

Harborough District Council



Report to Cabinet Meeting of September 4 2023

Title:	Harborough District Council Community Safety Three Year Plan 2023-2026
Status:	Public
Key Decision:	Cabinet Only – Yes
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Portfolio Holder:	Environment and Climate Change, Cllr Darren Woodiwiss
Appendices:	A. Draft Harborough Community Safety Partnership Three Year Plan 2023-26 B. Strategic Assessment 2022/23 C. Equality Impact Assessment D. Action Plan for 2023/2024 E. Crime data end year 2022/23

Summary

- i. This report sets out the joint response of the Council, the Police and other Community Safety partners to the crime and anti-social behaviour issues identified in the strategic assessment, to form a Three-Year Community Safety Plan for the Harborough District 2023-26 which is owned by the Harborough Community Safety Partnership.

Recommendations

Cabinet is requested to:

1. Adopt the Harborough District Three-Year Community Safety Plan 2023-2026.

Reasons for Recommendations

- ii. It is a statutory requirement for the local authority to adopt a Community Safety Plan setting out how the Council and its partners are working together to tackle crime and disorder, including serious and organised crime; reduce re-offending; tackle anti-social behaviour; tackle alcohol and substance misuse, and tackle any other behaviour which has a negative effect on the local environment. The Three-Year Community Plan meets this requirement and will inform the Local Authority's priorities and ensure the service meets the requirements for all Communities within the District.

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. Each year, the Council, the Police and other partners prepare a Strategic Assessment of the pattern and trend of crime and anti-social behaviour in the Harborough District. Every three years, these partners are required to prepare a Community Safety Plan that brings together their strategic response to the crime and anti-social behaviour issues identified in the Strategic Assessment. This report introduces the Community Safety Plan for 2023-2026.

2. Background

- 2.1. The Community Safety Partnership (CSP) was set up under sections 5-7 of the Crime & Disorder Act 1998 and is made up of statutory services who need to work together to protect our local communities from crime and to help people feel safer. Core membership will comprise of Responsible Authorities with a statutory duty under Crime & Disorder Legislation. These are;
 - Harborough District Council
 - Leicestershire County Council
 - Leicestershire Police Crime Commissioner
 - Leicestershire Police
 - Leicestershire Fire & Rescue Service
 - East Leicestershire & Rutland Integrated Care Group
 - The Probation Service
- 2.2. They work out how to deal with local issues like antisocial behaviour, protecting victims and reducing reoffending. They annually assess local crime priorities and consult partners and the local community about how to deal with them.

Partnership Strategic Assessment

- 2.3. The Partnership Strategic Assessment (see Appendix B) is a statutory document produced annually to inform Community Safety Partnerships about crime, disorder and community safety issues in their area.
- 2.4. The aim of the Strategic Assessment is to provide Harborough Community Safety Partnership with a comprehensive analysis of crime, disorder and community safety issues to enable the partnership to review, modify or change their priorities. Alongside the analysis of crime and disorder parish councils and communities are consulted.

Other Considerations

- 2.5. Police and Crime Commissioners (PCC) set the strategic direction for community safety and criminal justice in order to reduce crime and the fear of crime locally. PCC's and CSPs have a duty to consider each other's plan.
- 2.6. The priorities of the PCC 2021-2024:
 - 2.6.1. Responding to rural criminality and wildlife crime, with police in rural areas working with rural crime teams
 - 2.6.2. Business crime and rural crime
 - 2.6.3. Reduction of violent crime including knife crime
 - 2.6.4. Tackling domestic abuse including changing of offender behaviour
 - 2.6.5. Night time economy strategy to drive down violence
 - 2.6.6. Safer communities with officers working in schools and youth clubs etc
 - 2.6.7. Use of communities through Neighbourhood watch, Speed watch etc
 - 2.6.8. Serious Violence reduction through the Violence Reduction Network (VRN)

Statutory duties

- 2.7. Partnership activity has been a duty under the crime and Disorder Act since 1998 – Section 17 of that Act imposes a duty on a number of responsible authorities to work together to tackle local crime and disorder. It was amended in 2006 with the Police and Justice Act, a duty was placed on the partnerships to join together in a formal strategic group to undertake frequent strategic assessments of levels and patterns of crime and drug misuse in their area and to produce annual rolling three year community safety plans.
- 2.8. Amendments were also made in the Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB), Crime and Policing Act 2014. The following duties have also been added to the original statutory duty. Requiring the responsible authorities for a local government area to formulate and implement strategies for: -
 - 2.8.1. the reduction of crime and disorder in the area (including anti-social and other behaviour adversely affecting the local environment);
 - 2.8.2. combatting the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances in the area.
 - 2.8.3. the reduction of re-offending in the area.
 - 2.8.4. preventing people from becoming involved in serious violence in the area and reducing instances of serious violence in the area.

Serious Violent Crime

- 2.9. The responsibility to ensure the prevention and reduction of serious violence has also been added to the work of Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) as a consequence of amendments to the Crime and Disorder Act 1998
- 2.10. In the next three years the Council will work with the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Violence Reduction Network to tackle violent crime using a public health approach – coordinating prevention among local agencies at a prevention level to keep serious violent crimes levels low in the district

Co-ordinating Domestic Violence Homicide Reviews

- 2.11. The requirement for Community Safety Partnerships to conduct Domestic Violence Homicide Reviews came into effect on 13th April 2011 as a result of the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act (2004).

Prevent (Part of Contest Strategy)

- 2.12. The Prevent Duty requires all local authorities to utilise the Counter Terrorism Local Profile (CTLP) to inform a robust assessment of the risks of radicalisation in the local area and produce a proportionate partnership action plan to tackle these risks.

3. Details

Crime Data

- 3.1. Crime data used in the Strategic Assessment and subsequent draft Three Year Plan 2023-26 were taken mainly from figures to the end of December 2022, as the original report was to be presented in March 2023 and these were used to inform our current Action plan. Appendix G shows crime figures to year end March 2023 and figures have been updated below where possible.
- 3.2. At the end of Quarter 4 the volume of crime had risen slightly by 4.6% year to date to March 2023, however the rate per 1,000 population for Harborough remained the lowest across Leicestershire. Acquisitive crime had risen across the board, this has been rising steadily since its dramatic drop during Covid, but still remained below pre-covid levels. The main rise in volume crime is violence with injury.
- 3.3. The beat of Harborough North experienced the most crime during the year to date (YTD) (April – March 2023), with the top three crimes being identified as:
 - 3.3.1. Violence without Injury (includes stalking and harassment)
 - 3.3.2. Violence with injury
 - 3.3.3. Public Order offences
- 3.4. Violence figures include domestic abuse offences which are a large proportion of incidents.

Serious Violence (VRN definition did not include Domestic Violence (DV) in 2022-23)

- 3.5. Serious Violence Crime incidents are low in the Harborough District representing around 5.2% of incidents across LLR (Figures for April 2022 – March 2023). The majority, 90.2% of these are assault with injury followed by 4.7% robbery of personal property and 2.7% assault with serious harm.
- 3.6. Although low, figures have increased from 2021/22 from 219 to 239 for 2022/23. There was a peak between September and November 2022.

ASB

- 3.7. ASB incidents have continued to decrease with rates below pre-covid levels. However, the perception of ASB is that it is increasing. Communication and engagement around ASB will need to be included in the new action plan.
- 3.8. All ASB incidents in Harborough have seen a significant decrease in the YTD to March 2023.
- 3.9. There has been a -32.93% decrease in the number of ASB incidents in Harborough in the YTD to March 2023, compared to the previous YTD.
- 3.10. The Harborough Town and Harborough North beats have both recorded the most incidents in the YTD to March 2023.

Domestic Abuse

- 3.11. Domestic crime and incidents for Harborough have shown a steady increase since Q1 2018/19 rising from 7.3 to 12.8 per 1000 population in Q4 2023. Domestic Violence with injury has also risen over the same period but has remained level at around 2.8 per 1000 for the 5 quarter to September 2022 and rising to 3.3 per 1000 by March 2023.
- 3.12. There is an overall increase of 18.6% year to date, for all offences and incidents in December 2022.
- 3.13. The number of police domestic incidents recorded from April – March 2023 has seen a small decrease of -2.5% from the previous YTD. The Harborough North beat had the highest number of domestic incidents in the YTD. The majority of domestic incidents recorded occurred in a dwelling and were violence without injury offences.

Road Safety

- 3.14. Road traffic collisions recorded by Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service for the first three quarters of this year are up on the previous year to date from 64 to 77, this was mainly due to a peak of incidents in October 2022. Largest number of incidents are in the Misterton Ward, followed by Kibworth, Lutterworth East and Billesdon and Tilton. (M1, A5, A4304, A6, A47)
- 3.15. Harborough had 4 offence(s) for death or serious injury caused by unlawful driving recorded in 2022 Q2 (rolling 12 months ending September 2022), this is the highest rate when tabled against our Experian Mosaic near neighbours.

HATE

- 3.16. In the recent VRN survey 64.6% of respondents agreed that “your local area is a place where people from different backgrounds get on well together” – this was up from 61% in 2019.
- 3.17. For the same question in Leicestershire Insight Survey this was down 85.3% in Qtr3 (Dec 2022) from 92.36% in Qtr2 in 21/22.
- 3.18. The number of flagged hate crimes has seen a decrease in the current YTD to December 2022, when compared to the same time period of the previous YTD (down 8). Public Disorder offences and Violence Without Injury offences are the two crime types that have the most incidents flagged as hate crime. There has been a significant increase of +28% in the number of hate crime incidents that are Violence with Injury offences. The Harborough North beat has recorded the most hate crimes in the current YTD.
- 3.19. However, rolling 12-month data to December 2022 shows an increase of 21 “all hate crime and offences” YTD of 19% to 131. The majority of the incidents are racial 50% with the next largest category being sexual orientation at 27.2%.

Community Consultation

- 3.20. Below is a summary of several consultations that were used to help shape this Three-Year Plan.

Violence Reduction Network Community Safety Survey – Autumn 2022

- 3.21. This survey was last completed in 2020, in 2022 numbers answering the survey was down from 416 to 214 so this should be taken into account.

- 3.22. There was a slight decrease in feelings of safety during the day and night, and a slight increase in those that felt ASB and crime was a problem in their areas despite the fact that ASB figures continue to decrease.
- 3.23. However, there was also a decrease in those that felt ASB and Crime was more of a problem than the year before.
- 3.24. Of those that had witnessed ASB the main age groups involved were between 10-20 years of age.
- 3.25. The main ASB witnessed or experienced was fly tipping followed by vandalism, both up on the last survey. Drunk and rowdy behaviour was down on 2020.
- 3.26. The main crimes experienced or witnessed were vehicle crime up nearly 20% from 2020.
- 3.27. The main crimes experienced or witnessed were vehicle crime up nearly 20% from 2020 followed by rural crime.
- 3.28. There was a slight increase in percentage of those who had been a victim of crime and an increase in those that who then reported to the police.

Leicestershire Community Insight Survey December 2022 – Harborough results (updated from Strategic Assessment)

- 3.29. 72.33% agree that “ASB has decreased or stayed the same” this is down from 90.84% at the same time last year (Dec 2021). This is even though ASB has been decreasing.
- 3.30. 81.24% feel safe outside in their local area after dark – this has increased from 76.9% last year. This is the highest percentage in Leicestershire.

Police survey - Neighbourhood Link – Autumn 2022

- 3.31. Top concerns for Harborough District in current financial year:
 - 3.31.1. ASB
 - 3.31.2. Road Safety
 - 3.31.3. Drug Dealing and Drug Taking
 - 3.31.4. And to a lesser extent House Burglary and Vehicle Crime.
 - 3.31.5. The biggest concern for rural communities in the same period was ASB. Drug taking and drug dealing more of a concern in more urban areas.

Parish Council Consultation – December 2022

- 3.32. Top three concerns were Road Safety, Acquisitive Crime and Antisocial behaviour.
- 3.33. Within Road Safety – biggest concern was around speeding followed by awareness of cyclists and horse riders.
- 3.34. Within Acquisitive Crime – biggest concern was around speeding followed by awareness of cyclists and horse riders.
- 3.35. Within ASB – biggest concerns were Criminal Damage, threatening and abuse behaviour and noisy neighbours and vandalism.

Our Priorities for 2023-2026:

- 3.36. Having reviewed all of the statistical and anecdotal evidence the Community Safety Partnership have agreed to work on three main areas below as our priorities for the

next three years. These will be reviewed on a yearly basis and a grant from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) be used to fund an Action Plan to deliver these priorities – Appendix D. This is a working document and may change through the year.

- 3.37. As Partners our core work will also remain and emerging issues will be dealt with through our Join Action Group and other partnership initiatives.

People

Understanding underlying causes of violence and coercive behaviour to provide support and interventions for the Community (vulnerable individuals and families.)

- 3.38. Focussing on:

- 3.38.1. Domestic Abuse
- 3.38.2. Exploitation*
- 3.38.3. Serious Violent Crime

- 3.39. **Exploitation includes all types of grooming including – Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE), County Lines and Radicalisation.*

Places

Working with communities to reduce incidents by utilising available powers and resources in a targeted way.

- 3.40. Focussing on:

- 3.40.1. Road safety – Fatal Four
- 3.40.2. Anti-social behaviour
- 3.40.3. Public order incidents

Property

To help support and advise our communities on taking personal responsibility, by promoting good practices and using partnership resources to reduce acquisitive crime.

- 3.41. Focussing on:

- 3.41.1. Rural Crime
- 3.41.2. Domestic burglary within the district
- 3.41.3. Vehicle Crime
- 3.41.4. Financial Fraud and scams

Cross cutting priorities

- 3.42. To prevent and raise awareness of the effects of substance misuse.
- 3.43. To increase Community Engagement across the District.
- 3.44. Encourage the legitimate sharing of information between agencies.

How will we achieve these priorities?

- 3.45. We will develop a yearly Action Plan – see Appendix D– which sets out how we deliver on our priorities and linked to our current resources. Issues will be understood within the district to ensure the action plans reflect the needs of the

district. It will be reviewed annually to take account of resources and any emerging threats during the three-year plan period.

- 3.46. Progress and development will be monitored through Community Safety Partnership Strategy Group meetings chaired by the lead Harborough District Councillor for Community Safety.
- 3.47. Successes will be publicised and improvements made in community engagement to target resources around emerging issues.

4. Implications of Decisions

- 4.1. It is a statutory requirement for the Council to adopt a Community Safety Plan which forms part of the policy framework.

Corporate Priorities

- 4.2. Priority 2: Promoting health and wellbeing and encouraging healthy life choices.
- 4.3. Having a Three-year Community Safety Plan directly enables the delivery of key activity KA.01.05 To prevent crime, tackle anti-social behaviour and support vulnerable victims.

Consultation

- 4.4. A number of consultations have taken place to inform the strategic assessment.
 - 4.4.1. Violence Reduction Network Community Safety Survey 2022
 - 4.4.2. Parish Community Safety Survey 2022
 - 4.4.3. Police Neighbourhood Link Survey 2022
 - 4.4.4. Police Young Peoples Safety Survey 2021
 - 4.4.5. Consultation at Harborough Action Team (HAT) meeting
- 4.5. Results can be found in Strategic Assessment – Appendix B and a summary in the Three-Year Plan – Appendix A.

Financial

- 4.6. The strategic priorities and actions set out in the Community Safety Plan for 2023/24 are within the approved budgets for the Council, the Police and other Partners and the yearly Action Plan will be funded by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner. This year's available allocation is £37,479.75 and this will be allocated on presentation of project bids to the OPCC.
- 4.7. The plans for 2024/25 and 2025/26 will be met to the extent that budgets for those years permit.

Legal

- 4.8. The Crime & Disorder Act 1998 sets out the legal requirements for local authorities, the police and other key partners & agencies to work together to tackle crime and disorder in their area in partnerships. Under the Police and Justice Act 2006, a duty was placed on the partnerships to join together in a formal strategic group to undertake frequent strategic assessments of levels and patterns of crime and drug

misuse in their area and to produce annual rolling Three-year community safety plans.

- 4.9. Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 introduced directly elected Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) to replace Police Authorities in England and Wales. It is a requirement for the PCC to have regard to the priorities of the responsible authorities making up the CSPs and for those authorities to have regard to the police and crime objectives set out in the Police and Crime Plan. The legislation also brought with it a mutual duty for the PCC and the responsible authorities to act in co-operation with each other in exercising their respective functions.
- 4.10. Local Authorities now have a Statutory Duty as part of the Counter Terrorism and Security Act to have “due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism”. The Prevent strategy is a key part of the Government’s counter-terrorism strategy and aims to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. A yearly Prevent Action Plan is produced and updated.
- 4.11. The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 places a statutory duty on Tier One local authorities to provide support to victims of domestic abuse and their children within refuges and other safe accommodation. Part 4 of the 2021 Act introduces a new statutory duty on local authorities which places clearer accountability on local areas to ensure the needs of victims within refuges and other forms of domestic abuse safe accommodation are met in a consistent way across England.
- 4.12. The Serious Violence Duty 2023 will require local authorities, the police, fire and rescues 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.

Policy

- 4.13. Delivery of the Three-Year Plan will be under the ownership for the Community Safety Partnership through an officer Action Plan. This will be in line with HDC’s Anti-social Behaviour Policy 2019, Prevent Action plan and Domestic Abuse Policy.

Environmental Implications

- 4.14. There are no implications to achieving net zero. Any of the work that we do, we will aim to be as environmentally sustainable as possible.

Risk Management

- 4.15. The main risk to the delivery of this strategy would be pressures upon partnership resources and the ability to remain focused on the priorities identified. This will be addressed through regular discussions with partners and strong performance management.

Equalities Impact

- 4.16. An Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA) was undertaken and can be found at Appendix C.

Data Protection

- 4.17. There are not any impacts or issues relating to data protection arising from the report.

5. Alternative Options Considered

- 5.1. Preparation and adoption of a Community Safety Plan is a statutory requirement, so no other options were considered. The content of the plan, however, is for local determination and options regarding the priorities for the coming years were considered.

6. Recommendation

- 6.1. The action plan will be agreed by the partners and the Chair of the CSP, Cllr Woodiwiss, this is an operational action plan.

7. Background papers

- 7.1. *VRN Community Safety Survey 2022*
- 7.2. *OPCC Young People's Safety Survey – Harborough 2021*
- 7.3. *Parish Community Safety Survey 2022*