

**Report for:** Cabinet, 12 December 2017

**Item number:** 9

**Title:** Response to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee report on The Fear of Crime

**Report authorised by:** Stephen McDonnell, Interim Director of Commercial & Operations

**Lead Officer:** Ian Kershaw, Client and Commissioning Manager (Community Safety, Waste and Enforcement)

**Ward(s) affected:** All

**Report for Key/  
Non Key Decision:** Non Key decision

## **1. Describe the issue under consideration**

- 1.1. This report sets out a response to the recommendations made by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in its recently concluded exercise looking at the fear of crime. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee report is elsewhere on this agenda.

## **2. Cabinet Member Introduction**

- 2.1. When considering crime and disorder it is important to address not only actual crime and anti-social behaviour but the fear of crime as well. Fear of crime is a perception but it is one that affects people's quality of life. How safe you feel in your neighbourhood is a key driver of people's overall satisfaction and quality of life. The Council is a statutory partner on the Community Safety Partnership (CSP). We deliver our collective ambitions to make the Borough a safer place for those that live work and visit the Borough, through our Community Safety Strategy, agreed by our CSP. Addressing fear of crime has long been a key component informing our strategy and will continue to be so.

## **3. Recommendations**

- 3.1. Cabinet note the Scrutiny Review into the Fear of Crime set out in Appendix 2
- 3.2. Cabinet agree the response to the recommendations of the review set out in the Appendix 1.

## **4. Reason for Decision**

- 4.1. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee recommendations flow from its extensive investigation and report. They set out a reasonable and measured set of requests which, where they are within the full gift of the Council are recommended for agreement. Where they rely on others the recommendation is partial agreement.



## **5. Other options considered**

- 5.1. The recommendations are consistent with the existing and emerging community safety strategy. This has been informed by extensive consultation. Therefore, no other options have been considered.

## **6. Background information**

- 6.1. The rationale for the setting up of the review, including the scope and terms of reference, is outlined in paragraphs 1.1 to 1.5 of the report at Appendix 2. The review considered the council's objectives and performance in respect of fear of crime and the correlation between actual levels of crime and fear of crime. The review considered a range of data from sources including the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime, expert witnesses, officers and partners, as well as consultation from neighbourhood watches residents associations and young people
- 6.2. The Community Safety Strategy is a required strategic document to be produced by CSPs. The current Community Safety Strategy will expire in 2018 and is being refreshed in line with the emerging Borough Plan.

## **7. Contribution to Strategic Outcomes**

- 7.1. The Community Safety Strategy is a key partnership document. It will be fully aligned with the emerging Borough Plan and hence our strategic outcomes. The current strategy is a key driver for outcomes under priority 3 relating to crime and the fear of crime.

## **8. Statutory Officers comments (Chief Finance Officer (including procurement), Assistant Director of Corporate Governance, Equalities)**

### Finance and Procurement

The report sets out actions to be taken by the services. All costs relating to the recommendation will be contained within the service budget and there are no additional financial implications arising from it.

### Legal

The Assistant Director of Corporate Governance has been consulted and there are no legal implications arising from this report.

### Equalities

Fear of crime is experienced disproportionately by older and female residents. There is also evidence that there is differential and disproportionate experience among different black Asian and minority ethnic groups in the Borough. In taking forward the recommendations this disproportionate experience will be positively impacted.

## **9. Use of Appendices**

Appendix 1: Recommendations in response to the report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Appendix 2: Scrutiny Review - Fear of Crime

## **10. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985**

There are no additional background papers to this report.

This table sets out the recommendations made by the OSC and the officers' recommended response.

| <b>Recommendation &amp; Action</b>  | <b>Lead &amp; others to be involved</b>   | <b>Timescale</b> | <b>Agreed Partially/Agreed Not Agreed</b> | <b>Comments</b>  |
|---|---|------------------|---|--|
| That reducing fear of crime be set as a separate priority by the Community Safety Partnership in the new Community Safety Strategy for the Borough.   | Head of Community Safety and Enforcement/Client and Commissioning Manager (Community Safety, Waste and Enforcement) | June 2018        | <b>Partially agreed</b>                   | The Community Safety Strategy is a partnership strategy agreed by the statutory Community Safety Partnership (CSP). It is not within the Council's gift to fully determine its content however it is highly probable that reducing fear of crime will be a significant strand in any strategy going forward. The new strategy is planned to be introduced in alignment with the new Borough Plan in June 2018. |
| That action plans that may be developed by the Community Safety Partnership to reduce fear of crime be adaptable to local conditions and concerns and include targeted work with sections of the community who are disproportionately affected by it. | Head of Community Safety and Enforcement/Client and Commissioning Manager (Community Safety, Waste and Enforcement) | Ongoing          | <b>Partially agreed</b>                   | This is within the gift of the CSP. Fear of crime is not uniform and varies according to age, gender, geography and other factors. Fear of crime is driven by a range of factors both criminal and non-criminal e.g. the quality of lighting, perceived speed of traffic, level of litter etc. To be   |

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|   |   |            |                         | effective therefore our plans will be informed by a strong sense of neighbourhood context and co-produced wherever possible within the constraints of existing resources.  |
| That in developing the above mentioned action plan further work be undertaken to identify effective interventions, including reference to the outcomes of work by Victim Support on the link between anti-social behaviour and fear of crime. | Head of Community Safety and Enforcement/Client and Commissioning Manager (Community Safety, Waste and Enforcement)                     | Ongoing    | <b>Partially agreed</b> | This is within the gift of the CSP. All action plans will be monitored to ensure they achieve what we intended and lessons are learnt. The ongoing work by Victim Support will be monitored and this and other studies used to inform our evidence base and understanding for future planning. Action plans will be contained within existing resources. |
| That action to improve communication and engagement with the community on crime and community safety issues be set as an ongoing priority for the Community Safety Partnership.   | Head of Community Safety and Enforcement/Client and Commissioning Manager (Community Safety, Waste and Enforcement) Communications Team | Ongoing    | <b>Partially agreed</b> | This is within the gift of the CSP. This is a priority within the current Community Safety Strategy and as noted above likely to be so in the new one. Action plans will be contained within existing resources.   |
| That where necessary funding from ward budgets be used to assist with the establishment and sustainment of  | Ward Members  | April 2018 | <b>Partially agreed</b> | It will be for ward Members to ultimately decide how their ward budgets are allocated .  |

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| neighbourhood watches through provision for premises hire refreshments.  |  |               |                         |  |
| That the proposed introduction of a borough wide additional licensing scheme to cover houses in multiple occupation and a selective scheme to cover 20% of the borough, with a view to extending it across the borough in due course, be strongly supported. | Programme Manager Commissioning and Client   | Ongoing.      | <b>Partially agreed</b> | This is partially agreed as the scheme is currently subject to consultation. HMOs present the highest risk; a borough wide scheme will include all HMO type property and will have a significant positive impact. Any Selective Licensing scheme above 20% has to be approved by the Secretary of State and be supported by a robust evidence base. Introducing an initial 20% scheme will help us gather the evidence needed to support an extension to the scheme. Regular reviews of both schemes will be carried out and a business case put forward if evidence supports a roll out of the Selective Licensing scheme to other areas. |
| That in view of their positive impact in combating fear of crime issues relating to crime and community safety be  | Head of Community Safety and Enforcement/Client and Commissioning Manager (Community Safety, | November 2017 | <b>Agreed</b>           | Fear of crime by neighbourhood will be passed to the Sustainable Transport Manager to allow it to be taken   |

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| taken into account when selecting streets which are prioritised for upgrading of street lighting.  | Waste and Enforcement)/Sustainable Transport Manager  |     |               | account of when rolling out street light replacement/upgrade programmes     |
| That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee revisit issues regarding betting shops and in particular how any anti-social behaviour associated with them is addressed    | Head of Community Safety and Enforcement/Client and Commissioning Manager (Community Safety, Waste and Enforcement)                               | Tba | <b>Agreed</b> | Officers will support this further scrutiny exercise when it is programmed. |
| That a report be submitted to a future meeting of the Panel on progress since the implementation of the 20mph speed limit in residential streets within the Borough. | Head of Community Safety and Enforcement/Client and Commissioning Manager (Community Safety, Waste and Enforcement)/Sustainable Transport Manager | Tba | <b>Agreed</b> | Officers will support this further scrutiny exercise when it is programmed. |