth Services

- Of 100 young people surveyed as part of the listening project in Thurrock their biggest concerns were:
 1. Knife crime
 2. Being out at night/poorly lit areas
 3. Fear of being followed
 4. Getting robbed or jumped
 5. Drugs
 6. Guns and Drugs
 7. Large groups hanging around
 8. Sexual Assault
- 61% said they weren't worried about being exploited by gangs those that were worried (39%) said it's because:
 - it's getting worse round here;
 - it's dangerous and could be life threatening;
 - they could get into trouble and throw their lives away; and
 - gangs are violent.
- 88% said they felt safe when out with friends locally saying they knew the areas that were safe/unsafe and areas to avoid at night
- What helps young people to feel safe?
 - 49% being in a group of friends
 - 11% trusted adults nearby
 - 10% knowing the area
 - 9% well-lit areas
 - 9% self-defence knowledge
 - 4% having an alarm
 - 4% staying at home
 - 4% being in busy public areas

- What makes young people feel unsafe?
 - 34% large groups
 - 13% poorly lit areas
 - 10% roadmen (those with bags believed to be delivering drugs on bikes/scooters)
 - 10% no phone
 - 9% being alone
 - 7% big cars/vans
 - 6% strangers/men
 - 6% gangs
 - 5% unfamiliar areas

- Where are the crime hotspots?
 - Burger King
 - shops on the Garrison
 - vape shops
 - Lakeside
 - the train station
 - the river
 - on the streets

- Is there anything else that would help you feel safer?
 - more police
 - places to charge phones
 - more youth clubs and activities
 - knowing where the safe spaces are
 - better more streetlights
 - CCTV
 - clean up the area

6. CRIME & ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR DATA

6.1. Factors Impacting On Crime & ASB Data

The following changes to recording/counting should be taken into consideration when reviewing the Police data on Crime & ASB:

- Stalking & Harassment: There was a change in recording processes in July 2022 which will account for some of the reduction in offences during this period.
- Trafficking of Drugs: The increase in offences will be largely as a result of proactive activity to identify and target county/drugs lines.

The following local activity or issues should be taken into consideration when reviewing the data on Crime & ASB:

- Thurrock is home to one of the largest shopping complexes in Europe at Lakeside and several ports of national significance. Lakeside welcomes more than 20 million visitors a year to its shops, restaurants and leisure facilities and brings an increased risk of attracting those determined to commit crime including vehicle crime and robbery. This sits within the ward of West Thurrock and South Stifford
- From the 2021 Census the Office for National Statistics data show 54.3% of households in Thurrock were deprived and therefore above the average across England and Wales, of 51.7%. The five areas with the highest deprivation rates were: Chadwell St Mary, Tilbury, South Ockendon, Stifford Clays and Stanford East

6.2. Crime Data

Data Source: Essex Police. NB Essex totals exclude Stanstead. Data is for October 2022 to September 2023.

In Essex a total of 155,711 offences were recorded by Essex Police during the 12 months to September 2023, of which 16,323 (10.5%) were recorded in Thurrock (the 11th highest of all 14 Districts). This equates to 83.72 offences per 1,000 population across Essex, 92.74 per 1,000 population in Thurrock (the 11th highest of all 14 Districts).

Across Essex, there was a decrease in offences of -11,403 (-6.8%), compared to Thurrock where there was a decrease in offences of -747 (-4.4%).

Figure 8: Offences by District

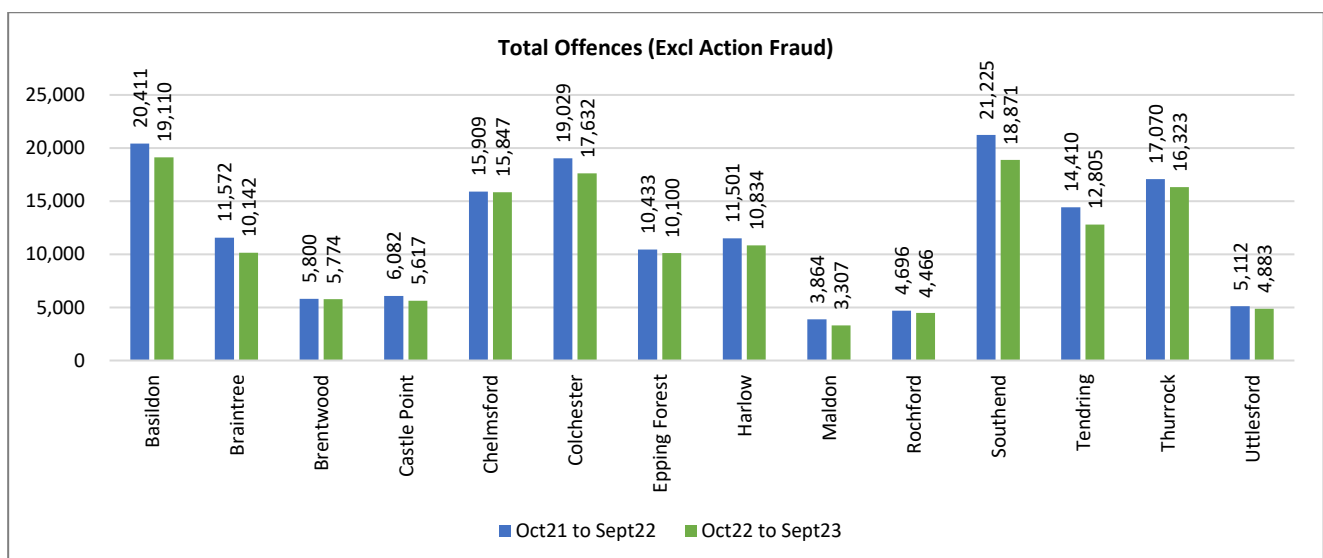


Figure 9: Offences by crime type Thurrock District

Offence	Difference 21/22 to 22/23				Difference 21/22 to 22/23		Offences Per 1,000 Population Oct22 to Sept23	
	Oct21 to Sept22	Oct22 to Sept23	Rank 22/23	% of Essex Total 22/23	# diff.	% diff.	#	Rank
Homicide	2	1	8	5.9%	-1	-50.0%	0.01	7
Violence With Injury	1,410	1,316	9	8.9%	-94	-6.7%	7.48	8
Death Or Serious Injury Caused By Unlawful Driving	1	1	4	2.8%	0	0.0%	0.01	4
Violence Without Injury	2,726	2,597	10	9.3%	-129	-4.7%	14.76	8
Stalking & Harassment	2,296	1,841	10	9.2%	-455	-19.8%	10.46	9
Rape	218	205	9	9.1%	-13	-6.0%	1.16	7
Other Sexual Offences	285	317	10	9.6%	32	11.2%	1.80	9
Robbery - Business	12	13	11	9.8%	1	8.3%	0.07	8
Robbery - Personal	157	151	11	10.8%	-6	-3.8%	0.86	10
Burglary - Residential	482	467	11	9.1%	-15	-3.1%	2.65	7
Burglary - Business & Community	196	203	12	11.1%	7	3.6%	1.15	11
Theft From A Motor Vehicle	987	1,171	14	18.0%	184	18.6%	6.65	14
Theft Of A Motor Vehicle	853	976	14	17.2%	123	14.4%	5.55	13
Vehicle Interference	336	264	14	14.0%	-72	-21.4%	1.50	13
Theft From The Person	121	137	12	12.2%	16	13.2%	0.78	12
Bicycle Theft	104	105	9	6.9%	1	1.0%	0.60	8
Shoplifting	1,235	1,383	12	12.7%	148	12.0%	7.86	12
Other Theft	1,355	1,395	12	10.8%	40	3.0%	7.93	12
Criminal Damage	1,520	1,374	11	10.6%	-146	-9.6%	7.81	9
Arson	176	137	13	14.5%	-39	-22.2%	0.78	13
Domestic Abuse	2,790	2,478	11	9.8%	-312	-11.2%	14.08	9
Trafficking Of Drugs	153	153	10	9.3%	0	0.0%	0.87	9
Possession Of Drugs	307	366	11	9.5%	59	19.2%	2.08	9
Possession Of Weapons Offences	138	135	9	7.9%	-3	-2.2%	0.77	5
Public Order Offences	1,633	1,236	10	8.9%	-397	-24.3%	7.02	8
Hate Crime	531	468	12	12.2%	-63	-11.9%	2.66	13
All Crime	17,070	16,323	11	10.5%	-747	-4.4%	92.74	11

7. Appendices

7.1. Risk Matrix

To ensure partnership data is managed in a consistent way, and that the right priorities are identified, a risk matrix was completed. This process assists the CSP with justification as to why an issue is or is not included as a strategic priority.

The completion of a risk matrix is a method used as part of a risk assessment process to be able to define the level of risk associated to multiple factors, against a range of criteria. It is however recognised that this matrix has limitations in being able to assess all community safety issues and is used only as part of the overall assessment.

The risk matrix for Thurrock is shown on the next page.

Appendix 1: Risk matrix

Offence	Risk Matrix																		Total	Rank
	Volume				Performance				Harm, Risk & Impact					CSP Approach of Benefit	Priorities					
	Oct 2021 to Sept 2022	Oct 2022 to Sept 2023	Score	Essex Ranking * (1=lowest)	# Difference	% Difference	Score	Trend Compared To Essex	Harm to Property	Physical Harm to People	Psychological Harm to People	Risk to Vulnerable Groups	Hidden Crime		PFCC Priority	Police Priority	Local Priority (CSP)	Community Priority (CSP)		
Violence Against The Person	6,435	5,756	2	8	-679	-10.6%	-2	-1	0	2	2	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	17	
Homicide	2	1	1	7	-1	-50.0%	0	-1	0	2	2	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	15	
Violence With Injury	1,410	1,316	1	8	-94	-6.7%	-1	-1	0	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	18	
Death Or Serious Injury Caused By Unlawful Driving	1	1	1	5	0	0.0%	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	11	
Violence Without Injury	2,726	2,597	1	8	-129	-4.7%	-1	-1	0	0	2	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	15	
Stalking & Harassment	2,296	1,841	1	9	-455	-19.8%	-2	-1	0	0	2	1	1	2	1	0	1	0	15	
Sexual Offences	503	522	1	8	19	3.8%	0	-2	0	2	2	1	2	2	1	1	1	0	19	
Rape	218	205	1	7	-13	-6.0%	0	-1	0	2	2	1	2	2	1	1	1	0	19	
Other Sexual Offences	285	317	1	9	32	11.2%	0	-2	0	2	2	1	2	2	1	0	1	0	19	
Robbery	169	164	1	10	-5	-3.0%	0	2	2	1	2	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	23	
Robbery - Business	12	13	1	8	1	8.3%	0	1	2	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	
Robbery - Personal	157	151	1	10	-6	-3.8%	0	2	2	1	2	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	23	
Burglary	678	670	1	7	-8	-1.2%	0	2	2	0	2	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	17	
Burglary - Residential	482	467	1	7	-15	-3.1%	0	2	2	0	2	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	17	
Burglary - Business & Community	196	203	1	11	7	3.6%	0	-2	2	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	14	
Vehicle Offences	2,176	2,411	1	13	235	10.8%	2	1	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	21	
Theft From A Motor Vehicle	987	1,171	1	14	184	18.6%	2	1	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	22	
Theft Of A Motor Vehicle	853	976	1	13	123	14.4%	2	1	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	21	
Vehicle Interference	336	264	1	13	-72	-21.4%	-2	2	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	17	
Theft	2,815	3,020	1	11	205	7.3%	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	16	
Theft From The Person	121	137	1	12	16	13.2%	0	-2	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	14	
Bicycle Theft	104	105	1	8	1	1.0%	0	-2	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	9	
Shoplifting	1,235	1,383	1	12	148	12.0%	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	18	
Other Theft	1,355	1,395	1	12	40	3.0%	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	16	
Arson & Criminal Damage	1,696	1,511	1	11	-185	-10.9%	-2	-1	2	0	1	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	15	
Criminal Damage	1,520	1,374	1	9	-146	-9.6%	-1	-1	1	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	12	
Arson	176	137	1	6	-39	-22.2%	0	-1	2	1	1	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	13	
Domestic Abuse	2,790	2,478	1	9	-312	-11.2%	-2	-1	0	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	0	20	
High Risk Domestic Abuse	336	290	1	12	-46	-13.7%	0	-1	0	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	0	25	
Medium Risk Domestic Abuse	383	344	1	10	-39	-10.2%	0	-1	0	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	0	23	
Standard Risk Domestic Abuse	1,974	1,691	1	10	-283	-14.3%	-2	-1	0	1	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	0	20	
Drug Offences	469	519	0	9	50	9.6%	1	1	0	0	0	2	2	1	1	1	0	1	19	
Trafficking Of Drugs	153	153	1	9	-316	-67.4%	-2	2	0	0	0	2	2	1	1	1	0	1	18	
Possession Of Drugs	307	366	1	9	59	19.2%	2	-2	0	0	0	2	1	1	0	1	0	1	16	
Possession Of Weapons Offences	138	135	1	5	-3	-2.2%	0	2	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	14	
Public Order Offences	1,633	1,236	1	8	-397	-24.3%	-2	-1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	7	
Hate Crime HO Definition	367	379	1	13	12	3.3%	0	-2	0	1	2	2	2	2	0	1	1	0	23	
ASB (Police)	2,543	1,712	1	11	-831	-32.7%	-2	-1	0	0	2	2	1	2	0	0	1	1	18	
Environment	125	74	1	12	-51	-40.8%	-2	-1	1	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	1	1	16	
Nuisance	785	984	1	12	199	25.4%	2	1	0	0	1	1	1	2	0	0	1	1	23	
Personal	1,633	654	1	11	-979	-60.0%	-2	-1	0	0	2	1	1	2	0	0	1	0	16	

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*per1,000 residents

Thurrock Community Safety Partnership:

Annual Delivery Plan 2024/2025



Background and Duties

- ❑ The responsible authorities (Thurrock Council, Essex Police, Essex County Fire and Rescue Service, The Probation Service and Mid-West Integrated Care Body) who form the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) in Thurrock are required to work together in formulating and implementing strategies to tackle local crime and disorder in the area and to have in place a partnership plan for that area, setting out the CSP's priorities.
- ❑ This plan has regard for the police and crime objectives set out in the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioners (PFCC) Police and Crime Plan and will be shared with the PFCC.
- ❑ This delivery plan focuses on the priorities as identified in the strategic assessment for 2023

Strategic Assessment – Key Findings

1. Residents ranked People Using or Dealing Drugs highest (78. %) followed by knife crime (67.9%) and Gangs/County Lines (66.7%)
2. Year on year we have seen a decrease in the percentage of residents who have confidence in police in Thurrock
3. Thurrock has seen a decrease in all crime offences of -747 (-4.4%), decreases were seen in offences of violence against the person, burglary, domestic abuse , hate crime and robbery (3%) whilst increases seen in vehicle crime and theft offence
4. There has been a 12% decrease in crimes recorded by British Transport Police
5. Decrease in reported incidents of ASB to Essex Police of -831 (-32.7%) of which 57% were nuisance related.
6. Thurrock saw an increase of fire incidents attended by ECFRS, of 39% (613) of which 80 were Accidental Dwelling Fires,
7. Hate crime in Thurrock remains high however we have seen a 11.9% decrease
8. There was a decrease of 32% (16) of reported Modern Slavery & Human Trafficking Offences on the previous 12 months
9. There are no known county lines operating currently in Thurrock and 3 drugs lines
10. Thurrock has seen a decrease of 24 (-18.8%) Serious Violence Offences
11. Thurrock has the third highest cohort of number of offenders open to probation in Essex of which 32% are in relation to violent crime.
12. Our Youth Offending Service continue to see a decline in young people accessing services due to offences of possession of bladed articles and drug supply offences

Priorities for 2024/25

The findings of the strategic assessment 2023 have informed the decision to select the following CSP Priorities for Thurrock:

1. **Breaking the cycle of Domestic Abuse:** in line with the Domestic Abuse Duty and needs assessment
2. **Reduce harm to and safeguard victims from Hate Crime**
3. **Engaging with residents to Tackle Community based Anti-social Behaviour and Safeguard victims**
4. **Preventing Serious Violence:** Tackling the causes of drug driven violent crime in our communities (including robbery) through driving down gang related activity including offensive weapons
5. **Tackling disproportionality in relation to Violence Against Women and Girls –** including sexual offences, stalking and rape, whilst recognising that men and boys can also be victims

In addition to the above priorities the CSP will ensure that plans and appropriate governance is in place to deliver our duties in relation to:

- Prevent Duty Revised 2023
- Reduce Reoffending
- And deliver on year 3 of our action plan to address Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery.

Horizon Scanning and Legislative Changes

The partnership should be aware of the following policy activity at a **national** level:

- Review of Community Safety Partnerships:
- Revised Prevent Duty Guidance:
- Serious Violence Duty:
- Victims & Prisoners Bill:
- Offensive Weapons Homicide Reviews:
- Online Safety Act 2023

More detail within section 2 of the strategic assessment

And **locally** the partnership should be aware of the following identified risks:

- Elections in May 2023: locally and PFCC with potential for General Election. Risk of change to national, regional and local priorities.
- Areas of the borough are seeing an increased issue of ASB and racism requiring multi-agency responses through additional operations and having an impact on wider members of the community
- Contextual safeguarding risks: An increasing no of young people are being exposed to risky behaviour particularly in regard to vaping, nitrous oxide and edible cannabis.
- The National issue of gang related violence continues to be a risk to the communities of Thurrock and whilst positive activity to address there is an ongoing risk in relation to emergence of gangs to fill any vacuum.
- The inclusion of violence against women and girls within the national threat level highlights the importance of recognising this crime as a risk to society and ensuring a robust response.
- Online risk to exploitation remains including in relation to radicalisation and concerns over Tik Tok
- S114 notice served on Thurrock Council limiting spend and resources means the CSP should focus on High Harm High Risk priorities
- Drug and Alcohol Services: New single service provider from April 24 covering all ages.

Community Equality Impact Assessment (CEIA)

A CEIA is in place for

- Thurrock VAWG and Domestic Abuse Strategy.
- Preventing Serious Violence Action Plan
- Prevent Strategy 2024/27

The CEIA for this delivery plan has been produced to ensure that due consideration has been given to the Councils statutory Equality Duty to eliminate unlawful discrimination and ensure no negative impacts on communities, workforce and/or the health and wellbeing of local residents whilst identifying any opportunity to level the playing field.

The Delivery plan:

- recognises that crime is more prevalent in some areas and responds appropriately:
- recognises and responds to the risks to young people of being exploited and that those with a learning disability are more vulnerable to exploitation
- recognises that there is an under reporting of hate crime in relation to the protected characteristics of Disability, Gender Reassignment, Race, Religion/Belief, Sex and Sexual Orientation and seeks to raise awareness and build trust in communities to report.
- Our VAWG and DA strategy responds to the disproportionate impact that this crime has across the protected characteristics.

Priority 1: Breaking the cycle of Domestic Abuse

Our Commitments and Ambitions for 24/25

Planned Activity	Planned Outcome	Timescale
1. Conduct a full 3 year local needs assessment to determine the level of need for support within safe accommodation in Thurrock.	1. Identify any new needs and respond to these through implementation of support services	Quarter 2
2. Submit voluntary quarterly and annual data to DLUHC on support services within safe accommodation	2. Understand trends of service use occurring in safe accommodation.	Quarterly/ Annually
3. Increase the number of completions of the DA and stalking offer internally and across the wider partnerships.	3. Greater awareness and understanding of domestic abuse, sexual violence and abuse and how to respond appropriately to disclosures	April 2025
4. Further development of SET wide commitment to joint commissioning from April 2025	4. New SET wide DA support services contract in place from April 2025	April 2025

Priority 2: Reduce harm to and safeguard victims from Hate Crime

Our Commitments and Ambitions for 24/25

Planned Activity	Planned Outcome	Timescale
1. To raise awareness with our businesses, private landlords and letting agencies on hate crime how to report and support available	1. Increased reporting by business, improved support for victims with private tenancies	Q4 Quarterly
2. Engage with community at talking shop events and attend a supported housing forum to raise awareness	2. Continue to raise awareness with our vulnerable residents and enable reporting and appropriate support	
3. Hate Crime Awareness Week to be celebrated and promote to schools	3. Number of positive interactions	Q3
4. Review of hate crime training to promote positive outcomes and mediation/restorative justice using case studies	4. Increase referrals to the RJ and mediation team with positive outcomes for victims	Q4
5. Host a community event on Seabrooke Rise to raise awareness	5. Year on year reduction in ASB and hate crimes	Q3
6. Respond to findings of the resident survey	6. Improvement in areas highlighted	Q4

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Priority 3: Engaging with residents to Tackle Community based Anti-social Behaviour and Safeguard victims

Our Commitments and Ambitions for 24/25

Planned Activity	Planned Outcome	Timescale
<p>1. Develop community based working & continue to work in partnership with external agencies, councillors and community, utilising data including crime recording, and ASB reporting to identify emerging criminality/concerns and to implement bespoke problem solving measures to address, including joint High visibility patrols, pop up engagement events, target hardening measures, and education programmes.</p> <p>To continue through multi-agency work and funding to deliver Op Dial including enforcement of the PSPO in West Thurrock to reduce ASB</p>	<p>1. Address ASB in problem areas of Tilbury, Grays and West Thurrock measured by decrease in reports and no. of enforcement actions taken</p>	<p>Quarterly plans</p> <p>Q3</p>
<p>3. To continue to use our Locality Action Groups to work in partnership to safeguard victims</p>	<p>2. Reduction in reports of ASB nuisance vehicle</p> <p>3. Increased referrals to LAG and a reduction in requests for ASB Case Reviews</p>	<p>Q4</p> <p>Q4</p>
<p>4. Seek funding for safer streets to tackle ASB and VAWG</p>	<p>4. Increased funding to improve safety of residents</p>	<p>Quarterly</p>
<p>5. Community interactions through joint agency partnership events, use of social media, e-newsletter/dispatch and being accessible to all</p>	<p>5. Increase public perception</p>	

Priority 4: Preventing Serious Violence

Our Commitments and Ambitions for 24/25

Planned Activity	Planned Outcome	Timescale
1. Develop a local Thurrock Action Plan in response to the serious Violence Duty and Essex wide strategy aligned to the Health and well Being Strategy to be implemented from April 24	Identify emerging trends and patterns within violent offending as a whole in Thurrock with a dynamic response to reducing public space serious violence	Q1
2. To collectively continue to develop an intel picture around emerging gangs, to monitor their presence and promote an appropriate safeguarding and disruption response for any Thurrock young person identified as being exploited by a gang.		ongoing
3. To explore how we can build our connections with colleagues in the Met to promote the sharing of information and to aid the safeguarding and disruption efforts around young people who may be exploited in London boroughs.		Q4
4. Through flagging Modern Slavery on LCS system tracking the number of young people at risk		Q1
5. Monitoring of incidents in relation to alcohol related violence and respond appropriately		Ongoing

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Priority 5: Tackling disproportionality in relation to VAWG

Our Commitments and Ambitions for 24/25

Planned Activity	Planned Outcome	Timescale
1. Embed and develop Transport Safety Officers including VAWG awareness days	1. Deliver VAWG related training to assist the TSOs in their understanding of VAWG issues and improve safety on railway	June 2024
2. Evaluation of Op Minerva	2. To evaluate effectiveness and drive future plans	March 2025
3. Provide annual report to HWB in relation to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Increase the number of completions of the Sexual Abuse training product offer internally and across the wider partnerships. 	3. Annual report to HWB as / plan including greater awareness and understanding of sexual violence and abuse and how to respond appropriately to disclosures	December 2024
4. Continue to raise awareness of support services available in the borough through events such as 16 days of activism.	4. Annual 16 days partnership events and communication plan	March 2025
5. Explore opportunities to determine if a suite of targeted intervention for females that are at risk of exploitation can be provided, linked to preventing serious violence	5. Commence medium/long term intervention opportunities for females at risk subject to funding.	Nov 2024
6. To deliver further "walk and talk" events in our town centres and respond to findings	6. Understand the public's perception of safety and reassure the public and local businesses and raise awareness on the issue.	April 2025
7. Recruit volunteers and launch street pastors scheme in Grays	7. Increased presence of trusted adults, responding to feedback from young voices, improved perception data	March 2025
		June 2024

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Prevent Duty

Our Commitments 2024/25:

- Publish our revised strategy in line with National Update to Prevent 2023 by end Q1
- Action Plan by end Q1
- Offer regular training sessions 9 across year
- Webinars on ideology 4
- Training for prevent Champions by end Q3
- Implement Actions to Reduce Permissive Environments – by end Q4
- Review of progress workshop Q3

Serious Violence Duty

Our Commitments 2024/25:

- Action plan end Q1 in line with SVD Greater Essex Strategy
- Through improving understanding, raising awareness and developing the workforce
- To improve use of data to inform our understanding of the problem of serious violence across Thurrock
- Through targeting interventions - delivering programmes which prevent and reduce serious violence
- Develop a plan to improve partnership response to drivers of violence
- Seek funding for a service provision for women and girls at risk of serious sexual violence/abuse

Re-offending Duty

Our Commitments 2024/25:

- Host a Stakeholder workshop by Q1
- Develop 3 year reducing re-offending action plan end Q1
- Housing accommodation
- Embed new drug and alcohol providers within IOM Q2

To support the following within the Health and Well Being Strategy

- Re-commission an all-age Substance Misuse Service for Thurrock in line with Human Learning System principles
- Review the SET DAP Outcomes Framework, in order to ensure delivery of the National Drugs Strategy at a local level

Contact Us:

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More information at:

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

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10 September 2024	ITEM: 6
Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee	
Section 106 Agreements and Financial Contributions – Proposed Governance	
Wards and communities affected: All	Key Decision: N/A
Report of: Ashley Baldwin – Chief Planning Officer	
Accountable Assistant Director: Ashley Baldwin – Chief Planning Officer	
Accountable Director: Claire Demmel – Executive Director of Place	
This report is public	
Version: Final	

Executive Summary

Since 2016, the Council’s internal governance arrangements regarding the use of Section 106 have not been effectively implemented. This was highlighted in the 2023 Planning Advisory Review as a risk to Thurrock Council. This review found that the potential for development contributions/ planning obligations through Section 106 agreements are being compromised, with the contributions received under-utilised, due to the lack of a strategic approach to investment via this route.

This paper seeks approval for the proposals of a new governance process, along with the Terms of Reference for the proposed officer led Strategic Infrastructure Board that will provide the Council with a secure footing to improve planning obligation governance and better transparency.

Commissioner Commentary

N/A

1. Recommendation(s)

- 1.1 That the Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee approve the proposed Thurrock Strategic Infrastructure Board arrangements.
- 1.2 That the Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee approve the draft Terms of Reference (Appendix A).

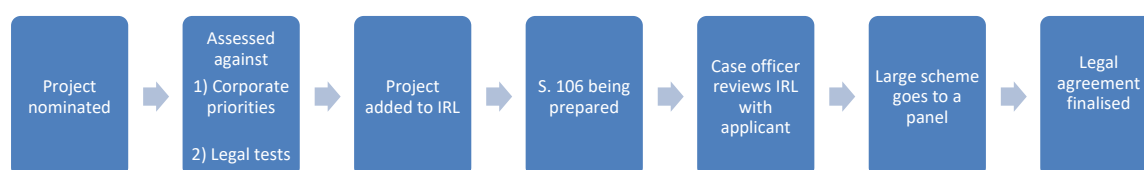
2. Introduction and Background

- 2.1 The purpose of this report is to set out how a proposed board structure (for planning obligation governance) will operate for the next twelve months with a review to be undertaken after the twelve-month period.

Thurrock Council previous Section 106 agreement governance

- 2.2 Planning obligations were (and continue to be) negotiated on a case-by-case basis using consultation responses to the relevant planning application and the Council's Infrastructure Requirement List (IRL) to inform the type of obligations required to make the development acceptable.
- 2.3 However, since the implementation of the IRL in 2016, there has been a distinct lack of governance processes in place, exposing the authority to risk. The process pre 2016 is illustrated in figure 1 below.

Figure 1 – pre 2016 planning obligations governance



- 2.4 The 2023 PAS Review of Thurrock's planning service identified a series of concerns relating to the Council's existing practices. This review found that the potential for development contributions/ planning obligations through Section 106 agreements are being compromised, with the contributions received under-utilised, and a lack of a proper investment programme. Concern was raised over the unclear and difficult to understand governance and decision making around section 106 spending.
- 2.5 Added to the above, there is an ever-growing concern being fed back via members and community forums that the Council has diverted Section 106 funding to reduce its debt, which is clearly not the case.

3. Issues, Options and Analysis of Options

3.1 The critical considerations for the Council are to:

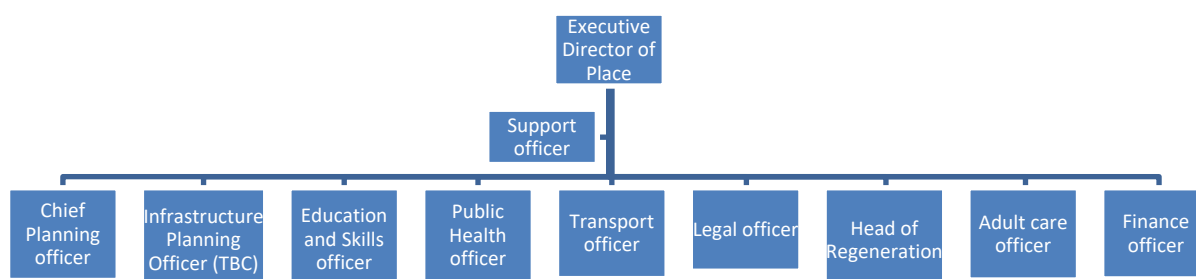
- ensure that the use of developer contributions is given more support and given a higher priority by the Council's senior leaders.
- ensure the Council complies with planning obligation legislation.
- ensure the Council spends planning obligations in time and avoids the need to repay monies due to the expiry of agreements.
- ensure improved transparency and better political/ public engagement.
- ensure the use of developer contributions align with corporate priorities; and
- ensure that there are sufficient resources available to manage the evidence, systems, governance and allocation processes required to enable effective spending decisions.

3.2 The recommendations of the 2023 Planning Peer Review included the appointment of an Infrastructure Planning Officer to oversee the management, monitoring and collection of Section 106 funding. To ensure the Council do not duplicate work across services, this role is being considered as part of a wider restructuring but in the meantime, this will be covered by an internal programme manager.

Establishment of the Strategic Thurrock Strategic Infrastructure Delivery Group

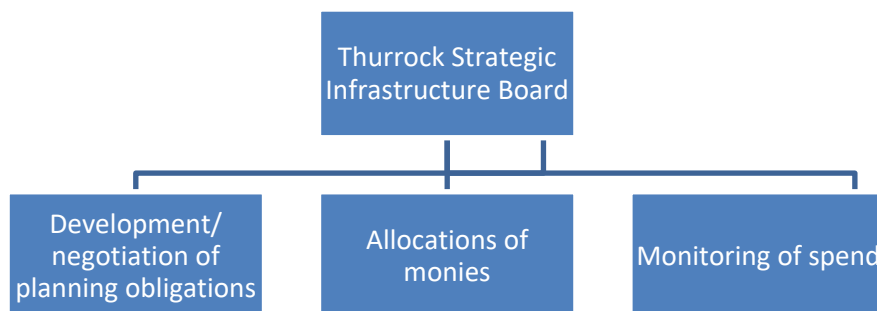
- 3.3 It is proposed that a comprehensive governance arrangement be established to better oversee infrastructure planning and delivery. Overall governance will be provided by the Interim Executive Director of Place with monthly updates provided to the relevant Portfolio Holder (s) and quarterly reports provided to Place O & S.
- 3.4 Critically the proposal of this paper is for a Thurrock Strategic Infrastructure Board (TSIB) to be established. The TSIB will be focused on three themes which relate to the **negotiation/ development of Section 106 agreements, the allocation of monies and the monitoring of spend**.
- 3.5 The proposed arrangement is set out in the figure 2 below. To redress poor transparency the TSIB will also be tasked with ensuring engagement is undertaken with relevant community stakeholders, which will include ward members.
- 3.6 The TSIB will provide oversight and challenge to all aspects of the authority’s planning obligations. As is considered good practice this will be chaired by the Executive Director of Place.
- 3.7 The TSIB will consider all aspects of governance, with a focus on establishing how the Council most effectively spend planning obligations and ensuring legal compliance of their spend. In future the Board can consider wider elements of planning obligations such as Community Infrastructure Levy.
- 3.8 The TSIB would own and manage the production of documents such as the Infrastructure Funding Statement and have oversight of the evidence relating to infrastructure provision such as the Infrastructure Delivery Plan.
- 3.9 It is proposed that the TSIB meet monthly, but frequency will be increased if deemed necessary by the chair.
- 3.10 Proposed service representation is set out in figure 2 below.

Figure 2 – Thurrock Strategic Infrastructure Board



- 3.11 There may be a need for the TSIB to be supported by operational workstreams (possibly subgroups) which will be directed by the TSIB chair.
- 3.12 The three roles of the TSIB are set in Figure 3 below.

Figure 3 – Illustrated view of the TSIB roles



3.13 TSIB will need to engage externally to improve the transparency of planning obligation spend. Community engagement will be undertaken and defined via the TSIB and ensure it is aligned with Corporate new ways of working as they become more defined. Once in place this will act as the identified means of engaging externally with communities. There will also be engagement through ward members and/ the 'Good Growth' portfolio holder.

3.14 TSIB will be furnished with the latest position with respect to Section 106 receipts regularly. At present this stands at:

- Total in pot £12,688,683
- Committed £11,042,919
- Uncommitted £1,625,765

4. Reasons for Recommendation

4.1 There are several reasons for the implementation of TSIB:

- To ensure that decisions relating to the expenditure of Section 106 (S106) funding are the subject of appropriate oversight.
- To ensure that relevant decisions are appropriately transparent.
- To ensure that the delivery of infrastructure in borough accords with the Council's Improvement & Recovery Plan.
- To ensure compliance with the law.
- To ensure that the allocation of funding is undertaken on an objective basis and that decisions are as best informed as possible.
- To improve the Council's transparency regarding planning obligations, in particular with respect to community engagement. As set out above this will be undertaken via community engagement (to be defined), ward members and 'Good Growth' portfolio holder as appropriate.

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 use of planning obligations, including section 106, to fund infrastructure within the Borough has a direct impact on all of Thurrock's corporate priorities.

7. Implications

7.1 Financial

Implications verified by: **Laura Last**
Finance Manager

The additional post to resource these new governance arrangements was suggested as part of the Planning Advisory Service (PAS) review and will be included in the forthcoming Planning restructure.

There is currently £12.7m S106 monies available (£1.6m currently uncommitted). Improved governance regarding planning obligations is intended to ensure better oversight of monitoring and implementation of Section 106 funding.

7.2 Legal

Implications verified by: **Caroline Robins**
Principal Planning and Highways Solicitor

The purpose of section 106s is to secure mitigation of the impact of a development, with affordable housing a notable exception.

Using Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended), an agreement or unilateral undertaking (UU) may:

- (a) restrict the development or use of the land in any specified way.
- (b) require specified operations or activities to be carried out in, on, under or over the land.
- (c) require the land to be used in any specified way; or
- (d) require a sum or sums to be paid to the authority. These can be pooled.

These are known as 'planning obligations. Not all planning obligations require the payment of sums of money. Examples include provision of affordable housing or highways requirements where the developer is required to carry out specified works.

No planning application is necessary, but most section 106s are linked to a planning permission.

A section 106 is a contract which binds the land identified in the S106 document and the planning obligations are covenants which run with the land, so are enforceable against future owners. For a S106 to be effective all persons with a legal interest in the identified land, including lenders and leaseholders (other than very short-term leases) must sign the S106 deed. Once completed, the documents are required to be registered as a local land charge.

Section 106 sets out the scope of this statutory device. However, to be lawful, planning obligations are subject to the tests set out in Regulation 122 of the Community Infrastructure Regulations 2010 and must be:

- (a) necessary to make the Development acceptable in planning terms.
- (b) directly related to the Development; and
- (c) fairly and reasonably related in scale and kind to the Development.

The terms of the planning obligations contained in a S106 will therefore be specified in a resolution which will have been passed either under delegated powers or by the Planning Committee or specified by a Planning Inspector following a planning appeal or Development Consent Order. The S106 must comply with the resolution or requirements of the Planning Inspector. It follows that monies collected in a s106 can only be used as specified in the agreement or UU.

Once completed, S106s need to be monitored to ensure proper compliance at the requisite time. Most parties to S106s require a clawback provision where unspent monies are returned to them. Usually, the spend period is 10 years from the date of payment, after which the relevant party will be required to request a refund of unspent monies.

There are no direct legal implications arising from the report, other than those mentioned in the report which confirms the distribution of monies must be done in compliance with the law and the contents of the S106 documents.

7.3 Diversity and Equality

Implications verified by: **Roxanne Scanlon**

Community Engagement and Project Monitoring Officer

There are no direct diversity implications contained within this report. The proposal to introduce improved governance aims to improve oversight and monitoring of Section 106. This in turn should result in mitigating any negative impact on the community due to development.

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

None identified.

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):

- [Improving the Governance of Developer Contributions, Guidance Handbook. 2021 Planning Advisory Service.](#)
- [Planning Peer Review, Thurrock Borough Council, Feedback Report, 13th December 2023, Planning Advisory Service.](#)

9. Appendices to the report

- Appendix A – Thurrock Infrastructure Delivery Working Group – DRAFT Terms of Reference

Report Author:

Ashley Baldwin
Chief Planning Officer, Place

Appendix A: Thurrock Strategic Infrastructure Group

DRAFT Terms of Reference

July 2024

Aim:

To promote and drive forward an infrastructure first approach to planning and development and ensure that developer contributions are used in an effective and integrated way.

Objectives:

- To comply with relevant statutory reporting requirements.
- To strengthen the relationship between infrastructure providers and the planning system.
- To co-ordinate and align the contribution of infrastructure providers to development planning and delivery.
- To establish a clearer picture of funding and financing options for infrastructure to support planning delivery.
- To create opportunities for infrastructure providers and the development industry to work together more openly on brokering solutions to potential barriers/blockers to delivering the right infrastructure improvements in the right place at the right time.
- To improve and maintain engagement with the public, and in so doing ensure transparency.

Scope of Responsibilities

- To comply with relevant statutory reporting requirements
- If necessary, to recommend the following decisions, as and when required, to the Governance and Recovery Board:
 - The proposed approach to reporting S106 income, allocation and expenditure information.
 - The delegation of powers to the Group to approve the allocation of S106 funding in defined circumstances.
 - The approval of the adoption of capital budgets where the project in question is funded at least in part by S106 funding.
 - The approval of allocation of any amount of S106 to a project. S106 funding must be allocated in accordance with the related S106 agreement.
- For reporting purposes, refer S106 income, allocation and expenditure information to the Governance and Recovery Board.
- To consider new infrastructure projects that may involve the future allocation of S106 for inclusion on the Infrastructure Requirement List.
- To monitor the delivery of funded infrastructure projects and report on them to the Governance and Recovery Board.
- To be responsible for determining the most effective mechanism for capturing and monitoring the activity / output across any Planning Obligation Negotiation workstreams and/or sub-groups.

- To own and manage the Infrastructure Funding Statement and have oversight of the evidence relating to infrastructure provision such as the Infrastructure Delivery Plan.
- To ensure the negotiation of planning obligations is effective and consistent, ensuring maximum value for the Borough.
- To ensure the allocation of planning obligations complies with the law and meets the strategic needs of the Authority.
- To ensure procedures are in place to monitor planning obligation spend and better practice is established to alert and act upon triggers such as expiry dates.

Membership and General Governance

- The chair of the Group shall be the Executive Director of Place, who has delegated authority to deputise chairing to the Chief Planning Officer.
- Group members shall include officers from across several directorates including:
 - Executive Director of Place (Chair)
 - Chief Planning officer (Deputy Chair)
 - Support officer
 - Infrastructure Planning officer (TBC)
 - Education and Skills officer
 - Public Health officer
 - Transport officer
 - Legal officer
 - Communities officer
 - Finance officer
 - Adult care officer
- The Group shall meet monthly, although more frequent meetings could be arranged if necessary depending on demand.
- Relevant officers of the Council and external organisations may attend the Group to present:
 - Matters relating to the collection or expenditure of S106 funding.
 - Proposals relating to infrastructure projects.
 - Any other matters considered appropriate by the chair of this group.
- The Group is to be held in private.

**Place Overview & Scrutiny Committee
Work Programme
2024/25**

Dates of Meetings: 12th June 2024, 16th July 2024, 10th September 2024, 23rd October 2024, 4th December 2024, 8th January 2025, 19th February 2025, 19th March 2025

Topic	Lead Officer	Rationale for Inclusion on Work Programme	Requested by Member/Officer
12 June 2024 - CANCELLED			
16 July 2024			
Lower Thames Crossing: Governance Report	Lucy Tricker	High public concern	Members/Officers
Parking Task & Finish Group scoping document	Lucy Tricker	High public concern	Members/Officers
Future of The Delivery of Private and Housing Stock Task and Finish Group	Lucy Tricker	Requested by Members	Members
Work Programme	Democratic Services	Standing Item	Standing Item
10 September 2024			
Q&A Session: Annual Report of Thurrock's Community Safety Partnership	Dan Fenwick	Statutory duty	Officers
Section 106 Agreements and Financial Contributions - Proposed Governance	Claire Demmel	Requested by Members	Members
Work Programme	Democratic Services	Standing Item	Standing Item

23 October 2024			
Waste and Recycling Collection Policy	Paul Southall/Claire Demmel	High public concern	Officers
Enforcement Strategy	Dan Fenwick	Policy input into the Council's approach to enforcement of environmental crime and community protection including consideration of council wide joint working	Officers
Sharing enforcement services with neighbouring boroughs	Dan Fenwick	Scrutiny of existing arrangements and policy review of the development of a shared services strategy focussed on resilience and efficiency for partner councils	Officers
Work Programme	Democratic Services	Standing Item	Standing Item
4 December 2024			
2024-29 Place Strategy and accompanying 2024-25 Place Plan	Claire Demmel	High scrutiny impact	Officers
Procurement of the Strategic Housing Delivery Partner	Claire Demmel	Impact on Council finances	Officers

Parking at Schools Task and Finish Group (if agreed) – final report	Claire Demmel	High scrutiny impact & high public concern	Members
Work Programme	Democratic Services	Standing Item	Standing Item
8 January 2025			
Refresh of the Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeping strategy, including outcome, outputs developed and agreed for 2025-30	Claire Demmel	High scrutiny impact	Officer
Work Programme	Democratic Services	Standing Item	Standing Item
19 February 2025			
Cabinet Member for Community Partnerships	Portfolio Holder	Cabinet Member accountability	Members
Report on Year Two delivery of Housing Strategy 2022-27	Claire Demmel	High scrutiny impact	Officers
Cabinet Member for Place	Portfolio Holder	Cabinet Member accountability	Members
Work Programme	Democratic Services	Standing Item	Standing Item
19 March 2025			
Cabinet Member for Good Growth	Portfolio Holder	Cabinet Member accountability	Members
Economic Development Strategy for 2025-30	Claire Demmel	High scrutiny impact	Officers
Proposals for the development of a new approach to social housing in partnership with RSLs	Claire Demmel	High public concern	Officers

Work Programme	Democratic Services	Standing Item	Standing Item
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Clerk: TBC

O&S Officer: Lucy Tricker

Last Updated: 14th June 2024