



CABINET

9 June 2021

A meeting of the CABINET will be held on Thursday, 17th June, 2021, 6.00 pm in Council Chamber, Marmion House, Lichfield Street, Tamworth, B79 7BZ

A G E N D A

NON CONFIDENTIAL

- 1 Apologies for Absence**
- 2 Minutes of Previous Meeting** (Pages 3 - 8)
- 3 Declarations of Interest**
To receive any declarations of Members' interests (pecuniary and non-pecuniary) in any matters which are to be considered at this meeting.

When Members are declaring a pecuniary or non-pecuniary interest in respect of which they have dispensation, they should specify the nature of such interest. Members should leave the room if they have a pecuniary or non-pecuniary interest in respect of which they do not have a dispensation.
- 4 Question Time:**
To answer questions from members of the public pursuant to Executive Procedure Rule No. 13
- 5 Matters Referred to the Cabinet in Accordance with the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules**
- 6 Future High Street Fund: Terms of Reference** (Pages 9 - 20)
(Report of the Leader of the Council)
- 7 Council Housing Garage Sites** (Pages 21 - 44)
(Report of the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Leisure)

8 Tamworth Community Safety Partnership Plan 2020-2023 (2021 Update)
(Pages 45 - 92)
(Report of the Portfolio Holder for Regulatory and Community Safety)

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'AOS', followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Chief Executive

Access arrangements

If you have any particular access requirements when attending the meeting, please contact Democratic Services on 01827 709267 or e-mail democratic-services@tamworth.gov.uk. We can then endeavour to ensure that any particular requirements you may have are catered for.

Filming of Meetings

The public part of this meeting may be filmed and broadcast. Please refer to the Council's Protocol on Filming, Videoing, Photography and Audio Recording at Council meetings which can be found [here](#) for further information.

If a member of the public is particularly concerned about being filmed, please contact a member of Democratic Services before selecting a seat.

FAQs

For further information about the Council's Committee arrangements please see the FAQ page [here](#)

To Councillors: J Oates, R Pritchard, M Bailey, D Cook, S Doyle and A Farrell.



MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CABINET HELD ON 8th APRIL 2021

PRESENT: Councillor J Oates (Chair), Councillors R Pritchard (Vice-Chair), J Chesworth, M Cook and S Doyle

The following officers were present: Andrew Barratt (Chief Executive), Anica Goodwin (Executive Director Organisation), Sarah McGrandle (Assistant Director Operations and Leisure), Anna Miller (Assistant Director – Growth & Regeneration), Joanne Sands (Assistant Director Partnerships), Zoe Wolicki (Assistant Director People), Gareth Youlden (Head of Technology and Information Services), Karen Clancy (Partnerships Manager), Adey Ramsel (Theatre, Artistic and Events Manager), Tracey Pinton (Legal Admin & Democratic Services Manager) and Jodie Small (Legal, Democratic and Corporate Support Assistant)

Guest Councillors: S Goodall

104 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor D Cook

105 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting of Cabinet held on 18th March 2021 were approved as a correct record.

(Moved by Councillor M Cook and seconded by Councillor R Pritchard)

106 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest.

107 QUESTION TIME:

None

108 MATTERS REFERRED TO THE CABINET IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PROCEDURE RULES

Report of the Chairs of Corporate Scrutiny Committee and the Infrastructure Safety & Growth Scrutiny Committee to update Cabinet and to make recommendations to it following consideration of matters by the Scrutiny Committees

The Chair chose to discuss each report within the relevant item on the agenda.

Gungate Item 6

CIL Spending Item 8

109 GUNGATE PUBLIC CONSULTATION FEEDBACK

Report of the Leader of the Council to update Cabinet on the findings of the Gungate Regeneration Quarter Consultation which sought the responses from the public on the future of the Gungate site during February 2021 and on the considerations of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee that considered the Gungate public consultation results on the 24th March.

Corporate Scrutiny

The Corporate Scrutiny Committee received the Gungate Public Consultation Report and debated its contents. The Leader thanked Corporate Scrutiny Members for the recommendations and thanked officers involved in the public engagement.

RESOLVED: That Cabinet

Acknowledged the following recommendations from Corporate Scrutiny

1. Noted the results of the Public consultation on the future of the Gungate site and the proposed next steps; and
2. Noted the public's desire for a mixed use solution and Recommended to Cabinet that the council embraces a mixed use vision for the future of the town centre.

And agreed the two recommendations in the report:

1. Noted the feedback arising from the public consultation process.
2. authorised delegated authority to the Assistant Director Growth and Regeneration in consultation with the Leader of the Council to:
 - a) Investigate the options for delivering development in the Gungate Regeneration Area
 - b) Research and submit bids for external funding by preparing a pipeline of projects for the site.
 - c) Assess market demand for the various site uses through marketing and promotion of development opportunities

d) Continue with land assembly and subsequent negotiations with relevant third party stakeholders, noting that further reports may need to be considered if land assembly costs exceed the remaining Gungate Capital Scheme budget.

(Moved by Councillor J Oates and seconded by Councillor J Chesworth)

110 ICT STRATEGY

Report of the Portfolio Holder for Assets and Finance to seek approval for the 5-year ICT Strategy, setting high level ICT strategic direction and ICT service delivery principles for the organisation.

RESOLVED: That Cabinet

approved the 5-year ICT Strategy in Appendix 1. The strategy will inform a more detailed technology plan of activities, supporting the core themes, underpinning continued digital transformation, to be considered during the budget setting process for 2022/23.

(Moved by Councillor R Pritchard and seconded by Councillor S Doyle)

The Committee also thanked Gareth Youlden for the work in pulling the report together.

111 CIL SPENDING

Report of the Portfolio Holder for Regulatory & Community Safety to seek Cabinet approval for the proposals in relation to the spending of CIL income and for the publication of the Infrastructure Funding Statement.

Councillor Simon Goodall presented the recommendation on behalf of the IS&G Scrutiny Committee, the Committee had received the CIL Spending Report prior to its consideration by Cabinet and debated its contents. The Committee supported the proposed recommendations in the Report to Cabinet

RESOLVED: That Cabinet

1. Approved 5% of CIL income up to 30 July 2021 be retained by the Council and applied to administrative expenses associated with CIL;
2. Approved 5% of CIL income per year from 01 August 2021 onwards be retained by the Council and applied to administrative expenses associated with CIL;
3. Agreed that the Council retain the strategic element and allocate the funds to one or more infrastructure projects in

the Borough;

4. Agreed that Regeneration projects within Tamworth be set as the priority for spending the strategic element of CIL and;
5. Approved the draft Infrastructure Funding Statement attached as Appendix B for publication on the Council's website.

(Moved by Councillor S Doyle and seconded by Councillor J Chesworth)

The Committee thanked the authors of the report.

112 ARTS AND EVENTS RELAUNCH

Report of the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Culture to update Cabinet on the proposed Arts & Events relaunch programme for 2021, for the Assembly Rooms, Castle and outdoor events and to approve an additional budget to support the staffing of these events.

Resolved That Cabinet

1. endorsed the proposed event programmes and dates.
2. approved the relaunching of all events, giving consideration to the potential loss of income and;
3. Agreed that following the evaluation of the proposed events plan proposals to continue are considered as part of budget process for 2022/23.

(Moved by Councillor J Chesworth and seconded by Councillor R Pritchard)

The Committee thanked Adey Ramsel for the work undertaken in putting together the report

113 TAMWORTH ADVICE CENTRE SERVICES

Report of the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Culture to seek permission to proceed with the re-tendering of Tamworth Advice Centre services from 1st April 2022

RESOLVED: That Cabinet

1. approved the decision to tender the Tamworth Advice Centre service for a further three years until March 2025 (plus the option to extend for two further years if required)
2. delegated authority to the Executive Director Communities in

consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Culture & Operational Services to sign off the Invitation to Tender Document and to approve the award of the contract to the most economically advantageous supplier

(Moved by Councillor J Chesworth and seconded by Councillor S Doyle)

Leader

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Thursday, 17 June 2021

Report of the Leader of the Council

Future High Street Fund: Terms of Reference and Programme Update

Not Exempt

Purpose

The FHSF Terms of Reference (TOR) seeks to create a governance arrangement that is clear in terms of decision making and the application of financial guidance, the purpose of which is to allow decisions to be taken quickly and at the appropriate level of seniority within the authority.

Recommendations

It is recommended:

1. to approve the report.
2. To approve the indicative Programme Timeline in accordance with the Terms of Reference.

Executive Summary

In December 2020 the authority was notified that it was one of only 15 places to receive its full Future High Street Fund (FHSF) ask towards its specified programme of £21.65m. The total programme cost is circa £40million with additional funding from partners and the Borough Council.

The FHSF award of grant represents a significant capital programme for the Borough to deliver with project completion required by spring 2024. Work has begun with the appointment of an interim Programme Manager and a project officer who are mobilising the project, have created a programme timeline and have begun the procurement of a specialist multi-disciplinary team who will design and manage the various projects. Some enabling activity is also underway with the procurement of specialist surveys and bespoke design and quantity surveyor advice to move projects forwards.

There are five project components:

- Relocation of South Staffordshire College to a new build on the site of the current Co-op department store;
- Refurbishment of the locally listed section of the Co-op department store into an Enterprise Centre;
- Enhancements of the area around the Castle gatehouse and Market Street properties;
- Refurbishment and demolition of parts of Middle Entry including the introduction of a new semi-permanent structure for startups and niche businesses; and
- Refurbishment of St Editha's square.

This is an ambitious work programme requiring substantial demolition of significant parts of the town centre followed by challenging new builds or historic refurbishments.

As part of the mobilisation phase of the project it has become clear the timeline of three years requires the Borough Council to move forwards on this programme of works consistently every week and without delay.

To be successful in delivering the FHSF programme it is therefore necessary to put in place good governance structures, which will ensure that programme objectives are met, and that risk and performance is being monitored and addressed. Governance arrangements also need to ensure that processes are streamlined and efficient so that decisions, particularly in relation to finance, are understood by those involved in the project. Decision making needs to be delivered by the most appropriate officers to ensure both accountability and that the programme can continue onwards without having to wait, for example, for more senior input.

The Terms of Reference, Appendix 1, captures the Governance Structure and provides a decision-making framework.

Programme Board TOR

The Board currently meets monthly as the programme gathers momentum but may revert to less frequent meetings as the programme progresses. The Board will provide overall strategic direction and guidance and is ultimately responsible for the overall success of the programme. The Board will ensure the completion of key tasks/milestones before giving approval for the Programme to move forwards. These centre on procurement or award of key contracts and the purchase of buildings and also key programme design stages. The Board can also set project change authority levels following the successful completion of RIBA Stage 3, which are set out in Appendix 1 in paragraph 1.10. Importantly the TOR defines that expenditure of contingencies within the overall budget is deemed to be expenditure of the approved budget. Any spend outside of the overall budget would therefore require Cabinet approval.

Included on the Board will be two external executives. The first is the Chief Executive of South Staffordshire College, to reflect the need for partnership working on this jointly funded flagship project. The second will be the Chief Executive of the Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire Local Enterprise Partnership, to link in with opportunities and strengthen the collaborative approach with the wider sub region.

Programme Delivery Team TOR

Unlike the Board, the Delivery Team is concerned with the delivery of the project at an operational level. Meeting monthly, the Programme Delivery Team will collect and collate data that informs the Board meetings including the preparation of risk and action logs, progress against the programme timeline and budgets/cashflow and also the delivery of highlight and change request reports.

The Delivery Team provides support to ensure that the Board have all the information necessary to govern the project at a strategic level. The Delivery Team provide a critical role that links the FHSF team with the Programme Board.

Programme Timeline

Paragraph 1.5 of the TOR refers to the Programme Board monitoring the master programme and overall programme budget, following approval from TBC Cabinet and Full Council respectively.

Approval of the FHSF budget was at Cabinet and Full Council prior to the commencement of the new 2021/22 financial year. This TOR requirement is fulfilled.

The Interim Programme Manager has been preparing a master programme that presents a timeline for the FHSF projects. This Programme forms a requirement in the TOR that Cabinet approve it.

The master programme in its entirety is a large document detailing the sequence of works required to firstly enable the project, then to design the buildings and associated works, and finally to undertake construction. Set out over three years the programme outlines the interrelationship between activities, key milestones and deliverable stages.

The full Programme is located on the Memberzone. Final Project details are in the latter stages of development and, as such, are subject to amendment and change. Significant work is underway to identify any sensitivities this programme may cause in each regeneration area, which are directly related to the onsite proposals.

The following sets out the key delivery stages. Members are asked to agree to the following headline dates for specific activities, the detail of which is in the master programme. Work is underway by officers to identify opportunities to structure the work programme differently to enable works quicker. This is particularly the case with the Castle Walls project where there are a number of moving parts within the project requiring multiple workstreams to be coordinated and sequenced to allow for FHSF objectives to be met.

College/TEC Project:

- Enabling/pre-planning/design: now until Spring 2022
- Planning Consent: Spring 2022
- Demolition of modern Coop building: Spring - Summer 2022
- Separation of services/utilities between demolished building and locally listed Coop building: Summer 2022
- Commencement of College build: Autumn 2022
- Commencement of TEC refurbishment: Autumn 2022
- Completion of new TEC: late 2023
- Completion of college: Summer 2024

Castle Walls and Middle Entry Projects:

- Enabling/pre-planning/design: now until Spring 2022
- Planning Consent: Spring 2022
- Demolitions - Castle Wall: Summer 2022
- Demolitions - Middle Entry: Summer 2022
- Refurbishment of Castle Walls: 2023 to early 24
- New build Middle Entry: 2023 to early 24

The FHSF money has to be spent by April 2024 however work can continue beyond this point in time providing the funding to do so is from partner organisations so for example the Borough Council or College. The college is the flagship project and a large scheme, the delivery of which will extend beyond the end of the FHSF spend profile of April 2024. That said, the college will be open to new students in September 2024 so whilst the build will take longer, it will still need practical completion by July 2024 at the very latest.

There will be issues along the way that will require adjustments to the timeline however there is flexibility at this point to allow that to happen and meet FHSF expectation for financial spend. The TOR will assist in moving the programme of projects efficiently forwards by providing the framework within which decisions will be taken without the need to delay processes to seek specific approval.

Programme Manager

At the Appointments and Staffing Committee in April 2021 a proposal was approved to create a FHSF team comprising a Programme Manager (3 Years) a project officer (3 Years) and a project officer (2 Years). The committee requested an update following recruitment to the Programme Manager and Project Officer (3 Year post).

The 3 Year Project Officer role has been successfully filled by an internal candidate. Recruitment to the second Project Officer role will be next year to take account of increasing workload when the enabling phase completes and the build commences.

Unfortunately recruitment to the Programme Manager role was unsuccessful. Upon investigation, it would appear that there are a number of reasons for this.

- Salary not attractive to market – the starting salary was circa £55k, with market supplement and additional council benefits. This is appropriate within a public sector setting such as a Local Authority and was extensively benchmarked prior to advertising. Unfortunately the level is considerably below starting salaries for similar jobs in the private sector that offer more permanency. Private sector roles in this market have a starting salary of c £70k.
- Live competition – at the time of advertisement there were two similar West Midlands located jobs of identical salary, albeit more Town Centre Regeneration focused but permanent with far less accountability and responsibility.
- Active market – the property / construction sector is extremely buoyant, with consultants and property professionals moving to similar roles in other firms for £20k salary difference. The public sector interim market is also very buoyant with many places seeking the same skill sets to deliver FHSF, Towns Fund and Levelling Up Fund. Demand is likely to continue to increase as many local authorities have only recently received funding.

As an interim measure and via a financial waiver to the procurement requirements of Financial Guidance a consultant Programme Manager has been involved in the Project Since March 2021. The input they provided has been invaluable and exceptional, enabling the project to move forwards quickly during this enabling phase of the workload. This interim measure guided Council officers whilst recruitment for a 3 year Programme Manager appointment was undertaken.

At the FHSF Programme Board on the 24 May a decision was taken, supported by an options appraisal paper, to continue with this interim appointment for the three year post, the details of which are underpinned by a bespoke resourcing plan and the ability to directly appoint both legally and demonstrating value for money via a procurement framework. This role is key and critical to the project and will be externally facing and programme manage the construction related workload. The programme manager is a trusted member of the team and clearly has the experience, skills and knowledge to deliver the Programme, which again is key to the success of the overall scheme. There are appropriate review points within this appointment to ensure full accountability.

To further facilitate the appointment various activities within the Programme Manager role have been moved to the AD Growth and Regeneration such as managing the Governance arrangements of the Programme, stakeholder management and line management of Project Officers.

Reporting to Members

It is proposed to update the Infrastructure Safety and Growth Committee and Cabinet on a quarterly basis. The format of the update will closely follow that of the Programme Board and importantly will include changes to the master Programme and progress against it.

Options Considered

Not having good governance structures and a clear framework of decision making, accountability and responsibility would lead to potential delays in moving the programme forwards. Officers would not be clear on who can make decisions and there would be a lack of oversight in terms of what decisions were being taken and why.

Resource Implications

The TOR provides a framework within which Borough Council resources can be allocated. Resources relates both to staffing required to facilitate the delivery of the programme and finances. Resources will be kept under regular review, which is written into the Programme Board TOR.

The Programme is within the approved capital budget allocated.

Legal/Risk Implications Background

There are no legal issues.

The TOR will reduce risk to the authority by setting out a clear governance arrangement.

Equalities Implications

There are no equalities issues.

Sustainability Implications

There are no sustainability issues.

Background Information

None.

Report Author

Anna Miller – Assistant Director – Growth & Regeneration

List of Background Papers

Appointments and Staffing Committee 6th April.

Appendices

1: FHSF Terms of Reference.

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TAMWORTH FHSF – PROGRAMME BOARD AND DELIVERY TEAM TERMS OF REFERENCE

Document Revision: Rev E 01/06/21

PROGRAMME BOARD TERMS OF REFERENCE

- 1.0** The Programme Board has a strategic role that includes several responsibilities and accountabilities:
- 1.1** To provide overall strategic direction and guidance, ensuring that wider factors beyond the scope of the project (such as synergies with other council partners' projects/interventions) are taken into account including the engagement of any key council stakeholders not identified by the Programme Delivery Team
 - 1.2** Ensures appropriate programme and project management systems, processes and procedures are implemented
 - 1.3** Is responsible for the overall success of the programme (i.e. delivery of programme and project outputs and outcomes)
 - 1.4** Approves the scope of the overall programme and projects as prepared by the Programme Delivery Team
 - 1.5** Monitors the master programme and overall programme budget following approval from TBC Cabinet and Full Council respectively
 - 1.6** Approves the expenditure of project budgets at key milestones including:
 - 1.6.1** Appointment of consultant team to undertake the project design and planning process
 - 1.6.2** Expenditure of costs associated with purchase of premises required for the completion of the FHSF Programme
 - 1.6.3** To commence the tender for enabling, restoration and new build projects in line with financial guidance
 - 1.6.4** To award contracts, in line with financial guidance, for the works related to enabling, restoration and new build projects;so long as expenditure is within the overall Programme budget. Is responsible for the commitment of internal council personnel resources as required to successfully complete the projects
 - 1.7** Signs off project plans at the completion of key design and tender stages including:
 - 1.7.1** RIBA Stage 2 or ahead of planning application

1.7.2 RIBA Stage 3 or ahead of main contract tender exercise

1.7.3 Ahead of award of the main contract for the works

1.8 Signs off the completion of each project stage (as detailed in item 1.7) and authorises the start of the next stage (milestone gateway approval)

1.9 Resolves escalated issues from the Programme Delivery Team (i.e. which cannot be resolved by the Programme Manager)

1.10 Sets project change authority levels. It is proposed that the following authority levels apply for this programme of works once the main contract budget is set at the end of RIBA Stage 3;

1.10.1 Individual changes up to a cap of £10,000 net cost, but within the overall project budget can be authorised by the Programme Manager/Programme Delivery Team

1.10.2 Individual Changes up to a cap of £250,000 net cost, but within the overall project budget can be authorised by the Programme Delivery Team so long as the change is properly costed by the external cost manager and a record of the change particulars is kept along with its approval at the monthly Programme Delivery Team meeting

1.10.3 Individual Changes over £250,000 net cost but within the overall project budget, and which do not fundamentally change the scope of the programme/outcomes, require the authorisation of the Programme Board prior to the change being incorporated into the programme scope

1.10.4 Any Change which would require expenditure beyond the approved budget would need approval from Council as there is no reserve budget for the Programme beyond the approved budget

1.10.5 Expenditure of contingencies within the overall budget is deemed to be expenditure of the approved budget and therefore will be governed by the same authority levels as detailed in items 1.10.1-1.10.4

1.11 Monitors major changes to the project scope and duration, following Cabinet or Full Council approval, which require a revision of the approved planning application or will result in prolongation of the programme completion date beyond that date approved in the master programme at completion of RIBA Stage 2

1.12 Approves the key stakeholder and public engagement strategy and programme

1.13 Approves the Project End Reports

2.0 The Programme Board is composed of:

Chair. Chief Executive Officer

Executive Director Organisation
Section 151 Officer
Executive Director Communities
Assistant Director Growth & Regen and programme lead
Chief Executive Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire LEP
Chief Executive South Staffordshire College
Leader of the Council

- 3.0** The Programme Board meets monthly unless agreed between attendees that the meeting is not required for any reason. The Programme Board will however meet at a minimum of quarterly intervals.
- 3.1** Should an urgent decision be needed which requires input from Programme Board an ad-hoc exceptional circumstances meeting will be arranged between the Programme Manager, Chief Executive, Section 151 Officer and Leader to table the urgent issue only, the outcome of which will then be raised for full ratification at the following Programme Board meeting.

PROGRAMME DELIVERY TEAM TERMS OF REFERENCE

- 4.0** The Programme Delivery Team manages the delivery at the operational level, which includes the following responsibilities:
- 4.1** Develops and maintains relevant programme and project management documentation, including:
- 4.1.1 Programme and project plans (tasks, milestones and dependencies)
 - 4.1.2 Programme and project budgets and spend profiles / cashflows
 - 4.1.3 Action logs
 - 4.1.4 Instruction forms
 - 4.1.5 Risk logs
 - 4.1.6 Request for change forms
 - 4.1.7 Highlight Reports
 - 4.1.8 Procurement and Fund Monitoring Evaluation Reports
 - 4.1.9 Committee Reports
- 4.2** Manages the delivery of the programme, projects according to the scope, programme and budget agreed by the Board

- 4.3 Manages the expenditure of project budgets in line with approvals detailed at item 1.6 above and approves all other project expenditure within the overall approved budget.
 - 4.4 Monitors and controls any change to the scope, budget and time at programme and project level and submits requests for change accordingly to the Programme Board in line with the change authority levels set out in item 1.10
 - 4.5 Refers any issues to the Programme Board– an issue is a threat to the project objectives that has happened and cannot be resolved by the Programme Manager
 - 4.6 Ensures risks are being tracked and mitigated as effectively as possible
 - 4.7 Ensures effective communication between project leads, delivery partners and key stakeholders
 - 4.8 Submits Quarterly Programme Progress Reports to the Board
 - 4.9 Submits six-monthly progress reports to MHCLG or at any other such interval as required once the FHSF reporting requirements become clear
- 5.0 The Programme Delivery Team is composed of:
- Assistant Director: Growth and Regeneration
 - Assistant Director: Finance
 - Head of Economic Development and Regeneration
 - Programme Manager
 - Project Officer (s)
 - External Lead Consultant
 - TBC – Communications
 - TBC – Administrative Support
- With sub-team members who will be included in all minutes distribution and invited to meetings as required including:
- SCC – Highways
 - TBC – Legal
 - TBC - Planning
 - TBC – Assets
 - TBC - Street Scene
 - TBC – Procurement

The intention of the Programme Delivery Team composition is that the core team members meet on a regular basis to update on the project progress and any key deliverables which require attention, and the sub-team members will provide ad-hoc support as required and will be continually updated on progress to allow them to input with their area of expertise where appropriate.

The Programme Delivery Team meets monthly with agendas set by the Programme Manager and minutes recorded by the elected minute taker. Project specific meetings will take place more frequently as required.

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17TH JUNE 2021

REPORT OF THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND LEISURE

COUNCIL HOUSING GARAGE SITES PROGRAMME

EXEMPT INFORMATION

Not Exempt

PURPOSE

This report sets out a series of proposals relating to the various council housing garages sites dispersed around the housing estate areas of Tamworth. This report builds on a proposed programme set out by the Portfolio Holder for Assets & Finance and the Portfolio Holder for Communities. The report identifies each site and provides costed proposals for consideration of the future of the site.

The report seeks to inform and guide Elected Members of the options available, and to devise a programme for delivery of the preferred options.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Cabinet approves:-

1. The programme for refurbishment of retained garages sites as set out in the table at Appendix 1 using capital budgets approved for 2021/22 – 2022/23 (£1.5m in total)
2. The entering into negotiations with an EV charging point company to explore and if possible, implement the installation of EV charging points
3. The development of a programme during 2021/22 to further explore those sites identified for purposes other than retained garages/parking
4. The creation of an additional temporary post to manage the decant, consultation and re-letting of garages included within the programme with costs being capitalised against the project in 21/22 and 22/23, subject to approval through the Appointments and Staffing process.
5. Reviewing the lettings policy for garages to allow more flexible use with the implementation of the final policy being delegated to the Portfolio Holder for Communities.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Council owns a number of garages sites within the Housing Revenue Account [HRA] property portfolio. Garages fall into two categories, those that are attached to a house, flat or maisonette and those that are part of a standalone garage block or court. This report relates only to those standalone garage blocks.

The garage blocks around Tamworth are in varying states of repair and disrepair, most need some investment to bring them up to a standard where they will remain fit for let into the future; some sites have had to be demolished as they were beyond economical repair, some sites could be made fit with limited investment, others are beyond repair and need further

consideration. In general occupancy rates across all estates is low, there are several reasons for this including cost, (in)convenience, not being suitable for larger modern vehicles and easy access to free on-road parking.

The Portfolio Holder for Assets & Finance along with the Portfolio Holder for Communities in consultation with Elected Members forming the controlling group completed a review of each garage site identifying their preferred option for the future treatment of that site. It was agreed that some sites should be retained for parking and that other sites should be considered for a wider options appraisal. The Portfolio Holder for Assets & Finance has discussed the proposals with the majority of Ward Members not part of the controlling group in impacted wards and has continued to make efforts to discuss with all remaining Members.

The services of external surveyors were commissioned resulting in two reports.

The first report sets out the proposals for the sites identified for retention as parking. Within this report the options considered are for repair, reinstatement and removal for open-plan parking. The recommendations reflect what is considered to be the most cost effective and viable solution for each site.

The second report relates to those sites where it was felt that something other than retention for parking would be preferred. Whilst a variety of options are available for these sites key considerations were disposal, provision of housing, commercial use. Some of these sites present very limited options due to layout, access and established rights of way.

Appendix 01 – retained garage sites costed options

Appendix 02 – sites identified for aspirational uses

Appendix 03 – Indicative programme and communications plan

Whilst EV Charging Points should be considered for outdoor parking areas it should be noted that the installation and operation of such charging points will largely be reliant on external operators who will most likely want to consider demand on an area-by-area basis. This means that the installation of EV charging points will largely be outside the direct control or influence of the Council. Work has commenced to identify potential EV charge point providers and this will continue with the aim of providing access to charging points where it is deemed to be viable.

It is recognised that there will need to be some degree of marketing of garage sites once refurbishment works have been completed. Typically, garages are advertised through the Garage Finder site but this is passive marketing as opposed to active. Previously when undertaking works of this nature we have used sign boards to advertise the fact that newly refurbished garages will be available and this has resulted in some additional interest in sites. Actively advertising sites through the website is a no-cost advertising opportunity as is informing residents of the availability through the use of Social Media. Further engagement with the communications team will be required to determine other potential routes for advertising however it should be recognised that some of the older methods such as print and radio media are probably less effective than they used to be and may not cost effective, they will however be explored and may be considered where it is felt that they would yield results.

Once complete additional management resource will be needed to co-ordinate the advertising, letting and ongoing management of the garages in order to ensure that they remain in a fit for let standard, that rental income is maximised and that void garages are turned around quickly for relet.

Whilst reviewing garage sites it has become obvious that many people have no need for a garage in which to park a vehicle, many garages simply aren't large enough for larger modern vehicles and modern vehicles are more secure and less prone to the effects of weather than older vehicles. Historically the Council has required that garage tenants primarily use their garage for the parking of a motor vehicle; in order to encourage demand for garages and make better use of garage sites the policy relating to garages will be

changed to allow uses other than the parking of a vehicle although consideration will need to be given to limiting the type of materials that may be stored so as limit risks. Consideration will also need to be given to introducing variable pricing for garages where rental prices could reflect demand and be used to drive up demand. This would be subject to a further Cabinet report once evidence on take up has been collected.

It is recognised that communications are essential to the successful delivery of this programme. Once agreed details of the proposals for the various sites will be made available through the Council's website and all Ward Members will be informed. Resource will be built in to the project to engage the services of a Resident Liaison Officer [RLO], the RLO will ensure that detailed communications are issued on a site by site basis in advance of any works commencing. Information relating to the proposals, programme timescales and interim parking arrangements will be communicated to all existing garage tenants personally with a wider 'letter drop' being done to residents in the immediate catchment area for the garages. Signage will also be erected at each site to provide additional information both of the programme and to where new garages are being built to commence the marketing process.

It is anticipated that the retained garage sites programme will commence in the summer of 2021 and will run through until March 2023. The previously appointed consultant will in consultation with the contractor develop a programme that addresses sites in order of condition, the main purpose for this is to limit any ongoing expenditure on keeping sites safe before they are improved. The detailed project plan will be shared with Elected Members once finalised.

In addition to the retained garage sites there are a number of garage sites that have been identified for alternative aspirational uses. At this stage the potential uses for these sites are outline only and will need further development to properly assess all matters that may affect their viability for the identified uses. During the course of 2021/22 we will work with internal and external partners to undertake more detailed options appraisals of these sites with a view to bringing forward a further report in 2022 confirming the proposals and setting out a more detailed project plan for delivery of these sites. It should be noted at this stage that ultimately more of these sites may have to revert to retention for parking if issues are identified that severely limit alternate uses. The programme for delivery of these aspirational sites could span a number of years depending on the complexity and costs associated with bringing them forward.

A formal Project Board is being established to deliver this project in line with corporate project delivery methods. The Project Board will manage the delivery of the project from the point at which it is approved and sites are having to be cleared through to the letting of new garages on completed sites. It is expected that ongoing management of lettings and the wider estate will be conducted through the existing teams. At present the Project Board consists of the following members: -

- Paul Weston, Assistant Director (Assets) – Project Sponsor
- Trevor Wylie, Leasehold & Estates Manager – Project Lead
- Lee Birch, Head of Housing Management & Neighbourhoods – Tenancy Matters
- Joanne Mallaband, Homes Manager, Neighbourhoods – Void Process
- Sarah Finnegan, Head of Homelessness & Housing Solutions – Void Process
- Lisa Hall, Neighbourhood Resilience Manager – Estate Based Matters
- Lind Ram, Public Relations Manager – General Communications
- Trueman Change – Project Management Support
- External Partners - Construction Project Management and Construction Works

A detailed communications plan will be developed by the Project Board, this plan will be multi-faceted and will take into account general communications to ensure that residents and Members are aware of the proposals and project timetable, location based communications

to ensure that local residents are aware of what is taking place in their area, individual consultation and communication with garage tenants and those immediately impacted by the works to ensure that tenants and those adjoining sites understand what is happening and aren't unnecessarily inconvenienced or disadvantaged by the works, and ongoing communications to promote take-up on the new garage sites and to ensure that open parking areas are properly managed.

OPTIONS CONSIDERED

The Appendices provide a detailed breakdown of the various options considered on a site by site basis.

Appendix 01 provides a summary of the findings from the site surveys and investigation works, it sets out the basic proposals with indicative costs. These costs will need to be confirmed through a formal procurement process and as such are subject to change.

Appendix 02 sets out the various options considered for those sites identified for retention as parking. This is based on the most cost-effective solution when taking into account current condition, expenditure requirements and occupancy rates. No other options were considered for these sites beyond parking in some form.

Appendix 02 also sets out the various options considered for those sites identified for alternative uses. In all cases there would be an option to market the land and allow the market to decide potential future uses. Given the location, size, layout and various complexities of the sites most have limited potential for development. Where the decision is made to sell land the Council will need to consider whether to sell without conditions or to sell with conditions limiting future potential use.

The various options available were discussed in more detail with Elected Members resulting in the preferred options for all sites at Appendix 01. This report includes outline costings for each site, these will be subject to further procurement and will go on to form part of the Housing Revenue Account capital works programme.

The proposals set out in Appendix 01 represent what has been assessed to be the most cost effective solution based on current condition and occupancy levels. There is however an assumption that bringing the garages up to a good state of repair will attract new tenants and it should be noted that this may not actually occur.

There will be some additional costs associated with the development of more detailed plans for those sites identified for alternative uses and it is likely that future capital bids will be needed once firm delivery options have been identified for these sites.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Retained Garage Sites – capital programme bids have been put forward for the sum of £1,500,000 over the next two years. This is based on the cost estimates provided by the consultants. The procurement of the consultant included a fee for procurement and management of physical works on site and is included within the capital bid. The cost of the programme at Appendix 01 is c.£1,505,000, excluding the optional costs of c.£150,000. Additional funding will be required in year 2 to take account of the sites that have been identified in Appendix 02 as only being viable for parking and no other alternative uses. These sites will need to be costed and an amendment made to the capital bids for 2022/23. It is expected that additional resource will be required to manage the decant, communications and re-letting processes, these costs will be capitalised against the project budget. Additional capital bids may be required if more sites are added into the programme once the options appraisal works have been completed.

Alternative uses – where it has been identified that parking is the most viable option due to restrictions and limitation of the site those sites will need to be added to the retained site programme and costed accordingly. Other sites have been identified for use as a play area, use for commercial parking and an extension to a sheltered development. Each of these options will need to be further developed into fully costed schemes for approval outside of the garage project. There is the potential that disposal of one or more of these sites will result in a capital receipt, this will be addressed in a further report once the options appraisal process has been completed.

Where garage sites are retained there will be an ongoing maintenance requirement; this will need to be met from the existing Housing Revenue Account housing repairs budget, there should be no additional impact as there will be fewer garages upon completion of the project and repair costs are currently met from this budget

Rental income is difficult to predict as it will be based entirely on the level of demand for garages which we know has historically been poor. The rental income for 2020/21 was circa. £345k; there is likely to be a reduction in rental income whilst the programme is being delivered as existing tenants will have to be displaced. It is hoped that most tenants will return to their garages once refurbishment work is complete however it is likely that a number of tenants will choose not to return which may result in a reduced rental income from garages in future years.

Free to use open parking areas are likely to be well used which result in ongoing maintenance costs but without income to support those costs.

Resource will be required to advertise completed garage sites for rent once complete and to manage the decant process that will allow the project to proceed. It is anticipated that external marketing will be dealt with by the communications team supported by the estates management team. It is anticipated that an additional 1xFTE post may be required to deal with the ongoing management of the garages and parking areas if the garages are to remain in good order and if we are to achieve continue high levels of lettings. If required this is likely to be a Grade E post and would be funded from the Housing Revenue Account revenue budgets. This role will be subject to review upon completion of the project; should the post be required a business case will be produced for consideration in the normal manner. A temporary post will be required to deal with tenancy management issues whilst the programme is ongoing, this is also likely to be a Grade E post and will be funded through capitalising the salary against the project budget.

Where disposal of a site is deemed to be the most appropriate outcome the Council will need to appoint an agent to advise on and manage the disposal process; this service will need to be procured in line with procurement policy. Fees will be deducted from the sale value of any site.

It is anticipated that upon completion of this programme there will be an adjustments to the Housing Revenue Account stock valuation that will take into account the fact that a number of sites have been cleared with garage assets no longer existing. The exact impact is unknown at this stage as the new garages and sites will need to be formally revalued upon completion.

LEGAL/RISK IMPLICATIONS BACKGROUND

Lack of demand – There is no guarantee that there will be a sustainable level of demand for refurbished garage sites. This poses both a reputational risk and financial risk as there will be no return on investment.

Loss of rental income – we know that many garages are being used for storage rather than for the parking of a vehicle. It is likely that there will be a number of tenants who see this project as an opportunity to dispose of unwanted stored belongings and will not return to their

garage. There is also a chance that the new garages may not be as conveniently located for tenants and this may also result in tenancies being given up.

Lack of interest in disposal sites – the limited nature and complexities of those sites identified for disposal and/or alternative uses may make those sites and/or uses undesirable. Where disposal and/or alternative uses fail there may be a need to bring those sites back into the retained site programme which will have cost implications.

The EV charging point providers may not be interested in installing and operating charging points on car parking areas located on housing estates. There will need to be further engagement with the market to determine the viability of this element of the project.

With garages being used for purposes other than the parking of vehicles there is the risk that the Council will be left with increased costs associated with items left in vacated garages. The lettings policy will need to be written so as to limit the risk associated with the storage of hazardous materials.

At least one of the alternate use sites has been identified for commercial/light industrial self-storage units. Further investigations will need to be carried out to determine whether or not this type of use can sit within the Housing Revenue Account.

Planning matters may present a risk to bringing forward some of the alternate use sites so there will need to be ongoing discussions with the planning team as the proposals for these sites are developed further.

Additional legal advice will be taken in relation to the termination of existing garage tenancies to ensure that notices are correctly served and enacted.

EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

There should be no equalities implications associated with those elements of the programme that relate solely to the maintenance of existing sites.

The communications process with individual garage tenants will seek to address any potential issues arising from matters such as tenants with disabilities or specific needs around the location of a garage.

Where sites are to be converted or considered for alternative uses there will be a programme of local focussed consultation. Feedback from this consultation will be used to inform the final programme.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

The key purpose of this programme is to maintain the Council's built assets and to sustain an income stream from those assets.

There are no guarantees that there will be an ongoing demand for garages in the future which means these sites may not be sustainable in the long term.

Consideration will be given to the provision of electric vehicle charging points on retained garage sites although the success of this will largely be dependent upon market demand.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

REPORT AUTHOR

Paul Weston, Assistant Director Assets

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

APPENDICES

- Appendix 01 – report on garage sites identified for retention
- Appendix 02 – report of garage sites identified for aspirational uses
- Appendix 03 - Indicative programme and communications plan

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RETAINED GARAGE SITES

Site Address	Ward	Condition	Proposal	Cost
Barnbridge 1	Belgrave	Yellow	Repair existing parking area and provide bollards & marking.	£400.00
Barnbridge 2	Belgrave	Yellow	Repair existing parking area and provide bollards & marking.	£770.00
Broadsmeath 1	Belgrave	Red	Partial demolition	£19,772.64
Allensmead	Belgrave	Red	Partial demolition	£18,117.64
Stonepit	Belgrave	Yellow	Repair	£1,724.00
Kennet 2	Belgrave	Green	Repair	£2,160.00
Hayle 2	Belgrave	Yellow	Repair	£5,388.42
Hayle 3	Belgrave	Red	Demolish	£26,482.50
Hamble	Belgrave	Red	Demolish and repair	£34,655.50
Irwell 2	Belgrave	Red	Demolish and repair	£12,563.85

Lomita Crescent	Belgrave		Demolish and repair	£30,815.90
Thurne	Belgrave		Demolish and repair	£14,355.11
Waveney	Belgrave		Demolish and repair	£12,403.67
Browning Close 1	Mercian		Repair	£14,682.78
Browning Close 2	Mercian		Repair	£5,816.72
Bloomfield Way	Mercian		Repair	£6,019.56
Keats Close	Mercian		Demolish, replace, repair	£52,432.51
Kipling Rise	Mercian		Repair	£3,313.63
Longfellow Walk	Mercian		Demolish	£9,027.50
Elizabeth Drive 1	Mercian		Demolish and replace	£46,997.50
Elizabeth Drive 2	Mercian		Demolish and repair	£32,731.88
Elizabeth Drive 3	Mercian		Demolish and repair	£27,701.60
Shakespeare Close	Mercian		Demolish and replace	£51,312.50
Dryden Road 1	Mercian		Repair	£4,948.60

Dryden Road 2	Mercian		Repair	£16,324.89
Chesterton Way	Mercian		Repair	£3,338.86
Caledonian 1	Glascote		Demolish	£44,137.50
Caledonian 2	Glascote		Demolish and repair	£24,552.22
Tudor Crescent 2	Glascote		Demolish and retain	£52,655.62
Bamford Street 1 & 2	Glascote		Repair	£1,440.00
Chapelon	Glascote		Repair	£24,830.60
Dunedin 1	Glascote		Demolish and replace	£61,592.50
Quince	Amington		Repair	£21,220.74
Madrona	Amington		Repair	£18,631.41
Nemesia	Amington		Repair	£16,587.84
Saffron	Amington		Repair	£15,766.62
Spruce	Amington		Repair	£11,283.00

Sorbus	Amington	Yellow	Repair	£7,808.46
Hawthorne Avenue	Spital	Red	Demolish and repair	£93,589.48
Stevenson Road	Spital	Red	Demolish and replace	£63,167.50
Balfour	Castle	Yellow	Repair	£12,377.11
Orchard Street	Castle	Red	Demolish and replace	£70,505.00
Parkfield	Castle	Red	Demolish and repair	£68,852.82
Arden Close	Bolehall	Red	Repair	£3,186.26
Ferrers	Bolehall	Red	Demolish	£45,262.50
Kilbye Close	Wilnecote	Red	Demolish and replace	£22,227.50
Hockley Road	Wilnecote	Yellow	Repair	£10,624.36
Beauchamp Road	Wilnecote	Red	Demolish	£79,187.16
New Road	Wilnecote	Yellow	Repair	£3,238.60
Kimberley	Wilnecote	Red	Demolish and replace	£26,400.00
Brook Avenue	Wilnecote	Red	Demolish	£28,200.00
Greenhill Close	Trinity	Red	Repair	£11,807.83

£1,296,639.01

SITES IDENTIFIED FOR PARKING FOLLOWING

Site Address	Ward	Condition	Proposal	Cost
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Smithy Lane		Requires Survey	Requires detailed survey	£	28,607.00
Browning Close		Requires Survey	Requires detailed survey	£	26,100.00
Neville Street (B77 2BD)		Requires Survey	Requires detailed survey	£	18,957.00
Tarrant		Requires Survey	Requires detailed survey	£	33,683.00
Wandsbeck		Requires Survey	Requires detailed survey	£	51,419.00
Medway		Requires Survey	Requires detailed survey	£	36,253.00
Orchard Close		Requires Survey	Requires detailed survey	£	378.00
Lower Park		Requires Survey	Requires detailed survey	£	13,378.00

£ 208,775.00

Notes	Options	Option Costs	Occupancy
Possible installation of folding/locking bollards to generate income from spaces. Garages already demolished	EV Charging points and folding bollards to allow for income generation.	£6,000	N/A
Possible installation of folding/locking bollards to generate income from spaces. Garages already demolished	EV Charging points and folding bollards to allow for income generation.	£6,000	N/A
Remove three garages, repair and retain remainder	EV Charging points and folding bollards to allow for income generation.	£6,000	57%
Remove four garages, repair and retain remainder	EV Charging points and folding bollards to allow for income generation.	£6,000	50%
Possible installation of folding/locking bollards to generate income from spaces. Garages already demolished	EV Charging points and folding bollards to allow for income generation.	£6,000	N/A
Possible installation of folding/locking bollards to generate income from spaces. Garages already demolished	EV Charging points and folding bollards to allow for income generation.	£6,000	N/A
Structurally sound but in need of roofing and doors. Repair considered to be more cost effective than renewal			20%
Extremeney poor condition and low occupancy rates meaning demolition likely to be most cost effective solution.	EV Charging points and folding bollards to allow for income generation.	£6,000	22%
One site to be demolished for open parking. Other site to be repaired. Occupancy at aprox. 40% but local residents indicate that parking is needed.	EV Charging points and folding bollards to allow for income generation on demolished part of site	£6,000	40%
Remove three garages, repair and retain remainder	EV Charging points and folding bollards to allow for income generation.	£6,000	33%

Demolish block of 5 garages and repair remaining. Occupancy is currently low	EV Charging points and folding bollards to allow for income generation.	£6,000	46%
Demolish block of 2 garages and repair remaining. Occupancy is currently low and conditions poor.	EV Charging points and folding bollards to allow for income generation.	£6,000	33%
Demolish one block and retain other due to low occupancy levels and condition	EV Charging points and folding bollards to allow for income generation.	£6,000	33%
Garages in reasonable condition and relatively high occupancy so repair and retain			64%
High occupancy and reasonable condition			100%
High occupancy and reasonable condition			85%
Demolish one block and replace with reduced number of new garages with retention of remaining block			59%
High occupancy and reasonable condition			100%
Demolish and create open parking. Poor condition and low demand	EV Charging points and folding bollards to allow for income generation.	£6,000	33%
Demolish existing garages and create mix of new garages and open parking to reflect occupancy rates	EV Charging points and folding bollards to allow for income generation.	£6,000	21%
Demolish one block due to condition. Create open plan parking area on remaining to reflect occupancy levels	EV Charging points and folding bollards to allow for income generation.	£6,000	40%
Demolish one block due to condition. Create open plan parking area on remaining to reflect occupancy levels	EV Charging points and folding bollards to allow for income generation.	£6,000	43%
Demolish existing garages and create mix of new garages and open parking to reflect occupancy rates	EV Charging points and folding bollards to allow for income generation.	£6,000	50%
Generally good condition. Repair and retain.			75%

Reasonable condition and reasonable occupancy rates.			63%
Reasonable condition and reasonable occupancy rates.			78%
Demolish and create open parking. Poor condition and low demand	EV Charging points and folding bollards to allow for income generation.	£6,000	13%
Demolish one block due to condition. Create open plan parking area on remaining to reflect occupancy levels	EV Charging points and folding bollards to allow for income generation.	£6,000	50%
Link with other parking area in Tudor Crescent and Cannng Road with a view to developing site. [Move into Options Appraisal Project]	EV Charging points and folding bollards to allow for income generation.	£6,000	50%
Possible installation of folding/locking bollards to generate income from spaces. Garages already demolished	Install EV Charging points	£6,000	N/A
Garages in reasonable condition and relatively high occupancy so repair and retain			81%
Demolish one block due to condition. Create open plan parking area on remaining to reflect occupancy levels	EV Charging points and folding bollards to allow for income generation.	£6,000	41%
Garages in reasonable condition and relatively high occupancy so repair and retain			63%
Garages in reasonable condition and relatively high occupancy so repair and retain			60%
Garages in reasonable condition and relatively high occupancy so repair and retain			90%
Garages in reasonable condition and relatively high occupancy so repair and retain			70%
Garages in reasonable condition and relatively high occupancy so repair and retain			57%

Garages in reasonable condition and relatively high occupancy so repair and retain			87.50%
Demolish and rebuild all garage blocks.			18%
Demolish garages and replace with 7 new garages			38%
Garages in reasonable condition and reasonable occupancy so repair and retain			54%
Demolish all garages and provide 12 new garages in 2 blocks			55%
Demolish and rebuild all garage blocks.			38%
Retain and repair due to small scale and occupancy			100%
Demolish both sites due to condition and create open parking area	EV Charging points and folding bollards to allow for income generation.	£6,000	0%
Demolish garages and replace with 3 new garages, remaining area for open parking	EV Charging points and folding bollards to allow for income generation.	£6,000	33%
Retain and repair garages.			50%
Demolish and rebuild all garage blocks.	EV Charging points and folding bollards to allow for income generation.	£6,000	55%
Retain and Repair garages due to condition.			33%
Demolish and replace with 6 new garages			66%
Demolish and replace with 6 new garages			57%
Retain and Repair garages			85%

3 OPTIONS APPRAISAL

Notes	Options	Option Costs	Occupancy
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Requires Detailed Survey	TBA	TBA	
Requires Detailed Survey	TBA	TBA	
Requires Detailed Survey	TBA	TBA	
Requires Detailed Survey	TBA	TBA	
Requires Detailed Survey	TBA	TBA	
Requires Detailed Survey	TBA	TBA	
Requires Detailed Survey	TBA	TBA	
Requires Detailed Survey	TBA	TBA	

GARAGE SITES OPTIONS APPRAISALS

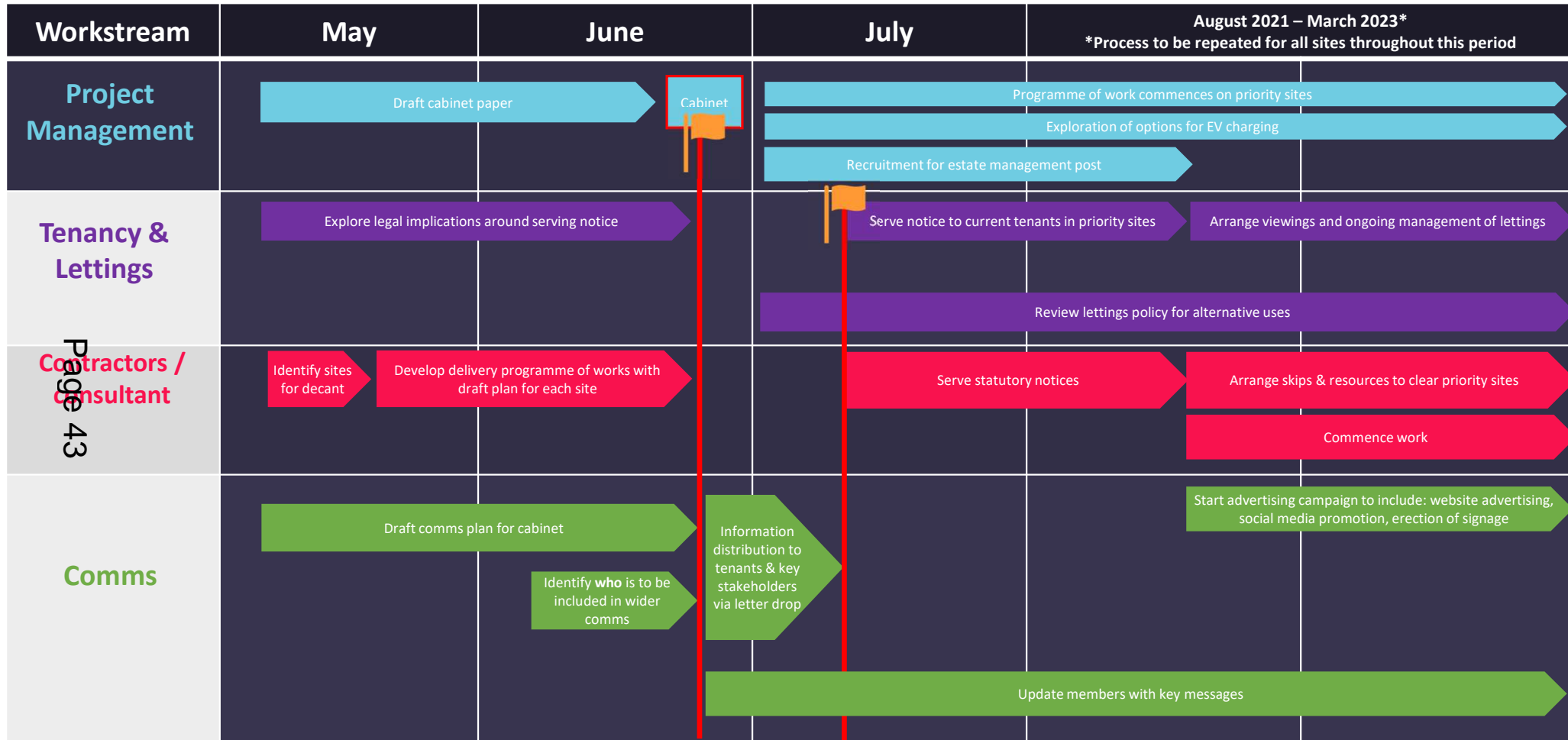
Site Adress			Residential Disposal	Commerical Disposal
Tudor Cresent			£ 85,050.00	£ 21,060.00
Smithy Lane			£ 93,450.00	£ 23,140.00
Sutton Avenue			£ 433,440.00	£ 107,328.00
Browning Close			£ 85,050.00	£ 21,060.00
Borough Road			£ 161,490.00	£ 39,988.00
Neville Street			£ 93,450.00	£ 23,140.00
Canning Road			£ 110,460.00	£ 27,352.00
Wordsworth Avenue			£ 195,510.00	£ 48,412.00
Tarrant			£ 110,460.00	£ 27,352.00
Wandsbeck			£ 169,980.00	£ 42,068.00
Medway			£ 119,070.00	£ 29,484.00

Hilltop Avenue			£ 186,900.00	£ 46,280.00
Orchard Close			£ 93,450.00	£ 23,140.00
Monks Way			£ 110,460.00	£ 27,352.00
Colbourne Road			£ 85,050.00	£ 21,060.00
Lower Park			£ 42,420.00	£ 10,504.00
Chestnut Avenue			£ 271,950.00	£ 67,340.00
Monks Way 1			N/A	N/A

Parking	Clearance		Recomendation
£ 26,100.00	£ 8,846.00		Aggregate with Canning Road for potential residential development.
£ 28,607.00	£ 16,888.00		The recommendation for this site is parking due to location and surroundings.
£ 130,070.00	£ 14,476.00		The recommendation for this is residential development.
£ 26,100.00	£ 9,650.00		The recommendation for this site is parking due to location and surroundings.
£ 48,912.00	£ 15,280.00		Small mixed development of residential and commercial
£ 18,957.00	£ -		The recommendation for this site is parking due to location and surroundings.
£ 719.00	£ -		Aggregate with Tudor Crescent for potential residential development.
£ 59,065.00	£ 20,909.00		Business storage units
£ 33,683.00	£ 6,434.00		The recommendation for this site is parking due to location and surroundings
£ 51,419.00	£ 7,238.00		The recommendation for this site is parking due to location and surroundings
£ 36,253.00	£ 6,434.00		The recommendation for this site is parking due to location and surroundings.

£	56,495.00	£	17,692.00		Play Area
£	378.00	£	-		The recommendation for this site is parking due to location and surroundings.
£	33,683.00	£	8,846.00		Disposal to provide parking to commercial premises
£	41,329.00	£	-		Disposal on open market
£	13,378.00	£	5,629.00		The recommendation for this site is parking due to location and surroundings.
£	81,876.00	£	30,560.00		Mixed use residential and commercial
	£3,248	N/A			Identified for use in conjunction with GP surgery to expand capacity and/or provide parking

Timeline



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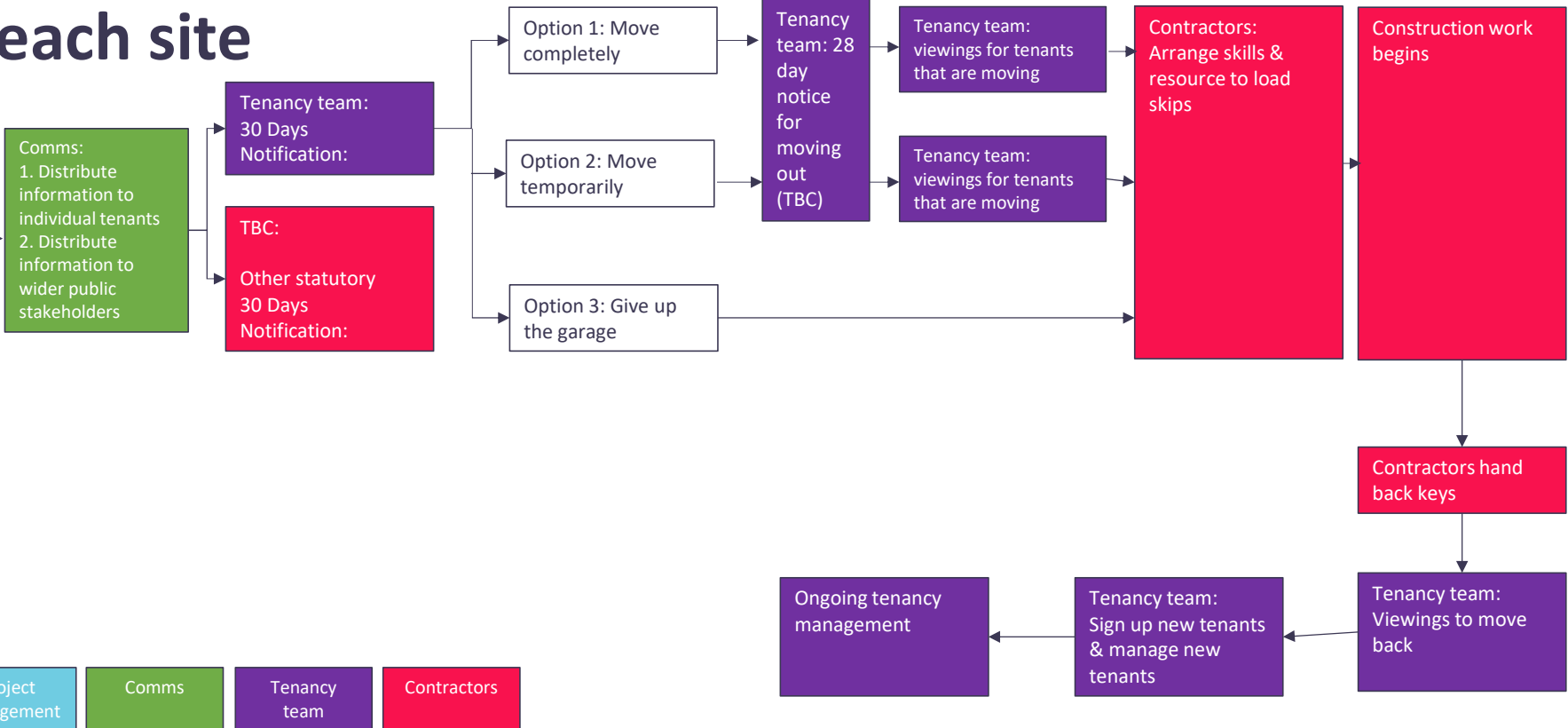
Site Level Process

- for each site

Comms activity will be throughout process

Identify which sites are for decant

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Key:



CABINET

THURSDAY 17TH JUNE 2021

REPORT OF THE PORTOFOLI HOLDER COMMUNITY SAFETY AND REGULATORY SERVICES

TAMWORTH COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP PLAN 2020-2023 (2021 ANNUAL REFRESH)

EXEMPT INFORMATION

None

PURPOSE

To endorse the annual refresh of the Tamworth Community Safety Partnership Plan

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Members

1. Consider and endorse the Tamworth Community Safety Plan 2021 Refresh

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Tamworth Community Safety plan 2020-2023 is a three year rolling plan which outlines how partners are going to collectively tackle community safety issues in the Tamworth borough. The 2021 refresh highlights what has been achieved against the outcomes set in the previous year and to outline priorities moving forward identified in the Community Safety Strategic assessment

The coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has had an unprecedented impact on the lives of everyone. The virus and measures to control rates of infection (such as the national lockdowns, systems to limit social contact, and the temporary closure of education settings) have had a significant impact on many; directly affecting individual's physical health, mental health and well-being, education and employment.

The combined impact of reduced contact with the public, significant limitations on travel and social contact, the closure and strict restrictions in public spaces and recreational spaces, is that services have seen unprecedented shifts in demand.

As a result, the data in this year's annual Community Safety Strategic Assessment

refresh report, is highly irregular, and that observations and analysis should be considered in the context of the coronavirus pandemic and its impact on 'normal' day-to-day life. Restrictions imposed as part of the government approach to controlling the Coronavirus pandemic have resulted in significant reductions in recorded crime and disorder from mid-March 2020 onwards

It is felt, however, that all priorities are relevant and proportionate as the borough continues to emerge from the pandemic and all require a robust multi-agency response in order to have a positive impact on people's quality of life.

The 2021 Community Safety refresh plan is attached as Appendix 1.

The plan was considered by the Infrastructure, Safety and Growth Scrutiny Committee on 25th March 2021 and has been recommended for endorsement by Cabinet prior to publication on Tamworth Borough Council webpage.

Tamworth Borough Council is the lead partner, but the plan is agreed by all key statutory and voluntary partners and Partnership continues to work together to reduce crime and ASB to improve public perception, wellbeing and community safety in Tamworth.

2020 Achievements and Challenges

- The Covid response has seen an unprecedented and positive partnership approach to vulnerable people in our communities
- There has been a rise in referrals for Domestic Abuse to support agencies which will remain a high priority for all County partners
- Significant reduction in ASB, countered by a rise in demand on noise complaint and neighbour disputes as a result of lockdown
- There is concern around the impact on mental health as a result of the pandemic
- There has been a fall in serious violence and crime overall during 2020/21

2021-2022 Priorities

Using partnership data and the updated Tamworth Community Safety Strategic Assessment 2020, the following key partnership priorities have been identified (listed in alphabetical order):

- **Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)**
- **Car Key Burglary and Vehicle Theft**
- **Community Cohesion and Tackling Extremism (NEW)**
- **County Lines**
- **Domestic Abuse and Stalking & Harassment**
- **Public Place and Serious Violence (including Knife Crime)**
- **Vulnerable Persons and Contextual Safeguarding (including Drugs, Alcohol and Mental Health)**

The Community Safety Plan will be continue to be overseen by the Tamworth Partnership Coordination Group. Scrutiny will remain with the IS&G committee on matters of community safety.

All work streams will have a robust work plan which is being developed following the COVID-19 emergency with a number of underlying principles to ensure that we embed our approach to delivery of the plan:-

- Prevention wherever possible
- Early intervention
- Targeting prolific offenders
- Targeting resources to hotspot areas
- Supporting victims
- Increasing public confidence

Through early intervention the Community SP will prevent issues escalating, reducing harm to individuals and ensuring that they receive help and support as early as possible.

Locality Deal Funding

The Staffordshire Commissioners Office has committed £64,143.75 for projects in 2021/22 aligned to priorities and the Partnership.

A agreed spend plan is currently being considered to include:

- Support for the ongoing voluntary sector befriending service
- Funding to support deployable CCTV equipment (in conjunction with the West Midlands Combined Authority shared service agreement)
- Support for the county wide Hate Crime Service
- Contribution to ASB mediation services
- Support to wider mental health services
- Promotional and community events awareness campaign
- Support for volunteering

OPTIONS CONSIDERED

None – the CS Plan is required under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Plan will be delivered within existing partnership officer, neighbourhood's team, environmental team and other statutory partner resource.

Funding sources are primarily through the Locality Deal Fund

LEGAL/RISK IMPLICATIONS BACKGROUND

All legal risks covered by legislation and agreed process

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

To be reviewed on a quarterly basis by the Partnership Coordination Group and by annual assessment

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 changed the way crime and anti-social behaviour were to be tackled. It recognised that in order to be effective, agencies needed to work together to address the issues collectively. Each local area formed a Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) which are now called Community Safety Partnerships.

A comprehensive Community Safety Strategic Assessment is undertaken in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent every three years and an annual update is undertaken in the remaining two years. Additionally this process is undertaken in each district / borough Authority.

Data from a wide range of sources was analysed to show how the CSP compares with other areas for the priority crime types and how volumes and rates have changed over time and how they vary by ward. Information from research was used to describe any notable risk factors and victim and offender characteristics as well as approaches to partnership working.

REPORT AUTHOR

Jo Sands, Assistant Director - Partnerships

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

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Appendix 1 – Tamworth Community Safety Plan 2020-23 (2021 REFRESH)

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Tamworth Community Safety Partnership Plan 2020-2023

Update 2021

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1. INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Tamworth Community Safety Partnership Strategy 2020 – 2023 **(2021 Refresh)** . This document is a three year rolling plan which outlines how we are going to collectively tackle community safety issues in the Tamworth borough, how we have achieved against the outcomes set in the previous years and what we will prioritise this year.

All the priorities require a robust multi-agency response, but because they are important for residents and communities, achieving them will have a positive impact on people's quality of life.

The Partnership continues to work together to reduce crime and ASB to improve public perception, wellbeing and community safety in Tamworth

This plan is the annual update 2021 recognising the significant impact on our communities of the COVID-19 pandemic .

2. BACKGROUND

The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 changed the way crime and anti-social behaviour were to be tackled. It recognised that in order to be effective, agencies needed to work together to address the issues collectively. Each local area formed a Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) which are now called Community Safety Partnerships.

A comprehensive Community Safety Strategic Assessment is undertaken in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent every three years and an annual update is undertaken in the remaining two years. Additionally this process is undertaken in each district / borough Authority.

As a result of the Covid pandemic, the data in the 2020 annual Community Safety Strategic Assessment refresh report is highly irregular, and that observations and analysis should be considered in the context of the coronavirus pandemic and its impact on 'normal' day-to-day life. Restrictions imposed as part of the government approach to controlling the Coronavirus pandemic have resulted in significant reductions in recorded crime and disorder from mid-March 2020 onwards

The full Strategic Assessment methodology includes the use of a risk scoring matrix called MoRiLE (a technique for Managing Risk in Law Enforcement that ranks crime and disorder issues based on threat risk and harm to individuals, communities and organisations) It differs in that it ranks priorities/themes based on threat risk and harm as opposed to relying mainly on volume of crime figures.

Data from a wide range of sources was analysed to show how the CSP compares with other areas for the priority crime types and how volumes and rates have changed over time and how they vary by ward. Information from research was used to describe any notable risk factors and victim and offender characteristics as well as approaches to partnership working.

The priorities are then ranked against a number of factors, including volume, trend over time, residents' perceptions and how much it was felt that the partnership can influence. This was then reviewed by our stakeholders and finally the top ranked priorities were analysed in depth, to help guide practitioners in formulating actions that they feel will have an impact on each priority

The Tamworth Community Safety Partnership is made up of Responsible Authorities (those bodies for whom membership of the CSP is a statutory obligation) and voluntary members.

Our statutory partners are:

- Tamworth Borough Council
- Staffordshire County Council
- Staffordshire Police
- Staffordshire Commissioners Office
- Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service (FARS)
- National Probation Service
- Staffordshire & West Midlands Community Rehabilitation Company
- South East Staffs and Seisdon Peninsula Clinical Commissioning Group – Primary Care Network
- Midlands Partnership NHS Foundation Trust
- Support Staffordshire
- SCVYS

In addition to our statutory partners we also work with a large number of voluntary and private sector partners as well as community groups to collectively implement and deliver initiatives that will help keep the Tamworth borough a safe place to live, work and visit.

3. Achievements in 2020

3.1. Anti-Social Behaviour

- A programme of positive all year round diversionary activities with Sporting Communities funded in partnership through the Locality Deal Fund and Building Resilient Families and Communities (BRFC), Earned Autonomy Funding continued with limited face to face activity as restrictions permitted and move to online provision
- Renewal of Borough Wide Dog Control and Alcohol Restriction Public Space Protection Order (PSPO)
- Workshops delivered online to schools in conjunction with Fire And Rescue Service Safe and Sound programme around internet safety and bullying*
- Summer holiday positive diversionary activities (Covid restricted) delivered 14,000 hours of activities through the Staffordshire Commissioners Office [Space](#) summer activity diversionary
- The Noise App introduced for reporting of neighbour noise concerns

Lead Partners: Tamworth Borough Council/Staffordshire Police

**Face to face school sessions postponed at this time*

**Direction of travel: Steady reduction in Reported ASB(-9%) to the Tamworth Policing Team over 12 months ending December 2020
Reports to the Council remain consistent with small rise in noise complaints (Covid related)**

3.2. Burglaries (Car Key)

- Ongoing Police partnership work across forces with significant arrests and progress made

**Direction of travel: Reduction in domestic related crime ALL
of -1% to January 2021
(1,171 from 1,180)**

3.3. County Lines

- The Sapling Project commissioned and developing (BRFC funded with additional support from LDF) to support young people 7-12 years at risk of exclusion
- The Vulnerable Adolescent Support Programme commissioned to work with young people at risk of criminal exploitation by Staffs CC
- Multi Agency Child Exploitation (MACE) panels established with Staffs CC
- Police Actions to identify risk areas and young people through the Inspire to Change programme Ongoing actions as part of patrol strategies

Lead Partner: Staffordshire Police/Staffordshire County Council

Direction of travel: Significant work continues across all partners to reduce the risk of criminal exploitation in Tamworth through early intervention

3.4. Domestic Abuse, Stalking and Harassment

- Ongoing development of the Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) meetings reducing risk of domestic homicide and protecting the most vulnerable
- Continued development of work with NEW ERA for Independent Domestic Violence Advisors and Early Intervention Services county wide (funded through the Staffordshire Commissioner and Staffordshire County Council)
- Promotion and support for domestic abuse campaigns with partners
- Work with Staffordshire County Council to secure funding arrangements for safe accommodation in Tamworth and Lichfield to ensure compliance under the provisions of the forthcoming Domestic Abuse Act – Funding of £196,000 secured
- Ongoing Police work to ensure service of Domestic Violence Prevention Notices for perpetrators and ensure safeguarding of victims

Lead Partner: Staffordshire Police/Staffordshire County Council

**Direction of travel: Small increase in Police Reported Domestic Abuse (+6%) over
12 months ending December 2020**

Increase in referral to Support Services by 33%

3.5. Violence – Public Place

- Ongoing development of Tamworth Borough Council CCTV under shared agreement with West Midlands Combined Authority
- Police link established at Burton Police Station
- Successful partnership response to Black Lives Matter protests
- Ongoing work to identify drug activity and offenders with significant progress made

Lead Partner: Staffordshire Police

Direction of travel: As a result of the Covid pandemic Public Space Violence has declined in Tamworth (-48%) to February 2021 (344 incidents down from 656)

All Crime – reduction by 22% to February 2021

3.6. Vulnerable Persons and Contextual Safeguarding (inc Drugs)

- Ongoing development of Tamworth daily vulnerability and weekly vulnerability multi-agency partnership meetings to co-ordinate approach and problem solving for identified vulnerable people with 85 cases discussed since April 2020
- Development of the Tamworth Volunteer Partnership group to respond to the pandemic supported by all partners resulting in a £100,000 National lottery grant to provide Covid Support
- Befriending service established for vulnerable people in Tamworth in partnership with Community Together CIC
- Support for our most vulnerable tenants during the pandemic
- Ongoing work to ensure the all homeless people were housed during the pandemic and work with Heart of Tamworth and the Starfish project to extend support during the pandemic
- Retention on Dementia Friendly Community Status
- Delivery of £9000 worth of Councillor Community grants in Tamworth for a range of projects
- Ongoing support for the Tamworth Advice Centre generalist advice and debt service who moved support on-line
- Commissioning of Communities Against Crimes of Hate to support people affected by hate crime
- Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service Safe and Well Checks on vulnerable people continued (where Covid guidelines permitted)

Lead Partners: Tamworth Borough Council/Staffordshire County Council/Staffordshire Fire and Rescue

Direction of travel: Emerging themes from the Covid pandemic indicate concerns around social isolation, financial strain and mental health

4. PRIORITIES 2020-23

UPDATE 2021

Our priorities (alphabetically listed below) have been identified from the following strategic sources which should be read in conjunction with this document:-

- [Community Safety Strategic Assessment 2020](#)
- Staffordshire County Council [Early Help Strategy](#)
- Staffordshire Commissioner's Office [Safer Fairer United Communities 2017-20](#)
- Staffordshire County Council Community Safety Agreement

Each priority has equal importance to the Partnership and will be overseen by a strategic lead who will be responsible for developing the CSP's response for their priority area, developing delivery plans, working with other priority leads on cross-cutting areas of work and monitoring performance against outcomes.

To reduce levels of crime and improve community safety in Tamworth the partnership must target efforts in a holistic way to those who suffer most inequality and who demonstrate the highest levels of vulnerability or threat.

The Partnership continues to be funded through the Staffordshire Commissioner's Office (Police, Fire and Rescue, Crime) Locality Deal Fund. Commitment for 2021/22 is £64,143.75.

The Partnerships Co-ordination Group will be responsible for monitoring the emerging issues and the delivery of actions. The plan will also be reviewed and updated on an annual basis.

Further funding streams are available for statutory and volunteer organisations and the Partnership will actively encourage and support bids which meet priority outcomes.

The Partnership Co-ordination Group has the responsibility for developing and delivering the tactical aspects of the plan.

Outcomes against the plan will be reported to the Tamworth Strategic Partnership Board by the Assistant Director Partnerships and Tamworth Police Chief Inspector.

The Tamworth Borough Council Chief Executive Officer will act as Chair of the Community Safety Partnership and the Infrastructure Safety and Growth Scrutiny Committee will oversee scrutiny of the plan.

Public Consultation*

[Feeling the Difference](#) is a long standing public opinion survey giving residents of Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent an opportunity to give their views on their local area as a place to live, their safety and wellbeing, policing and other local services.

A high proportion of residents are satisfied with Tamworth as an area to live (93%) and the large majority are satisfied with their quality of life (92%). Around half (46%) of residents appear to be satisfied with the level of police presence in the local area, while overall feelings of safety in Tamworth are high; local residents report that they feel very safe in Tamworth during the day (98%) and the very large majority also feel safe after dark (85%)

***Tamworth Borough Council has established a programme of Citizens engagement in February 2021**

Agreed priorities (listed alphabetically):-

Tamworth Community Safety Partnership Priorities 2021

Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)
Car Key Burglary and Vehicle Theft
Community Cohesion and Tackling Extremism (NEW)
County Lines
Domestic Abuse and Stalking & Harassment
Public Place and Serious Violence (including Knife Crime)
Vulnerable Persons and Contextual Safeguarding (including Drugs, Alcohol and Mental Health)

Analysis of the data shows that priorities are often inter-related and all partners will continue to develop and share priority data sets that will help to inform Community Safety, Early Help and Placed Based Approach action plans.

The Community Safety Strategic Assessment also recommended the following areas for ongoing consideration within the priority areas:-

- Repeat and Persistent Offending
- Modern Slavery
- Fire and Risk of Fire
- Business Crime

There is a need for this plan to be a flexible and dynamic document. We will use real-time data to re-assess the proposed actions and complete the measures of success column, this will enable us to be focused on the most pressing issues and ensure we can set achievable targets that make the required impact. These will be set by partners forming specific working groups and producing tactical plans to agree the way forward.

4.1 Anti Social Behaviour ¹

- Provide consistent multi-agency approach to the identification and support of vulnerable and repeat victims of ASB
- Promote, arrange and support positive diversionary activity for young people
- Take a partnership approach to the use of appropriate enforcement powers
- Support and develop partnership targeted seasonal education and awareness campaigns
- Engage fully in county wide strategies, policies and working groups enabling better outcomes for the communities of Tamworth
- Support initiatives to tackle school absence and ASB

¹ People, Nuisance, Environmental

4.2 Car Burglary and Vehicle Theft

- Support and develop partnership targeted education, awareness and crime reduction campaigns
- Work in partnership to identify perpetrators and disrupt activity

4.3 Community Cohesion and Tackling Extremism²

- Engage fully in development of county wide strategies and policies
- Promote awareness of hate crime
- Support voluntary and other community groups responding to Covid recovery
- Continue to respond to community issues promoting or condoning any extremist ideology³

4.4 County Lines

- Support and develop partnership targeted education, awareness and crime reduction campaigns
- Develop support in partnership for vulnerable young people through schools and colleges
- Develop links and projects County wide services to identify young people at risk of criminal exploitation

4.5 Domestic Abuse and Stalking & Harassment

- Support and develop partnership targeted education and awareness campaigns
- Support commissioned Domestic Abuse support services and identify additional funding opportunities (to include COVID-19 recovery) where appropriate
- Support and develop the local MARAC process to reduce risk for victims and families
- Engage fully in county wide strategies, policies and working groups enabling better outcomes for the communities of Tamworth (with due regard to Domestic Abuse bill 2020)

4.6 Public Place Violence (including Knife Crime)

- Promote and engage communities to report crime issues of concern via all appropriate channels
- Support and develop partnership targeted education, awareness and crime reduction campaigns
- Provide consistent multi-agency approach to the identification and support of vulnerable and repeat victims of crime
- Engage fully in county wide strategies, policies and working groups enabling better outcomes for the communities of Tamworth
- Reduced placement of vulnerable people into sensitive locations through development of the Tamworth Vulnerability Partnership

4.7 Vulnerable Persons and Contextual Safeguarding (including Drugs, Alcohol and Mental Health)

- Use a partnership approach to ensure vulnerable children, families and adults are identified at the earliest opportunity

² Priority moved up from Additional Challenge to become strategic priority

³ Includes right wing and islamophobic ideology

- Support and engage with the the Staffordshire Building Resilient Families and Communities (BRFC/Troubled Families) Outcomes Planning Tamworth around priority areas for children and families
- Support and develop a partnership approach to countywide and national strategies around vulnerable people, mental health and contextual safeguarding
- Promote and develop links with relevant preventative and treatment providers
- Support and assist voluntary and other community groups to identify commissioning and funding opportunities to develop resilient communities (including Covid-19 recovery)

5. Links to other strategies

[Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent Domestic Abuse Strategy 2021-24](#)

[Police and Crime Plan](#)

[Staffordshire Managing Offenders 2018-21](#)

[Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Plan](#)

[Staffordshire Families Strategic Partnership 2018-2028](#)

6. Underlying Principles

The identified priorities will have a number of underlying principles to ensure that we embed our approach to delivery of the strategy.:

- Prevention wherever possible
- Early intervention
- Targeting prolific offenders
- Targeting resources to hotspot areas
- Supporting victims
- Increasing public confidence

Through early intervention the CSP will prevent issues escalating, reducing harm to individuals and ensuring that they receive help and support as early as possible.

It is also important to recognise the theme of serious and organised criminality that runs through all these priorities, as well as the work that has been and will continue to be done to develop the partnership response to this.

7. How we will deliver

In order to measure success, the CSP will develop operational plans and performance indicators for each priority and monitor on a regular basis. Priority leads will report on progress to the Tamworth Strategic Partnership and publicly through the Council's Infrastructure Safety and Growth Scrutiny Committee.

The strategy is refreshed annually through reviewing information set out in the Community Safety Strategic Assessment which ensures that current issues are taken into account and used to direct the CSP's strategy and actions to ensure that it remains current and reactive to emerging threats.

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Community Safety Strategic Assessment Annual Refresh Report

Tamworth

2020

Produced on behalf of



and



Working in partnership with



Title	Tamworth Community Safety Partnership: Community Safety Strategic Assessment Refresh Report (2020)
Description	This Community Safety Strategic Assessment provides evidence and intelligence to inform the strategic decision-making process - helping commissioners and partners to determine the priorities that require particular attention in their local area.
Date created	Draft – December 2020
Produced by	Strategy Team, Staffordshire County Council
Contact	Stuart Nicholls (Research Lead) Strategy Team, Staffordshire County Council Tel: 01785 408209 Email: stuart.nicholls@staffordshire.gov.uk
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Introduction and Context

Under the Police and Justice Act 2006 (England & Wales) local authorities are duty-bound to 'provide evidence-based data to support Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) in their planning and duties'.

Evidence-based data is required to relate to crime and disorder taking place within the local area, which includes; Recorded crime, Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB), Alcohol, Drug and Substance misuse.

It is a statutory obligation for Community Safety Partnerships to produce or procure an annual localised Strategic Assessment (SA), providing a strategic evidence base that identifies future priorities for the partnership and evaluates year on year activity. The approach and format of these is not prescribed by legislation.

SAs should be used to underpin a local area Community Safety Plan which is made publicly available through the partnership's and Commissioner's Office websites by 1st April each year. In Staffordshire agreement has been reached that Community Safety Plans will be produced three yearly and refreshed annually in line with the SA.

This SA (2020-21) is being produced as an annual refresh of the full three yearly assessment, produced last year.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic

The coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has had a considerable and unprecedented impact on the lives of everyone in the UK, including those in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent.

At the time of this report, latest data¹ shows that over 1,400 people in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent have lost their lives as a result of COVID-19, with Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent currently (as at 2nd December 2020) in the highest tier of government restrictions, due to rates of infection which are above the national level.

The virus and measures to control rates of infection (such as the national lockdowns, systems to limit social contact, and the temporary closure of education settings) have had a significant impact on many; directly affecting individual's physical health, mental health and well-being, education, and employment.

A survey of local residents (n=3,921) carried out by Staffordshire County Council² highlights that more than 3-out-of-5 people (63%) felt that the pandemic has had a negative impact on their life overall – with those with a disability or limiting illness, and those who have been furloughed, having experienced even greater negative impact.

The pandemic has also had a significant impact on how front line services have operated; including protective measures for front line staff through use of personal protective equipment (PPE) and limiting non-essential face to face contact with the public and service users, and with other professionals.

The combined impact of reduced contact with the public, significant limitations on travel and social contact, and closure and strict restrictions in public spaces and recreational spaces, is that almost all services have seen unprecedented shifts in demand. As a result, in approaching this year's annual CSSA Refresh report we must consider that data for the year is highly irregular, and that observations and analysis should be considered in the context of the coronavirus pandemic and its impact on 'normal' day-to-day life.

Rather than focus on Covid-19 within this assessment as a single specific priority or risk to community safety, the impact of the pandemic has been considered and discussed as a factor in each individual priority theme, wherever it is relevant.

¹ Office of National Statistics (ONS) Death registrations and occurrences by local authority (Week 47 – ending 20th November 2020)

² <https://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/Coronavirus/Covid-19-residents-survey-results.aspx>

Key findings and comparison to previous (2019) assessment

Significant overall changes and findings

Restrictions imposed as part of the government approach to controlling the Coronavirus pandemic have resulted in significant reductions in recorded crime and disorder from mid-March 2020 onwards. This is particularly the case with regards to crime, disorder and ASB taking place in public places.

The data for the period from April 2019 to March 2020 has shown limited significant change in most types of crime since the last assessment, and in the time leading up to the first UK lockdown in March 2020.

Across most major crime types, crime in Tamworth remains statistically similar to England & Wales, with the exception of Burglary and Public Order offences – where rates are significantly lower. However, compared to the force-area, rates of Theft offences, and particularly Vehicle Theft offences are above the Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent rate – although not above rates for England & Wales.

Average increases in overall crime observed across all Safety Partnership areas nationally (+2%) have not been seen in the Tamworth Safety Partnership area, with crime falling by 6% in 2019-20.

There have been no increases in any major crime type in Tamworth between 2018-19 and 2019-20 and some notable reductions; Burglary offences reduced significantly (-25%) as have Violence with Injury (-13%) and Violence without Injury offences (-10%). Stalking and Harassment offences have increased by 6%, however this is compared to a national increase of +21% across England & Wales overall.

There has been no significant shift in the composition of any of Safety Partnership area in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent, and demographic analysis of Tamworth within the previous (2019) Strategic Assessment remains relevant.

Key changes against priorities

Community Cohesion & Tackling Extremism

- This priority replaces two pre-existing priorities around *Community Cohesion & Hate Crime* and *Counter Terror/Prevent* – with the two merged together and renewed focus on Community Cohesion.
- This priority has been moved up from *Additional Challenges* to become a *Strategic Priority*.
- This merge is taking place in the wake of Brexit, as well as in response to increases in Right Wing extremism, and tension in some communities resulting from breaches of COVID guidance and legislation.
- Since the time of the last report the UK terror threat level has been increased from 'Substantial' to 'Severe' – the second highest threat level, following terror attacks in 2020 in mainland Europe.

Domestic Abuse

- In the 12 months to November 2020 domestic-related crimes increased in Tamworth (compared to the previous 12 months) by around 6%, compared to a 0% change across the force-area. This is the second largest increase in the force-area (after Stafford, +9%).
- In both July and October 2020 the number of domestic-flagged crimes recorded in Tamworth exceeded the upper limit of what is considered normal for the Partnership area.

Public Place Violence and Serious Violence

- There have been significant reductions in Public Place Violence as a result of the government approach to the Coronavirus pandemic: much of the night-time economy has been closed or heavily restricted for some time, as well as sporting events and entertainment events (such as live music).
- It is anticipated that as events and the night-time economy begin to re-open to the public, levels of associated crime, anti-social behaviour and disorder will return to pre-pandemic levels.

Vulnerable persons (all)

- There is growing concern that the wider impact of COVID will result in considerable increases in demand relating to all major vulnerabilities (alcohol, drug and substance misuse, mental health, safeguarding)
- Analysis³ has already found that, taking account of pre-pandemic trajectories, mental health has worsened substantially (by 8.1% on average) as a result of the pandemic. Young adults and women – groups with worse mental health pre-pandemic – have been hit hardest.

³ Institute of Fiscal Studies (IFS) - The mental health effects of the [first] lockdown and social distancing during the Covid-19 pandemic in the UK

New and revised recommendations

A full list of recommendations, including those still in place from the previous (2019) three-yearly full Strategic Assessment, as well as recommendations made below, can be found in Appendices A & B at the end of this report.

Community Cohesion & Tackling Extremism

There should be additional consideration for children who receive home education, including those who have started to be home educated throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, to ensure that they are receiving a well-rounded education in order to prevent any extremist teachings.

Safety Partnerships should engage with the development of Community Cohesion partnership work through the Safer & Stronger Communities Strategic Group, which will link in to existing strategic Hate Crime work and the Prevent board. Partnerships should also strongly consider whether there is a need to work with local partners and stakeholders (such as voluntary sector partners) to develop local Community Cohesion strategy for their local area.

As people spend more time online as a result of COVID-19-related restrictions on social contact, it should be considered that there is increased risk around online radicalisation. Partnerships should continue to raise awareness of extremism and potential signs of radicalisation within communities, and particularly in those communities at risk of emerging extreme right-wing and far-right extremism. Young people, parents/guardians and community members should have an awareness of prevalent extremist groups.

Domestic Abuse

Safety Partnerships should remain sighted on the Domestic Abuse Bill (2020) - due to become law in April 2021. This places statutory duties on upper-tier LAs, including the duty to provide victims (and their children) with appropriate safe accommodation and support whilst in accommodation. Responsible authorities will be required to form Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Boards and CSPs should ensure that they engage with these accordingly.

County Lines

[See recommendation below relating to Vulnerable Persons]

Public Place Violence & Serious Violence

All Safety Partnership areas must anticipate that when COVID restrictions become more relaxed, activity in public places (including activity linked to the night-time economy) will increase considerably – and as such there will likely be an equivalent increase in Public Place Violent and alcohol-related offences.

Vulnerable Persons

Given the impact of the Coronavirus pandemic; on physical health, mental health and well-being, employment, and education – it should be considered that over the next 12-24 months there will be increases in numbers of people and families considered to be vulnerable. Partnerships must consider that this will not only increase demand on support services and partners, but also increase numbers of individuals who may be at increased risk of criminal exploitation. It is important that mechanisms to document, share, and escalate concerns around exploitation and vulnerability can cope with increased pressure.

Recommendations linked to additional considerations

Business Crime: Preliminary findings from Staffordshire Commissioner's Office report on Business Crime suggests that there may be a need for greater engagement with smaller businesses in partnership areas, in order to better understand their needs and how they are impacted by crime.

Staffordshire Commissioner's Office Priorities

It is recommended Community Safety Partnerships consider their approach to community safety challenges in the context of the priorities identified in the 2017-2020 Staffordshire Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner's Strategic Plan ([Safer, Fairer, United Communities for Staffordshire](#)). Although recognising that these priorities may develop or change from April 2021 onwards, partnerships should consider opportunities to tackle priorities through;

Early Intervention and Prevention: Addressing root causes wherever possible and shifting the focus of investment from acute to early help services. Intervening early to identify and support those most vulnerable to experiencing crime and helping those who have started experiencing problems by supporting them to address the issues that they face.

Supporting Victims and Witnesses: Being a victim of crime can be truly damaging and have a lasting impact on feelings of safety and well-being. It is essential to ensure that victims (both individuals and businesses) and witnesses have access to prompt and appropriate support, and that it is as easy as possible for victims and witnesses to access such support.

Managing Offenders: Preventing offending and reducing the likelihood of re-offending by delivering early intervention activities such as targeted education. Diverting those involved in minor offences, particularly the most vulnerable, away from unnecessary contact with the criminal justice system through triage processes and diversion schemes. Helping those motivated to change to reintegrate successfully into the community and achieve stable lifestyles away from crime.

Public Confidence: Making individuals and communities feel safer and reassured. Ensuring that the people of Staffordshire are better informed and involved in how policing and community safety arrangements are delivered, helping thereby to increase public confidence, build trust through transparency and open communication, and reduce the fear of crime

Summary of Local Community Safety Priorities

A review of the priorities identified and confirmed in the three-yearly full CSA has taken place, in order to identify any changing or emerging key strategic priorities and risks for the local area. These have been cross referenced against known existing local priorities and findings for the locality. Where priorities are changed or amended from the 2019 full assessment, this has been highlighted. The identified priorities are as follows;

- Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)
- Domestic Abuse and Stalking & Harassment
- **[REVISED]** Community Cohesion & Tackling Extremism (*Replaces Counter Terror / Domestic Extremism*)
- Car Key Burglaries and Vehicle Theft
- County Lines⁴
- Public Place Violence (including Knife Crime)
- Vulnerable Persons and Contextual Safeguarding⁵ (including Drugs)

The following are not considered a main priority for Tamworth, but they are recommended for additional consideration due to their volume, impact on communities and level of public expectation;

- Repeat and Persistent Offending

In addition, there are some challenges which, while not necessarily overly present in the partnership area, require the work of the whole partnership to address. It is important for each partnership to consider how they can contribute to the force-wide approach and strategy. These challenges are highlighted as;

- Modern Slavery
- Fire and Risk of Fire
- Business Crime
- **[MERGED]** (Community Cohesion and Hate Crimes merged into *Community Cohesion & Tackling Extremism*)
- **[MERGED]** (Counter Terror / Prevent merged into *Community Cohesion & Tackling Extremism*)

⁴ County Lines refers to organised drug supply and trafficking routes into and out of 'county' and rural areas from metropolitan areas.

⁵ Contextual Safeguarding regards the practice of safeguarding individuals (particularly young people) within the context of the environment and setting that they are in, particularly in environments outside of their usual family environment, such as school and public places.

People and Communities at Greatest Risk

Vulnerability is cross-cutting; many of those considered vulnerable for a range of concerns (including general safeguarding, social isolation, economic stress, and health and mental health concerns) are also additionally vulnerable to criminal exploitation and victimisation through crime and ASB.

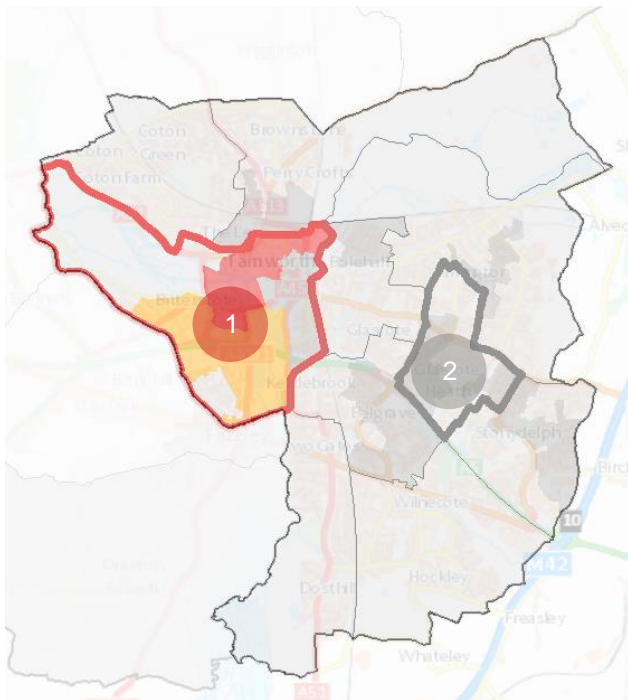
Those considered to be particularly vulnerable to experiencing crime, safeguarding concerns or being criminally exploited tend to be consistent over time. There is no change to these groups from the 2019 Strategic Assessment, and in high-risk groups remain as;

- Socially isolated individuals with mental health needs and learning difficulties
- Socially isolated adults with alcohol and/or drug dependencies
- Offenders with known drug dependencies or previous drug-related offending
- Children (under 10s) in areas with high levels of Domestic Abuse and/or drug-related offending
- Children and young people (aged 10-19) in areas of high deprivation

Those who belong to the 'Family Basics' demographic Mosaic group tend to be the most disproportionately affected by almost all aspects of crime and anti-social behaviour in Tamworth (17% of population, 30% of all victims).

These are primarily younger families (aged 25-40) with infant or primary school-aged children, living in lower-cost housing, in areas with higher levels of deprivation. Adults in these communities tend to have limited qualifications; many are employed in lower-paid and lower-skilled jobs resulting in limited financial resources and high levels of economic stress, with many requiring an element of state support, particularly through access to social housing and through universal credit.

Places at Greatest Risk



1. Castle (Tamworth Town) (All crime and ASB) – Highest priority ward

Castle ward; above average rates of crime overall and crimes across almost all crime types (excl. Burglary). As a town-centre ward, Castle sees high levels of Theft and Shoplifting, Alcohol-related offending, ASB, and Public-place Violence. Drug Possession offences are significantly higher than force-wide levels, and some of the highest of any ward in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent.

Although not flagged as a priority ward through overall offending rates or volume of incidents, the following may need consideration;

2. Glascote

The ward sees the highest level of Domestic-flagged crimes in the area, as well as a high proportion of Neighbour Dispute ASB incidents and instances of Criminal Damage. Rates of violent offences without injury and Stalking & Harassment offences are amongst the highest in the Partnership area. Glascote experiences some high levels of children's safeguarding concern; with rates of Child Protection Plans and Looked-after Children previously far higher than national levels.

Overview of Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)

Overall rates of recorded Crime and ASB in Tamworth are the second-highest in the force-area, but are in line with the overall force-wide rate, and below the rates for the West Midlands region and England & Wales.

Rates of Vehicle Offences in Tamworth are above the force average, but are not above rates for England & Wales or the West Midlands region. Some Theft offences, particularly Shoplifting, have been above the force-wide level – with levels of Shoplifting in Tamworth above the national level.

Rates of crime overall in all wards are below or in line with the Staffordshire & Stoke-on-Trent level, with the exception of Castle ward (Tamworth town centre) which experiences significantly high levels of crime and disorder – which is consistent with other town/city centre wards in the force-area.

Rates of Recorded Crime – Staffordshire Police (April 2019- March 2020)

	Rate per 1,000 residents			
	Tamworth	Staffordshire (Force Area)	West Midlands (Region)	England & Wales ⁶
Total crime (excl. fraud)	69.9	70.2	79.7	89.0
Criminal damage and arson	7.3	8.9	8.2	9.4
Robbery	0.7	0.7	1.7	1.5
Sexual offences	2.3	2.6	2.6	2.7
Theft offences	27.6	23.6	28.9	32.2
Burglary	3.6	4.2	6.6	6.3
Residential burglary	2.5	2.8	4.8	4.4
Non-residential burglary	1.1	1.5	1.8	1.9
Vehicle offences	7.3	5.0	8.1	7.7
Theft from the person	0.5	0.5	0.8	1.9
Bicycle theft	0.8	0.7	0.8	1.5
Shoplifting	7.7	6.3	5.7	6.1
All other theft offences	7.8	6.9	6.9	8.7
Violence against the person	25.1	26.9	29.0	29.9
Homicide	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Death or serious injury - unlawful driving	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Violence with injury	7.9	7.7	9.9	9.1
Violence without injury	8.7	10.2	11.2	12.3
Stalking and harassment	8.5	8.9	7.9	8.4
Drug offences	1.8	1.8	1.9	3.1
Possession of weapons offences	0.5	0.6	0.9	0.8
Public order offences	3.5	3.7	5.1	7.6
Miscellaneous crimes against society	1.1	1.4	1.4	1.8
Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)	24.5	28.9	N/A	22.7

Indicates higher than force-wide rate

⁶ National data excludes Greater Manchester Police

Community Safety Strategic Priorities

Anti-social Behaviour (ASB)

Volume and potential harm:

High volume / Moderate individual harm / Severe community harm

CSPs with priority:

Cannock Chase, East Staffordshire, Lichfield, South Staffordshire, Stafford, Staffordshire Moorlands, Stoke-on-Trent, Tamworth

Summary:

ASB accounts for a significant amount of demand across the partnership. In 2019-20 there were 1,885 ASB incidents recorded in Tamworth by the Police – roughly equivalent to 20% of Police demand in the area, similar to levels of ASB-based demand across Staffordshire & Stoke-on-Trent.

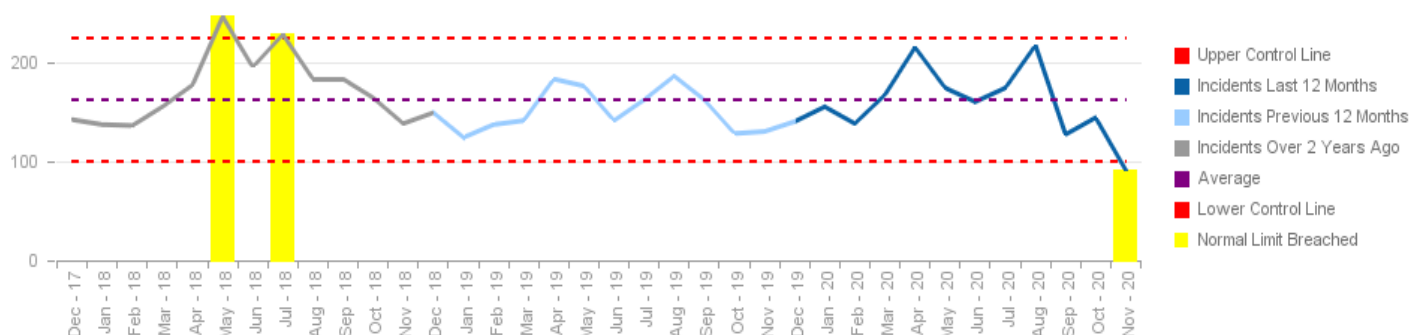
Recorded rates of ASB in 2019-20 in Tamworth were below the Staffordshire Force Area (24.6 per 1,000 compared to 28.9 per 1,000) and generally in line with rates for England & Wales (22.7 incidents per 1,000 people).

Since new recording began (20th April 2020) up to 30th November 2020 there had been 695 ASB incidents in Tamworth which were specifically breaches of COVID-related legislation – equivalent to 9.1 per 1,000 residents. This is similar to the force-wide rate of 8.9 per 1,000 population, but the second highest of the nine CSP areas.

ASB in Tamworth remains dominated by reports of incidents of 'Rowdy and Inconsiderate Behaviour' (60% of ASB) and to a lesser extent 'Neighbour Disputes' (21% of ASB). Around 5% of ASB in the area is Drugs related, which is similar to the force-wide proportion of 6% of recorded ASB.

Similarly to crime overall, ASB tends to disproportionately affect the most deprived and disadvantaged communities, and town and city centres. Previous risk assessment concludes that repeat victims of ASB tend to experience the same levels of psychological harm as victims of less-serious violent crime.

Tamworth – ASB Incidents, three years to November 2020, Staffordshire Police:



Comparison to Force: Overall rate similar / Some ward rates high

Local rate (per 1,000 people): 24.6

Force rate (per 1,000 people): 28.9

Direction of travel: Slight increase in 12 months to November 2020 (+5%) however this includes COVID breaches in April 2020 recorded with normal ASB at the start of lockdown – prior to being recorded elsewhere from late April 2020.

Public expectation: Moderate

Local hotspot wards:

Castle Ward: primarily Rowdy and Inconsiderate Behaviour.

Glascote: average levels of ASB overall. High levels of Neighbour Disputes.

At risk groups: Deprived and disadvantaged communities – particularly those in high housing density areas and with high proportions of social housing. Town centre areas are also high risk, particularly from alcohol-related and drug-related ASB. Castle ward and Stonydelph see additional issues with ASB from Nuisance Vehicles.

[REVISED] Community Cohesion⁷ & Tackling Extremism

Volume and harm – Community Cohesion: Low volume / Substantial individual harm / Moderate community harm

Volume and harm – Extremism: Minimal volume / Risk of mass loss of life / Critical community harm

CSPs with priority: Cannock Chase, East Staffordshire, (Lichfield), Newcastle-under-Lyme, South Staffordshire, Stafford, (Staffordshire Moorlands), Stoke-on-Trent, Tamworth

Summary:

In the period of the European Union (EU) referendum (2016-17) Hate Crime increased nationally by 30% (17,300 incidents) on the previous year, with increases seen in all following years to date at a national level. While the large majority of national incidents (76% in 2019-20) are based on the victim's Race or Religion, Hate offences against the Transgender community, based on Disability, or on Sexual Orientation have all more than doubled in recent years.

Locally in the 12 months to November 2020, there has been no change in levels of Hate Crime compared to the previous 12 months – although there was a significant spike in June 2020 after the easing of the national lockdown (highest numbers recorded in a single month in three years). It is considered that leaving the EU on 1st January 2021 will have a similar impact to the 2016 referendum, and there will be an increase in Hate-related offences.

The Covid-19 pandemic has also had an effect on Community Cohesion; while the pandemic has strengthened many communities within Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent, with people providing support to those in their local area, it has also exacerbated and highlighted issues within a small number of more fragmented communities – with local outbreaks and compliance with government guidance proving to be a source of friction, and a threat to cohesion.

The cost of Covid-19 to society and state has been significant. It has become clear that while the spread of virus has been fairly indiscriminate, the impact has not been felt equally across all communities. Opportunities for social mixing, one of the most powerful forms of reducing prejudice and promoting empathy, have been severely limited – with some restrictions likely to continue. As the full impact of the pandemic unfolds, government decision-making has the potential to affect social and political trust, which can be exploited by extremist groups.

In parallel to the Covid-19 pandemic, over Summer/Autumn 2020 terror-related attacks have been carried out in mainland Europe. As a result, the UK national terror threat level has increased compared to last year's report - and is now at Severe (the second highest threat level): meaning that an attack in the UK is considered '*highly likely*'.

The terror attack on London Bridge in 2019, which was carried out by an individual from the Staffordshire force-area, highlights the need for all partners to continue to deliver against our statutory obligations to create stronger, more cohesive and safer communities. Stoke-on-Trent remains a Home Office Prevent priority area with the city council receiving additional support from the Home Office for its work to tackle to extremism.

Comparison to previous assessment:

- Increasing evidence of Far-right support – with increasing Prevent referrals for Far-right ideologies.
- Risk and concerns around Al-Qaeda/ISIL-inspired extremism remain high
- Increase in National terror-threat level from 'Substantial' up to 'Severe'
- Departure from European Union to take place in January 2021.

Local hotspots: (Where appropriate see Staffordshire Police Counter-Terror Local Profile)

Direction of travel: Growing concern

Public expectation: Critical / National expectations

At risk groups: Hate Crime offenders are predominantly young men and more likely to be under 18 than offenders overall. Female Hate Crimes offenders tend to be in the 30-39 age group. Victims are predominantly males aged over 18, and particularly those aged 30-39. Although most victims are male, there are more female victims than female offenders. Those with Asian or Black ethnicity are disproportionately likely to be victims of Hate Crime.

Based on recent Prevent referrals, those at greatest risk of being radicalised remain younger males (aged under 20 years) although a growing number are in older age groups, including those aged 50 and over. In the last year, around 1 in 25 of those referred through Prevent in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent was female.

⁷ As per the Local Government Association (LGA) definition of cohesive community as one where; There is common vision and a sense of belonging for all communities; The diversity of people's different backgrounds and circumstances are appreciated and positively valued; Those from different backgrounds have similar life opportunities; and, Strong and positive relationships are being developed between people from different backgrounds in the workplace, in schools and within neighbourhoods

Domestic Abuse and Stalking & Harassment: Domestic Abuse

Volume and potential harm:

Moderate volume / Severe individual harm / Substantial community harm

CSPs with priority: All Safety Partnership Areas

Summary:

Domestic Abuse affects all communities and is not unique to any one part of Staffordshire or Stoke-on-Trent. While Domestic Abuse presents a significant risk to the immediate victims, it also has a wider negative impact where children are present in households. Links between Domestic Abuse and child neglect/abuse are well known and evidenced.

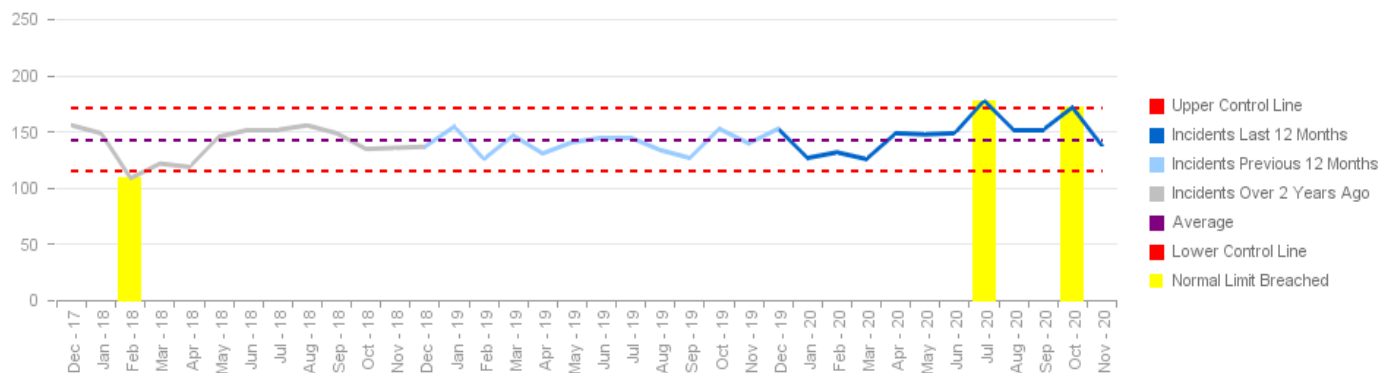
In the 2019-20 financial year Domestic offences in Tamworth were in line with Staffordshire & Stoke-on-Trent, with a rate 14.5 per 1,000 residents (compared to 14.2 force-wide) and accounting for the same proportion of crime (21%) as across the force.

Nationally reported increases in Domestic Abuse due to the March lockdown and wider impact of COVID on society appear to have been seen in Tamworth – in the 12 months to November 2020 there is a moderate increase (6%) on the previous 12 months. There have been significant spikes in reported monthly incidents in both July 2020 and October 2020.

The majority (76%) of recorded Domestic offences in Tamworth in 2019-20 were violent offences; 30% Stalking and Harassment, 29% violence without injury, 19% violence with injury. Domestic incidents are not limited to Violent Offences and cross a range of offence types; around 9% of domestic offences in Tamworth are instances of Criminal Damage, 4% are instances of Theft and 2% were Sexual Offences.

There are some types of offence which were more likely to be domestic-related than crime overall in Tamworth. Although 21% of all local crime was flagged as being domestic-related; 52% of all Stalking and Harassment, 48% of violent offences without injury, 38% of rape offences, and 34% of violent offences with injury were flagged as being domestic related.

Tamworth - Domestic-related crime, three years to November 2020, Staffordshire Police



Comparison to Force: Overall rate similar / One ward above average

Local rate (per 1,000 people): 14.5

Force rate (per 1,000 people): 14.2

Direction of travel: Slight increase (6%) over past 12 months – with spikes in July and October 2020.

Public expectation: Moderate

Local hotspot wards: Glascoate significant reduction since 2019 assessment, but still high (17.7 per 1,000 pop.)

At risk groups: Disproportionately younger women (aged under 30), and those who live in already disadvantaged communities. However, anyone can become a victim of DA, and there are male victims in the area, and victims who are older adults. Households where there are high levels of economic stress and alcohol/drug use and dependency are at particularly high risk. Offenders are also disproportionately younger (aged under 40) and male, although there are also female offenders.

Domestic Abuse and Stalking & Harassment: Stalking & Harassment

Volume and potential harm:

Moderate volume / Substantial psychological harm

CSPs with priority: Cannock Chase, Stoke-on-Trent, Tamworth

Summary:

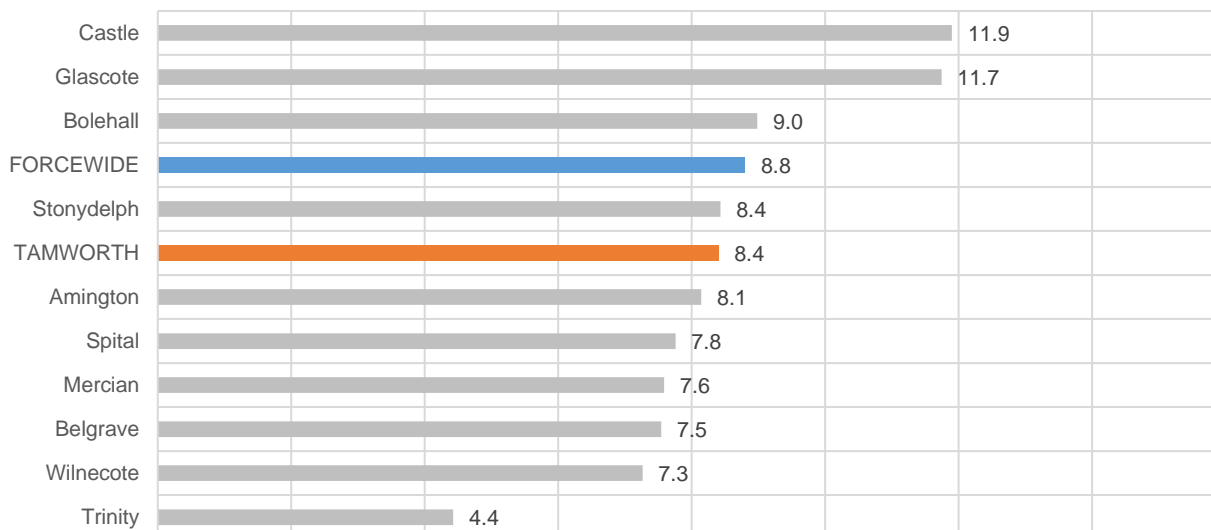
In 2019-20 there were a total of 647 incidents of Stalking and Harassment which took place in Tamworth; equivalent to a rate of 8.4 per 1,000 population - fractionally below the rate for the force (8.6). Stalking & Harassment offences have continued to increase force-wide in 2019-20 (+9% average across local CSPs), however the increase in Tamworth has been smaller (+6%). At this time it is considered that much of the increase is the result of better recognition, identification and recording of offences, rather than an increase in offences taking place.

Stalking & Harassment is now the second most prevalent sub-type of crime recorded in Tamworth (previously the third), compared to being the third most prevalent across the force area – overtaking violent offences with injury.

In 2019-20 a large proportion of Stalking & Harassment offences were classed as Malicious Communications (49%), with around 42% classed as Harassment, with a smaller proportion comprising of Stalking offences (around 9%).

There is strong correlation with Domestic offences; while 52% of all Stalking & Harassment offences are domestic-related, 80% of all Stalking was flagged as domestic, as were 62% of all Harassment offences.

Stalking and Harassment (2019-20) by Tamworth ward, Rate per 1,000 residents, Staffordshire Police



Comparison to Force: Overall rate similar / Two wards high (but not statistically above average)

Local rate (per 1,000 people): 8.4

Force rate (per 1,000 people): 8.8

Direction of travel: Overall 6% increase (12 months to April 2020)

Public expectation: Low

Local hotspot wards: None significantly above force average (*threshold for significantly above=17.8 per 1,000*)

At risk groups: Victims are disproportionately younger women (aged 20-34) who account for 34% of S&H victims, and particularly those within the 'Family Basics' Mosaic group – living in less-advantaged areas with younger children. Around 70% of S&H victims are female, and 30% male, however, victims do span all age ranges from 10 years up to 75+ and there is some disproportionality of victims amongst males aged 25-30 (7% of all S&H victims).

Car Key Burglaries and Vehicle Theft

Volume and potential harm:

Low volume / Moderate individual harm / Low community harm

CSPs with priority:

Lichfield, South Staffordshire, Tamworth

Summary: As anti-theft technology in vehicles has improved, approaches to vehicle theft have changed. With many modern vehicles unable to be driven without their keys, criminals are increasingly using burglary to facilitate vehicle theft; entering properties purely to steal vehicle keys and key fobs - driving the stolen vehicle away from the scene.

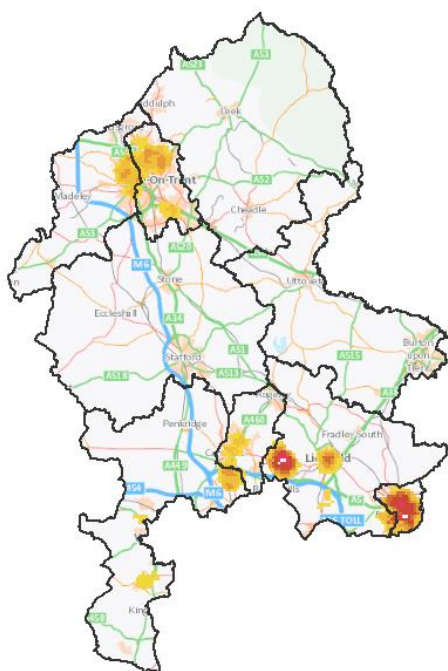
Although less common, and lower volume, changes in anti-theft technology have also resulted in some increases in aggravated vehicle-taking or “car-jacking” – where a vehicle is stolen whilst in use, usually on the road. There have been a number of these incidents in Tamworth within the past 12 months.

Historically, Tamworth has experienced particularly high proportions of burglaries which have resulted in vehicle theft. These offences have typically been focussed in the south-east of the force-area, with Tamworth and Lichfield particularly affected compared to other CSP areas.

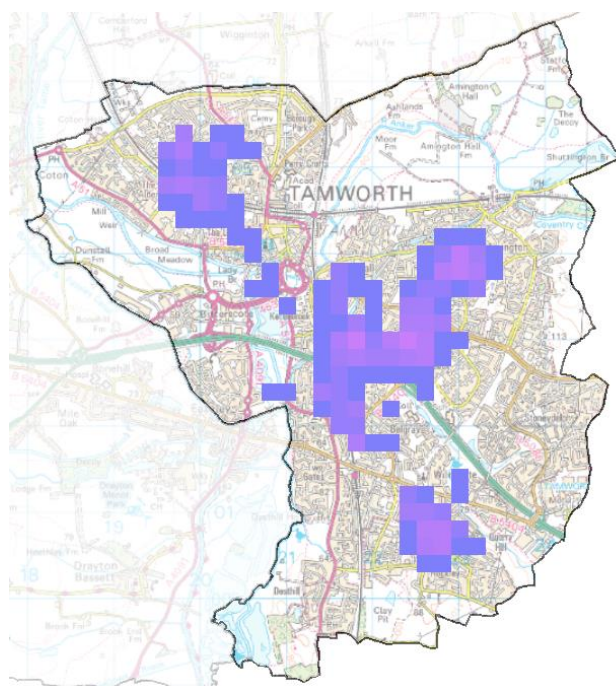
While rates of Vehicle offences have reduced by a nominal amount (-2%) when comparing 2019-20 to the previous 12 months, the rate of motor vehicle thefts in Tamworth is the highest in the force-area.

Offences appear to be particularly targeted and have affected areas and communities which typically do not experience high levels of overall crime. Some of the wards which have experienced high levels of vehicle thefts, such as Wilnecote and Amington, generally experience below average levels of crime overall.

Heat Map of Car Key Burglaries (2018-19)



Heat Map of Vehicle offences (2019-20)



Comparison to Force:

Highest level of thefts of motor vehicles and thefts from motor vehicles. Historically high proportion of Burglaries resulting in vehicle theft.

Rate of Vehicle Offences

Local rate: 7.3 per 1,000 pop.

Force rate: 4.8 per 1,000 pop.

Direction of travel: Persistent challenge

Public expectation: Moderate

Local hotspot wards: Trinity (Car Key Burglary), Wilnecote (Vehicle theft), Amington (Vehicle theft)

At risk groups: Communities in higher-value suburban areas with detached homes and lower-levels of overall housing density. Analysis across the force-area suggests that households in the most affluent parts of affected CSP areas have been disproportionately affected by car key burglaries.

County Lines

Volume and potential harm:

Small volume / Substantial individual and community harm

CSPs with priority:

Cannock Chase, East Staffordshire, Lichfield, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Stafford, Stoke-on-Trent, Tamworth

Summary:

The use of County Lines to traffic drugs from urban areas into rural areas, causes significant issues for communities; particularly through the degradation of local areas through use of properties for drug use, drug supply and other criminal activity, and as a result of violent disorder and disputes between Organised Crime Groups (OCGs) and Urban Street Gangs (USGs) over control of particular County Lines and Drug Supply in specific areas.

The use of County Lines by OCGs is not limited to the supply and movement of drugs; the same criminal infrastructure is linked to Modern Slavery and People Trafficking, Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE), Serious Violence, Money Laundering and the supply of illegal weapons.

The operation of County Lines by OCGs often relies on the activity of 'cuckooing'; a practice where criminals take over a person's home and use the property to facilitate exploitation. It takes the name from cuckoos who take over the nests of other birds. Victims are often people who misuse substances such as drugs or alcohol, but there are cases of victims with learning difficulties, mental health issues, physical disabilities or who are socially isolated. People who choose to exploit will often target the most vulnerable in society and will establish a relationship with the vulnerable person in order to access their home. Cuckooed addresses are commonly used to store or distribute drugs, but can also be used in people trafficking and modern slavery, supply or storage of illegal firearms, sex work, or as 'safe houses' for criminals themselves who are trying to avoid detection by the Police.

There is a level of County Lines risk in all CSP areas in Staffordshire & Stoke-on-Trent – with known risks around organised drug supply through County Lines as well as People Trafficking / Modern Slavery offences, in addition to elements of weapons offences. There is additional risk in a number of areas in Staffordshire & Stoke-on-Trent, due to high proportions of children in care, who are at elevated risk of being criminally exploited and recruited into organised crime by both OCGs and USGs.

Although Covid-19, and associated Government mandated travel and social restrictions, have undoubtedly had an impact on both levels and visibility of County Lines activity locally, there is still a persistent ongoing threat in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent.

Direction of travel: Long-term risk

Public expectation: Critical / National expectations

Local hotspots: (See Staffordshire Police's Serious and Organised Crime Assessment)

At risk groups:

Criminal exploitation:

Young males (aged 10-19) in disadvantaged communities and in care (LAC) or attending Pupil Referral Units (PRUs) are at particularly high risk of being criminally exploited through organised crime and gang membership.

'Cuckooing' risk:

Adults with existing drug or alcohol dependency, and adults and young adults with learning difficulties and/or mental health needs – particularly those who are living independently but who are socially isolated. There are significant levels of repeat drug possession offences in a number of wards across the force-area, and it is likely that many of the vulnerable individuals known to services in these areas for Class A drug use are at increased risk of cuckooing.

Public Place Violence (including Knife Crime)

Volume and potential harm:

Moderate volume / Moderate individual harm / Substantial community harm

CSPs with priority: East Staffordshire, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Stoke-on-Trent, Tamworth

Summary:

In 2018-19 Public-Place Violence accounted for around 11% of recorded crime in Tamworth, which is similar to force-wide proportion (12%).

In Tamworth in 2019-20, the rate of violent offences resulting in injury taking place in Town Centre space was the third-highest in the force-area (1.5 per 1,000 people, compared to 1.3 force-wide).

There are links between alcohol and violent offences, and particularly those in public spaces; while around 7% of all crime in Tamworth is alcohol-related, this increases to 17% of violence with injury offences, and 25% of violence with injury offences taking place in the town centre.

There have been significant reductions in Public Place Violence since March 2020 as a result of the government approach to the Coronavirus pandemic: much of the night-time economy has been closed or heavily restricted for some time, as well as sporting events and entertainment events (such as live music). Social distancing measures have also significantly reduced foot-fall in public spaces.

It is, however, anticipated that at the point where restrictions become considerably eased, events and as the night-time economy begin to re-open to the public, levels of crime, anti-social behaviour and disorder will return to pre-pandemic levels. This will likely be true for public place violent offences as public spaces become more populated.

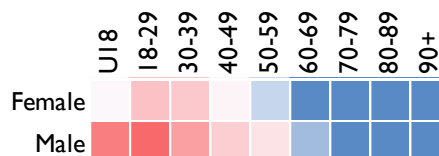
There have been recent concerns about the overall seriousness of Public Place Violence in Tamworth; although a small number of incidents (30 incidents) 5% of PPV offences in 2018-19 in Tamworth were also flagged as Knife Crimes in line with Home Office guidance. This was the highest proportion of Public Place Violence offences involving a knife of anywhere in the force area – with Stoke-on-Trent the next highest at 4%.

Across Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent however, Knife Crime fell by 24% in the 12 months to January 2020, while increasing nationally. The rate of Knife Crime in the Staffordshire force area is low compared to similar force-areas.

Offenders (PPV) (age group and gender):



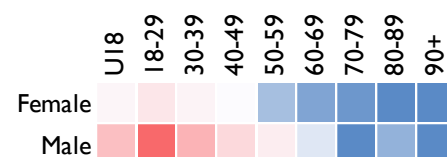
Offenders (Knife Crime) (age group and gender):



Victims (PPV) (age group and gender):



Victims (Knife Crime) (age group and gender):



Comparison to Force: Overall rate similar / One ward rate high

Direction of travel: Consistent but significantly affected by COVID

Public expectation: Moderate

At risk groups:

Public Place Violence offenders are predominantly young men (aged 18-29), although there are some female offenders, mainly aged under 40 years. Knife Crime offenders are also mainly young men (aged under 30 years) with a particularly high proportion of Under 18s (mostly aged 14+).

With both PPV and Knife Crimes – both offender and victim are mainly young men, in particular those aged under 30 years. In many instances, the offender and the victim are of the same age group.

Public place violence is polarised towards town centres and commercial areas, and poses the greatest risk to the public between 21:00-04:00hrs, particularly where alcohol is a factor.

Vulnerable Persons: Drug use and possession

Volume and potential harm:

Small volume / Substantial individual harm / Severe community harm

CSPs with priority: Cannock Chase, East Staffordshire, Lichfield, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffordshire Moorlands, Stoke-on-Trent, Tamworth

Summary:

Drugs can be a factor in a range of crimes – although in recent analysis (2018-19) drugs were significantly less present as an aggravating-factor than alcohol (1% of recorded crime considered drugs a factor, 6% alcohol considered a factor), drugs still sit behind a range of offences; from acquisitive offences to fund addiction, to serious violent offences relating to feuds over supply activity.

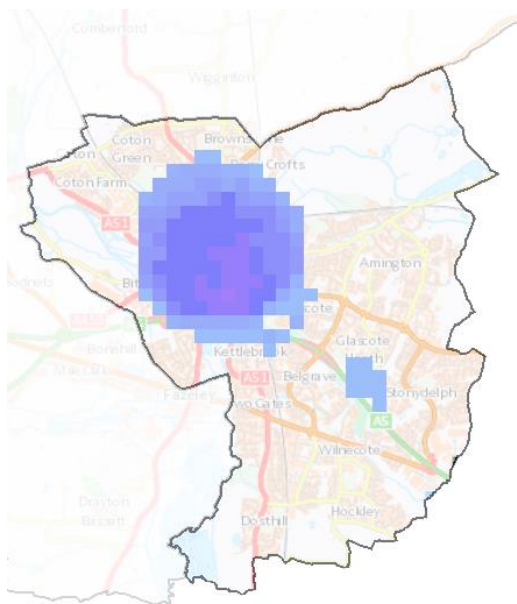
Drug users themselves are a particularly vulnerable group, and as well as facing significant health, housing and employment challenges, drug users often also experience Domestic Abuse. Children in families where drug use is prevalent are often at significantly increased need of safeguarding and support.

Drug users are at significant risk of being criminally exploited through County Lines and other aspects of organised crime; often drug dealers/suppliers will allow users to accrue substantial levels of drug-related debt, and use this as leverage to have the user conduct criminal activity on their behalf or use their home for criminal activity (cuckooing).

Tamworth does not experience particularly high levels of drug-related offending overall (1.5 per 1,000 people compared to 1.3 force-wide) - however the rate of Drugs Possession offences in Castle ward (8.0, compared to 1.3 force-wide) is the fourth highest rate (previously the fifth) out of 201 wards in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent.

While drug-related offending does not appear to be a significant problem for Tamworth overall, the level of Drugs Possession offences suggests that there may be a high proportion of persistent drug-users in the area.

Drug Possession hot spots, Tamworth, 2019-20, Staffordshire Police



Comparison to Force: Overall rate similar / One ward in Top 5 for Drugs Possession offences

Drug Possession

Local rate (per 1,000 people): 1.5

Force rate (per 1,000 people): 1.3

Direction of travel: Consistent concern

Local hotspots:

Castle ward: Possession offences (8.0 per 1,000)

At risk groups: Adults with known drug dependencies, particularly those who have previously accessed or who are presently accessing treatment programmes for Class A drug use or dependency.

Vulnerable Persons: Mental Health

Volume and potential harm:

Small volume / Moderate to severe individual harm / Low community harm

CSPs with priority: Cannock Chase, East Staffordshire, Lichfield, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Stafford, Staffordshire Moorlands, Stoke-on-Trent, Tamworth

Summary: Mental Health is a cross-cutting theme, with links to a range of other vulnerabilities. Many with mental health needs appear in other high-risk cohorts; including those with drug and/or alcohol challenges, those who are socially isolated and living in poor quality housing, as well as young people and adults who are at risk of criminal exploitation.

The COVID-19 pandemic is anticipated to have a considerable impact on mental health and wellbeing over coming years. It is expected that demand relating to mental health will increase considerably into 2021 and beyond. In mid-April 2020, at the peak of the national lockdown, Staffordshire Police recorded a considerable surge in weekly mental health incidents – far above expected upper limits.

Local⁸ and national⁹ COVID surveys have highlighted that more than two-thirds of people feel that the pandemic has had a negative impact on their life, with many feeling stressed and anxious. Further analysis¹⁰ found that, taking account of pre-pandemic trajectories, mental health has worsened substantially (by 8.1% on average) as a result of the pandemic. Young adults and women – groups with worse mental health pre-pandemic – have been hit hardest.

As well as those with existing mental health conditions being at risk of experiencing crime, experiencing crime itself also exacerbates and can create considerable mental health challenges for individuals. Many types of crime are judged to pose a substantial or severe risk of psychological harm to individuals; in particular, but not limited to; domestic abuse, serious violent offences, stalking and harassment, hate crimes, and criminal exploitation.

The impact of Mental Health needs on communities is difficult to quantify. In 2018-19 in Tamworth there were around 230 calls to the Police relating primarily to Mental Health, and 390 Missing Persons incidents – rates of Mental Health calls were below force level (3.0 compared to 4.9 per 1,000) while Missing Persons were in line with force average.

Public Health England (PHE) estimates for Tamworth suggest that around 9.8% of children aged 5 to 16 years (approximately 1,100 children) in the area are likely to have a mental health disorder. This is the 2nd highest proportion in the force area, and falls within the top 20% of highest rates in Local Authorities in England.

Estimated prevalence of common mental disorders (Public Health England):

		% of population
Children (age 5-16)	England	9.2
	Force-wide	9.5
	Tamworth	9.8
Adults (age 16+)	England	16.9
	Force-wide	16.4
	Tamworth	16.6
Older adults (age 65+)	England	10.2
	Force-wide	10.2
	Tamworth	10.5

Vulnerable people, including those experiencing mental health issues, are at greater risk of being a victim of crime - targeted by criminals who seek to exploit this vulnerability and take advantage through financial or criminal exploitation. Local research has shown that individuals who have experienced crime first-hand as either a victim or a direct witness, are likely to score lower than average in terms of their overall levels of wellbeing.

Prevalence of depression recorded by GPs within Tamworth is statistically higher than England, and higher than the force area overall.

Comparison to Force: Rates of Mental Health calls to police and Missing Persons reports similar to force area. Estimated prevalence of Mental Disorders statistically similar to force area, but high compared to other CSP areas.

⁸ Staffordshire County Council – Residents Survey

⁹ Office of National Statistics (ONS) - Coronavirus and the social impacts on Great Britain

¹⁰ Institute of Fiscal Studies (IFS) - The mental health effects of the [first] lockdown and social distancing during the Covid-19 pandemic in the UK

Vulnerable Persons: Contextual Safeguarding

Volume and potential harm: Moderate volumes / Moderate to Severe individual and community harm

CSPs with priority: Cannock Chase, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Stoke-on-Trent, Tamworth

Summary: CSPs with priority: Cannock Chase, East Staffordshire, Lichfield, Newcastle-under-Lyme, (Stafford), Stoke-on-Trent, Tamworth

Summary:

The 'toxic trio' of risks that are most likely to result in home or family safeguarding concerns – parental mental ill-health, drug and alcohol misuse, and domestic abuse are particularly present in parts of Tamworth, resulting in an elevated level of need for safeguarding of young children (under 11 years of age).

The large majority (63%) of children in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent who are subject to a Child Protection Plan are primarily being safeguarded as a result of neglect, followed by just under a third (31%) who have experienced emotional abuse. Compared to England, the force-area sees a greater proportion of children subject to a plan as a result of neglect, with lower proportions experiencing emotional, physical or sexual abuse.

It is considered, that similarly to many other areas of vulnerability – the COVID-19 pandemic will result in considerable increases in demand for safeguarding services. In an assessment conducted by the NSPCC¹¹ it is considered that the Coronavirus pandemic will considerably intensify a range of risk factors that children face, particularly as a result of;

- **Increase in stressors to parents and caregivers**
The risk of child abuse is higher when caregivers become overloaded by the stressors in their lives. There are indications that the coronavirus pandemic has increased stressors on caregivers
- **Increase in children and young people's vulnerability**
There are indications that conditions caused by the pandemic have heightened vulnerability of children and young people to certain types of abuse, e.g. online abuse, abuse within the home, criminal exploitation and child sexual exploitation.
- **Reduction in normal protective services**
There is evidence that the 'normal' safeguards relied on to protect children and young people have been reduced during the pandemic. However social connections and support can provide a protective effect for children's safety and wellbeing.

While it is important to consider the safeguarding of young children and risk of harm within the family environment, as young people move from childhood and into adolescence, they spend increasing amounts of time socialising independently of their families. During this time the nature of young people's schools and neighbourhoods, and the relationships that they form in these settings, inform the extent to which they encounter safeguarding risks in settings outside their families.

There are some concerns in Tamworth relating to the safeguarding of young people outside of their family contexts – particularly the risk of criminal exploitation by Urban Street Gangs (USGs) and organised criminals of vulnerable young people, who can be lured into criminality with the promise of financial gain, and perhaps the appeal of fraternity. Young people who are Looked After Children (LAC) and who have been placed in care, or who attend pupil referral units (PRUs) are at particularly increased risk due to their level of vulnerability and often unstable social networks and networks of support.

The rate of LAC per 10,000 under 18s in Tamworth is statistically higher than the rate for England and the second-highest in the force area.

Once groomed, these young people are then often used for high risk activities, increasingly linked to County Lines drug supply activity, such as street dealing and transporting drugs.

Direction of travel: Ongoing concern

Local hotspots: Glascote (Rates of Child Protection and Looked After Children)

At risk groups:

Criminal exploitation:

Males aged 10 to 19 in disadvantaged communities (particularly including LAC and those in PRUs)

Children's safeguarding:

Children (birth to 17) living in communities with high levels of deprivation, domestic abuse, drug and alcohol use.

¹¹ NSPCC - Social isolation and the risk of child abuse during and after the coronavirus pandemic (2020)

Additional Challenges for Consideration

Repeat and Persistent Offending

Priority: Re-offending

Priority sub-type: Repeat and Persistent Offenders

Volume and potential harm: High volume / Moderate individual harm / Substantial community harm

CSPs with priority: Cannock Chase, East Staffordshire, Lichfield, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Stafford, Staffordshire Moorlands, Stoke-on-Trent, Tamworth

Summary:

Repeat and persistent offenders are consistently disproportionately responsible for crime in Staffordshire, with the minority of offenders responsible for the majority of offences.

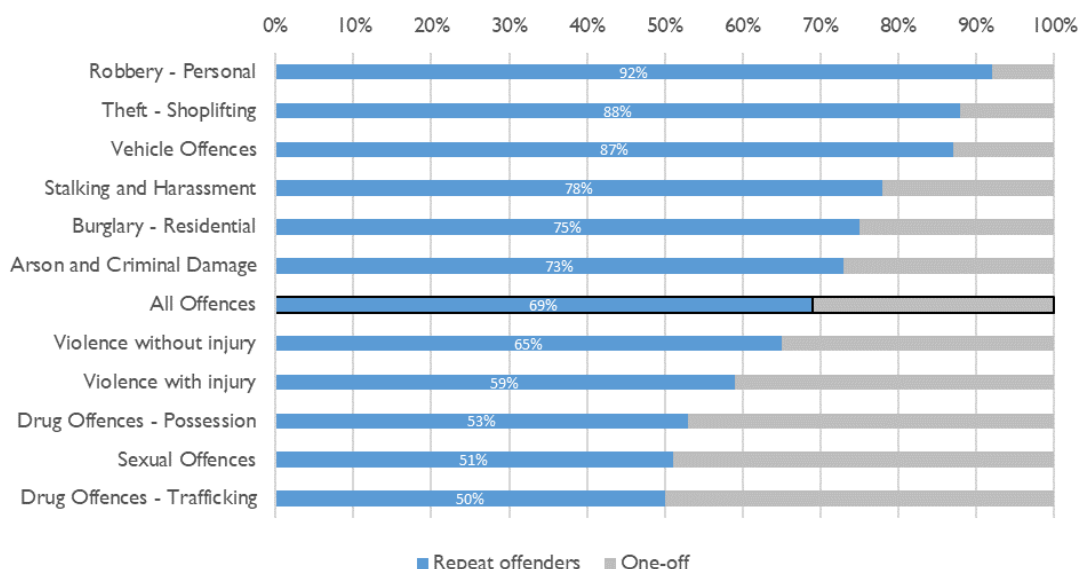
In latest available data (2018-19), while around 44% (615) of the 1,408 offenders living in Tamworth were considered repeat or persistent, they were responsible for 68% of recorded crimes where an offender was identified.

All major types of crime saw more than half of all incidents committed by repeat offenders, however, acquisitive crimes, such as Burglary, Vehicle Offences, Theft and Robbery tend to see the highest proportion of repeat offenders, while the proportion of Domestic-flagged offences committed by repeat offenders was in line with crime overall (69%).

Offenders with known drug offences or offences where drugs were considered a factor in their recent offending history, are substantially more likely to be repeat and persistent offenders. Around 55% of those flagged for drug-related offending in Tamworth were repeat and persistent offenders, compared to 43% of those with no recent drug-related offending. While offenders with previous drug-related offending tend to be responsible for a disproportionate amount of acquisitive offending across the force area (committed 25% of acquisitive crime, 17% of crime overall) this is not the case in Tamworth; with drug-related offenders responsible for about 11% of crime overall, and 13% of acquisitive crimes.

Youth offenders (those aged under 18) are not disproportionately likely to be repeat and persistent offenders (around 46%), however younger adult offenders, particularly young men, are consistently the most likely to be repeat offenders; of those aged 20-25 years in Tamworth, 54% were Repeat or Prolific Offenders and accounted for 80% of the crime committed by 20-25 year olds.

Proportion of total offences (by type) committed by Repeat Offenders, Staffordshire Police 2018-19



Comparison to Force: Overall rate similar

Local proportion: 44% offenders, 68% crime

Force proportion: 45% offenders, 71% crime

Direction of travel: N/A

Public expectation: Substantial

At risk groups: Younger males (aged 25-29 and 30-34) particularly those from disadvantaged communities, and adults with drug dependencies are highly likely to repeatedly offend.

Modern Slavery

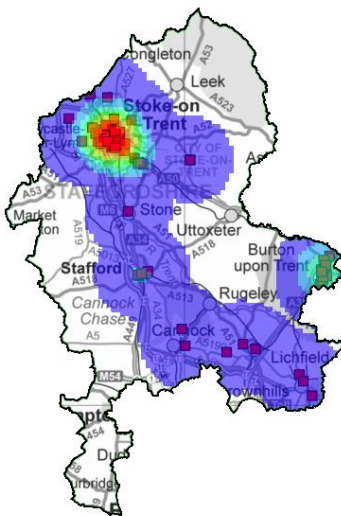
Modern Slavery refers to the offences of human trafficking, slavery, servitude, and forced or compulsory labour. This can then be considered as five sub threats: sexual exploitation of adults; trafficking of adults into conditions of labour exploitation; trafficking of adults into conditions of criminal exploitation; trafficking of minors into conditions of sexual, criminal or labour exploitation; and other forms of exploitation¹².

The scale of Modern Slavery is consistently and gradually increasing and it is likely to continue to do so¹³. Modern Slavery is a highly complex and hidden crime which makes it challenging to accurately measure in terms of prevalence; however there have been year on year increases in the number of victims identified. Staffordshire has seen a gradual increase in the reporting of Modern Slavery which is in line with the national picture.

Both victims and perpetrators of Modern Slavery offences in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent are predominantly British, followed by Vietnamese; with both perpetrator and victim often being of the same nationality. British victims tend to have fallen on difficult times, making them vulnerable to the false promise of well-paid work complete with decent accommodation.

Concerns remain over the ongoing problem of clandestine entrants found at motorway service stations which are common drop off locations for illegal immigrants.

Modern Slavery recorded by Staffordshire Police



Fire and Risk of Fire

Some areas of Tamworth have a high proportion of lower value residential properties in areas of high housing density, and that may carry some fire risk. The majority of these are in areas with higher proportions young families with limited resources. National statistics¹⁴ highlight that older adults are generally at the greatest risk from fires, with fire-related fatality rates per million population far higher for those aged 65-79, and even higher still for those aged 80 and over compared to the general population.

There are a range of factors which appear to disproportionately result in casualties compared to the number of dwelling fires that they are a factor in, these are primarily; incidents involving chip-pan or deep-fat fryers, fires that are started by smoking materials (such as cigarettes), fires in dwellings where no alarm system is present, fires where the main occupant is under the influence, and fires where the main occupant has an underlying medical condition or illness. It is important that homes are fitted with functioning fire alarms as a minimum, and that communities are encouraged to engage with the Safe and Well programme ran by Staffordshire Fire and Rescue in order to have the safety of their homes assessed and addressed.

Fires affecting businesses can have significant impact; causing difficulties for suppliers, retailers and affecting employees either temporarily or sometimes permanently. Up to 60% of small businesses do not recover from a severe fire. It is incredibly important that new businesses engage with the Fire & Rescue business support service team to receive fire safety advice and guidance.

¹² NCA – National Strategic Assessment of Serious and Organised Crime 2018

¹³ <https://nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/what-we-do/crime-threats/modern-slavery-and-human-trafficking>

¹⁴ https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/831136/detailed-analysis-fires-attended-fire-rescue-england-1819-hosb1919.pdf

Business Crime

The total price tag of burglary, shoplifting, robbery, criminal damage, theft and other offences against businesses in Staffordshire is estimated at over £7,300 per hour. Fraud alone costs companies £9.1 billion nationally a year. Over a third (39%) of businesses do not report crime to police.

In the 12 months to November 2020, there were around 630 instances of Fraud recorded by the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB) affecting organisations in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent, with total losses of around £4.6million. Local research conducted on behalf of the Staffordshire Commissioner's Office has highlighted that many small businesses locally are particularly concerned about Fraud and Online crime, and this acts as a barrier to their development of online services.

Staffordshire has a high proportion of small and micro businesses, many of which do not have the same resilience as larger national and multi-national businesses. As a result, smaller businesses risk being significantly harmed and disrupted by experiences of crime. Business crime affects a broad range of businesses in Staffordshire; from incidents of criminal damage and arson, to large businesses who are victims of fraud, and farms who are victims of machinery and 'off-road' vehicle thefts (such as quad-bikes, 4x4s and Land Rovers) used in farming and agriculture.

On a national scale there have been significant Cyber-Crime offences committed against large businesses, particularly linked to "Ransom-ware" based extortion, which still present a significant risk to businesses, particularly those who rely on less up-to-date information technology infrastructure and equipment.

Quality of Life and Wider Determinants

There are a range of factors which affect individual quality of life, life chances and overall vulnerability. The factors considered to be of most concern within Tamworth are; deprivation and economic stress, drug and substance misuse, mental health and children and young people at risk of safeguarding.

It is considered that the COVID-19 pandemic experienced throughout 2020, and in particular the associated measures and restrictions to limit the spread of the virus, as well as the impact on the economy and government spending, will have a lasting and profound impact on the vulnerability of individuals and communities locally, nationally and globally.

Child safeguarding demands have been particularly high in Tamworth, with the area experiencing rates of Child Protection Plans (CPP) and rates of Looked-after Children (LAC) in recent years which are statistically higher than the rates for England. Glascote ward is of particular concern, with the highest rates of both CPP and LAC in the area.

Rates of Under 18 Conceptions remain high in Tamworth, with the number of deliveries to teenage mothers considered to be statistically higher than the national level, and the second highest in the force-area – although previously the highest.

School attainment at KeyStage 4 (previously GCSE) is below the national level, and has been for a period of time, which may have links to slightly higher local levels of universal credit claims amongst younger people. Missing the national standard for KS4 can be particularly problematic, as it can act as a barrier to accessing college and sixth form learning and as a barrier to securing apprenticeships. There are risks that this might result in limited employment opportunities, and make some young people more vulnerable to being criminally exploited.

Overall levels of out-of-work benefit claimants in Tamworth are in line with the force area, however, the gap in employment rates for those in good health compared to those with long-term health conditions is significantly worse than England.

Unemployment rates across the UK have been rising since the first COVID lockdown in March 2020, and while this hasn't been observed to the same extent in Tamworth, it is a situation which will require monitoring. As at the end of November 2020, around 6.1% of Tamworth residents were in receipt of Universal Credit – in line with the national level (6.3%) but significantly lower than the West Midlands regional level (7.3%).

A far greater proportion of Tamworth residents were considered to be Economically Active in latest data (June 2020); around 87% compared to 79% nationally.

While a good proportion of adults are in work, earnings are generally lower than average for those who live in Tamworth. Average gross yearly pay for a Tamworth resident in full-time work remains around £1,600 lower than the national average, with wage increases locally not keeping up with national increases over the past five years. It is possible that this will be further exacerbated when the UK furlough scheme ends in April 2021.

Healthy lifestyles are a concern for Tamworth, with the rate of adults considered to be overweight or obese (27.8%) higher than the national level (23%). However, rates of overweight and obese children at Year 6 are significantly lower than the national level (29.5% compared to 35.2% nationally) - Tamworth is the only Safety Partnership area in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent where this rate is lower than the national level.

In terms of healthy lifestyles, there are also implications for those with pre-existing health conditions, who have been advised to isolate themselves through the majority of the COVID pandemic – although the impact may not be evidenced in Public Health data for some time.

While alcohol-dependency and related concerns have reduced in Tamworth in recent years, latest Public Health data (2018-19) shows that hospital admissions for alcohol related conditions have increased since the previous Strategic Assessment, and are now significantly above the national level, although deaths attributable to alcohol are in line with the national average.

Public Confidence & Feeling the Difference

It should be noted, that in 2019, the decision was made to redevelop it's approach to a Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent public confidence residents' survey. As such the Feeling the Difference survey ceased.

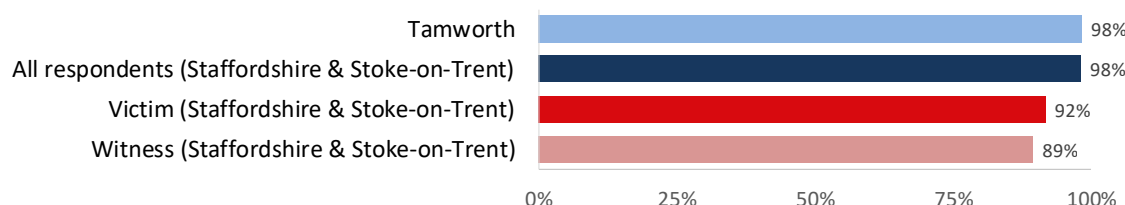
The final wave of the Feeling the Difference surveys were completed in late 2018 (referenced below) with a new residents' survey introduced in late 2020. Findings from the new survey will be shared, as relevant, once made available.

In previous analysis a high proportion of residents were satisfied with Tamworth as an area to live (93%) and the large majority are satisfied with their quality of life (92%).

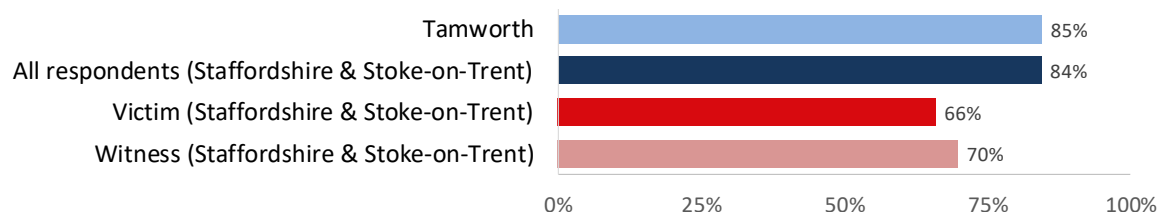
Around half (46%) of residents appear to be satisfied with the level of police presence in the local area, while overall feelings of safety in Tamworth are high; local residents report that they feel very safe in Tamworth during the day (98%) and the very large majority also feel safe after dark (85%). Most residents (87%) feel that it's unlikely that they will be a victim of crime at any point in the future.

Data shows us that those who have previously experienced crime first-hand, as either a victim of crime or a witness to a crime, generally feel less safe than the population overall. This is particularly acute when considering how safe residents feel at night or after dark.

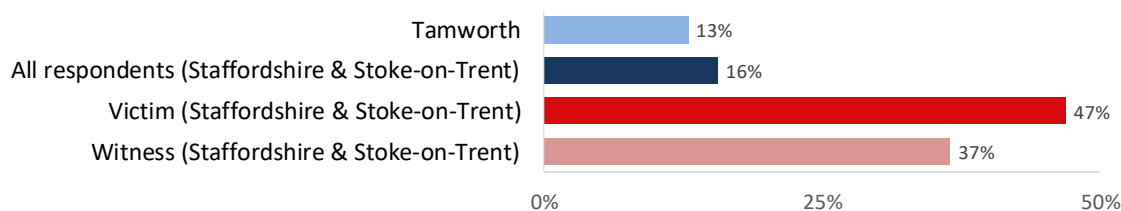
Feelings of safety during daylight hours



Feelings of safety at night/after dark



Feel likely that they will be a victim of crime



Appendices

Appendix A: Overall recommendations

Ensure that partnerships maintain links with Staffordshire Police, through the Knowledge Hub and local Policing Commanders, in order to identify emerging risks and priorities in 'real time' as they occur throughout the year – including making use of available Business Intelligence resources such as the Staffordshire Police Knowledge Hub BRAIN Gateway, and making use of relevant emerging risk assessment and strategic documents.

Partnerships should engage with Police Thematic Leads for each of their identified areas of priority in order to engage with and influence the Police response to priority challenges.

Ensure that partnerships remain engaged with relevant Needs and Risk Assessments developed through the Staffordshire Commissioner's Office, through Local Authorities, and in other Safety Partnership areas, so that emerging learning and recommendations can be reflected in ongoing partnership strategy and delivery.

Where services have been commissioned centrally, Safety Partnership areas and services should engage with one-another in order to share knowledge and expertise, to ensure that delivery is appropriately meeting local demand, and compliments any existing delivery and services.

The full partnership should explore approaches which will allow young people to anonymously report concerns around crime, radicalisation or extremist behaviour, and criminal exploitation - which can then be escalated through mechanisms such as Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARAC) or similar. In particular, but not limited to, giving young people an opportunity to communicate concerns that they may have about;

- Potential criminal exploitation of themselves or others (incl. gang-related activity/recruitment)
- Knowledge of weapons possession or 'stashing'¹⁵ amongst their peers
- Drug or alcohol misuse (their own, or that of others)
- Potential radicalisation or extremism, or other concerning hate-related behaviour
- Knowledge of other criminal behaviour in the community which is a cause for concern

Appendix B: Specific recommendations for key priorities

As this report considers the current position in the context of the priorities and recommendations set out in the full three-yearly Strategic Assessment (issued last year, 2019) many recommendations and priorities remain unchanged from the previous full SA. Where recommendations are new additions or revised compared to the previous report, these are clearly highlighted with a prefix.

Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)

[REVISED] Work is needed to better understand where Hate is a factor in ASB and identify if there are communities where Hate-related ASB is of particular concern. Where there are concerns that ASB is hate-related, Partnerships should consider whether this is significant enough to refer cases to Prevent.

Existing recommendations for the duration of the three-year assessment period:

The pan-Staffordshire ASB Strategy group should continue to engage with Safety Partnerships and vice versa to help improve our knowledge and understanding of ASB in the force-area There is a need to continue to develop understanding around risk and protective factors affecting young people and their involvement in ASB.

Partnerships should continue to share information on perpetrators and particularly repeat and younger perpetrators (of both public place ASB and Neighbour Disputes) to ensure that individuals receive multi-agency support where appropriate in order to reduce re-offending. [Cross-cutting to Repeat & Persistent Offending recommendations]

As much ASB is public-place Rowdy & Inconsiderate Behaviour, Partnership areas should continue to consider options to limit ASB in hot-spot areas, including the use of provisions such as Public Space Protection Orders.

Domestic Abuse

[NEW] Safety Partnerships should remain sighted on the Domestic Abuse Bill (2020) - due to become law in April 2021. This places statutory duties on upper-tier LAs, including the duty to provide victims (and their children) with appropriate safe accommodation and support whilst in accommodation. Responsible authorities will be required to form Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Boards and CSPs should ensure that they engage with these accordingly.

¹⁵ Stashing refers to the practice of hiding knives and other weapons in public places, such as parks or undergrowth, so that they are available for individuals to use in violent offences – without the additional risk of being in possession of the weapon.

Existing recommendations for the duration of the three-year assessment period:

There is a continued need for collaborative working across the whole force-area to support the DA agenda, led by established pan-Staffordshire governance arrangements and delivered through the DA Strategy and Action Plan.

There is a continuing need for partners in front-line service to have a strong awareness and understanding of signs of non-physical types of domestic abuse, (e.g. coercive control, financial abuse, psychological abuse including stalking). There is a need to continue to raise public awareness around these types of domestic abuse.

Reaching out to hard to engage cohorts; including men, BME, LGBTQ+, those with Learning Difficulties, Mental Health needs, those in rural areas, as well as those from isolated or marginalised communities is vital in order to give individuals the confidence to come forward and seek support. This should remain linked to other services such as mental health, drug and alcohol misuse and homelessness, as well as education providers from age 14 and up.

Safety Partnerships should engage with partners to develop and improve understanding of Stalking and Harassment offences, and continue to improve awareness and understanding of the Stalking Protection Act (2019) and how the Police can apply for Stalking Protection Orders (SPOs) to address offending and protect victims.

[REVISED] Community Cohesion & Tackling Extremism

[NEW] There should be additional consideration for children who receive home education, including those who have started to be home educated throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, to ensure that they are receiving a well-rounded education in order to prevent any extremist teachings.

[NEW] Safety Partnerships should engage with the development of Community Cohesion partnership work through the Safer & Stronger Communities Strategic Group, which will link in to existing strategic Hate Crime work and the Prevent board. Partnerships should also strongly consider whether there is a need to work with local partners and stakeholders (such as voluntary sector partners) to develop local Community Cohesion strategy for their local area.

[REVISED] As people spend more time online as a result of COVID-19-related restrictions on social contact, it should be considered that there is increased risk around online radicalisation. Partnerships should continue to raise awareness of extremism and potential signs of radicalisation within communities, and particularly in those communities at risk of emerging extreme right-wing and far-right extremism. Young people, parents/guardians and community members should have an awareness of prevalent extremist groups.

Existing recommendations for the duration of the three-year assessment period:

All Safety Partnership areas must continue with Prevent activity and the work of the Prevent Board; maintaining and building further positive engagement between communities, police and partners; to enable identification of key individuals who may be radicalising others, and to safeguard any vulnerable persons.

There should be central consideration about whether there may be a need for enhanced mechanisms to allow young people to raise concerns if they feel they or their peers are becoming radicalised or showing extremist behaviour.

There remains a need for the Prevent Board and Safety Partnership areas to support partner agencies with low Prevent referral rates, including supporting their understanding of the referral mechanism to improve referral quality.

Safety Partnerships and Prevent partners should continue raising awareness of existing and emerging far-right and extreme right-wing groups and encourage reporting of concerns through usual channels such as Prevent.

Safety Partnerships should engage with other partners to improve knowledge and understanding of hate crime amongst groups who are less present in recorded incidents, in particular; the LGBTQ+ community, those with disabilities and/or learning difficulties, and those with mental health needs.

Car Key Burglary and Vehicle Theft

Existing recommendations for the duration of the three-year assessment period:

There is a need to raise awareness of measures that individuals can take to reduce the risk of becoming victims of such types of crime, particularly in high risk and hot-spot areas, and amongst high risk groups. This is equally the case for business and small business owners who rely on vehicles as a business asset.

Safety Partnerships should continue to engage with Staffordshire Police to identify emerging hot-spot areas and vehicle makes/models which are at particular risk, in order to direct relevant preventative activity as appropriate.

County Lines

[NEW] Given the impact of the Coronavirus pandemic; on physical health, mental health and well-being, employment, and education – it should be considered that over the next 12-24 months there will be increases in numbers of people and families considered to be vulnerable. Partnerships must consider that this will not only increase demand on support services and partners, but also increase numbers of individuals who may be at increased risk of criminal exploitation. It is important that mechanisms to document, share, and escalate concerns around exploitation and vulnerability can cope with increased pressure. *[Duplicated within Vulnerable Persons recommendations]*

Existing recommendations for the duration of the three-year assessment period:

Safety Partnerships should continue to develop and enhance partner and community awareness and sharing of concerns linked to County Lines; primarily the signs of criminal exploitation of young people through organised crime and gang activity, and the signs of criminal exploitation of vulnerable adults through cuckooing activity. Partnerships should continue to promote and encourage community use of Crime Stoppers to allow anonymous reporting.

Safety Partnerships should continue to develop and embed an approach which primarily treats vulnerable individuals who have been criminally exploited as victims in need of support, and ensure that there are targeted early intervention and prevention opportunities in place for individuals who are being or who have been criminally exploited.

There is an ongoing need to continue education in secondary schools and pupil referral units (PRUs) around risks attached to gang membership and organised crime, including ensuring that the mechanisms exist to allow young people to appropriately and anonymously raise concerns about the criminal exploitation of themselves or their peers. Centrally there is a need to ensure that those working with children in care (LAC) such as Care Homes and Foster Carers are aware of signs of criminal exploitation and feel confident in reporting concerns as appropriate.

Public Place Violence and Serious Violence (including Knife Crime)

[NEW] All Safety Partnership areas must anticipate that when COVID restrictions become more relaxed, activity in public places (including activity linked to the night-time economy) will increase considerably – and as such there will likely be an equivalent increase in Public Place Violent and alcohol-related offences.

Existing recommendations for the duration of the three-year assessment period:

All Safety Partnerships should remain engaged with the development and delivery of the Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Serious Violence Reduction Strategy.

Partnerships should continue work with licensing authorities to identify and tackle heavy drinking in areas with high levels of alcohol-related disorder and public place violence. Authorities should work with licenced premises to support staff in recognising signs of potential violence amongst individuals/groups and take appropriate preventative action.

There remains a need for pubs, clubs and bars to have mechanisms whereby those who feel at risk of harm for any reason, can covertly raise concerns and be supported to safely leave the premises to a place of safety. It is important that mechanisms are well-publicised and available to anyone who feels concerned for their safety for any reason.

There are a number of areas which see repeat instances of public place violence, there may be value in exploring options for expanding the 'Safer Places' scheme to allow younger people who feel at risk of violence or harm to use the scheme to find a place of safety while Police are contacted.

To reduce re-offending, joined-up multi-agency support should exist for first-time violent offenders (including those who do not progress through the criminal justice system) in order to support and address relevant behavioural needs and/or any needs relating to mental health, in addition to relevant needs relating to alcohol or substance misuse.

Partnerships should continue to focus on early intervention for young people at risk of gang involvement and should to continue to engage in the delivery and development of gang prevention and disruption strategy as appropriate.

There is ongoing need to work with education settings, pupil referral units, care homes, prisons, youth groups, other youth services, and housing associations to raise awareness of the dangers, risks and legal repercussions associated with carrying knives and other weapons. Local evidence suggests a need to focus on those aged 11-18 years.

Vulnerable Persons (incl. Alcohol, Drugs, Safeguarding and Mental Health)

[NEW] Given the impact of the Coronavirus pandemic on physical health, mental health and well-being, employment, and education – it should be considered that over the next 12-24 months there will be increases in numbers of people and families considered vulnerable. Partnerships must consider that this will not only increase demand on support services and partners, but also increase the number of individuals who may be at risk of criminal exploitation. It is important that mechanisms to document, share, and escalate concerns around exploitation and vulnerability can cope with increased pressure. *[Duplicated within Drug Supply and County Lines recommendations]*

Existing recommendations for the duration of the three-year assessment period:

Alcohol is a cross-cutting theme across a range of priorities – partners should continue to consider where alcohol may be a factor in offending behaviour or in levels of vulnerability, ensuring support and intervention includes alcohol-related support. Support should be particularly intensive for young people with identified emerging alcohol concerns.

Being under the influence of alcohol remains a factor that disproportionately leads to casualties in dwelling fires, it is vital that those delivering support to individuals around alcohol also assess their residences for fire-related risks.

Centrally there is a need to continue to promote activity to raise awareness of the significant risks attached to drug and substance misuse, including the significant health and psychological risks attached to psychoactive substances previously referred to as 'legal highs'. There is a need to ensure that there is appropriate multi-agency support for young people with drug-related and suspected drug-related offending, in order to deter drug use and provide early treatment where addiction or dependency may be a concern. This should include work with schools, education providers, children's homes and foster carers where appropriate, to ensure that there is a sound understanding of the early signs of substance misuse, so that young people can be supported at the earliest possible opportunity.

There is a need to continue work with appropriate partners, so that workers are able to identify those with drug and substance misuse needs who are at risk of, or may be the victims of, criminal exploitation through activities such as cuckooing or through gang or organised crime activity, and appropriately document, share and escalate concerns.

Stronger knowledge of contextual safeguarding is essential in protecting vulnerable people. Partnerships should help lead the way in moving thinking around safeguarding forwards to address extra-familial risk; including supporting businesses in developing awareness of risks to young people and developing confidence in reporting any concerns.

It is essential that young people are aware of signs of potential criminal exploitation, and that mechanisms exist to allow young people to safely communicate concerns about criminal exploitation of themselves or their peers.

There is an ongoing need to keep prevention and early intervention work at the heart of community safety strategy, particularly focussing on young people who are at risk of either offending or becoming victims of crime. This must include work with looked-after-children (LAC) who are a particularly at-risk group and children in Pupil Referral Units (PRUs) who are greater risk of coming into contact with the criminal justice system and increased risk of exploitation.

Mental health is a cross-cutting area of need, with many of the most vulnerable victims and offenders (including those under 18) experiencing mental health challenges. It is recommended that partners continue to consider the impact of mental health on individual's levels of vulnerability and on their behaviour, ensuring that there are packages of appropriate multi-agency support for those with appropriate levels of need.

Recommendations against additional considerations

Repeat and Persistent Offending:

Existing recommendations for the duration of the three-year assessment period:

Continue to engage with partners and Offender Management (as appropriate) to ensure that are appropriate packages of multi-agency support for offenders, particularly those with drug and substance misuse and dependency. Support should be particularly intensive for younger offenders (under 21) who have drug dependencies or drug and substance misuse challenges.

Partnerships should consider that those who commit repeat acquisitive offences in order to sustain drug or alcohol misuse or dependency are at high risk of criminal exploitation and may need additional support and consideration at multi-agency risk assessment meetings.

Partnerships should continue to share information on perpetrators and particularly repeat perpetrators (of both public place ASB and Neighbour Disputes) to ensure that individuals receive multi-agency support where appropriate. It is particularly important that young people who are repeat perpetrators of ASB are identified and supported appropriately to prevent further patterns of offending. [Duplicated within ASB recommendations]

Continue activity with domestic abuse perpetrator programme providers. Approaches should consider additional support needs for offenders around alcohol and drug/substance misuse, mental health, and behavioural and emotional needs and challenges. Support should be particularly intensive for those who are first-time domestic offenders, and domestic offenders who are under 21 years old.

Modern Slavery:

Existing recommendations for the duration of the three-year assessment period:

Safety Partnerships should continue with co-ordinated partnership activity to tackle modern slavery, including the implementation of consistent training packages to improve awareness and knowledge of the factors which may highlight victims and perpetrators and to increase our understanding of the scale and scope of this threat.

Safety Partnerships should contribute to the multi-agency Anti-Slavery Partnership Tactical Group; to assist with early intervention for victims, disruption of offender networks and support a co-ordinated approach to enforcement activity. It is important for partners to remain engaged and in tune with national discussion around Modern Slavery, and developments to make the National Referral Mechanism better tailored for victimised children and young people.

It is important for partners and front-line services to have strong awareness of the range of offending included under Modern Slavery including that many victims and perpetrators of Domestic Servitude and Forced Labour offences in Staffordshire & Stoke-on-Trent are British. Safety Partnerships should remain engaged with Staffordshire Police and the Police Knowledge Hub in order to become aware of any shifts or emerging changes in Modern Slavery.

Fire and Fire Risks:

Existing recommendations for the duration of the three-year assessment period:

Support partners in front-line services to be able to recognise fire-risk in homes and recognise where factors are present that have links to disproportionate levels of fire-related casualties. Partners should make appropriate referrals to Fire and Rescue, or provide appropriate information, advice and support to individuals to reduce risk. This should also extend to partners who engage with businesses and the agricultural community.

Business Crime:

[NEW] Preliminary findings from Staffordshire Commissioner's Office report on Business Crime suggests that there may be a need for greater engagement with smaller businesses in partnership areas, in order to better understand their needs and how they are impacted by crime.

Existing recommendations for the duration of the three-year assessment period:

Continue to engage with Business Crime Advisors at the Staffordshire Chambers of Commerce as appropriate. Engage with the development and delivery of pan-Staffordshire Business Crime strategy.

Appendix C: Methodology

The prioritisation setting process for 2020-21 has taken account of existing priorities, analysis, reporting and intelligence to identify any shift in, or emerging key priorities - validated through conversations with individual CSP leads.

Previous priorities have been identified through a review of existing strategic risk and threat assessments, analysis of locality data, local and force-wide intelligence, intelligence from appropriate partners and stakeholders and national bodies (such as Action Fraud).

Appendix D: Data tables

Overall Crime: Ward-level count and rate, 2019-20 (wards where rate is above average)

Ward Name	Partnership Area	ALL CRIME	Arson and Criminal Damage	Burglary	Drug Offences	Misc. Crimes Against Society	Possession of Weapons	Public Order Offences	Robbery	Sexual Offences	Theft	Vehicle Offences	Violence against the Person
Castle	Tamworth	198.7	15.2	5.3	8.7	2.3	1.9	10.4	2.9	4.4	79.8	11.5	56.2
Belgrave	Tamworth	70.4	7.4	3.1	1.5	1.4	0.8	2.8	0.6	2.4	16.5	11.1	22.9
Bolehall	Tamworth	63.4	6.4	4.8	1.4	0.9	0.4	2.7	0.9	1.8	13.5	6.2	24.2
Spital	Tamworth	61.9	6.7	2.6	0.7	1.2	0.7	2.3	0.3	2.2	18.5	4.8	22.0
Glascote	Tamworth	59.9	7.5	1.4	1.8	0.9	0.4	2.8	1.7	1.4	7.4	6.0	28.5
Stonydelph	Tamworth	57.7	6.2	3.8	1.3	0.4	0.7	3.0	0.5	1.3	9.5	6.3	24.6
Amington	Tamworth	51.3	7.9	3.9	0.9	0.7	0.1	2.4	0.5	1.3	3.9	6.8	22.5
Wilnecote	Tamworth	48.6	7.0	5.3	1.0	0.7	0.4	3.9	0.2	0.9	4.1	7.2	18.0
Mercian	Tamworth	43.5	5.0	3.1	1.5	1.0	0.6	1.9	0.1	1.8	3.9	5.1	19.4
Trinity	Tamworth	42.3	1.5	2.6	0.4	0.6	0.0	1.9	0.0	0.7	16.0	5.8	12.7
Key			Significantly above average						Above average				

Appendix E: Mosaic Groups (Source: Experian Mosaic, Grand Index v3.00)

Group/Type	Group/Type Name	One-Line Description
A	Country Living	Well-off owners in rural locations enjoying the benefits of country life
B	Prestige Positions	Established families in large detached homes living upmarket lifestyles
C	City Prosperity	High status city dwellers in central locations pursuing careers with high rewards
D	Domestic Success	Thriving families who are busy bringing up children and following careers
E	Suburban Stability	Mature suburban owners living settled lives in mid-range housing
F	Senior Security	Elderly people with assets who are enjoying a comfortable retirement
G	Rural Reality	Householders living in less expensive homes in village communities
H	Aspiring Homemakers	Younger households settling down in housing priced within their means
I	Urban Cohesion	Residents of settled urban communities with a strong sense of identity
J	Rental Hubs	Educated young people privately renting in urban neighbourhoods
K	Modest Traditions	Mature homeowners of value homes enjoying stable lifestyles
L	Transient Renters	Single people renting low cost homes for the short term
M	Family Basics	Families with limited resources who budget to make ends meet
N	Vintage Value	Elderly people with limited pension income, mostly living alone
O	Municipal Tenants	Urban residents renting high density housing from social landlords

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