



East Suffolk House, Riduna Park, Station Road,
Melton, Woodbridge, Suffolk, IP12 1RT

Scrutiny Committee

Members:

Councillor Stuart Bird (Chairman)
Councillor Mike Deacon (Vice-Chairman)
Councillor Edward Back
Councillor David Beavan
Councillor Judy Cloke
Councillor Linda Coulam
Councillor Andree Gee
Councillor Louise Gooch
Councillor Tracey Green
Councillor Colin Hedgley
Councillor Geoff Lynch
Councillor Keith Robinson
Councillor Caroline Topping

Members are invited to a **Meeting of the Scrutiny Committee**
to be held in the Deben Conference Room, East Suffolk House, Melton,
on **Thursday, 17 March 2022 at 6.30pm**

This meeting will be broadcast to the public via the East Suffolk YouTube
Channel at <https://youtu.be/awCzADrHe8o>.

An Agenda is set out below.

Part One – Open to the Public

Pages

1 **Apologies for Absence and Substitutions**

- 2** **Declarations of Interest**
Members and Officers are invited to make any declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary or Local Non-Pecuniary Interests that they may have in relation to items on the Agenda and are also reminded to make any declarations at any stage during the Meeting if it becomes apparent that this may be required when a particular item or issue is considered.
- 3** **Minutes** **1 - 11**
To confirm as a correct record the Minutes of the Meeting held on 17 December 2020
- 4** **Crime & Disorder Committee - Review of Community Safety Partnership ES/1097** **12 - 31**
Report of the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Community Health
- 5** **Cabinet Member Scrutiny Session**
To scrutinise the Cabinet Member for Community Health, Councillor Mary Rudd.
- 6** **Scrutiny Committee's Forward Work Programme**
To receive an update in relation to the Committee's Forward Work Programme

Part Two – Exempt/Confidential

There are no Exempt or Confidential items for this Agenda.

Close



Stephen Baker, Chief Executive

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Unconfirmed



Minutes of a Meeting of the **Scrutiny Committee** held via Zoom, on **Thursday, 17 December 2020 at 6:30pm**

Members of the Committee present:

Councillor Edward Back, Councillor David Beavan, Councillor Stuart Bird, Councillor Linda Coulam, Councillor Mike Deacon, Councillor Andree Gee, Councillor Louise Gooch, Councillor Tracey Green, Councillor Geoff Lynch, Councillor Mark Newton, Councillor Keith Robinson, Councillor Caroline Topping

Other Members present:

Councillor Peter Byatt, Councillor Maurice Cook, Councillor Tony Cooper, Councillor Craig Rivett, Councillor Ed Thompson

Officers present: Katherine Abbott (Democratic Services Officer), Damilola Bastos (Finance Planning Manager), Sarah Carter (Democratic Services Officer), Marie McKissock (Finance Officer Compliance), Sue Meeken (Political Group Support Officer (Labour)), Brian Mew (Chief Finance Officer and Section 151 Officer), Lorriane Rogers (Deputy Chief Finance Officer), Julian Sturman (Senior Accountant),

1 Apologies for Absence and Substitutions

Apologies for Absence were received from Councillor Cloke.

2 Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest.

3 Unconfirmed Minutes of the Meeting of the Scrutiny Committee held on 24 September 2020

By consensus agreement, it was

RESOLVED

(a) That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 24 September 2020 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman;

4 Unconfirmed Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Scrutiny Committee held on 15 October 2020

(b) That the Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting held on 15 October 2020 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman;

5 Unconfirmed Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Scrutiny Committee held on 16 November 2020

(c) That the Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting held on 16 November 2020 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

6 Capital Programme 2021/22 to 2024/25 including revisions to 2020/21

The Scrutiny Committee received report **ES/0605** which set out the Council's Capital Programme for the financial years 2021/22 to 2024/5, including revisions to 2020/21. The report included the main principles applied to set the Programme (paragraph 1.4) and detailed the expenditure and financing in 2020/21, 2021/22 to 2024/25.

The Cabinet Member with responsibility for Resources introduced the report. He said that, as part of the annual budget setting process, the Council was required to agree a programme of capital expenditure for the coming four years. The report set out East Suffolk Council's General Fund Capital Programme at Appendix A and the Housing Revenue Account Capital Programme at Appendix B for 2020/21 to 2024/25; it also incorporated revisions to 2020/21. The Cabinet Member added that the Capital Programme had been compiled taking account of main principles, these being to maintain an affordable four-year rolling Capital Programme; to ensure capital resources were aligned with the Council's Business Plan; to maximise available resources by actively seeking external funding and disposal of surplus assets; and to not anticipate receipts from disposals until they were realised. The Cabinet Member continued that the General Fund Capital Programme included £103.65 million of external contributions and grants towards financing the Council's £189.44 million of capital investment for the Medium-Term Financial Strategy period. This represented 55% of the whole General Fund capital programme. Key investments for the General Fund were the Felixstowe Regeneration (Leisure Centre and Infrastructure), Lowestoft Beach Hut Replacements, Commercial Investment, Flood Alleviation, specifically the Lowestoft Tidal Barrier project and finally a potential loan to the Local Authority Trading Company (LATCO); further details of this were within section 4 of the report. The Committee was advised that the Housing Revenue Account Capital Programme totalled £64.95 million for the Medium-Term Financial Strategy period and did not require any additional external borrowing to finance it. The Housing Revenue Account capital programme would benefit from £13.31 million of external grants and contributions, which was 21% of the programme. Key investments for the Housing Revenue Account were the housing redevelopment programme and the housing new build programme. Again, further details were provided within the report in Section Four. The Cabinet Member referred to Section 6 of the report which detailed the

revenue implications arising from the Capital Programme, showed the capital charges for each year of the Medium-Term Financial Strategy period, which were split between General Fund and Housing Revenue Account. In conclusion, the Cabinet Member stated that approval of the Capital Programme for 2020/21 to 2024/25 was required as part of the overall setting of the Budget and Medium-Term Financial Strategy.

The Chairman invited questions.

Councillor Beavan, with reference to paragraph 1.8, asked if the change in borrowing rules from the Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) was for speculative property investments only, or all income generation projects. The Cabinet Member for Resources replied that the new arrangements prohibited any councils borrowing from the PWLB if their capital programmes contained any projects from 2021/22 onwards that were solely for income generation. HM Treasury had issued detailed guidance which was not straightforward - consequently, officers had already been briefed by the Council's external treasury advisors and would continue to have regular updates whilst further information was still being provided by HM Treasury.

Councillor Beavan asked what the LATCO would do and if this would include commercial investment. The Cabinet Member referred to the statement in the report that a full business case would be presented to Cabinet in due course. He added that the purpose of the LATCO was to create the opportunity for the Council to increase its revenue from commercial operations.

With reference to paragraph 6.4 of the report, Councillor Beavan suggested that the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) appeared to be depreciation; he also asked why it was indicated as trebling over the next four years when interest remained static. The Cabinet Member responded that the MRP was an annual cumulative charge for the repayment of the principal amount of borrowing. As the borrowing requirement increased this was where capital projects could not be funded through grants, contributions, capital receipts or reserves, then the amount of MRP being charged would increase.

Councillor Beavan referred to the summary table for the General Fund Programme and asked if the 2021/22 and later budgets had been adjusted to take account of underspend this year; he explained that he wished to understand what original meant in this context and if calculations were this year's or last. The Cabinet Member replied that original budgets were set at the beginning of the year and revised budgets followed the frequent departmental reviews. He confirmed that the budgets for future years benefitted from any underspend from previous years, unless the project had been completed.

Councillor Beavan asked why there was a £19k shortfall in operations this year whilst expenditure was not reflected in an increase in next year's budget. The Cabinet Member replied that budgets were set based on the perceived requirements for the coming year. These did not necessarily relate directly to previous years or reflect any shortfall in service.

Councillor Beavan referred to the summary table for the Housing Programme and asked for clarity on why housing repairs were a capital expenditure but other repairs were not. The Cabinet Member replied that housing stock was a capital asset and thus any repairs to the fabric of the asset was capital expenditure. Repairs of any other kind were revenue expenditure.

Councillor Beavan asked what direct revenue funding was and how was it calculated. The Cabinet Member replied that this was the mechanism by which resources/reserves were released to fund capital projects and were the budgeted costs for that project.

The Chairman asked if the Council sought and received expert advice on investment opportunities. The Committee was informed that considerable due diligence was applied before investment proposals were submitted to Cabinet for consideration; all commercial investments were subject to constant monitoring on a daily basis to ensure performance. The Chief Finance Officer said the Council's Investment Strategy had been approved by Full Council and provided a tightly defined and controlled environment for investments. He added that the level of commercial investment at the Council was limited and reiterated that all were subject to robust business cases and analysis.

Councillor Deacon, with reference to paragraph 1.8, asked about the Council's approach to ethical investment. The Cabinet Member replied that this was an area which was never 100% satisfactory to everyone, however, the Council's investments were across a wide range of stocks with attractive investments in green industries. The Senior Accountant (Financial Compliance) added that many of the Council's investments were with other local authorities, primarily for cash flow or capital investment purposes, and that there was no investment in non-ethical commodities.

Councillor Deacon asked about investments in local energy providers and referred to the Bill by Peter Aldous MP. The Cabinet Member replied that this was not currently available for investment but, if a good return was possible, it would be good to be able to invest locally.

Councillor Deacon asked if repairs were undertaken to be as near to zero carbon impacts as possible. The Cabinet Member replied that sometimes such repairs would be financially unviable but that this was an aim that was pursued as far as was possible without being financially imprudent.

Councillor Topping referred to page 36 of the report which detailed Housing Revenue Account capital investment projects and asked if the underspends were a result of the pandemic and if it was anticipated that this would 'catch-up' under the rolling programme of repairs. The Cabinet Member confirmed this was the case.

Councillor Topping, with reference to repairs at St Peter's Court, asked if the fire risk assessment had been completed as it did not appear to be shown in the table. It was confirmed that the building met fire regulations, but the cladding required additional work.

Councillor Gooch asked if information on how the lifespan of investments was calculated could be provided; she referred to proposed investment in a crazy golf facility and asked how, as an example, it had been included in the list and the lifespan of the investment arrived at. The Cabinet Member said the lifespan of an investment was not necessarily calculated in advance, but the Council would remain responsible for repairs. In certain large investments, the Council sought the repayment of its investment in 30-40 years, but not for small amounts as with the crazy golf facility. Councillor Gooch asked how members or the public would be able to know what constituted a medium or large spend and were these one-off expenditure or part of the rolling programme. The Chief Finance Officer explained that the Capital Programme was formulated from a variety of sources and was also prioritised. He added that the Council could look at developing a categorisation in its reporting of budgetary information which specified the key objectives of each project. This suggestion was welcomed.

Councillor Topping referred to the tables on Operations expenditure (pages 31/32 of the report) and, in particular, the costs for Waveney Norse Grounds Equipment; she asked if the Council purchased these and, if so, did they remain its property. Councillor Topping also asked if, at the end of a piece of equipment's useful life, it was sold and the income was reclaimed by the Council. The Senior Accountant (Financial Compliance) said equipment and vehicles purchased by the Council and used by Norse remained the property of the Council; at the end of their useful life, equipment or vehicles would be traded in for a replacement or sold with the revenue coming back to the Council.

The Chairman asked why the Council did not invest further in its own housing stock. The Cabinet Member said that the security and liquidity of the Council's money was more important than potential yield, therefore, there was a need to ensure risk was spread and to not have all the Council's assets in one place, for example, housing. The Chairman suggested that investment in shares and business parks was also a risk and that social housing was less of a risk. The Cabinet Member replied that it was not prudent to invest heavily in housing stock as it could impact on the Council's liquidity.

The Chairman referred to the LATCO loan receiving a 6% return and queried the report also stating that the Council could borrow at low rates. The Cabinet Member said his interpretation of prospective rates was a hope to return to 6% p.a. from the operation of the LATCO; this, he said, would be a satisfactory yield but in the current circumstances remained to be seen.

In response to a question by Councillor Coulam about the use of electric vehicles, the Cabinet Member confirmed that Norse already used electric vehicles. He added that the Head of Operations was working to identify the most efficient form of green energy for refuse vehicles.

Councillor Beavan asked if the Council could commit to electric charging points in car parks. The Cabinet Member said this was not within his portfolio but if such a project was proposed it would be assessed by the finance team.

Councillor Topping asked if the rolling programme of housing repairs included the installation of solar panels. The Cabinet Member replied that this was undertaken whenever possible and that both small and large projects were being considered.

There being no matters raised for debate, the Chairman moved to the recommendation which was proposed by Councillor Topping, seconded by Councillor Coulam, and by unanimous vote it was

RESOLVED

That, having reviewed and commented upon the Capital Programme for 2021/22 to 2024/25 and revisions to 2020/21, it be recommended for approval by Full Council.

7 Draft Medium Term Financial Strategy 2021/22 to 2024/5

The Committee received report ES/0606 of the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Resources.

The Cabinet Member for Resources, Councillor Cook, introduced the report which provided an update Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) for the Council, which provided a baseline forecast of income and expenditure and considered the overall financial climate. It provided a framework within which the Council's overall spending plans would be developed.

At the end of the 2021/22 budget process, in February 2021, the Council was required to approve a balanced budget for the following financial year and set the Band D rate of Council Tax. The report set out the context and initial parameters in order to achieve that objective and contribute towards a sustainable position. The key uncertainties over the period related to Covid-19 and proposed reforms to the Local Government finance system - Business Rates Retention and the Fair Funding Review which had both been deferred to 2022/23. However, the Council's robust reserves position should enable it to both meet these challenges and develop its response to both the pandemic and the goal of financial sustainability.

Councillor Cook added that the Government had recently announced that it would be delivering a one-year Local Government Financial Settlement for 2021/22. The Draft MTFS would be continually revised with updates including those resulting from the Local Government Financial Settlement and further budget monitoring forecasts.

Councillor Cook drew the Committee's attention to section 4.5 of the draft MTFS which contained estimates on business rates income and related Section 31 grants. The position on business rates for 2021/22 was extremely uncertain due to Covid-19 and this section would be reviewed following the Local Government Financial Settlement

and preparation of the non-domestic rates return in January 2021.

Councillor Cook noted that East Suffolk was in an advantageous position under the current Business Rates Strategy, and the delay in changes would enable the Council to benefit from another year under the current regime.

With regards to Council Tax, there was again considerable uncertainty due to Covid-19 and the estimates within the MTFS were cautious. There was likely to be a larger deficit on the 2021/22 Collection Fund for Council Tax and Business Rates, but new regulations had been introduced for the collection of fund deficits that had arisen in 2020/21 which allowed collection over three years rather than one year.

Councillor Cook drew members' attention to Section 6 of the Strategy which detailed the forecast reserves and balances and highlighted that the summary did not include the use of reserves to address budget gaps.

Councillor Cook highlighted the Spending Review Update appended to the report which contained an update on the measures introduced in response to the financial impacts of Covid-19 on Local Government. These measures included Covid-19 Support Funding; Reimbursement of Lost Sales, Fees and Charges; a Tax Income Guarantee Scheme and further Council Tax support. The Spending Review also contained announcements on longer term economic and infrastructure initiatives, including a new Levelling-Up Fund, investment in coastal erosion and flooding.

Councillor Cook noted that these developments and the Council's robust reserves position should enable it to meet the challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic and its goal of longer-term financial sustainability.

The Chief Finance Officer summarised some headline figures, including some additional grants which had been confirmed since the report had been written. He added that the New Homes Bonus allocation for 2021/22 had also been notified, and whilst it was lower than in previous years this had been anticipated and was reflected in the report.

The Chairman invited questions to Councillor Cook and the officers present.

In response to a question from Councillor Deacon on the New Homes Bonus, the Chief Financial Officer confirmed that new properties developed by the Council did qualify for the New Homes Bonus, including the affordable housing supplement where applicable. However, the Government would be consulting on changes to new home incentives.

Councillor Deacon asked whether point 5.11 of the MTFS should make reference to the Procurement Task and Finish Group. The Chief Financial Officer responded that the points and figures in the report reflected the work of the Task and Finish Group, and that point 5.11 was an overarching statement as to how contracts should be approached.

In response to a question from Councillor Coulam on the Business Rate Equalisation figures shown in point 6.8 of the MTFS, the Chief Finance Officer stated that the reason for the high projected income in 2021 was due to the temporary changes in how business rates income had been received due to the Covid-19 pandemic which created a delay between the grant being received and Business Rate Collection Fund deficit being addressed.

Councillor Green asked why there had been a saving of £310,000 as a result of Covid-19, as shown in appendix A3. Officers confirmed that this was as a result of travel and expense savings due to officers and members working from home, and savings in utility costs due to public facilities and leisure centres being closed.

In response to a question on the Government's income compensation scheme from Councillor Green, officers confirmed that the scheme had been set up to cover loss of income from sales and fees such as planning income and parking fees and that the Council had estimated the loss to be in the region of £3million. Returns would be submitted quarterly, and the money would be received the month after.

Councillor Green asked how councillors could monitor spend on the grants received by the Council. The Chief Financial Officer responded that ringfenced grants were monitored internally against the grants criteria, non-ringfenced grants provided more general support and were distributed across a range of areas.

Councillor Gooch asked how the budget would change with forecast changes in inflation and further sudden changes post-Brexit. Councillor Cook responded that whilst the finance team did need to consider future scenarios which could impact the budget, they could only use the information that was immediately available to inform the budget. Councillor Cook added that the support available from the Government was much greater than had been expected which had a positive impact on the budget. With regards to the possibility of negative interest rates, the Council's advisors believed this unlikely, but it was accepted that this could change and the Council would react appropriately.

In response to a question from Councillor Gooch on the support grants for leisure centres, officers confirmed that the Council had submitted an expression of interest and had received an application form. The outcome of the application was expected

within the next month.

In response to a question on a Council Tax freeze from Councillor Beavan, Councillor Cook responded that the Council was aware of the hardship that had been caused by Covid-19 and whilst circumstances could change it was felt that a Council Tax freeze was appropriate at this point. Some additional information was still needed on support from Government and analysis of other figures before the decision could be finalised.

Councillor Topping asked what local services would be curtailed should there be a deficit in the Council Tax Collection Fund as detailed in point 4.21 in the MTFs. Councillor Cook reported that there would be a report to Cabinet on Council Tax in January, currently it was estimated that there would be a 0.6% reduction in income. As with the Council Tax freeze, the decision is based on the assumption that there will be no cuts to services or capital projects that had already been allocated. Point 4.21 referred to the broader Council Tax situation rather than the outlook for this Council.

The Chairman asked what the reason was for the disparity between County Council reserves which were 10% of expenditure and this Council's reserves which were at 3-5% of expenditure. The Chief Financial Officer responded that appropriate reserve levels were determined by individual authority risk assessments. A report was made to Council on the position of the reserves and the 3-5% level was considered appropriate.

There being no further questions, the Chairman moved to the recommendation as set out in the report.

On the proposition of Councillor Robinson, seconded by Councillor Green it was by a majority vote

RESOLVED

That the Scrutiny Committee, having received and reviewed the report, its appendices and the recommendations from Cabinet (as set out above) makes comment

1. approves the draft Medium Term Financial Strategy attached as Appendix A.
2. approves that members and officers develop proposals to set a balanced budget for 2021/22 and beyond, including a recommended freeze on the district element of Council Tax in 2021/22 subject to further evaluation and analysis.
3. approves that members and officers develop proposals to continue the support and response to the Covid-19 pandemic.

8 Cabinet Member's update

The Chairman invited Councillor Cook, Cabinet Member with responsibility for Resources, to provide his update.

Councillor Cook gave an overview of his career to date, which had included work for financial institutions and as a hotelier. In his role as a Councillor, Councillor Cook had become Cabinet Member with responsibility for Resources just before the start of the pandemic and he thanked the finance team for its hard work over the last year dealing with the challenges of Covid-19. He stated that the financial legacy of both Waveney and Suffolk Coastal District Councils had ensured that this Council's finances were in good stead, and that this remained true despite the pressures of the past year.

A number of projects were moving forward which would strengthen the Council's income streams, including commercial property rentals, leisure developments, the Deben High School Housing development and the creation of a LATCO.

With regards to expenditure, Councillor Cook reported that he was pleased to see investment in green technology which would reduce expense in the long term, and increased investment in other areas which had boosted income whilst interest rates were low.

The Chairman invited questions to Councillor Cook.

In response to a question from Councillor Deacon on the worst-case scenario for finance, Councillor Cook responded that the past twelve months had proven to be an ever changing and unprecedented challenge for the finance team and the Council as a whole, which had seemed to get increasingly worse as time had moved on.

Councillor Gooch asked what opportunities there were for Councillor Cook to report to Central Government on the needs of Local Government. Councillor Cook responded that he had been surprised by the number of opportunities that he and the Council had to feedback to Government, for example on the grants needed by local business during the pandemic.

Councillor Byatt asked whether the time was right to ask Government to reduce business rates to benefit small businesses in the area. Councillor Cook responded that the Government had planned to review the business rates system, but this had been deferred for twelve months. In his own ward, Councillor Cook had noted that many of the empty high street units had been successfully let by small businesses which had been kept going with the help of governments grants, and he hoped that this was the case across the district.

9 Update on progress by the Scrutiny Committee's Task and Finish Group

The Committee received report ES/0607 of the members of the Task and Finish Group on integrated care.

The contents of the report was noted, and the Chairman stated that the recommendations to Scrutiny Committee of the Task and Finish Group would be received at its February meeting.

Councillor Cook left the meeting at the conclusion of this item.

10 Scrutiny Committee's Forward Work Programme

The Scrutiny Committee received and reviewed its current Work Programme.

The Scrutiny Committee received a draft scoping form on waste management which had been prepared and submitted for consideration by Councillor Gooch, Councillor Topping and Councillor Deacon. The scoping form was approved by the Committee and it was confirmed on the work programme for the meeting on 25 March 2021.

The Scrutiny Committee noted that its report to Cabinet following the review of the Council's Housing Strategy was scheduled to be received on 2 February 2021. The Chairman also confirmed that, as agreed, additional dates had been added to the draft Calendar of Corporate Meetings in the 2020/21 Municipal Year which would be considered by Full Council in late January.

11 Exempt/Confidential Items (LGA)

It was proposed, seconded and by unanimous vote

RESOLVED

That, under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 9172 (as amended) the public be excluded from the Meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 1 and 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act

12 Unconfirmed Exempt Minutes of the Meeting of the Scrutiny Committee held on 24 September 2020

By consensus agreement, it was

RESOLVED

That the Exempt Minutes of the Meeting held on 24 September 2020 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

.....
Chairman



SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
Thursday, 17 March 2022

Subject	East Suffolk Crime & Disorder Committee: Review of the East Suffolk Community Safety Partnership
Report by	Mary Rudd, Cabinet Member for Community Health
Supporting Officer	<p>Nicole Rickard Head of Communities Nicole.rickard@eastsuffolk.gov.uk 07766 998074</p> <p>Alex Heys Communities Manager Alex.heys@eastsuffolk.gov.uk 07711 065086</p>

Is the report Open or Exempt?	OPEN
Wards Affected:	All Wards

Purpose and high-level overview

Purpose of Report:

To provide the East Suffolk Scrutiny Committee, sitting in its capacity as the Council's Crime and Disorder Committee under the provisions of the Police and Criminal Justice Act, with a reminder of the role, responsibilities and structure of the East Suffolk CSP.

The report outlines the relationship between the Safer Stronger Communities Board at Suffolk level and the East Suffolk Community Safety Partnership and outlines key areas of activity, including plans to review and refine the CSP Action Plan and ambitions for the next twelve months.

Options:

This report is intended to inform the review of the Community Safety Partnership by the Scrutiny Committee (sitting as the Crime and Disorder Committee). It is a factual account of how the Partnership currently works and proposed changes, including refreshing the CSP priorities and Action Plan.

Recommendation/s:

That the Scrutiny Committee reviews and comments on the current position of the CSP, including the CSP Action Plan, and receive a further report later in 2022 following the refresh of the CSP priorities and Action Plan.

Corporate Impact Assessment

Governance:

Oversight of the work of the East Suffolk Community Safety Partnership is through the Scrutiny Committee sitting as the Crime and Disorder Committee once a year, as well as through the Safer Strong Communities Board at Suffolk level. The Assistant Cabinet Member who leads on Community Safety sits on the Safer Stronger Communities Board. An organisational chart is attached in Appendix A.

ESC policies and strategies that directly apply to the proposal:

The work of the Community Safety Partnership and various projects that sit under the umbrella of the partnership fit within the 'We are East Suffolk' Strategic Plan – 'Enabling Our Communities' priority. The Community Safety Partnership does not have a Strategy but does have an Action Plan, which is discussed in more detail below.

Environmental:

There is no specific focus on the environment in the Community Safety Partnership – although some projects, e.g., Community Focus Days, may include community clean ups as part of a wider programme of events.

Equalities and Diversity:

The aim of the Community Safety Partnership is to increase the safety of, and reduce harm to, all East Suffolk residents. However, it includes strategies focused on reducing

types of harm specifically targeted at groups with Protected Characteristics: for example, Hate Crime (around which data is collected on the basis of race, disability and sexual orientation) and Violence Against Women and Girls.

Financial:

Funding of £9,783 has been available to the CSP annually, for the last three years, provided by Suffolk Public Sector Leaders via Suffolk County Council. An additional pot of £16,500 was available in 2021/2022 for work specifically focused on reducing the risk of Criminal Exploitation of Young People (CEOYP). However, there is currently no additional funding available beyond March 2023.

Human Resources:

The resource to co-ordinate the work of the Community Safety Partnership sits within the Communities team at East Suffolk Council with significant input and liaison with Suffolk County Council Officers. There are also a range of statutory partners who take responsibility for the delivery of certain elements of the action plan, or help deliver specific projects, including the Police and Probation.

ICT:

All Community Safety Partnership meetings have been held via Teams since the Covid-19 pandemic began in March 2020.

Legal:

There is no specific resource implication for the Legal Team within the overarching work of the CSP, although they may be called upon in relation to specific areas of activities identified within the Action Plan, for example enforcement action in relation to Anti-Social Behaviour.

Risk:

Risk assessments are undertaken in relation to individual projects as relevant.

External Consultees:

No external consultees in relation to the development of this report. However, a range of partners are actively involved in the Community Safety Partnership (East Suffolk) and the Safer Stronger Communities Board (Suffolk)

Strategic Plan Priorities

Select the priorities of the Strategic Plan which are supported by this proposal: (Select only one primary and as many secondary as appropriate)		Primary priority	Secondary priorities
T01	Growing our Economy		
P01	Build the right environment for East Suffolk	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P02	Attract and stimulate inward investment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P03	Maximise and grow the unique selling points of East Suffolk	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P04	Business partnerships	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P05	Support and deliver infrastructure	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
T02	Enabling our Communities		
P06	Community Partnerships	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P07	Taking positive action on what matters most	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P08	Maximising health, well-being and safety in our District	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P09	Community Pride	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
T03	Maintaining Financial Sustainability		
P10	Organisational design and streamlining services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P11	Making best use of and investing in our assets	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P12	Being commercially astute	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P13	Optimising our financial investments and grant opportunities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P14	Review service delivery with partners	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
T04	Delivering Digital Transformation		
P15	Digital by default	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P16	Lean and efficient streamlined services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P17	Effective use of data	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
P18	Skills and training	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P19	District-wide digital infrastructure	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
T05	Caring for our Environment		
P20	Lead by example	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P21	Minimise waste, reuse materials, increase recycling	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P22	Renewable energy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P23	Protection, education and influence	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
XXX	Governance		
XXX	How ESC governs itself as an authority	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>How does this proposal support the priorities selected?</p> <p>The Community Safety Partnership plays an integral part in maximising safety in our District. It delivers on longer term strategic aims such as raising awareness of and changing attitudes to hate crime and violence against women and girls, and tackles local priorities around community safety such as anti-social behaviour. In addition, it supports the development of community pride by increasing safety, reducing harm and facilitating people from different communities and backgrounds to live together.</p>			

Background and Justification for Recommendation

1 Background facts	
1.1	The East Suffolk Community Safety Partnership was established to work to improve the quality of life and keep our residents, visitors and employees safe. The 1998 Crime and Disorder Act gave birth to Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) by giving local authorities and the police new responsibilities to work in partnership with other organisations and the community to draw up strategies to reduce crime and disorder. Designed to tackle crime and disorder at a local level, the Act recognises that the people who live and work in the area are best placed to identify and address the problems facing them.
1.2	Key to the strength of the CSP is the Responsible Authorities, those agencies who must co-operate as part of the partnerships. These are: Suffolk Constabulary Suffolk and Norfolk Probation Trust Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service Suffolk County Council The District Council Public Health
1.3	Each CSP develops an action plan based on a county-wide strategic assessment (see Appendix B). The CSP action plan currently closely mirrors the strategic objectives set out by Suffolk County Council and the Safer Stronger Communities Board but with a focus on specific activities such as awareness raising and communications campaigns for subjects such as Hate Crime and Prevent. The action plan is delivered by the CSP, with the Responsible Authorities, Suffolk County Council and East Suffolk Council all working together.
1.4	Each CSP undergoes a strategic assessment every three years, with the next one for East Suffolk occurring in 2023. However, the action plan is refreshed each year based on new data, with any emerging areas of focus being considered.
1.5	An overview of work at Suffolk level, including the Safer Stronger Communities Board provided by the Community Safety Team at Suffolk County Council is attached in Appendix C.
2 Current position	
2.1	Community Safety Partnership action plan The current CSP action plan was based on national and local data, and with input from Responsible Authorities, particularly Suffolk County Council. It focuses on large, strategic priorities and is divided into areas of focus under specific activity types as follows (more information about these areas of focus and key projects within them is provided in Appendix B):

Awareness raising against the six priorities:

- Hate Crime
- Preventing Radicalisation
- Modern Slavery
- Anti-social behaviour
- Criminal Exploitation (formerly known as County Lines)
- Violence against women and girls (VAWG)

Communications campaigns:

- Amplifying central campaigns on all areas of focus

Building Community Confidence around reporting and supporting the victims of:

- VAWG
- Prevent
- Hate Crime

Additional projects, including:

- ASB transformation (working to improve and standardise East Suffolk Council ASB policies and procedures to ensure better outcomes for victims and communities)
- Creating safe spaces for the vulnerable and at risk
- Working with employers on domestic violence
- Training frontline staff to work with victims of domestic violence

SCC take responsibility for leading delivery of many of the priorities in the current action and in the context of the current action plan, this makes sense. SCC has clearly defined and detailed strategies around many of the current priorities, which are highly sensitive and complex to tackle and need subject experts to scope and deliver relevant work programmes at a countywide level.

However, focus on the current priorities has caused some issues. The clear direction established in the plan, alongside the complexity and sensitivity of some of the areas of focus, can make it difficult for the CSP to identify and deliver local projects. For example, while it is always important to try to shape attitudes and encourage tolerance around a subject like Hate Crime, there is less prevalence in East Suffolk's relatively ethnically homogenous community, and therefore less opportunity in terms of working with 'at risk' communities. Equally, activity around Prevent is structured by well-researched and nationally recognised programmes that can leave less room for creativity (and can mean that creativity is sometimes not sensible, since it might lead to unintended outcomes).

That said, significant activity has been delivered through the CSP against all priority areas and much of this important activity would not be delivered otherwise. The CSP is in a unique position to work with its partners to identify gaps in provision and plug those gaps with bespoke programmes.

	In ongoing discussions with SCC, it has become clear that there is the opportunity for more flexibility in the design and delivery of the action plan. This includes both choosing priorities and defining activity to meet the objectives defined under those priorities. The current action plan can be significantly refreshed to better reflect local priorities based on local data, moving away, if the data supports it, from the larger strategic priorities to more tactical priorities based on local need. This represents a significant opportunity for the CSP going forward.																														
2.2	<p>Community Safety Partnership engagement</p> <p>As stated in 1.2, the CSP includes several statutory partners (Responsible Authorities). However, engagement from some of these partners has gradually decreased over time, due in part, no doubt, to increased workloads because of Covid but also, perhaps, because of the strategic nature of the action plan – although this situation is currently improving.</p>																														
2.2	<p>Projects</p> <p>As outlined above, successful projects have been delivered under all priorities. A full list is included in the action plan and a summary of projects funded by the CSP is in Section 2.5 below. These projects specifically cover ground not covered otherwise and deliver vital information about, and raise awareness of, key areas of focus.</p>																														
2.3	<p>Community Safety Partnership meetings</p> <p>The full CSP meets virtually once every 3 months. Additional meetings are held regularly between the ESC leads to identify projects and to drive the action plan forward.</p>																														
2.4	<p>Relevant strategies</p> <p>SCC produce a range of strategic documents which cover all areas of focus highlighted in the CSP action plan.</p>																														
2.5	<p>Funding</p> <p>Funding of £9,783 has been available to the CSP annually for three years (2019/20, 2020/21 and 2021/22). An additional pot of £16,500 was available in 2021/2022 for work specifically focused on reducing the risk of Criminal Exploitation of Young People (CEOYP). Due to the relatively low level of CEOYP in East Suffolk, the £16,500 pot remains unspent, although a proposed Criminal Exploitation hub to be located, potentially, in Lowestoft, will provide a focus for work and use of those funds.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Date</th> <th>Project</th> <th>Price</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>28/07/2019</td> <td>Rendlesham skate park safety event</td> <td>£420</td> </tr> <tr> <td>12/09/2019</td> <td>AlterEgo County Lines Theatre Production</td> <td>£8,700</td> </tr> <tr> <td>01/10/2019</td> <td>Hate Crime Conference</td> <td>£400</td> </tr> <tr> <td>01/12/2019</td> <td>Crucial Crew merchandise</td> <td>£1,070</td> </tr> <tr> <td>29/01/2020</td> <td>Removal of PSPO signs</td> <td>£812</td> </tr> <tr> <td>01/02/2020</td> <td>County Lines event</td> <td>£500</td> </tr> <tr> <td>01/03/2020</td> <td>Crucial Crew first aid refresher</td> <td>£450</td> </tr> <tr> <td>31/03/2020</td> <td>Hate Crime Conference</td> <td>£400</td> </tr> <tr> <td>08/07/2020</td> <td>Summer Diversionary Activities resource</td> <td>£480</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Date	Project	Price	28/07/2019	Rendlesham skate park safety event	£420	12/09/2019	AlterEgo County Lines Theatre Production	£8,700	01/10/2019	Hate Crime Conference	£400	01/12/2019	Crucial Crew merchandise	£1,070	29/01/2020	Removal of PSPO signs	£812	01/02/2020	County Lines event	£500	01/03/2020	Crucial Crew first aid refresher	£450	31/03/2020	Hate Crime Conference	£400	08/07/2020	Summer Diversionary Activities resource	£480
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	31/03/2021	Coastal Action against abuse	£1,050
	30/07/2021	Contribution to 'Go Bags'	£225
	14/09/2021	To develop and provide Domestic Abuse information online	£1,050
	<p>The current core funding remaining is £14,400, although a funding proposal for £8,000 has just been agreed, leaving £6,400 remaining in reserves, which will be spent in the next few months. Once this is spent, although the CSP will still be able to facilitate projects working with its partners, the lack of funds will obviously mean it is likely to be significantly less effective in reducing crime and disorder.</p> <p>This is unfortunate timing, because, for reasons explained in more detail in section three, the CSP is about to move into a new, even more pro-active, stage. Reengagement with Responsible Authorities, and the progress made by ESC's ASB transformation project (which is designed to improve ESC's response to ASB), will generate a wealth of new ideas and initiatives which it will be difficult to progress without funding.</p>		
2.6	<p>Membership</p> <p>The core membership of the CSP is made up of the Chair, East Suffolk Council officers, and representatives from Suffolk County Council and the Responsible Authorities named in section 1.2.</p>		
2.7	<p>Other Resources</p> <p>In addition to the financial resources for the Community Safety Partnership, the CSP is supported by several members of the ESC Communities team. They take the lead on delivery against relevant priorities and work with Responsible Authorities, other ESC departments, providers and communities to deliver on CSP priorities.</p>		

3 How to address current situation

3.1	<p>Refresh the action plan</p> <p>Every year, SCC provide refreshed data through the Strategic Assessment to inform the ongoing development and delivery of the Community Safety action plan. Now that we know that the action plan can diverge from the County plan and be shaped locally, this represents an excellent opportunity to define a new action plan. A CSP workshop is being held in late April, after the data has been received from County, to refresh the action plan. Activity proposed includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Properly re-engaging all Responsible Authorities, understanding their own local priorities and identifying where priorities intersect and could be added to the plan • Using SCC data and local data from the Responsible Authorities to identify which areas of crime and disorder at a more local level could be included in the plan in addition to, or to replace, the priorities identified at a county level • Setting SMART objectives for each priority, where possible 		
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Generating ideas for relevant projects and activities that could be funded and/or delivered in partnership to help the CSP achieve its newly defined objectives <p>If this activity is agreed and delivered, it will mean that the next iteration of the CSP action plan is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • more comprehensive and effective because it includes input from a wider range of partners and uses more relevant data to inform it; • more deliverable, because it identifies a wider range of potential activity; • more measurable because its objectives will be SMART; • ultimately is more relevant to the issues around community safety that are felt most keenly by East Suffolk residents.
3.2	<p>Reengagement of Responsible Authorities</p> <p>It is proposed that the workshop to generate the refreshed action plan will be part of an ongoing programme of engagement with the Responsible Authorities (RA). It is likely that the refreshed action plan will include clear sole or joint responsibilities for workstreams or projects for each RA. Equally, the co-production of the action plan should embed buy-in. Together, this will mean an enhanced level of co-operation and engagement. In addition to this, it is proposed that the CSP will create a simple communications plan that will underpin joint working, facilitate knowledge sharing and ensure all partners stay engaged.</p>
3.3	<p>Deliver creative and effective solutions</p> <p>Working more closely together, with a broader range of input from Responsible Authorities, the CSP should be able to generate more creative and effective solutions to issues of community safety. The CSP plans to employ two additional strategies to ensure that's the case:</p> <p>1: hearing a broader range of voices. The CSP will work harder to hear a broader range of voices to inform the design and delivery of projects, including young people through the Youth Voice programme, people with disabilities through the two East Suffolk Disability Forums, and those communities at risk of hate crime.</p> <p>2: conducting research and forging closer links with other CSPs. High performing projects identified through research and working more closely with other CSPs to understand their successes and failures, will help the CSP deliver more efficient and effective projects.</p>
3.4	<p>Measure the output and outcomes of activity</p> <p>Setting SMART objectives in the refreshed action plan will allow the CSP to better measure the outputs and outcomes of its activity. Measurement will employ a range of metrics, including but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social media reach and engagement • End user numbers for training, events and groups • Quantitative and qualitative data collected directly from target audiences on experiences, behaviours, attitudes and emotions, using nationally recognised as well as bespoke indicators

3.5	<p>Attract additional funding</p> <p>With no ongoing funding currently available, the CSP will struggle to continue to deliver on its objectives. If funding could be made available, then the new, localised objectives, designed to deliver better, more tangible outcomes for local communities, could be achieved, bringing significant benefit.</p>
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4 Reason/s for recommendation

4.1	<p>The report provides an overview of the East Suffolk Community Safety Partnership, including its relationship with the Safer Stronger Communities Board at Suffolk level, and outlines proposals for refreshing CSP priorities, action planning and CSP ambitions around reengagement of partners, measuring impact and benchmarking against other CSPs.</p>
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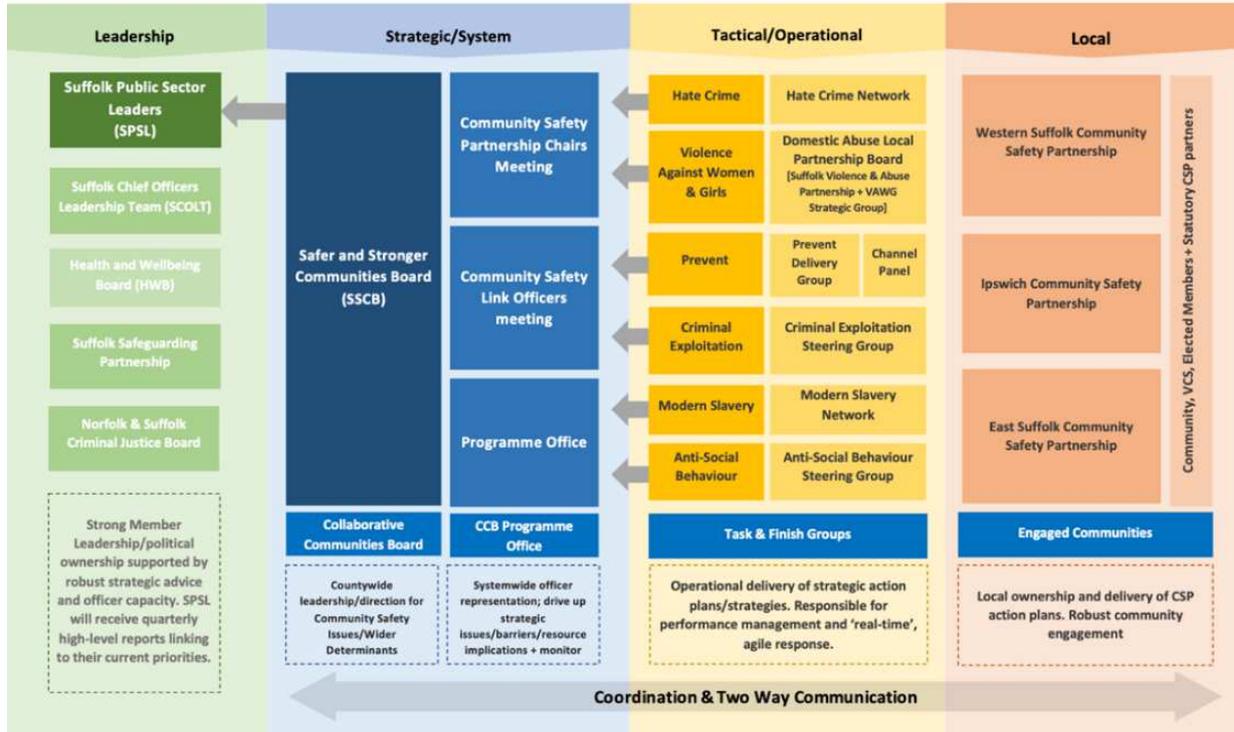
Appendices

Appendices:	
Appendix A	CSP Organisational Chart
Appendix B	East Suffolk CSP Action Plan
Appendix C	Suffolk County Council Community Safety Update

Background reference papers:		
Date	Type	Available From
	None	

APPENDIX A

Safer and Stronger Communities Governance



APPENDIX B

East Suffolk CSP Action Plan

DRAFT

Activity Type	Priority	Objective	Activity	Lead	Activity Update
Working directly with communities to raise awareness	Hate Crime: reduce prevalence	Raise awareness and challenge attitudes, tailor programmes to target all relevant communities/groups	Create a 'Good Role Models' campaign which challenges behaviours in educational settings & communities	Police lead	Created a specific Hate Crime scenario for all Crucial Crew programmes in schools (Crucial Crew educates young people about some of the dangers of modern life). Delivery of Crucial Crew, including the Hate Crime scenario, to schools over the last academic year was undertaken on virtual platform and reached over 2,000 students. Work with SCC to develop Hate Crime lesson plan for teachers to deliver in house. Development of Crucial Crew Plus as an online resource is now under way with support of University of Suffolk - plan to make it a countywide resource. Following on from the success of last year's awards during the awareness week Suffolk Police and Partners launched the second Hope Awards – designed to celebrate the contribution young people make within their communities. Applications are now open for this year's awards process. CSP Chairs and wider partners will be invited to join the county panel to judge the applications in mid 2022.
	Hate Crime: work with victims	Engage with communities at risk of Hate Crime to raise awareness of what constitutes a hate crime, where to report and where to get support	1. Identify communities at risk of Hate Crime using the CSP partners and Suffolk Hate Crime Network 2. Engage with these communities to identify SPDCS who can assist with campaigns and information flow 3. Use current materials to raise awareness in identified communities and explore continued opportunities for engagement	ESC: Alex Heys	National Hate crime awareness week ran from 9 th – 16 th October 2021. Across Suffolk partners supported the week by raising awareness of the crime and promoting ways in which victims can report and receive support. Ongoing work to understand the true Hate Crime picture in East Suffolk and to find and engage with those communities at risk. Currently working with both Disability Forums to understand their experiences of hate crime and the kind of awareness raising they'd like to see.
	Prevent (supporting those vulnerable to radicalisation)	Ensure that community based organisations and community leaders have Prevent awareness	1. Identify community based organisations/leaders 2. Contact groups and businesses and signpost to awareness raising/training	ESC: Julia Catterwell	Prevent Risk Assessments for schools / education settings. Working with DfE to create an Action Plan for schools, explore replicating the Essex pilot. SCC and CSP Leads are currently undertaking the creation of a Situational Risk Assessment for Prevent - this involves combining information from the counter terrorism local profile with other local datasets and knowledge. these have been collated into a countywide situational risk assessment which informs the joint action plan (Prevent delivery group). CTP ACT Early 'letter to my younger self' videos resources disseminated across CSP networks / Suffolk Headlines / RSHE Portal. Prevent training was delivered to 11 Councillors in November 2021 and also to 13 Felixstowe Town Pastors in February 2022. Two ESC Communities Officers are training leads on PREVENT and CCE to ensure consistent messaging. Using Suffolk Interfaith Resource, have identified Waveney Interfaith Circle and are in the process of engaging with. Prevent training will be provided if it's required.
	Modern Slavery	Ensure that specific front line staff, both at the Council and in business, are aware of Modern Slavery, how to spot it and how to report it	1. All CSP members to attend a Modern Slavery awareness raising session 2. Identify front line staff that require Modern Slavery training and signpost them to the local training offer 3 Identify partners and businesses where Modern Slavery is likely to be prevalent to promote and raise awareness	SCC: C Woods and M Yolland	All CSP members to attend a Modern Slavery awareness raising session Identify front line staff that require Modern Slavery training and signpost them to the local training offer 3 Identify partners and businesses where Modern Slavery is likely to be prevalent to promote and raise awareness". 2 x Suffolk Modern Slavery films produced – 1 focused on HMO scenario and 1 Criminal Exploitation and County Lines scenario to raise awareness of Human Trafficking, Modern Slavery and National Referral Mechanism (NRM). Multi-agency partner input to scenarios, scripts and accompanying resources. Soon to be screened. Training packs being developed to support the resources. Modern Slavery E- Learning package in development, contains recent Suffolk Case Studies and stats. Launched January 2021. Modern Slavery Network established, attended by CSP Leads. Modern Slavery Network is a sub group of the SSCB. CE workshop for Community Action Suffolk VCSE Safeguarding conference. #AreTheySafe? 02/11/21 View programme here. 2 interactive Criminal Exploitation Disruption Training. 2 bespoke workshops for MACE partners 25/10/21 delivered by CYP First. Bespoke Suffolk case study for breakout room MACE panels, based on HO Toolkit download the toolkit from the GOV.UK website. Schools & Education Partners 'Criminal Exploitation & County Lines, Recognising & Responding to the Needs' –Junior Smart OBE St. Giles Trust 22/10/21 Final draft taxi driver training package developed to support Section 6 https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/928583/statutory-taxi-and-private-hire-vehicle-standards-english.pdf . CE audio resource for parents / carers disseminated via Suffolk Headlines All Schools Bulletin for uploading onto school websites CE Training and Awareness Raising Brochure https://www.beautiful.ai/player/-MUmVS1xoOae39mH14Fp The Modern Slavery Network is currently consulting with CSPs and wider partners, developing a Suffolk Strategy and Action Plan. This action plan will include working with local businesses to raise awareness of Modern Slavery within their organisations and supply chains.

	ASB	Identify and target hot spot areas and community concerns that have a consistent and negative impact on the community. Raising awareness of the Community Trigger for victims.	<p>1. Community Impact days x2 a year. Multi-agency days of action within specific areas of need identified by partner organisations.</p> <p>2. Council/Police joint roadshows and preparation for annual ASB awareness week.</p> <p>3. Maximise the resources of agencies to identify and develop sustainable solutions to community concerns</p> <p>4. To provide projects to reinforce positive behaviour and divert young people away from ASB</p> <p>5. Support and promote national campaigns</p>	ESC - Rachel Tucker + Zoe Botten Police - Matt Carney + Claire Simons	<p>October 2021: week of ASB awareness with a focus on Community Triggers, generating a significant number of referrals. Reviewed Community Triggers and new process for appeals, Countywide Action Plan to support.</p> <p>Next focus: Closure Orders 'flowchart'.</p> <p>Planning for ASB Awareness week in July 2022</p> <p>Diversions activities now dovetailing with HAF provision.</p> <p>Regular multi-agency ASB meetings ongoing with partnership working to address ASB affecting the community.</p> <p>Add street meets etc as part of Exploitation week</p>
	Criminal Exploitation	Educate staff, teachers, parents and children about the dangers of criminal exploitation	Provide training programmes in schools through Crucial Crew, to staff internally, and to other identified target groups	ESC: Julia Catterwell + Alex Heys	<p>Crucial Crew programme highlighting the dangers of criminal exploitation delivered to over 2,000 year 5 students in schools. Crucial Crew +, targeted at older students, is moving to an interactive format which can be delivered by teachers. SCC lead on providing a huge variety of information directly with education leaders and delivering training to multiple partners, including groups like taxi drivers. ESC delivered criminal exploitation training to 11 councillors in December.</p> <p>ESC feeds local intelligence into the Multi-Agency Criminal Exploitation panel, which discusses criminal exploitation cases, and also provides advice on diversionary activity. As ESC does not traditionally have a large problem with criminal exploitation of young people, and therefore doesn't have a CE Hub from which local intelligence and diversionary activity flows, our CE projects have been focused on education. However, as the multi-agency approach to tackling CE develops, we are planning intelligence gathering and diversionary activities for later in 2022. CCE training delivered to ESC Councillors in January 2022. Planning to deliver CCE training to Nightsafe members and Town Pastors in April 2022.</p>
	Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)	All CSP member organisations to refresh their understanding of the reporting routes for Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence and to promote these within their networks	Presentation at x2 CSPs within the year about the correct referral routes for Domestic Abuse cases. Printed/digital media to be given to all members and a request for this to be shared within their networks. Support and promote national campaigns	SCC: C Harvey	<p>Over 650 people across the Suffolk System trained.</p> <p>2 twilight online Community Engagement sessions delivered by DA Champions Coordinator & East Suffolk Officers.</p> <p>DA workshop for VCSE organisations from across Suffolk delivered as part of Community Action Suffolk #Are they Safe event 17/11/21.</p>
Running Communication Campaigns	All	Promote information about all priority areas, amplify national information campaigns and raise awareness of Community Safety and the CSP generally	<p>Time action to coincide with national campaigns and work with local, relevant organisations to maximise impact:</p> <p>National Sexual Abuse and sexual violence awareness week: 7-13 Feb 2022</p> <p>Prevent week of action: 28 Feb - 4 Mar 2022</p> <p>CSE Awareness Day: 18 March 2022</p> <p>Nation stalking awareness week: 20-24 April 2022</p> <p>World Day Against Trafficking: 30 July 2022</p> <p>National anti-social behaviour campaign: July 2022 TBC</p> <p>National Hate Crime Awareness Week: Oct 2022 TBC</p> <p>Anti-slavery day: 18 Oct 2022</p> <p>White Ribbon Campaign and 16 days of action: 25 Nov - 10 Dec 2022</p> <p>More info here: https://www.beautiful.ai/player/-Mtwag5TfHWhDQfxJF0L</p>	SCC: C Woods	<p>White Ribbon Campaign started 25th November promotion through school networks via the RSHE Portal and Social Media over the 16 days of activism. Photo at Endeavour House on 25th Nov with pledge poster for people to sign. Several food banks had visits from staff to raising awareness of White Ribbon. Several schools confirmed that they will share their work with us regarding White Ribbon. Promoting partners events.</p> <p>Spiking advice circulated to licenced premises pre-Christmas</p> <p>National Hate Crime awareness week ran from 9th – 16th October 2021. Across Suffolk partners supported the week by raising awareness of the crime and promoting ways in which victims can report and receive support.</p> <p>National Sexual Abuse and sexual violence awareness week: 7-13 Feb 2022. Suffolk partners supported the week by raising awareness and promoting ways in which victims can report and receive support.</p> <p>Prevent week of action: 28 Feb - 4 Mar 2022 included social media campaign with incentivised quiz; elected members webinar briefing with input from Home Office and Counter Terrorism Policing; launch of guidance for venue booking procedures for partners across Suffolk to use to mitigate the risk of undesirable bookings in accordance with the Prevent Duty; education mini tour where the local prevent team will be visiting various colleges and higher education settings to raise awareness with safeguarding leads.</p>

Building Community Confidence	VAWG + Hate Crime + Prevent	Utilise engagement opportunities within communities. Continue to build on relationships with relevant front line staff and key community contacts, particularly within faith groups	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ensure all members of the CSP are WRAP trained 2. Promote the WRAP training schedule within the CSP and to elected representatives including Parish Councils & faith groups 	ESC: Julia Catterwell + Alex Heys	Prevent Risk Assessments for schools / education settings. Working with DfE to create an Action Plan for schools, explore replicating the Essex pilot. SCC and CSP Leads are currently undertaking the creation of a Situational Risk Assessment for Prevent - this involves combining information from the counter terrorism local profile with other local datasets and knowledge. these have been collated into a countywide situational risk assessment which informs the joint action plan (Prevent delivery group). CTP ACT Early 'letter to my younger self' videos resources disseminated across CSP networks / Suffolk Headlines / RSHE Portal.
	VAWG + Hate Crime + Prevent	Engagement with traditionally 'hard to reach' communities and groups	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify places and spaces where there are community tensions and anticipate where community tensions may occur 2. Be proactive in our awareness raising/messaging in these places and spaces utilising the best medium for maximum impact - social media, posters, leaflets, adverts in GP surgeries, educational settings etc 3. Identify relevant representatives to become members of the CSP Group 4. Support community events designed to bring communities together 	SCC: C Sanderson and J Topping	Social media and leafletting to GP surgeries and hospitals in response to hate crime awareness week. These were replicated in languages that reflect the needs of Suffolk and included Crime Stoppers information. SCC and Police have attended the 'engaged communities group' to extend message cascading.
Specific projects not covered elsewhere	ASB transformation	Provide a consistent approach to ASB across the district ensuring consultation takes place with both internal & external partners dealing with ASB, to ensure victims receive the same levels of service across the East Suffolk District	Review existing and implementing new policies, procedures, and guidance for all communities' officers and partners	ESC: Rachel Tucker	<p>ESC Transformation Programme focussed on streamlining processes, developing policy documents, learning and development and exploring additional resourcing</p> <p>Survey sent to all external partners to gauge opinions on format of ASB meetings. As a result, format being looked at and implementation of new referral form focussing on high-risk cases and Police Problem Solving Plans (PSP's).</p> <p>Working with internal and external agencies & SCC to align best practices across Suffolk., Community Trigger guidance now in place across Suffolk. Further suggestions to reintroduce ABA's (acceptable behaviour contracts) working to align with SCC & police partners as well as housing team to use as an early intervention tool, but also to provide evidence for more formal approaches using tools and powers under ASB Act 2014.</p> <p>New ASB Policy awaiting Full Council sign off which includes Communities team, Housing and Environmental Protection (EP)</p> <p>Working with Council departments on a new online reporting form for victims of ASB which will divert calls via customer services route to access demand in ASB as well as preventing 'handoffs and duplication. Links for ASB related reports to police/housing/EP/planning will be included.</p> <p>Requested discussion at County meeting to review Minimum standards with which is shared across Suffolk.</p> <p>Set up a Facebook page for ASB reporting.</p>
	Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)	<p>Encourage and support employers within Suffolk to adopt Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Policies for their organisation</p> <p>Develop knowledge and reporting processes for frontline staff working with potential victims</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All CSP partners to identify if their organisation has a Domestic Abuse policy and if this is relevant/up to date 2. All CSP members to identify appropriate staff to become DA champions (at least 2 champions per organisation) 3. Work with local businesses and organisations to support them to implement Domestic Abuse policies or refresh existing ones where needed 	SCC: C Harvey	ESC recently updated their DA policy. Partners have contributed to the development of the VAWG Strategy which will be published shortly.
	VAWG + Hate Crime + Local Drug Markets	<p>Explore the creation of a Safe Places Scheme (across Suffolk) which will provide areas of safety for those that feel vulnerable or at risk</p> <p>This will span all priority areas for the CSP</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop a proposal for the scheme in partnership with all CSPs across Suffolk 2. Create a start and finish group for the project <p>Notes: This is likely to be a long term project and will need specific funding to support the scheme</p>	C Sanderson + Police Lead	Ongoing work with SCC in respect of identifying suitable locations that are accessible and potentially available 24/7. DA safe spaces have been introduced in County Libraries, and this is being explored as an option. 12 safe spaces have been established in pharmacies across the District.

APPENDIX C

Suffolk County Council, Community Safety

The Safer Stronger Communities Board (SSCB) oversees a wide range of community safety priorities for Suffolk, which are delivered through a multi-agency governance structure, as detailed in Appendix A.

The Board's aim is to provide strategic direction and leadership on wider issues and determinants arising from the following agreed priorities:

- Violence Against Women and Girls
- Criminal Exploitation
- Modern Slavery
- Hate Crime
- Preventing Radicalisation
- Anti-social Behaviour

The Board has several key responsibilities, including:

- Receive exception reports on successes, opportunities, and progress
- Unblock system barriers
- Harness / unlock system capacity and resources
- Provide leadership and direction to tackle the wide determinant issues or causal issues such as health, education, and housing

The Safer Stronger Communities Board meets quarterly, and membership includes senior elected members and officers from a range of organisations including County, District and Borough councils, Suffolk Police, Police and Crime Commissioner, Community Safety Partnerships (CSOs), Suffolk Safeguarding Partnership, Norfolk and Suffolk Criminal Justice Board and Clinical Commissioning Groups.

It is supported by a programme office that oversees the delivery of issues that present the greatest threat, risk, and harm to Suffolk residents, and reports regularly to Suffolk Public Sector Leaders and Community Safety Partnerships.

East Suffolk Community Safety Partnership is a member of the SSCB, and information is fed up and down through the structure (see Appendix A)

Suffolk County Council Community Safety Team undertake a Strategic Assessment every three years as part of the statutory duties under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (refreshed annually). The Last Strategic Assessment was undertaken 2020-2021 and as a result of the identified priorities, East Suffolk Community Safety Partnership developed their action plan.

For all the following areas of work, a strategy, action plan and working groups feed into the Safer Stronger Communities Board.

Hate Crime

Hate crime can take many forms such as physical abuse, verbal abuse, emotional and psychological abuse, sexual abuse and financial abuse. It can range from non-verbal intimidation to physical violence. We know that hate crime is significantly under-reported and we know the significant impact this type of crime can have on a victim.

Encouraging people to report hate crime and encouraging people to seek help has been a priority for Suffolk for some time. Working in partnership we have looked to increase visibility of what hate crime is and ensure there are effective routes for reporting and seeking support – this has been achieved through our Hate Crime Network and through representation on the Engaged Communities Group.

Hate Crime - recent updates

Hope Awards: The HOPE Awards were created by Suffolk Police and Suffolk County Council to celebrate the contribution young people make in Suffolk and to formally recognise all the outstanding things they do in the community.

In the first year of operation these awards have been hugely impressive with participating schools and the amazing examples of kindness, determination and teamwork expressed through the nominations.

Hate Crime Awareness Week: Every year partners across Suffolk come together for a dedicated week of action to raise awareness of hate crime, the affects it has and how victims can report and seek help. Previous focus of the campaigns has been on upskilling front line officers, raising awareness amongst young people and the creation of the Hope Awards. #NoHateInSuffolk

Prevent

Prevent is about stopping people from being radicalised and becoming terrorists supporting terrorism. At the heart of Prevent is safeguarding children and adults and providing early intervention to protect and divert people away from being drawn into terrorist activity. Safeguarding vulnerable people from radicalisation is no different from safeguarding from other forms of harm.

Suffolk has a programme which focuses on providing support at an early stage to people who are identified as being vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism. Section 26 of the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 placed a duty on specified agencies to have "due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism". Local authorities are included in this duty.

Suffolk has a multi-agency Prevent Delivery Group which brings together a whole range of agencies to work together to meet the Prevent Duty - they have a 3 year Prevent Delivery Group Strategy in place.

ASB

Antisocial behaviour is defined as 'behaviour by a person which causes, or is likely to cause, harassment, alarm or distress to persons not of the same household. There are three main categories for antisocial behaviour, depending on how many people are affected:

- Personal antisocial behaviour is when a person targets a specific individual or group.
- Nuisance antisocial behaviour is when a person causes trouble, annoyance or suffering to a community.
- Environmental antisocial behaviour is when a person's actions affect the wider environment, such as public spaces or buildings.

Suffolk has a countywide steering group for ASB including an action plan that brings consistency of response across all districts and borough areas. In recent months we have established a robust community trigger process for those who have reported ongoing ASB but feel that no action has been taken to resolve it.

Violence Against Women and Girls

Domestic abuse, or domestic violence, is defined across Government as any incident of controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are or have been intimate partners or family members, regardless of their gender or sexuality.

Anyone can be a victim of domestic abuse and sexual violence. It can occur in both heterosexual and LGBTQ+ relationships, and can affect anyone, young or old, any ethnicity or sexual identity, any religion and social background.

We are fortunate to have strong partnerships across Suffolk that work together to address a number of key community safety issues which cause the greatest risk, threat and harm. Specifically, our priority to tackle VAWG is underpinned by robust governance that brings together the voice of victims and survivors, practitioners, service providers, decision makers and elected members. Those partnerships include:

Safer & Stronger Communities Board (SSCB)

The SSCB is responsible for providing strategic direction and leadership on wider issues and determinants arising from agreed priorities. Members include Chief Officers and Elected members from Suffolk County Council, District & Borough Councils, Police, Police & Crime Commissioner, Suffolk Safeguarding Partnership, Community Safety Partnerships, Health, Probation, Criminal Justice Board.

Violence Against Women & Girls Steering Group

The VAWG Steering Group is responsible for co-ordinating and developing quality services to effectively meet the needs of Suffolk residents. This includes direct service provision for victims-survivors, perpetrators, and their children, holding abusers to account and reducing the prevalence of VAWG. Membership includes strategic managers from Adult and Children Safeguarding, Community Safety & Public Health Police, Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner, Probation, Health, Voluntary & Community Sector.

Suffolk Violence & Abuse Partnership (SVAP)

The SVAP is an information sharing network established to strengthen collaboration and encourage innovation across the Suffolk system. Membership includes 180+ interested individuals with a personal or organisational interest in Violence Against Women and Girls, including; victim/survivors; voluntary and community sector providers; academics; military; volunteers; By and For services; and elected members.

Domestic Abuse Partnership Board

The DAPB functions are undertaken by both the VAWG Steering Group and SVAP as above and are responsible for assessing the scale and nature of need, preparing and publishing a domestic abuse accommodation strategy, commissioning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting on progress.

VAWG - Recent Updates

Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy and Action Plan

This strategy sets out the key high-level ambitions for Suffolk from 2022-25, co-produced with victims, practitioners and decision makers. It reflects on our success during the lifetime of the last strategy, outlines new, robust governance arrangements, is cognisant of other key strategies and documents that are aligned/connected to VAWG and most importantly, provides a strategic direction for the next phase of this strategy which is to develop an action plan that will drive forward change through effective partnership working.

Suffolk Safe Accommodation Strategy

Under the Domestic Abuse Act 2021, upper tier local authorities have a requirement to undertake a Needs Assessment and publish a Safe Accommodation Strategy. The strategy for Suffolk was consulted on from 26 October to 13 December 2021 and was published on 5 January 2022.

The strategy sets out how Suffolk County Council and partners propose to meet the needs for domestic abuse accommodation and associated support services across the council over the next 3 years.

Domestic Abuse Champions

Many organisations struggle to support people experiencing Domestic Abuse and are sometimes not confident enough to talk to someone about it or encourage them to disclose. Our Domestic Abuse Champions offer consistent information, advice and support which is helping to bring lasting positive changes for victims across Suffolk. Reaching victims as early as possible will prevent further harm.

Suffolk County Council has set up a Network of Champions across the County with over 700 already trained. The Champions are provided with free training to have the skills to spread awareness to other colleagues and act as the 'Go to Person' for Information between their own agency and local support services.

Modern Slavery

Modern slavery is a serious crime being committed across the UK in which victims are exploited for someone else's gain. It can take many forms including trafficking of people, forced labour and servitude. Victims are often hidden away, may be unable to leave their situation, or may not come forward because of fear or shame.

A new Modern Slavery Network which was formed in June 2021. This aims to share best practice across the Suffolk System, share data and information, develop training and awareness raising campaigns and communicate to wider partners about developments from central government.

The Modern Slavery Network is also working closely with two other priorities of the SSCB, Violence Against Women and Girls (including exploitation through prostitution) and Criminal Exploitation (including trafficking, forced or compulsory labour through organised crime relating to drug markets), both of which have strong synergies with Modern Slavery. This reduces duplication but also strengthens the system responding to issues through greater partnership working.

Modern Slavery - Recent Updates

Modern Slavery Strategy and Action Plan

This strategy sets out the key high-level ambitions for Suffolk, co-produced with practitioners and decision makers. It reflects on our current systems in place to mitigate risk and harm to those that are exploited.

The strategy sets out four key priorities:

- Identifying Victims
- Supporting Victims/Survivors
- Preventing Exploitation
- Protection & Enforcement

This strategy is supported by an Action Plan that is currently being developed by the Suffolk Modern Slavery Network.

Criminal Exploitation

Criminal Exploitation is a lesser-known type of Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking that involves recruitment, movement, harbouring or receiving of children, women or men through the use of force, coercion, abuse of vulnerability, deception or other means for the purpose of exploitation.

In Suffolk we have a system-wide work programme to tackle Criminal Exploitation. The work programme, which is supported by data and evidence, has nine priorities:

- Leadership
- Prevention and Education
- Intervention and Exit

- Innovation and Learning
- Community Response
- Enforcement
- Safeguarding Adolescence
- Transitional Safeguarding

This work is managed via a multi-agency action plan which is overseen by a Criminal Exploitation steering group.

Criminal Exploitation - Recent Updates

Multi Agency Criminal Exploitation Panels

Multi Agency Criminal Exploitation (MACE) panels were introduced in June 2021. There are three MACE panels across Suffolk with the objectives of protecting young people from harm due to exploitation and to disrupt perpetrators.

Criminal Exploitation Hubs

Criminal Exploitation Hubs were launched in May 2021 and build on the success of the Suffolk Gangs Against Exploitation Team. Working with key partners, voluntary groups, communities, children, and families to support, disrupt and empower children and communities from the risk of exploitation.

For more information about any of these priorities please contact community.safety@suffolk.gov.uk