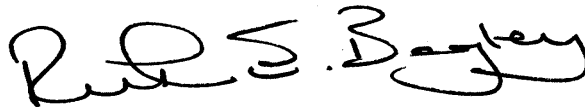


Date of issue: 14th October, 2011

MEETING:	NEIGHBOURHOODS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES SCRUTINY PANEL (Councillors Minhas (Chair), Buchanan, Carter, Dar, Munawar, Plenty, Sohal, Strutton and A S Wright) <u>Non-Voting Co-Opted Members</u> Sandra Malik (Wexham Court Parish Council) and Darren Morris (Customer Senate)
DATE AND TIME:	MONDAY, 24TH OCTOBER, 2011 AT 6.30 PM
VENUE:	COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HALL, BATH ROAD, SLOUGH
SCRUTINY OFFICER: (for all enquiries)	NAVEED MOHAMMED 01753 875657

NOTICE OF MEETING

You are requested to attend the above Meeting at the time and date indicated to deal with the business set out in the following agenda.



RUTH BAGLEY
Chief Executive

AGENDA

PART I



AGENDA
ITEM

REPORT TITLE

PAGE

WARD

Apologies for absence.

1. Declarations of Interest

CONSTITUTIONAL MATTERS

2. Minutes of the last meeting held on 15th September 2011 1 - 4

3. Member Questions

(An opportunity for panel members to ask questions of the relevant Director/Assistant Director, relating to pertinent, topical issues affecting their Directorate – maximum of 10 minutes allocated)

SCRUTINY ISSUES

4. Prostitution - Current Challenges and Future Actions 5 - 32 All

(10 Mins report presentation: 40 Mins Questions)

5. Community Centres Future Provision 33 - 42 All

(10 Mins report presentation: 40 Mins Questions)

6. Winter Preparations 43 - 52 All

(5 Mins report presentation: 15 Mins Questions)

7. Housing Benefit - Following up on Audit Commission Inspection 2010 REPORT TO FOLLOW All

(10 Mins report presentation: 30 Mins Questions)

8. Consideration of reports marked to be noted/for information 53 - 56 All

(The Panel will consider any reports marked to be noted/for information and determine whether future scrutiny is considered necessary – maximum of 5 minutes allocated)

(a) Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment Report

9. Forward Work Programme 57 - 58



10. Date of Next Meeting - 5th December 2011

Press and Public

You are welcome to attend this meeting which is open to the press and public, as an observer. You will however be asked to leave before the Committee considers any items in the Part II agenda. Special facilities may be made available for disabled or non-English speaking persons. Please contact the Democratic Services Officer shown above for further details.

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Neighbourhoods and Community Services Scrutiny Panel – Meeting held on Thursday, 15th September, 2011.

Present:-	Councillors Minhas (Chair), Dar, Munawar, Plenty, Sohal and Strutton
Non Voting Co-Opted Members	Sandy Malik, Slough Federation of Tenants and Residents
Apologies:-	Councillor Carter, A S Wright and Darren Morris

PART 1

1. Declarations of Interest

None were received.

2. Minutes of the last meeting held on 16th June 2011

The minutes of the last meeting held on 16th June 2011 were approved as a correct record.

3. Member Questions

Four questions had been submitted by members. Pat Kelleher, Assistant Director for Public Protection provided a response to one with the Joseph Carter, Head of Transport answering the second question. In the absence of the officers responsible, the Scrutiny Officer, Naveed Mohammed read out written responses to the other two questions posed.

A number of points were raised which included Members seeking further clarity on the catering for community centres policy and in particular the seeming disparity between the stated policy and the written answer provided. It was also agreed that the written response to the recycling question would be forwarded to interested Members. Following a series of questions concerning the Chalvey traffic calming measures, the Chair advised that a substantive paper was being taken to the next Overview and Scrutiny Committee in Oct, and members were able to attend this and air views if necessary.

4. Reducing Anti-Social Behaviour in Slough

Louise Asby, Community Safety and Anti-Social Behaviour Manager presented a paper on the key ASB related issues in Slough and what work is ongoing to address these. The officer confirmed that addressing ASB remains a priority for Slough and the team was structured in a way that it could tackle specific issues from working with challenging families (via the Family Intervention Project [FIP]) through to location based issues (via ASB project officers) through to low level ASB such as fly tipping and graffiti (via the neighbourhood Enforcement Team). This was in addition to the longer term work that the team had been involved in which included addressing more

endemic issues such as prostitution, street drinkers and project work with communities and businesses. Specific projects that had been delivered included delivering tamper proof screws to address the stealing of number plates and gating projects in various areas across Slough. Engagement with schools remained a priority and ASB awareness sessions had been held at Wexham School with additional crime prevention talks being delivered at East Berkshire College. Additional youth work included four youth bus events attended by 30 young people on each occasion.

The Police representative, then provided a short discussion about how the Police were addressing the issue of prostitution. It was confirmed that it remained a concern for Slough. The nature of the issue meant that addressing it was far more problematic. A number of recent initiatives had had a short-term impact – but whether this will be sustained over the longer term was questionable. The introduction of the traffic calming measures in Chalvey also had an inadvertent impact as the introduction of one-way measures had pushed the problem elsewhere.

A number of Member questions followed. This included the criteria used to determine whether the policy of gating will be applied to a particular area, the publicity that had accompanied the recent initiative to distribute tamper proof screws, how mediation was followed and work that had been conducted with schools. The officer confirmed that there were guidelines in place which determined when gating would be applied. At the heart of this was the importance of gathering evidence to determine need. It was agreed that that the guidelines would be forwarded. The publicity surrounding the distribution of tamper proof screws had been mainly carried in the Citizen. The Officer confirmed that these were still available and could be obtained by phoning the ASB team. The issue of mediation was more difficult as it had to be entered into voluntarily and could not be imposed on a party. However if a party declined to partake, the housing team could become further involved and if it was a family issue – the FIP would also express an interest. Work with schools had primarily been pursued through an external partner – ‘Learning through Action’ who delivered training to schools.

The discussion was then focused on the issue of prostitution. Questions were invited from the public in attendance. There was widespread disappointment that the paper submitted had not had sufficient detail around how the issue of prostitution was being addressed. A number of questions were raised including what learning the council and police were applying from other areas and the effectiveness of the Sex Worker Action Group. The Officers confirmed that research had gone into what other areas were doing including Bristol, Oxford and Ipswich. However it was important to note that the issue in Slough was different from these areas. The introduction of SWAG, itself a model based on one used in Oxford, was a recent initiative and as yet it was difficult to assess its long term impact.

Members confirmed that given the issues raised at the meeting it was important that a follow up paper which was solely focused on the issue of prostitution be brought to the meeting in October. Given the wider issues

expressed concerning ASB – the Chair advised that she wanted the topic cascaded up to main Overview and Scrutiny and further consideration given to it at that committee.

Resolved:-

- (a) That a paper focused on prostitution be brought to the next Neighbourhoods and Community Services Panel in October.
- (b) That the Scrutiny Officer cascades the topic of ASB up to the main Overview and Scrutiny Committee to consider.

5. Neighbourhood Working

Kam Bhatti, Neighbourhood Crime and Justice Co-ordinator gave an update on what work the council, working in conjunction with its partner, was doing around neighbourhood working. The Officer detailed the work that had been undertaken in three pilots in Slough, Chalvey, manor Park and Colnbrook, the broad intentions behind this and the key successes to date.

Key intentions behind the project included improving understanding of local need, improving opportunities for local involvement and ensuring that scarce resources are channelled in the most effective way. Key successes to date included delivering new recreational facilities in Colnbrook, community events and CCTV installations in Manor Park and work to improve the YMCA hangout in Chalvey.

Notable benefits delivered through the work included better quality of life for local residents and greater degree of involvement of local people and better coordination of effort between partners.

Members praised the work of the Officers and a number of questions followed. These included a question on how the work had been publicised, how the areas were selected, what additional funding could be used to sustain the projects and whether this would be rolled out to other areas of the borough. The officer confirmed that the work had been primarily publicised via the council newspaper – the Citizen although additional articles had been placed in local newspapers. The choice of the three areas had been determined by need. Funding was an issue. The council could not apply for grants – but it was working closely with local communities to access the grants that were available. Finally the officer confirmed that no final decision had been made on whether this would be rolled out.

Members expressed an interest in gaining more information. The Officer confirmed that a workshop could be held and that further work on making this happen would be pursued.

Resolved:-

- (a) That the Neighbourhood Crime and Justice Coordinator would work with Member services in scheduling a Member workshop on Neighbourhood working.

6. Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill

James Priestman, Head of Community Safety presented a paper on the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill. Officers confirmed that this was a briefing supplied by Thames Valley Police HQ and as such, and given the fact that the Bill was still subject to change, officers present would not be able to answer any specific questions.

A number of general questions were raised including the likelihood that the elected commissioner would not have any substantive knowledge of Slough. Officers confirmed that due to changes to the Police Authorities and the way policing is arranged in the Thames Valley context – there was a very real possibility that the elected commissioner may not have substantive knowledge of Slough.

Members noted the contents of the report and thanked the officers for the short presentation.

7. Consideration of reports marked to be noted/for information

A report was received on the Libraries Update. A number of questions were raised including the rationale behind key financial data and whether the policy of neighbourhood libraries will be rolled out.

Resolved:

- (a) That questions raised by directed back to the Assistant Director for Culture and Skills and replies provided outside of the meeting.

8. Forward Work Programme

Members asked for a detailed paper on prostitution to be included at the October meeting.

It was also agreed that the Panel would seek to cascade the paper on Anti-Social Behaviour up to the main Overview and Scrutiny Committee for further consideration.

9. Date of Next Meeting:

Monday 24th October 2011.

Chair

(Note: The Meeting opened at 6.30 pm and closed at 9.30 pm)

SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Neighbourhoods and Community Services **DATE:** 24th October, 2011

CONTACT OFFICER: Louise Asby, Community Safety and ASB Manager
(For all Enquiries) (01753) 875146

WARD(S): Chalvey, Baylis & Stoke

PART I
FOR COMMENT AND CONSIDERATION

PROSTITUTION – CURRENT CHALLENGES AND FUTURE ACTIONS

1. **Purpose of Report**

This paper is being submitted as a follow-up to the recent paper on Antisocial Behaviour to focus on prostitution as requested by the committee.

2. **Recommendation(s)/Proposed Action**

The Committee is requested to note the report and consider the options available to move forward with tackling prostitution in Slough as outlined at the end of the report.

3. **Community Strategy Priorities**

- **Celebrating Diversity, Enabling inclusion**
- **Being Safe, Feeling Safe**
- **A Cleaner, Greener place to live, Work and Play**

This report considers how the diverse community in Chalvey is affected by prostitution on its streets and how best to tackle this, whilst working with the girls involved, making the environment safer and cleaner and enabling all concerned to live in a safe and pleasant environment.

4. **Other Implications**

(a) **Financial** (compulsory section to be included in **all** reports)

There are no financial implications of proposed action.

(b) **Risk Management** (compulsory section to be included in **all** reports)

This section should set out significant risks, threats and opportunities associated with the approval or otherwise of the recommendations made in section 2 of this report, together with any proposed actions, with timescales, to mitigate the identified risks/threats.

To assist a template with examples is set out below.

Recommendation	Risk/Threat/Opportunity	Mitigation(s)
The Committee is	No threats	

requested to note the report and consider the options available to move forward with tackling prostitution in Slough as outlined at the end of the report.		
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(c) Human Rights Act and Other Legal Implications (compulsory section to be included in **all** reports)

No legal implications

(d) Equalities Impact Assessment (compulsory section to be included in all reports which relate to a new or substantially revised policy, procedure or function)

No implications.

5. **Supporting Information**

5.1 Definition of prostitution and what the law says

Thames Valley Police uses the definition of 'prostitution' in line with that given in part 1, section 51 (2 and 3) of the Sexual Offences Act 2003:

'Prostitution is the act of offering or providing sexual services to another person in return for payment, or a promise of payment. 'Payment' refers to any financial advantage, including the provision of goods or services, or a discharge of a debt or obligation to pay for goods or services'.

In the United Kingdom, prostitution itself is not a crime but a number of related activities, including soliciting in a public place, kerb crawling, owning a brothel and pimping are crimes. Prostitution is often related to antisocial behaviour and criminal activity and can cause harassment, alarm and distress.

Prostitution is now considered to be a 'victim centred' crime, that is to say, prostitutes are victims and need to be offered support in order to change their lifestyles and get them off the streets.

5.2 Background

5.2.1 The police report that prostitution in Slough originally centred around the Baylis and Stoke area. However, after targeted work in this location, including Antisocial Behaviour Orders (ASBOs) on the main perpetrators and the regular arrests of prostitutes seen soliciting (which is no longer possible due to changes in legislation, see section 5.10.3 below), the prostitution problem was much improved, reduced from around 45 at its peak in 2004, to the few that are around Baylis now. Around three to four years ago, a contingent of Eastern European prostitutes, mainly Romanian, started frequenting Chalvey mainly around Ledgers Road, and others soon joined them.

5.2.3 Currently about 20 girls work as prostitutes in the Chalvey area. They usually operate between 10pm and 4am although this can vary in the winter months when there are longer hours of darkness. There is no evidence of pimps and the girls appear to work independently.

5.2.4 Residents are understandably unhappy about this activity on their streets and the drugs litter and used condoms left behind, and they feel intimidated by kerb crawlers who approach them. They say it makes the area feel uncared for and it creates a poor perception of their neighbourhood despite the regeneration that is going on nearby. They would like to see tackling prostitution as an ongoing agenda and not just highlighted in the press when a police operation has taken place, and they would like to see numbers of prostitutes noticeably reduced. Prostitution is an emotive issue and people feel very strongly about the effect it has on their neighbourhood.

5.2.5 There are brothels in the area as well as street prostitution and Police tackle these under different legislation when they come to notice, as they usually do due to the associated antisocial behaviour that comes with them, for example, with punters ringing the wrong doorbells, and regular visitors throughout and day and night causing a disturbance. This report is focussing on the visible presence of street prostitution although more information can be provided separately on brothels if required.

5.3 How does this compare to other boroughs?

5.3.1 Numbers have reduced in Slough since February 2010 when there were 30 prostitutes in Chalvey (now 20). There were 18 in Reading's Oxford Road area in February 2010, now down to around 7, and 10 in Oxford, now down to 4, so it would appear that numbers are going down.

5.3.2 Ealing report that they have 40 girls working on the streets of Southall but mainly in commercial areas rather than residential areas so residents are not as aware of the activity. We are looking to work closely with Ealing to share information and action as the girls travel between the two places.

5.3.3 Ipswich report that as a result of intense coordinated multiagency work since 2006, they no longer have street prostitution in their town. This work was started off with a Home Office grant and then continued through the commitment of their Community Safety Partnership.

5.3.4 Northampton was faced with around 200 prostitutes working in two small districts 24/7, not just during the hours of darkness, and openly taking drugs, when they were given Home office funding to tackle the problems they were facing back in 2004, and they report that they no longer have street prostitution in Northampton. Clearly these areas have used successful strategies to tackle and remove prostitution from their streets.

5.4 Our aim

5.4.1 The last government's strategy of January 2006 (A Coordinated Prostitution Strategy) had the following as its aims:

- challenge the view that street prostitution is inevitable and here to stay
- achieve an overall reduction in street prostitution
- improve the safety and quality of life of communities affected by prostitution, including those directly involved in street sex markets
- reduce all forms of commercial sexual exploitation

5.4.2 We need to decide as a partnership, and in consultation with local residents, what the aims and outcomes are that we are working towards in our work to tackle prostitution in Slough. Are we simply looking to remove all visible signs of prostitution from the streets of Slough, or are we working towards reducing the numbers involved in prostitution through a combination of supportive outreach and enforcement action,

reducing related criminal activity and antisocial behaviour and promoting harm reduction?

5.5 Reporting

5.5.1 Reporting is really important as it gives police and partners a clear picture of what is happening and how many people are affected by prostitution. Whilst there could be the argument the police should know what is going on, and clearly past experience suggests what is likely, this is not sufficient when it comes to allocating existing resources and bidding for more. Prostitution needs to be reported to the police on 0845 8 505 505 (or 101 from 14th November).

5.5.2 Prostitution-related anti-social behaviour complaints in Chalvey (due to most of the hot spots being in Chalvey) made to Thames Valley Police have been analysed. The comparison time frames were January to June in 2010 and 2011. July to August were not analysed as figures were abnormally low during this period, possibly due to current road works or residents being away and therefore not reporting. The figures are:

- January to June 2010: 20 complaints
- January to June 2011: 28 complaints

There were 8 additional prostitution complaints January to June 2011 compared with January to June 2010.

- September 2011: awaiting confirmation of reporting statistics

5.5.3 Chalvey has higher levels of crime and antisocial behaviour than some other wards in Slough which means that Police resources are stretched to deal with these other priorities. It is not possible to directly connect these higher levels with prostitution although it is acknowledged that prostitution does tend to bring with it higher levels of certain crime types and antisocial behaviour.

5.5.4 Drug litter is reported to the Drugs and Alcohol Action team to enable them to map where drug use is taking place and direct outreach workers to these locations.

5.6 The prostitutes

There are two distinct groups of prostitutes (also referred to as sex workers): British girls who are addicted to drugs and are using prostitution to fund their habit, and who are likely to go straight from a client to a local dealer to obtain drugs before going straight back out to work – and Eastern European girls who do not drink or take drugs and are involved in prostitution for purely economic reasons and send money to their families back at home. Police records show that currently the figures are 50/50 for these two groups. The Eastern Europeans (mainly Romanians) have no recourse to public funds if they are not accessing their treaty rights (ie as they are not engaged in legal work, they cannot access support services, housing or benefits).

5.7 The location

Chalvey became attractive to prostitutes because of the round-trip kerb crawlers can take around Ledgers Road/Montem Lane/A4 (and the town hall service road) while deciding whether to stop and a number of the girls live in the area and use the cheap bed and breakfasts. There is also easy access to drugs. The police report that the girls now work to the North of this junction due to the roadworks but numbers do not seem to have reduced permanently as a result of the roadworks (although numbers initially dipped). Other locations where prostitution is known to take place/has taken place

include the service road to Slough town hall, Stoke Poges Lane, Lansdowne Avenue, Pickford Gardens, Everard Avenue, Chalvey High Street and Turton Way.

5.8 The clients

The demand for this 'supply' comes from the kerb crawlers who frequent the area.

- Of the 62 men arrested kerb crawling as part of the 4 day operations in 2010 and 2011 (Op Circle and Op Chevron), 42 were Asian (68%), 13 were White Northern European (21%), 4 were Black (7%), and 3 were White Southern European (5%).
- 46 were from Slough (74%).
- Of the 36 men who were arrested for kerb crawling during the 4 day operation in 2011 (Op Chevron), 5 were aged 19-25 (14%), 30 were aged 26-49 (83%), and 1 was aged 50-64 (3%). The average age was 34, the maximum age was 52, and the minimum age was 22. We do not have the age statistics for Operation Circle in 2010.

This information comes from Thames Valley Police's Command and Control, statistics from Operation Circle and Operation Chevron, and the local Neighbourhood Police team.

5.9 What can the Police do?

5.9.1 Thames Valley Police have a force-wide strategy on prostitution (2008-2011 – due to be updated) – **see appendix A**. Richard Humphrey, Local Area Police Commander for Slough, reports that the overall strategic aim of the Local Police Area (LPA) is to "remove or reduce the antisocial nuisance caused by prostitution over the next 18-24 months whilst balancing this with other policing priorities and current resourcing levels".

5.9.2 The South neighbourhood policing team patrol the area on their late shifts both to act as an active deterrent, and, where actual soliciting is witnessed, to give out street cautions or make arrests as appropriate. There are currently 7 officers on the team who are able to patrol on a regular basis. Specialist officers have also been used for Operations Circle and Chevron, following successful bids for these additional officers. They, like the neighbourhood team, act on the priorities of the LPA, which tend to be around Serious Acquisitive Crime (for example, burglary, robbery and car crime). Recently the team have been involved in patrols in Cippenham to deter burglaries and are therefore not always available to patrol Chalvey. The success of bids to Headquarters for funding or resources would be dependent on other bids which are likely to take priority. This is also why reporting prostitution is so important.

Officers have arrested 5 prostitutes in the last month, 10 in the last 3 months and 13 in the last year. These arrests have resulted in cautions, fines and/or support orders. The majority of the prostitutes habitually and persistently re-offend.

5.10 Available legislation

5.10.1 The 1956 Sexual Offences Act and the 1959 Street Offences Act between them outlawed running a brothel, loitering or soliciting for sex on the street and persistent kerb crawling.

5.10.2 In 2004 the Home Office floated a number of radical solutions including creating "managed areas", regulating off-street prostitution and licensing brothels. Two years later officials proposed changing the law to enable two prostitutes and a "maid or

receptionist" to work from the same property without fear of prosecution. However, the proposals were dropped following concerns that it would not only legalise prostitution but would cause tensions in neighbourhoods and would not completely solve the problem.

Instead, legislation was changed to acknowledge that in many cases, prostitutes are victims and criminalising them will not help them to get them off the streets. The new legislation was designed to protect women and children, and to bring those who exploit individuals through prostitution to justice. Therefore whilst previously, prostitutes could be arrested and charged with soliciting every time they were seen on the streets by Police, now two 'street cautions' must be issued within a three month period before an arrest can take place on the third occasion. The idea is that this proves there is persistence in their behaviour and that they are causing public nuisance. The period in which the cautions had to take place was also reduced from twelve months to three.

5.10.3 The Policing and Crime Act 2009, designed to tackle crime and disorder, made paying for services from a prostitute subjected to force an offence, as well as making amendments to the law on loitering for the purposes of prostitution, and the law on soliciting.

The main change was the shifting of focus from the prostitutes to the customers. Before 1 April 2010, it was illegal for a customer to kerb crawl/solicit only if this was done "persistently", or "in a manner likely to cause annoyance". Today, all forms of public solicitation by a customer are illegal, regardless of the manner in which the prostitute was solicited.

However, in regard to prostitutes, before 1 April 2010, a prostitute was always committing a crime by soliciting/loitering in a public place. Today, s/he commits a crime only if s/he does this "persistently" (which is considered to be three times in a three month period).

Section 17 of the act allows the courts to impose a rehabilitative order on people convicted of loitering and soliciting for the purpose of prostitution. An engagement and support order would be an alternative to a fine and requires an offender to attend meetings to look at a strategy to exit prostitution and any support required.

5.10.4 Other legislation includes:

- Sexual offences Act 2003 (with amendments to the earlier Street Offences Act 1959)
- Antisocial behaviour Act 2003 (ASBOs and Acceptable Behaviour Contracts - ABCs)
- Drugs Act 2005 (drugs testing for prostitution in Drug Intervention Programme – DIP - intensive areas)

5.10.5 The Police carry out kerb crawling operations when resources are available (see above under 'the clients' for recent statistics). These are resource intensive operations requiring up to 14 officers per night. Those arrested and charged appear in court and their names will be published in the local papers (the 'name and shame' approach). Persistent kerb crawlers can be penalised by a maximum fine of £1000 and, in England and Wales, under section 1 of the Powers of the Criminal Courts (sentencing) Act 2000, a court can disqualify kerb crawlers from driving as part of their sentence.

5.10.6 Police also send out kerb crawling warning letters to the registered owners of vehicles seen acting suspiciously in hot spot areas. These go to the registered owner of the vehicle, which may not be the person who was driving it (it may be their wife or partner, or a company vehicle). The letter now include a Section 59 warning (Police Reform Act 2002) regarding the antisocial use of a motor vehicle, which can be seized if seen a second time. Kerb crawlers may also be arrested and charged. Letters are issued when there are not two Police officers to witness the kerb crawling which is required by law to make an arrest.

71 letters have been sent out by Police since 1/10/10.

5.11 The Change course

An alternative to the 'name and shame approach' is the Change course. This is a one day group work programme for men who have been charged with the offence of kerb crawling as an alternative to prosecution and being 'named and shamed'. It costs £200 to attend, paid for by the perpetrator, which is the cost of the fine that would be handed out in court. This covers the cost of the course and the rest is given to charities supporting local initiatives to tackle prostitution. The scheme was originally set up for Hampshire Police. Between 2000 and 2010, 569 men were caught kerb crawling in the Southampton area of whom 137 failed to attend the course, and of those who did attend, 6 reoffended. Reading has sent 50 people on this course and they report that none have come to notice again in the Reading area. Those completing the course are given a caution for kerb crawling as well as paying £200 for the course. Other Police forces using the Change programme include Dorset, Nottinghamshire, Leicestershire, Wiltshire, Avon & Somerset, Norfolk, Thames Valley and Tower Hamlets in London. Suffolk Police do not use the Change programme and arrested and charged over 130 men in an 18 month period in the Ipswich area.

7000 men have attended this course nationally and the reoffending rate is 2%.

However at a conference on prostitution in London in December 2010, the following feedback was given by an evaluator of the scheme, passed on by resident Christine Hulme:

"the person that did the evaluation for this initiative did not seem wholly convinced about its success mainly due to:

- Punters having to pay
- Pressure to go on the course rather than face the magistrates
- No follow up support following the course
- Impacts of supply and demand ie less men means a price reduction for the prostitutes, temporary displacement of the prostitutes and greater risk of violence against the prostitutes.
- The impact of the course needs to be evaluated over time. This course will not be a success unless proper effort is put into the exit strategy for the prostitutes. "

The Police, Probation and Slough Drugs and Alcohol Action team Slough have not adopted the Change programme. So far of all those arrested in Slough and convicted, none have reoffended. Slough has run 2 kerb crawling operations over the past year (Operation Circle and Operation Chevron) and more are planned for the future. It is still an option to take up the Change programme and Reading would be happy to work with Slough if we wanted to join forces.

5.12 What can partners do?

5.12.1 SWAG_(Sex Workers Action Group) – **see appendix B for Terms of Reference**

We recognize that enforcement action alone is not sufficient to deal with the problem of prostitution as past experience has shown that this may move the problem to another area (eg Ealing to Slough and vice versa). It is important to offer support to the prostitutes and enable them to change their lifestyles, for example through treatment for addiction, or access to housing benefit if eligible. After consultation with Reading and Oxford, Slough adopted the SWAG model. These meetings take place on a quarterly basis and are attended by agencies including the Police, Community Safety, Antisocial Behaviour officers, Drugs and Alcohol Action team (DAAT), East Berkshire Women's Aid, Slough Homeless Our Concern day hostel, Housing Needs, Primary Care Trust/NHS, Probation, Drug Intervention Project outreach workers and representatives from the women's prison (HMP Bronzefield).

5.12.2 Screening and infection/support

The Drugs and Alcohol Action Team (DAAT) are currently putting their services out to tender at the moment and so services may look very different when the new providers have been allocated. Slough is aiming to continue the holistic approach to look at all needs and not just drugs treatment. Targets will look at outcomes and recovery in future and not just numbers entering treatment, so for example if they have got a safe place to live, there has been a reduction in offending, or no further offending, or admittance to A&E since treatment began.

All Women accessing treatment are signposted to the Garden Clinic at Upton Park Hospital for sexual health and condoms, and information on sexual health and contraception is also given to the women once they are in treatment. In addition all women are referred to the Hepatitis Nurse at Slough Treatment Services where they are BBV (Blood Borne Virus) tested and vaccinated for Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C. The women can also access self test kits for Chlamydia and Gonorrhoea, and information about needle exchange.

Other additional support offered includes counselling and specialist prescribing, assessments to a psychiatrist, structured day programmes, addiction group and abstinence group. For women with housing issues they are referred to Ability, Equinox Project 316 and the Homelessness Team at Slough Borough Council. Referrals are also made to Community Mental Health Trust.

For women accessing the service some have already been involved with Slough Social Services, so that also involves a lot of intense work and support needed by women whose children are in the care system. There are supportive programmes such as FIP (Family Intervention Programme) which offers support to women with children and Social Service issues and those women who find themselves pregnant can also gain support from the Substance Misuse Midwives.

Where women are assaulted or raped they are advised to report to the police and a referral as well as support can be made where needed. There is also the SARC - Thames Valley Sexual Assault Referral Centre. The first Thames Valley Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) opened on 1st April 2011 and is based at Upton Park Hospital in Slough (with a smaller site at Bletchley). It is run by Harmoni for Health and has been named 'Solace'. It is staffed by a manager and 8 Crisis workers 24 hours a day, 7 days

a week, all year round. It offers crisis intervention for all victims of sexual assault and rape whether or not they have been to the Police.

In areas of Education and Training, women are sign posted to local colleges e.g., Langley College and Long Life Courses.

In addition for women having hardship due to not having access to benefit allowances we are able to offer them food vouchers, the food bank in Slough provides assistance in form of food packages.

The women are also sign posted to their GPs, Slough Job Centre Plus, SHOC (Slough Homeless Our Concern), Mind and Volunteer Centre, Narcotics Anonymous/Alcoholics Anonymous meetings, dentists and many more agencies.

The majority of women have self-referred to gain access to treatment; whilst others have been referred to Slough Drug Intervention Project through the criminal justice system for drug related trigger offences (for example, robbery). Other referrals have been made from the SWAG meetings and one potential client has been referred from Slough Job Centre Plus.

5 out of 21 women see their clients in a home so the risks are as great – or even greater – as these women are sex working but not on the streets of Slough.

The Drugs Intervention Project (DIP) drugs and alcohol outreach worker reports the following:

- There have been 58 referrals to screening and intervention since the start of the SWAG. The drugs and alcohol outreach worker automatically refers every client on assessment.
- There are currently 25 girls on her caseload, but these are not all street prostitutes.
- Only the most chaotic high risk clients are selected for SWAG case review currently. This is because the main aim of the SWAG is harm reduction. So far, 5 have been referred and 2 have now come off the streets (see case studies below)
- There are no specific services for sex workers in Slough other than the drugs and alcohol outreach post (whereas Reading has the Rahab Project, Tower Hamlets has the Safe Exit Scheme at Toynbee Hall, and Camden has many such projects).
- Women's Aid will get involved if there is Domestic Abuse involved (and could offer a refuge place if available but only if the girl is not taking drugs).

Case study1

CB had received 2 street warnings and would have been arrested if she had come to notice again. She was a well-known street worker, involved in prostitution to fund her drug habit. Also she was part of a close-knit criminal group who she provided drugs for. The areas of need identified for CB were drug treatment, housing and more intense therapy. As of September 2011, CB is on a methadone maintenance programme and is no longer using drugs. She has a room at Look Ahead and is about to take up secretarial training. She has been referred for counselling and is no longer working as a prostitute. We are hoping she will chair the newly formed support meetings held in the evenings as a role model to others hoping to get off the streets.

Case study 2

DA initially came through the arrest referral scheme and was then referred for specialist prescribing and was put on a methadone programme. However she was not complying with the structured day programme she was due to attend as part of her referral order. Other issues raised were housing and the need for more intense therapy. DA then went to prison for robbery. As of September 2011, and since coming out of prison, DA has been living with her father in Bracknell. She is working well with Probation and drugs services and has started to turn her life around.

5.13 Ugly mug scheme

There is a great deal of research, which shows high levels of violence against women who are involved in street prostitution. As a result, local areas have set up “ugly mug” schemes. This allows victims to report their attacker so that the collection and distribution of ‘ugly mug’ reports alerts Police and multi-agency partners, for example, outreach workers (and other women) to the dangerous individual(s). It also encourages clients to report attacks to the police so that successful prosecutions can be achieved although they do not have to for the purposes of this scheme. In Slough this scheme is facilitated by our contact at HMP Bronzefield, the women’s prison, where often prostitutes feel safe to report.

5.14 Patrols and meeting with the community

There are regular community warden patrols as well as the Police patrols in the hotspot areas and Police and council attendance at residents meetings, including Action for Chalvey, Chalvey Partnership and Chalvey NAG.

5.15 The Way forward

Slough needs to continue in its joined up approach which combines support, harm reduction, enforcement and reassurance, and to look for other ways we can improve on what we are already doing.

5.15.1 Information sharing and best practice_– we have already got good contacts with Reading and Oxford (who advised on the SWAG and the Change programme) and we are looking at setting up a Thames Valley-wide forum for boroughs to get together and share best practice. We have visited Camden’s Kings Cross team and joined one of their case work meetings, and we have now met with Ealing Police and are working together on information sharing where cautions and ASBOs have been issued. We have contacts at Ipswich and High Wycombe. Ipswich has offered to come to Slough to talk us through how they have achieved their aims and are considered ‘best practice’ by the Home Office. They have just published a new strategy which I am waiting to receive.

5.15.2 Communications – it is important to have an effective two-way feedback process between local residents, Police and partners and an effective Communications strategy that keeps the issue of prostitution – and what we are doing to tackle it – high on the local agenda, without raising fear of crime amongst those who maybe are not so aware of it. The SWAG will continue as will feedback to residents and a new subgroup if residents are in agreement.

5.15.3 Funding_- community groups can apply for funding, for example from the Crime Innovation Fund, which could be used for further outreach work and research (Oxford have just carried out some research which they are going to send through) and provide further support for the girls on the streets.

5.15.4 Making the environment cleaner and safer

- Street angels - Slough will soon have a Street Angels scheme, which is a voluntary group organised by local churches who will patrol the area and offer support to those who need it and provide a reassuring presence.
- Continued community warden patrols, police patrols
- Improved lighting (eg security lighting in hotspots such as Oban Court if this does not cause 'light pollution')
- Gating off the town hall access roads

5.15.5 Tackling demand

- Intensive Police kerb crawling operations and regular publicity – word of mouth will soon spread eg amongst lorry drivers passing through.
- Look at Value for Money – the cost to services of putting people through the criminal justice system and dealing with crime in the area will be reduced in the longer term if the investment in time and resources is put in now.
- Name and shame for kerb crawlers, or pilot the Change programme?

5.15.6 Supporting prostitutes in exiting sex work

- Talk to other boroughs – what are they doing? What is considered 'best practice'? (Ipswich, Northampton)
- Get buy-in at senior level: Slough Borough Council (including Adult Social Care and Housing Needs), Thames Valley Police, Health/Primary Care Trust and Probation
- A support plan from Housing Needs and Homelessness team (although drugs are a problem when looking at housing options) – could we fund emergency accommodation?
- Immediate engagement with new faces, offering support
- Arrest and referral scheme rather than charging the girls (and give them a chance to access services first)
- Take on more female outreach workers (currently we have two males and one female)
- Getting benefits processed can take up to six months – can we speed this up?
- Where brothels are a problem, including b&bs, agencies should work together including the Department of Work and Pensions, HM Revenue and Customs, Fire Service, Trading Standards, Housing Needs, UKBA and any other agencies who can look at closing down premises who do not stop this activity.

6. **Comments of Other Committees**

None.

7. **Conclusion**

This report gives an overview of the work taking place in Slough to tackle prostitution and looks at how we can work together in the future to reduce the problem still further. It would be helpful to hear the views of committee members and meeting attendees as to how to progress.

8. **Appendices Attached**

'A' - Thames Valley Police prostitution strategy

'B' - Sex Workers Action Group terms of reference

9. **Background Papers**

None.

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Prostitution Strategy

2008-2011

TVP will work in conjunction with local partner agencies to tackle both on-street and off-street sex markets, and to reduce other crimes and anti-social behaviour arising from either the supply of, or demand for, prostitution.

Thames Valley Police

Prostitution Strategy

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Thames Valley Police

Prostitution Strategy

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Strategy sets out the approach adopted by Thames Valley Police (TVP) to tackle prostitution. The current intelligence picture of the sex industry within Thames Valley is patchy. It is known that while a relatively small number of neighbourhoods are affected by street prostitution, where it does occur it is also often associated with drug markets. Furthermore, little intelligence exists on the extent, nature and other crime links of off-street premises used for the purpose of prostitution, or of the extent of human trafficking and child 'grooming' linked to prostitution.

The National Coordinated Prostitution Strategy 2006 and TVPs Force Strategic Objectives guide the aims of this Strategy. To achieve these effectively requires strong partnerships, involving a wide range of enforcement and support agencies. In short, this Strategy commits Thames Valley Police to tackling *both* the supply and demand for prostitution, *both* on- and off-street markets, and to specifically target those who exploit others via human trafficking, prostitution for commercial gain or violence against sex workers. The strategy also highlights the need for prevention and early intervention, especially with children and young people, to stop individuals from becoming involved in prostitution.

The Strategy is supported by Guidance on the Policing of Prostitution. The Guidance contains more detailed information about operational approaches and tactical options which police areas faced with tackling prostitution should consider and choose from.

Thames Valley Police

Prostitution Strategy

1. Introduction

This Strategy sets out the approach adopted by Thames Valley Police (TVP) to tackle all forms of prostitution. The Strategy focuses mainly on level 1 criminality, defined within the National Intelligence Model as crime occurring within Local Police Areas (LPAs) or Basic Command Units (BCUs). This is in recognition of the harm that local prostitution markets can cause to communities and individuals. Organised Criminal Groups (OCGs) involved in level 2 or 3 criminality, for instance, human trafficking or drug dealing, present a unique challenge to the police. The Strategy and guidance therefore does not seek to provide a detailed description of the tactics TVP intends to employ against such groups, (for further information on how TVP tackles level 2 and 3 criminality, see the 'Crime Support Departmental Plan 2007-08').

For the purposes of this Strategy, 'prostitution' is defined broadly in line with that given in Part 1, Section 51 (2) and (3) of the Sexual Offences Act 2003:-

'Prostitution' is the act of offering or providing sexual services to another person in return for payment, or a promise of payment. 'Payment' refers to any financial advantage, including the provision of goods or services, or a discharge of a debt or obligation to pay for goods or services.

This Strategy was developed against a backdrop of increasing anxiety about prostitution in the United Kingdom, driven to some extent by growing concern about human trafficking from new European Union (EU) countries and a high profile, major crime enquiry in late 2006 into the murder of six women who had been working as prostitutes in Ipswich. In addition, as a result of a significant court ruling in favour of a brothel owner in mid-2007, police services have been alerted to inconsistencies in their approach to the off-street prostitution industry.

The current intelligence picture suggests a fragmented geographical spread of the industry within Thames Valley, which may involve a few relatively small 'pockets' of street prostitution. At this time these do not warrant the intensive "vice" control measures adopted in some other parts of the country. Therefore whilst seeking to improve intelligence on both on- and off-street sex markets, the strategy is not intended to be prescriptive about the allocation of resources that ought to be committed to policing prostitution by BCUs or LPAs. Nor does it seek to dictate a standard process to be followed whenever and wherever problems with prostitution arise. Instead, it is supported by a Guidance document which contains information on the operational approaches and tactical options available to our staff and partners. Together, the Strategy and Guidance provides a flexible approach to tackling prostitution in Thames Valley.

2. Background

In January 2006, the Government released 'A Coordinated Prostitution Strategy' which challenged the view that street prostitution was inevitable and proposed a set of shared aims and objectives to guide Government Departments and local partnerships to tackle the problem more effectively.¹ The national strategy highlighted the need to address *both* the supply and demand for prostitution, *both* on- and off-street markets, and to specifically target those who exploit others via human trafficking, prostitution for commercial gain or violence against sex workers. The national strategy also specified the need for prevention and early intervention, especially with children and young people, to stop individuals from becoming involved in prostitution.

In March 2007, TVP completed a Market Profile of Prostitution in Thames Valley. The Market Profile identified 'hotspots' for prostitution as coinciding with areas known for drug use and dealing. Indeed, it has been well documented that *street* sex and drug markets frequently co-exist and to some extent one helps perpetuate the other. It is also known that the majority of street sex workers misuse Class A drugs. Of course, this correlation (of *street* sex and drug markets) could serve to distort the perceived geographical spread of prostitution markets as a whole since police activity will be drawn to the more visible, open markets, particularly if they also involve drug dealing. TVP recognise and will endeavour to fill the intelligence gaps regarding the more closed, off-street, markets.

An up-date of the Market Profile in July 2007 highlighted an increase in the number of intelligence reports relating to prostitution. The reason for the growth in intelligence on prostitution is not clear, although the investment in neighbourhood policing teams and Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) working with communities may be having an impact.

In summary, the strategic picture of prostitution in Thames Valley suggests a fragmented landscape involving small pockets of street prostitution in most of the major towns, supplemented by off-street markets of a largely unknown scale. Evidence of links with human trafficking or organised child exploitation is scarce. Links with the regions more open drug markets have been established. Despite the evidence of comparatively compact areas affected by prostitution in Thames Valley, community awareness and media interest in the problem is growing.

¹ <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/documents/cons-paying-the-price/ProstitutionStrategy.pdf>

3. Aims of the Strategy

To tackle prostitution effectively requires strong partnerships, involving a wide range of enforcement and support agencies. We will therefore work with our Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRPs) and Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs) in order to address issues associated with prostitution. Joint strategic assessments and subsequent control strategies and priorities will govern the extent of local focus on prostitution and, to a large degree, govern the nature of local police and partnership action to tackle sex markets, and the causes of those markets.

This Strategy identifies the following aims to guide staff in dealing with prostitution in their local areas. These have been developed in line with identified best practise and the National Strategy on Prostitution.

The aims of this Strategy are:

- **REDUCE SUPPLY:** To maximise opportunities to access appropriate drug treatment services, and other forms of support, by those involved in sex work.
- **TACKLE DEMAND:** Respond to community concerns about prostitution and reduce displacement of markets, whether on- or off-street, by deterring those who create the demand (ie kerb crawlers).
- **REDUCE EXPLOITATION:** To bring to justice those who exploit individuals through prostitution, particularly those involved in human trafficking and child exploitation or 'grooming'.

4. Reducing the supply of prostitution

A key aim of tackling the supply of prostitution is to bring about a partnership managed reduction in sex working in those areas adversely affected by the industry; that causes the least harm to the community by minimising displacement; while maximising the opportunity for sex workers to exit prostitution. To achieve TVP will make use of existing intervention opportunities, legislative tools and support, and treatment programs, such as the Government's Drugs Intervention Program (DIP).

Home Office Circular 109/1959 (Street Offences Act 1959, and amended by the Sexual Offences Act 2003), states that an offender should receive no more than two cautions, referred to as a 'prostitute caution', within a 12 month period before being arrested for the offence of soliciting for the purpose of prostitution. The 'prostitute caution' is not a criminal conviction, nor is it the same as a formal caution. The Criminal Justice and Immigration Bill proposes removing the out-dated term 'common prostitute' from the legislation, while

retaining the need to prove that an individual loiters or solicits 'persistently' before a charge can be made. Persistence is defined as two or more occasions in any three month period. It is likely that the 1959 Circular will be up-dated after the Bill has been approved by parliament.

The powers under the Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003 to provide Acceptable Behaviour Contracts (ABCs) and, in more persistent cases, Anti-Social Behaviour Orders (ASBOs) have been particularly popular for addressing community concerns and underlying factors like drug use which drive many individuals to undertake sex work. In Thames Valley, police will consult with partners prior to the application of these approaches, and apply multi-agency case management structures in those cases where the legislation has been applied.

The Drugs Act 2005 introduced the option of drug testing for Class A drugs (heroin and cocaine only) under Inspector's Authority for those arrested for prostitution in areas where the Drugs Intervention Program (DIP) 'intensive' measures have been applied. A positive drug test result can lead to a mandatory drug assessment and would be used to inform future sentencing options. Even without a positive drug test result, if the area does not operate drug testing or an Inspector's Authority was not obtained, the DIP can assist individuals to access treatment on a voluntary basis. Upon arrest for prostitution or prostitution-related offences (eg kerb crawling) in intensive DIP areas, offenders in Thames Valley will be considered for drug testing or offered the support of the DIP on a voluntary basis.

The Drugs Act also introduced the option of Intervention Orders (IOs) which can be attached to ASBOs in certain circumstances. Finally, in areas where Conditional Cautioning applies, there will be an opportunity to apply this sanction with a drug rehabilitative condition, and to divert the individual away from the court process and towards assessment and treatment, particularly if drug use is implicated as a cause of the behaviour. TVP, with partner agencies, will seek ways to increase opportunities to use treatment interventions linked to these types of criminal justice disposal.

Most of the legislative options for dealing with prostitution apply to those aged 18 years and over only. Anyone aged under 18 years and believed to be soliciting cannot be given a caution, a conditional caution, a drug test (except in a small number of pilot areas) or an Intervention Order. Arresting young people involved in prostitution may be appropriate in order to allow police to protect the welfare of the young person and apply the statutory framework for Youth offenders within Section 65 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.

Good practice advice suggests that decisions about intervention should be reached in conjunction with partner agencies. TVP will work closely with partners and communities to ensure that we achieve a co-ordinated and proportionate response. Furthermore, Neighbourhood Policing will increase opportunities for police officers and staff to work with partner agencies and local communities to identify local priorities.

5. Tackling the demand for prostitution

To address street sex markets adequately, strategies need to tackle both the supply and demand for services. The Government, supported by the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO), is currently advising that police operations to tackle the market for prostitution in identified 'hotspot' areas should also attempt to disrupt and deter those who buy sex. TVP recognises the importance of demand in the prostitution equation and will seek to strike that balance through employing a range of tactics aimed at both sex workers and kerb crawlers, during every prostitution operation.

The Sexual Offences Act 2003 provides powers to arrest and charge individuals with kerb crawling offences. As an alternative to prosecution, however, police forces in some parts of England provide kerb crawler education programmes. TVP will assess demand for such a programme in the region, and either initiate a programme or identify opportunities to send offenders to established programmes in neighbouring forces.

Partnerships are as important in tackling those who create the demand for prostitution as they are to reducing supply. Joint education campaigns by police and partners (aimed at, for example, local businesses, transportation networks, further education establishments, licensed premises, and housing associations) will be used where appropriate.

6. Reducing Exploitation

Many individuals benefit financially from the prostitution industry and a few derive personal gratification through the sexual exploitation of children or by regarding prostitutes as easy targets for violent or sexual crime. A key element of the national strategy is to target and remove opportunities for those who use, abuse and exploit individuals through prostitution.

The TVP Strategy reflects the national mood to tackle and prevent those involved in human trafficking (both national and international) and the exploitation of children for the purposes of prostitution. Furthermore, Police in Thames Valley will treat all sexual or other violent crimes committed against sex workers with the seriousness that all such offences warrant.

6.1 Prevention of 'grooming' young people for sex work

Thames Valley Police regard identifying young people who may be at risk of becoming involved in prostitution as a high priority. High risk groups consist of cared for children, or those who have recently left care, young drug misusers, and frequently missing persons. Also, at risk are young people who already associate with older men.

The grooming process may be instigated via on-line communication or personal contact, and may involve persons known to, or previously unknown,

to the young person targeted. The possibility of grooming must always be considered as part of the missing person risk assessment and investigation, particularly in cases of frequently missing young persons from care settings. Regardless of the background to the grooming process, and any apparent willingness to participate on the part of the child, any young person involved in, or at risk of becoming involved in prostitution must be regarded as a victim.

TVP will continue to take an active role within Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs). These are statutory bodies introduced through the Children's Act 2004 to coordinate the efforts of members in safeguarding children and promoting their welfare. In support of these TVPs Child Abuse Investigation Unit (CAIU) have developed clear procedures and guidance for officers suspecting, receiving reports, or investigating incidents of child sexual abuse.

6.2 Organised criminals and other financial beneficiaries of prostitution

Key to ensuring the effective disruption of prostitution markets is reducing the opportunities for those who exploit individuals through prostitution for personal financial gain. Where information comes to light in respect of the activities of 'pimps' or brothel owners, Thames Valley officers will ensure it is handled in line with National Intelligence Model (NIM) processes, by identifying intelligence, enforcement and prevention strategies.

To enable the police to target those who coerce, exploit and abuse others through prostitution, the Sexual Offences Act 2003 introduced a number of new offences. The Act introduces the offence of causing, inciting or controlling prostitution for gain, carrying a maximum penalty of seven years imprisonment. In Thames Valley, police will pursue in conjunction with the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) the criminal prosecution of those involved in the organisation of prostitution (ie. people deriving financial, or other, gain from prostitution eg 'pimps', brothel keepers and so on). In addition to criminal charges, police in Thames Valley will seek to apply Proceeds of Crime legislation (Proceeds of Crime Act 2002) to remove assets and premises from those who financially exploit others through prostitution.

A well-known manifestation of organised people smuggling and the more serious activity of human trafficking is to provide (both willing and unwilling) participants for the purpose of prostitution. Operation Pentameter² was launched across the UK in February 2006 in an attempt to crackdown on human trafficking for the purpose of prostitution. Thames Valley Police intend to play a part in further operations that are scheduled to take place to address this crime.

Human trafficking will remain a priority for TVPs Organised Crime Unit and anyone suspected of having been trafficked, regardless of the circumstances

² <http://www.pentameter.police.uk/>

under which they came to be in the UK, will continue to be treated as a victim rather than an offender. The primary aim of police and partners in any case involving human trafficking must be to attempt to secure appropriate support for the victims and to reduce future trafficking opportunities.

6.3. Addressing violence against sex workers

Offences that are committed against sex workers regularly go unreported and street workers, in particular, are vulnerable to becoming victims of violent or sexual crime. Tackling this aspect of the market, and dealing with the offenders, is an important aspect of a holistic prostitution strategy. Maintaining trust between police and support services for sex workers, and ultimately with the sex workers themselves, is key to generating better reporting and, potentially, preventing the perpetration of more serious crimes.

To help reduce violence against sex workers, TVP officers will follow Government advice to support campaigns such as Crimestoppers 'Ugly Mugs' campaign. In addition, where sex workers have become victims of violence or sexual crime, investigating officers will consider applying special measures for vulnerable or intimidated witnesses.

On occasions, the violence directed at sex workers comes from controlling, or interested parties, rather than from clients, and the sensitivities surrounding these situations should not be underestimated, particularly when the 'pimp' is also the sex worker's partner. Therefore our procedures and guidelines for domestic violence are entirely appropriate under these circumstances and will be followed by all investigating officers in TVP.

7. The public and the Media

Very often, prostitution street markets, or off-street premises used in prostitution, come to police (and media) attention as a result of complaints received from the public. An advantage of police and partners working together is that a uniform message can be given out to reassure the public that action is being taken by a range of agencies in pursuit of a common goal.

Similarly, the media can fuel public interest (and rumour) in relation to the extent and nature of prostitution markets. Their impact should not be underestimated and it should be, to some extent, managed. Again, a multi-agency communications plan that provides an explanation of the aims and rationale of the partnership approach should help reduce the harm created by sensationalist stories and go some way towards reassuring the public about ways in which police and partners are, together, dealing with prostitution.

Key messages that Partnerships tackling prostitution need to promote include the following:-

- Police and partners are working together to target the problem holistically.

- Prostitution markets cannot be tackled effectively without providing essential services to those involved, which tackle the underlying causes of prostitution (eg drug use).
- The partnership will use all of the legislation and tactics available to prevent and deter kerb crawling as well as those offering prostitution, whether in on-street or off-street contexts.
- Violence, trafficking or grooming of individuals for the purpose of prostitution will not be tolerated by any of the agencies involved in the partnership.

8. Links with other Strategies

- The Governments Coordinated Prostitution Strategy 2006
- Up-dated National Drug Strategy 2002 (new strategy due 2008)
- The Thames Valley Police Drugs Strategy 2005-08 (new strategy due 2008)
- The Thames Valley Police Youth Strategy 2007-10
- The Thames Valley Police Community Engagement Strategy, 2007
- Neighbourhood Policing Strategy
- Thames Valley Police Missing Persons Policy
- Local CDRP Strategies
- DAAT treatment and Communities strategies

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SLOUGH STRATEGIC SWAG - ToR

- Title:** SLOUGH STRATEGIC Sex Workers Action Group (SWAG)
- Reporting to:** Slough DAAT
- Member agencies reporting from:**
- Slough DAAT
 - Female Outreach Worker (or representative) Slough DIP
 - East Berkshire Women’s Aid (EBWA)
 - Thames Valley Police – Town Centre/Chalvey Neighbourhoods
 - Anti-Social Behaviour Officer, Community Safety Team, SBC
 - Community Safety Team, SBC
 - Safeguarding, SBC
 - CMHT
 - Housing Needs, SBC
 - Neighbourhood Enforcement Team (NET)
 - Domestic Violence Lead, TVP
 - Thames Valley Police
 - Thames Valley Probation
 - Garden Clinic/PCT Sexual Health Services
 - SHOC
 - BBV Specialist
 - Slough User Reps
 - SBC Social Services
 - Hostel/Supported Housing (Look Ahead, The Foyer etc)
 - CCTV / Careline Team, SBC
 - Community and Diversity Team, SBC

Appropriate speakers can be invited as per the groups request

Term: Ongoing

Review Date: August 2011

Purpose/function: 1. Provide a multi-agency response both on street (prostitution, soliciting etc) and off street (brothels etc). SLOUGH Strategic

SLOUGH STRATEGIC SWAG - ToR

SWAG has a Slough Town Centre focus.

2. To reduce harm to:

The public
The sex worker
The consumer

(Includes health, physical harm, risks, anti – social behaviour).

To identify issues and explore the current situation in Slough.

3. Increasing access to services and identifying gaps in services. Empowering the sex worker. To build capacity within the services. Need continuity of services.
4. Monitor and evaluate the take up of services.
5. Assist the exit from sex working.
6. Identify strategies to enable the points above to be put into place and use this to secure funding.

SLOUGH STRATEGIC SWAG - ToR

- Chair:**
- Function of the Chair**
The Chair will:
- Keep to the agenda,
 - Ensure an agenda is sent out prior to the meeting and includes the last minutes.
 - Identify named people to take forward actions,
 - Check the agreed action takes place and nominate members to take items on to other meetings and groups,
 - Nominate another person in the chair's absence.
- Meetings:**
- SWAG will:
- Meet quarterly.
 - Have minutes taken and distributed within 7 working days.
 - The venue, date and time will be pre arranged with plenty of notice each month.
- Inputs:**
- The meeting is informed by:
- TVP Prostitution strategy
 - Slough Drug Needs Assessment / Strategy
 - Slough Strategic SWAG Strategy
- Outputs:**
- Mapping of sex work in Slough
 - Service Planning
 - Minimising harm and enforcement

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SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Neighbourhoods and Community Services Scrutiny Panel

DATE: 24th October, 2011

CONTACT OFFICER: Andrew Stevens
Assistant Director, Culture and Skills
Community and Well Being
(07531) 875507

WARD(S): All

PART I

FOR COMMENT AND CONSIDERATION

COMMUNITY CENTRES – FUTURE PROVISION

1 Purpose of Report

1.1 This report is to advise the Scrutiny Panel of the Council's strategic direction for the provision of community centres in Slough and seek advice on the future direction of this work. The paper outlines the rationale and status of work to develop multi service community hubs that will both improve access to services for local people and reduce administrative costs.

1.2 The report seeks to put service improvement through community hubs in the context of the council's emerging Asset Strategy and plans for regeneration. It highlights achievement in projects including Chalvey and advises Members of the current status of plans for a number of other centres, including Haymill and Horsemoor Green.

2 Recommendation(s)/Proposed Action

2.1 The Panel is requested to:

a) Comment on progress and plans to date for the community hubs.

3 Community Strategy Priorities

- **Celebrating Diversity, Enabling inclusion**
- **Adding years to Life and Life to years**
- **Being Safe, Feeling Safe**
- **Prosperity for All**

3.1 Community based services are critical to realizing the Council's Sustainable Community vision and strategy for Slough. Multi functional community hubs can deliver services to local people in a more accessible and easier to use form and provide better services and better value through fostering community partnerships and joint working.

4 **Other Implications**

(a) **Financial**

There are no proposals contained in this report with any direct financial impact. Development of new community hubs for Chalvey and Britwell forms part of the Council's capital programme. Efficiency savings relating to community centres amounting to £50k in 2011/12 and £100k in both 2012/13 and 2013/14 have been agreed as part of the Medium Term Financial Strategy.

(b) **Human Rights Act and Other Legal Implications**

There are no direct human rights or legal implications arising from this report.

(c) **Workforce**

There are no direct workforce implications arising from this report.

5 **Current provision of community centres**

5.1 There are over 60 community centres and related facilities across the town, including:

- Youth centres
- Community centres
- Parks and play areas
- Buildings used by voluntary and community groups
- Arts and sports facilities
- Children's centres
- Libraries

5.2 To this list may be added schools, health centres, doctors surgeries, places of worship, parish council buildings and other local centres that may not be owned by the council, but which also fulfil a function as community venues.

5.3 There is great variety in the types of services offered and the way services are delivered and this can be confusing for residents. It has also proved challenging for staff trying to deliver services to local areas that cut across traditional professional boundaries.

5.4 The Council's strategy for community centres has been developing since 2010 and is closely linked with the agreed Asset Strategy and capital programme as well as development of community partnerships.

5.5 The main themes for the strategy are:

- Implementing the Council's agreed Asset Strategy to release a limited number of sites to enable investment in better services
- Developing multi functional centres that bring together different service offers that serve a wider community than the immediate community
- Standardising terms for use of community centres to make them clear, consistent and easier for the public to understand

6 **Asset strategy**

6.1 The Council's Asset Strategy was approved by Cabinet on 7 February 2011. The strategy shows for all Council premises their costs and allocates them to one of four categories:

- **Category A.** Assets that are likely to remain operational
- **Category B.** Assets that could stay operational with potential for co-location
- **Category C.** Assets that are expensive to run, are not fit for purpose and/or have a potential capital receipt

6.2 The strategy has been updated and agreed by Cabinet subsequently as part of broader papers on the capital programme, most recently on 19 September 2011. It sets out priorities to improve and maintain high quality core premises. Central to this approach is the establishment of community hubs.

6.3 Community hubs are intended to be accessible and flexible buildings that are shared with partners. They are situated in the heart of communities giving access to as wide a range of services as possible. They offer the potential to deliver better quality and more joined up services to local people and to rationalise the number and quality of current facilities.

6.4 The strategy proposes three main community hubs, initially at Britwell, Chalvey and Manor Park, would be complemented by a range of other mostly multi functional buildings across the borough that ensure all residents have excellent access to services wherever they live. These other venues include, for example, children's centres, libraries and some schools. In addition, the Curve, as part of the Heart of Slough, would also be a community hub for the whole community in Slough in the town centre.

6.5 The Asset Strategy is being delivered through the Council's capital programme, which balances investment opportunities with asset disposal and capital funding to improve facilities. The Council is currently investigating a Local Asset Backed Vehicle (LABV) as a means to improve its capacity to invest in capital improvements.

7 **Multi functional community centres, including Chalvey and Britwell**

7.1 Community hubs would be used to bring together different council services delivered locally and also partner public sector organisations and the voluntary sector. Each hub would be designed to common principles specifically to meet the needs of the local community and the mix of services and operational arrangements would vary according to needs and opportunities.

7.2 For a community hub to be successful it must be:

- Close to other facilities such as shops, sports buildings or schools
- Prominently located in a central location
- Have good access by foot or public transport and sufficient parking
- Suitable in size and design for sharing accommodation and facilities

- 7.3 Facilities would normally include a shared reception, café and refreshment areas, community space, kitchens, meeting rooms, storage, offices, play areas, toilets and car parking.
- 7.4 Traditional community centres are places where different services or community groups would book a room or hall for use and the centre would be opened up and locked up again after use. This approach contrasts with the new Chalvey community centre, which includes:
- Open 76 hours a week, with staff supervision
 - Satellite library
 - Café run by a social enterprise
 - Hot desking for locally based staff, including police and wardens
 - Welcome-reception area with space to meet at no charge
 - IT suite
 - High quality meeting rooms
 - Hall that can also be used as 3 meeting rooms
- 7.5 The Chalvey centre was designed with advice and support from the Chalvey Partnership, representing community organisations, who also led local consultation and are part of the advisory board for the new venue. While the new building is important, even more significant is the way that the relationship with the local community has helped shape the service offer and built local ownership. The centre may in future also encompass other services such as a doctor's surgery. The programme for the reception area from September 2011 is included as Appendix A.
- 7.6 The same design principles and community involvement are being used for the new community centre in Britwell, which will include a new full branch library, hall, meeting rooms, base for community wardens, café, IT training suite and a training/commercial kitchen. In both cases, there is a shift of emphasis from different organisations having their own space to co-location and shared use of space that enables centres to be occupied a much higher proportion of the time.
- 7.7 A similar principle has been adopted in Colnbrook and the Wexham Road Sure Start centre, where children's centres are host to satellite libraries. They and other centres include a variety of other services for families, including health clinics and adult and family learning. In Colnbrook the centre will also host a My Council service each week.
- 7.8 In Manor Park, while at present there isn't funding for a new community centre, in liaison with the local community partnership group, an extended offer is being built to make best use of existing facilities, to establish the principles of the community hub model.
- 7.9 Other work is being done with some schools to extend use of their premises out of school hours. All these initiatives will contribute to achieving a number of community venues which are busy and can be afforded.

7.10 The benefits of this approach include:

- Simpler and easier access to services for the public by bringing things together in one place
- Range of services improved and more coherent programming
- Reduced costs because premises are used more efficiently and fewer buildings are needed because of sharing
- Much better quality of buildings and facilities through concentrating investment

8 **A consistent approach to managing centres**

8.1 The strategy for community centres is intended to be inclusive of all centres managed by the Council, developing a multi-functional model for delivery and encouraging all centres to be promoted and accessible to the community more easily.

8.2 One element of this strategy is the process begun in mid summer to transfer Youth and Community centres to the Community Services team in Community and Wellbeing. This would have the benefit of enabling promotion and management of the centres and terms and conditions of use to be standardised and made easier for the public to understand.

8.3 This approach helps capitalise on opportunities created by the reduction in direct youth service delivery by opening centres to wider community use. In addition there is the potential, subject to clarification on resources, to achieve some operational efficiencies in managing bookings and caretaking arrangements.

8.4 The focus of the Community Services team on customer service delivery is facilitated by the transfer of responsibility for the fabric of the buildings to the property team ("corporate landlord") from June 2011. This means that caretakers and facilities officers for other Council premises are part of a single team and can operate more flexibly, while the Community Services team can concentrate on community partnerships and increasing use of the centres.

9 **Specific issues**

9.1 **Rochfords and Langley Community Centre**

The PPRG revenue budget programme includes revenue savings for community centres in 2012/13 and 2013/14 of £100,000 each year. These savings will be achieved through a combination of reduced premises costs, staffing and administrative efficiencies.

9.2 Closure of the Rochfords Community Centre and Langley Community Hall was approved by Cabinet in July and September 2011, as a contribution to achieving required savings. In each case a 3 month consultation process is taking place with all users to find the best alternatives to meet their needs. It is possible to relocate the vast majority of existing users to another venue that they are happy with, including Upton Lea and the Langley Pavilion.

9.3 While Rochfords will be closed and demolished, prior to disposal, the Council hopes to sell the Langley Community Hall and it is possible that community use would be maintained by the new owner. In each case also, efforts are continuing

to increase capacity for community activities through working with schools and other venues which will mitigate the impact on local people.

9.4 No decision has been made about the future of other community centres.

9.5 **Haymill**

Haybrook College currently occupies a range of buildings on the Haymill site including a large proportion of the Haymill Community Centre building as a sub-lease from Community and Wellbeing.

9.6 The Council's Asset Strategy has classified the Haymill Community Centre as Category C (assets that are expensive to run, not fit for purpose and/or have a potential capital receipt or are possible LABV asset). It is known that the utilities in the building are in poor condition, difficult and expensive to maintain and the heating system is expensive to operate. The building has a flat roof which is in poor condition and the mainly concrete structure has very poor thermal efficiency. It currently costs over £119,000 net of income each year to operate.

9.7 A report to Cabinet in April 2011 identified a number of options for the site:

1. Release the full site for possible disposal - Relocate Haybrook College (both the special school and PRU) to an alternative site in Slough and find alternative venues for the other users of the Haymill building.
2. Release part of the site for possible disposal – Retain the former Joan Lestor building, sports hall and some surrounding play space to house either the special school or the PRU service and relocate the other half of the school. Find alternative venues for the other users of the Haymill building.
3. Retain the full site for Haybrook College and community use – Haybrook College is expanded on the site to increase capacity to meet the rising demand. This might include adding modular classrooms or renting additional rooms in the Haymill building.

9.8 The current position is that the future operation of services on the site continues to be under review. In common with all other assets, this is being considered in the context of the potential LABV to deliver a capital programme for the Council. Until decisions are made on the LABV in the autumn of 2012, no final decision can be made on the Haymill site. The Haymill Community Centre is on list B of the Asset Strategy (assets that could stay operational with potential for co-location).

9.9 **Horsemoor Green**

Negotiations are in progress for the potential use of Horsemoor Green for a local charitable organisation which intends using it for their headquarters and is arranging some re-decoration of the centre. The centre would continue to be available as at present for wider community use. Meanwhile, the centre is part of the Youth and Community Centres package under review for possible transfer to Community and Wellbeing to improve its promotion and ensure a more consistent approach to management of community venues. This site is on list B of the Asset Strategy (assets that could stay operational with potential for co-location).

10 **Conclusion**

- 10.1 There are substantial opportunities to improve community centres and service delivered to communities through making better use of the many facilities across Slough. The strategy rests on bringing new venues such as schools into greater use and enabling multi functional design and shared working arrangements. The potential is shown by developments at the Chalvey Community Centre. This is an important point in the strategy, linked with the review of its capital programme, and advice from the Scrutiny Panel is being sought on how best to proceed.

11 **Appendices attached**

- A SBC community centres list
- B Chalvey Community Centre reception & shared area activities, September 2011

12 **Background papers**

- A Creation of the Slough Local Asset Backed Vehicle (LABV). Cabinet, 19 September 2011

Appendix A

SBC community centres list

Community centres

Chalvey Community Centre
Cippenham Community Hall
Haymill Community Centre
Horsemoor Green Youth and Community Centre
Langley Community Hall (closing 2011/12)
Langley Pavilion
Manor Park Community Hall (Age Concern)
Manor Park Youth and Community Centre
Maria Cowland Community Hall (Age Concern)
Milan Centre
Orchard Youth and Community Centre
Rochfords Community Centre (closing 2011/12)
Rotunda annexe (voluntary sector tenant)
Upton Lea Community Centre
Weekes Drive Community Hall
Westfield Community Hall

Other linked community facilities include:

Britwell Library
Cippenham Library
Langley Library
Slough Central Library
Slough Young People's Centre
The Centre, Farnham Road
Thomas Gray Centre
West Wing

Children's centres:

- Cippenham Nursery
- Claycots
- James Elliman
- Marish
- Montem
- Orchard Avenue
- St Andrew's Way
- Vicarage Way, Colnbrook
- Wexham Road
- William Penn
- Yew Tree

Appendix B

Chalvey Community Centre reception & shared area activities, September 2011

Day	Time	Weekly / Fortnightly / Monthly / Quarterly (W/F/M/Q)	Activity	Organisation Running	Comments
Monday	9.30am - 2.30pm	W	Job Club	Employment & Enterprise	To help people out of work, raise CV, search for jobs etc
	9.30 - 12.30	M	Sure Start Information Surgery	Sure Start	Information and help session for families, children and young people of services etc for them
Tuesday	10.00am - 12.00pm	W	Children's Story Time	Life Long Learning	For children under 5 to come along with parents/guardians and listen to stories
	3.00pm - 4.30pm	F	Asian Poetry Club	Community Services	A group of people reading and writing poetry
	12.00am - 2.00pm	W	Community Savings & Loan	Berkshire Credit Union	A non profit organisation that encourages people to join and save with them on a regular basis and offers low cost loans.
	2.00pm - 3.00pm	W	You, Me and a Cup of Tea	Phoenix Centre	For people with physical, sensory and / or learning disability to come and socialize, chat and have a drink
Wednesday	10.00 am - 11.30	Q	Diabetes - Advice & Signposting	NHS Berkshire	A information, Advice & signposting session for people with diabetes Berkshire Health Care Foundation Trust
	2.00pm - 2.45pm	M	Peak A Boo, Baby & You	NCT Pregnancy and baby care	Time for parents with bumps, babes and toddlers to come together, talk & socialize

Day	Time	Weekly / Fortnightly / Monthly / Quarterly (W/F/M/Q)	Activity	Organisation Running	Comments
	2.00pm - 4.00pm 6.30pm - 8.30pm	W M	Community Warden Support Services SANAS Committee Meeting	Neighbourhood Enforcement SANAS	For the community to come and talk, ask questions and get help ST. Kitts & Nevis Association Slough - Charity – Provide or assist in the provision of facilities for recreation and other leisure time activities in the interest of social welfare with the object of improving their conditions of life.
Thursday	11.30am - 1.00pm 7.00pm - 8.00pm	W M	Debating Group Have Your Say	Community Services Thames Valley Police	A group of people coming together to discuss and debate issues informally Police Community Service Officer meeting for the Community of Chalvey to come and talk about matters concerning them and ask questions.
Friday	11.30am - 12.00 12.00pm - 2.30pm	W M	Children's Music Time Sure Start Families Services / Children's Centres	Library services Sure Start	Singing and Music for under 5's and their parents / Guardians Information and help session for families & children
Saturday	10.00am - 11.00am 11.00am - 12.00	M W	Book Club PCSO Coffee Morning	Library Services / Community Services Thames Valley Police	For people to come together to read and discuss books as well as socialize For the community to come along have a coffee and chat with each other as well as the Police Community Service Officer
Sunday	2.00pm - 4.00pm	W	Taster Sessions in Bhanghra Dance	Community Services	For people to come down and discuss dance & be taught small steps

SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Neighbourhoods and Community Services Scrutiny Panel

DATE: 24 October, 2011

CONTACT OFFICERS: Alex J Deans
Head of Highways Engineering
(01753) 87 5633

Dean Trussler
Emergency Planning Officer
(01753) 87 5131

WARD(S): All

PART I
FOR COMMENT AND CONSIDERATION

WINTER PREPARATIONS

1 **Purpose of Report**

To inform the Committee of the main elements of the Winter Maintenance Plan 2011-12 for gritting and snow clearing of the public highway and to inform the committee of contingency plans in place for periods of extreme winter weather.

2 **Recommendation(s)/Proposed Action**

The Committee is requested to note the report.

3 **Community Strategy Priorities**

- **Celebrating Diversity, Enabling inclusion**
- **Being Safe, Feeling Safe**
- **A Cleaner, Greener place to live, Work and Play**
- **Prosperity for All**

4 **Other Implications**

(a) **Financial**

The 2011-12 annual revenue budget for Winter Maintenance activities is £170,000.

(b) **Risk Management**

Snow and ice on the roads would have an impact on the whole community of Slough, hitting the vulnerable the hardest. There would also be an economic impact on the businesses of Slough.

(c) **Human Rights Act and Other Legal Implications**

There are no Human Rights Act Implications.

5 **Supporting Information**

Winter Maintenance Plan 2011-12- For Gritting and Snow Clearing of the Public Highway

- 5.1 Legislation was introduced in 2003 requiring “Local Authorities have a legal duty to ensure, so far as reasonably practical, that safe passage along a highways is not endangered by snow and ice”.
- 5.2 The “highway” denotes the network of roads, footpaths and cycleways within the borough that fall within the responsibility of the Highway Authority.
- 5.3 The Highways Engineering section provides winter service in order to facilitate a safer travelling environment for all highway users and to minimise disruption to road users.
- 5.4 The Council does not have the resources, financial or otherwise, to treat all roads in the borough. Selected roads are classified as Primary or Secondary routes.
- 5.5 Primary routes comprise of main roads, strategic bus routes and include routes to emergency service bases and total 135km. Primary routes are treated with salt in response to forecasted frost, ice or snow (see appendix 1).
- 5.6 Secondary routes comprise of busy roads, access to schools and some less busy bus routes and total 30km. Secondary routes are treated during particularly hazardous conditions (see appendix 2).
- 5.7 The Council has a contract with MeteoGroup to provide detailed weather forecasts at 13.00 and 18.00 during the winter season.
- 5.8 The Council’s term contractors Enterprise provide the workforce and gritting vehicles.
- 5.9 During periods of heavy snow fall shopping areas and footways outside schools are cleared.
- 5.10 Enterprise offer private gritting arrangements to other Council Services and private businesses/organisations. A letter is issued in June every year to this effect and copied ward Councillors (see appendix 3).
- 5.11 The Winter Maintenance Plan is reviewed annually during the summer months following feedback from public transport operators; businesses; residents and Councillors. The 2011-12 Winter Maintenance Plan has recently been finalised and is available on the Council’s website at the following link:
<http://www.slough.gov.uk/services/8828.aspx>

Contingency Plans for Extreme Winter Weather

- 5.12 There are no specific emergency plans for extreme weather, instead we rely on the well tested and successful generic emergency plans that were used during the last two winters. We work closely with our partners to ensure the safety of the community of Slough.

6 **Conclusion**

To inform the Committee of the main elements within the Winter Maintenance Plan 2011-12 and to provide details of the contingency plans in place to deal with extreme winter weather.

7 **Appendices Attached**

Appendix 1: Primary Routes
Appendix 2: Secondary Routes
Appendix 3: Private gritting arrangements letter

8 **Background Papers**

Highways Act 1980
The Code of Practice for Highway Maintenance Management 2005

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Shopping Areas & Emergency Services

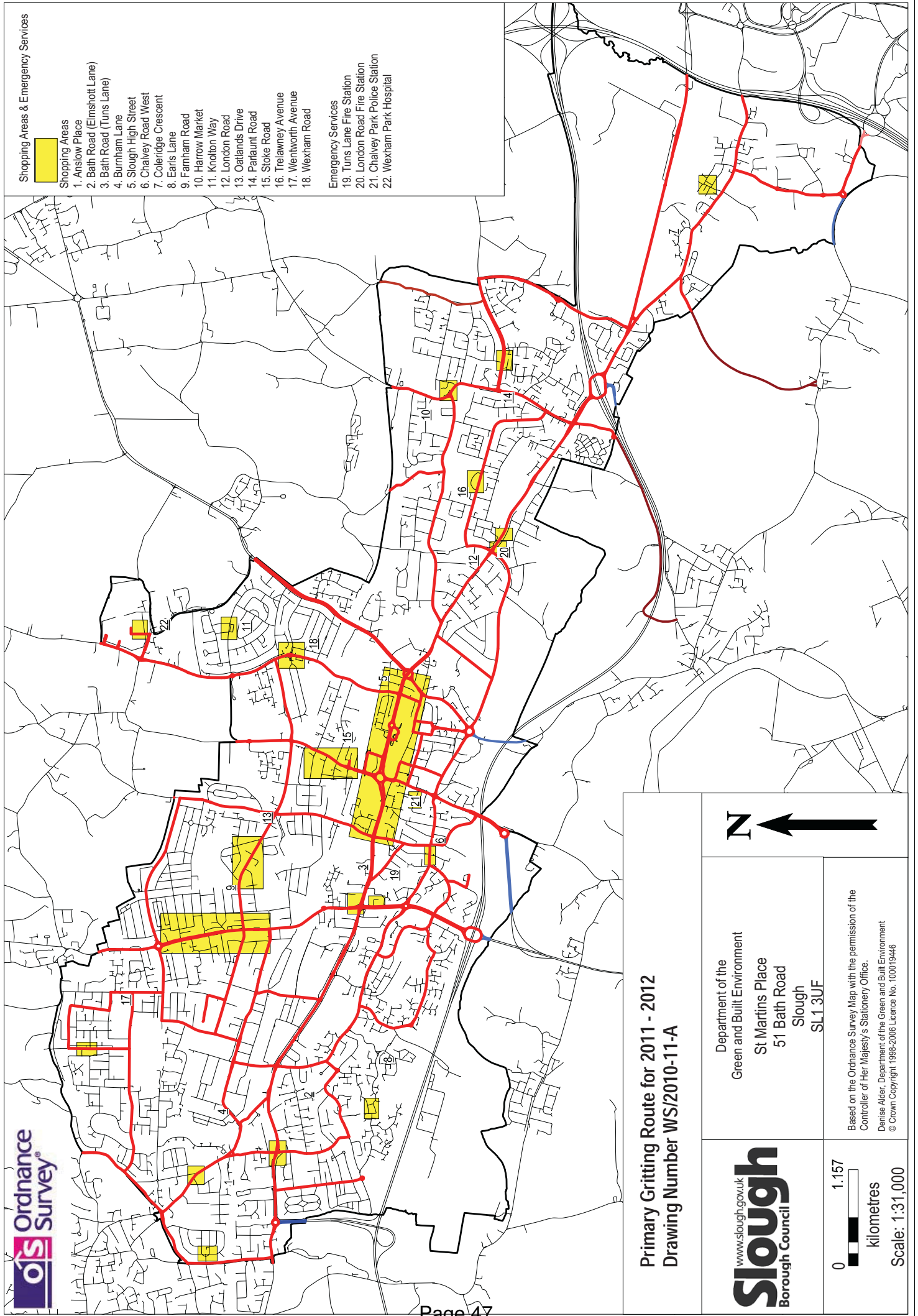


Shopping Areas

1. Anslow Place
2. Bath Road (Elmshott Lane)
3. Bath Road (Tuns Lane)
4. Burnham Lane
5. Slough High Street
6. Chalvey Road West
7. Coleridge Crescent
8. Earls Lane
9. Farnham Road
10. Harrow Market
11. Knotton Way
12. London Road
13. Oatlands Drive
14. Parlaunt Road
15. Stoke Road
16. Trelawney Avenue
17. Wentworth Avenue
18. Wexham Road

Emergency Services

19. Tuns Lane Fire Station
20. London Road Fire Station
21. Chalvey Park Police Station
22. Wexham Park Hospital



Primary Gritting Route for 2011 - 2012
Drawing Number WS/2010-11-A

Department of the
Green and Built Environment
St Martins Place
51 Bath Road
Slough
SL1 3UF

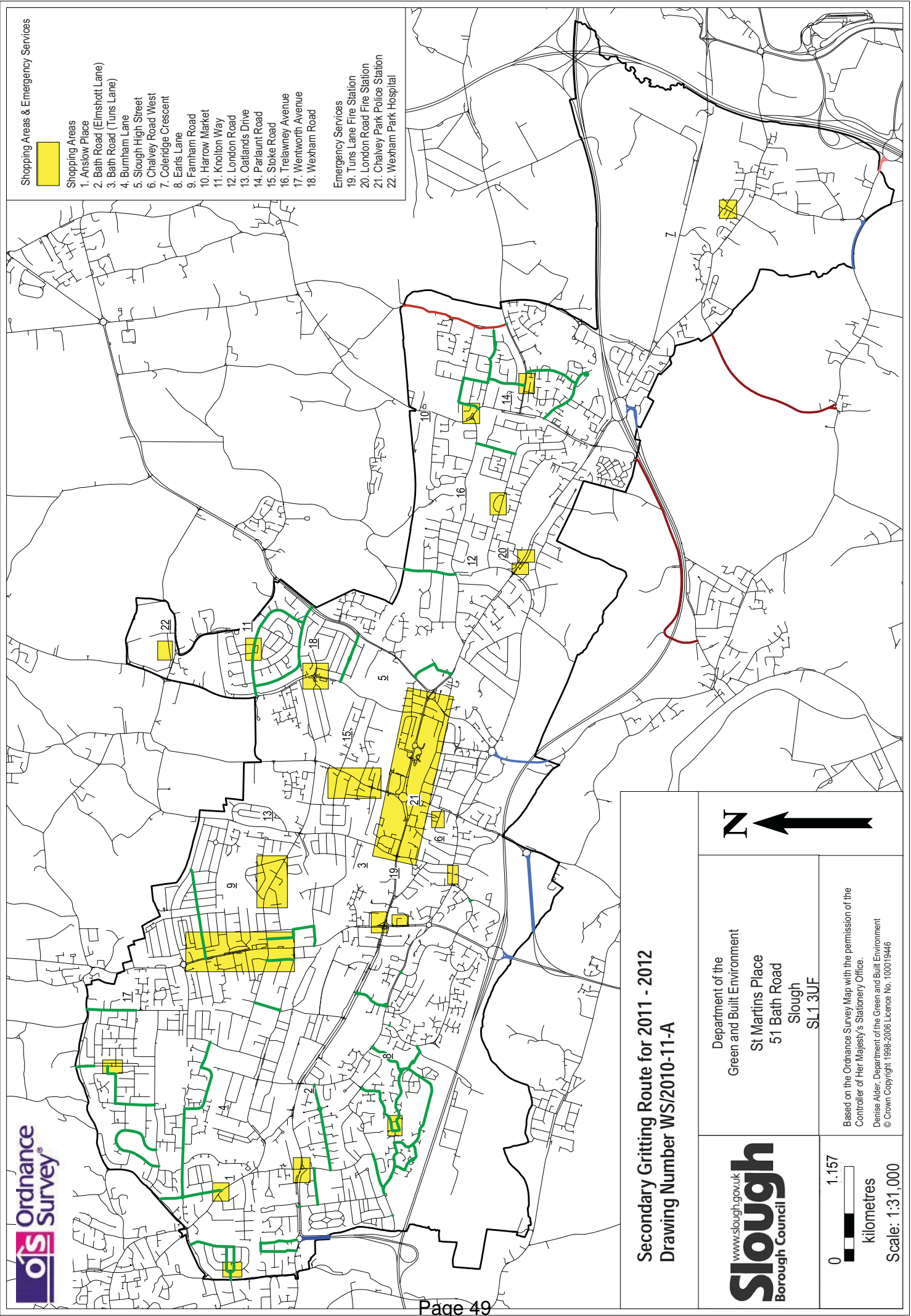


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0 1.157
kilometres
Scale: 1:31,000

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- Shopping Areas & Emergency Services**
- Shopping Areas**
1. Anslow Place
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 3. Bath Road (Tuns Lane)
 4. Burnham Lane
 5. Slough High Street
 6. Chalvey Road West
 7. Coleridge Crescent
 8. Earls Lane
 9. Farnham Road
 10. Harrow Market
 11. Knolton Way
 12. London Road
 13. Oatlands Drive
 14. Parlaunt Road
 15. Stoke Road
 16. Trelawney Avenue
 17. Wentworth Avenue
 18. Wexham Road
- Emergency Services**
19. Tuns Lane Fire Station
 20. London Road Fire Station
 21. Chalvey Park Police Station
 22. Wexham Park Hospital

Secondary Gritting Route for 2011 - 2012
Drawing Number WS/2010-11-A

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Department of the
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 St Martins Place
 51 Bath Road
 Slough
 SL1 3UF

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1st June 2011

Nurseries- Tony Madden SBC Education to distribute
Primary Schools- Tony Madden SBC Education to distribute
Secondary Schools- Tony Madden SBC Education to distribute
Adult Care Facilities- Ged Taylor SBC Environmental to distribute
Places of Worship- Naveed Mohammed SBC LSP to distribute
Doctors Surgeries- Kate Pratt SBC Comms to distribute via PTC
Council Buildings- Jamila Ibrahim SBC Facilities
Housing- Neil Aves and Ken Hopkins
SBC Ward Councillors

Department: The Green and Built Environment
Section: Highways Engineering
Contact: Mr Alex J. Deans
Contact No: 01753 875636
Fax: 01753 875660
Email: Alexander.Deans@slough.gov.uk
Our Ref: AJD/8/winter service review 2011
Your Ref: *

Dear Sir or Madam:

**Re- Winter Maintenance 2011-2012 and beyond
Private Salting and Gritting Arrangements**

Every year the Council prepares a Winter Maintenance Plan to deal with snow, ice and frost for the coming winter. The last plan was prepared in advance of the winter of 2010-11 which is available to view on the Council's website at this link <http://www.slough.gov.uk/services/8828.aspx>

During periods of heavy frosts and snowfall the Council routinely receives requests to provide gritting services for schools and private establishments including private forecourts, parking areas and footways. These requests put pressure on Council staff and resources; and diverts attention away from keeping the main roads, bus routes and shopping areas clear of snow and ice.

A full review was undertaken in 2010 and one of the agreed outcomes is to ensure that private establishments make their own gritting and salting arrangements in advance of the winter. In order to encourage this Slough Borough Council is offering to deliver a filled salt bin and two snow shovels in advance of this winter period at a cost of £252.90 per salt bin.

After the initial fill of salt private arrangements must be made for refilling salt bins as the Council will not have enough salt to cater for private arrangements.

Salt suppliers locally are-

- Wickes- Farnham Road
- B&Q- A4 Bath Road
- Grant and Stone- Montem Lane

If you would like to obtain a salt bin kit prior to this winter season please submit a cheque for £252.90 made payable to Slough Borough Council along with a plan showing where you want the salt bin located within your site and contact details by the end August 2011.

In addition to the offer of salt bins Slough Borough Council can offer routine gritting of private roads (the same time the Council grits its highway network), although this service will be charged to the recipient dependant on how often the service is carried out. Should you wish to pursue this offer please contact me at the details above, again any requests must be received before the end August 2011.

The Council will be unable to guarantee providing these private services after the offer closes at the end August 2011.

Yours sincerely,



Alex J. Deans
Head of Highways Engineering

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SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Neighbourhoods and Community Services Scrutiny Panel

DATE: 24th October 2011

CONTACT OFFICER: Steve Brocklebank
Principal Engineer- Drainage

(For all enquiries) (01753) 87 5625

WARD(S): All

PART I
FOR COMMENT AND CONSIDERATION

PRELIMINARY FLOOD RISK ASSESSMENT (PFRA)

1 **Purpose of Report**

To inform the committee of the main elements within the Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment which Slough Borough Council is required to complete as part of its changing responsibilities as a Lead Local Flood Authority arising from the Flood and Water Management Act, 2010 and Flood Risk Regulations 2009.

2 **Recommendation(s)/Proposed Action**

The Committee is requested to note the report.

3 **Community Strategy Priorities**

- **Celebrating Diversity, Enabling inclusion**
- **Being Safe, Feeling Safe**
- **A Cleaner, Greener place to live, Work and Play**
- **Prosperity for All**

4 **Other Implications**

(a) **Financial**

The Council received a grant from the Department for Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) to undertake the Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment which cost £10,000.

(b) **Risk Management**

There are no risks.

(c) **Human Rights Act and Other Legal Implications**

There are no Human Rights Act Implications.

5 **Supporting Information**

- 5.1 The Flood Risk Regulations 2009 (the Regulations) and the Floods and Water Management Act 2010 (the Act) empower Slough Borough Council with several responsibilities one of which is the production of a Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment (PFRA). The PFRA report has been prepared on behalf of Slough Borough Council as part of the process, which allows the Council to fulfil their Lead Local Flood Authority role under the Regulations. The aim of the PFRA is to identify areas at significant risk of flooding from local sources, which would require further assessment and management through the production of flood risk and flood hazard maps and flood risk management plans.
- 5.2 The PFRA report focuses on the first two stages of the Regulations and determines the requirement of undertaking the last two stages for Slough. The first two stages were to identify the sources of flooding and to assess the future surface water risk. The report identifies local sources of flooding which include surface water (runoff and sewers), ordinary watercourses, groundwater and non-main river canal by using various forms of data. Data was collected from the established partners such as the Environment Agency and Thames Water, and other stakeholders and assessed for its quality. The historical flooding records were assessed and a major portion of the flooding incidences were found to be concentrated around the Chalvey ditches catchment.
- 5.3 The future surface water risk was identified by a first generation of maps, Areas Susceptible to Surface Water Flooding (AStSWF), produced by the Environment Agency. The Environment Agency also provided the Flood Map for Surface Water (FMfSW), that can also be used to assess future flood risk. The AStSWF maps were considered to be the ones most applicable to Slough. The number of properties at risk of surface water flooding was estimated based on the AStSWF maps. Slough was identified to have with a total of 8,758 residential properties at risk of surface water flooding. The areas found to be above the flood risk threshold were formed into clusters. The clusters are used to compare the flood risk across the country and Slough was ranked as 20th in the country of areas that had clusters above the flood risk threshold. In order to identify the most at risk areas the Environment Agency identified ten Flood Risk Areas in England. This ranking meant that Slough is not identified nationally as a Flood Risk Area.
- 5.4 Since Slough was not identified as a Flood Risk Area, Slough Borough Council does not need to go through the third stage of the regulations to produce Flood Hazard and Flood Risk Maps. Slough is required to prepare a Flood Risk Management Strategy under the Act which can then be used to inform the Flood Risk Management Plans, which is stage 4 of the regulations.

6 **Conclusion**

To inform the committee of the main elements within the Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment which Slough Borough Council is required to complete as part of its changing responsibilities as a Lead Local Flood Authority arising from the Flood and Water Management Act, 2010 and European Union legislation.

7 **Appendices Attached**

The Preliminary flood Risk Assessment Report can be requested from Steve Brocklebank at Slough Borough Council 01753 87 5625 or steve.brocklebank@slough.gov.uk

8 **Background Papers**

The Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment Report.
The Flood Risk Regulations 2009.
The Floods and Water Management Act 2010.

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**NEIGHBOURHOODS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES SCRUTINY PANEL
AGENDA PLAN 2011-2012**

Draft Report Deadline	Final Report Deadline	Agenda Dispatch	Agenda Item	Meeting Date
5th October 2011	12th October 2011	14th October 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing Benefit Reforms – Impact on Slough • Community Centres – Future Provision • Update Paper on Prostitution • Winter Preparations • Flood Risk Assessment 	24th October 2011
16th November 2011	23rd November 2011	25th November 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing Services: Transition from the ALMO – one year on • Distribution of Free Material 	5th December 2011
29th December 2011	4th January 2012	6th January 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community and Wellbeing Restructure • Library Services – Update Report • Community Engagement Strategy 	16th January 2012
10th February 2012	17th February 2012	21st February 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Olympics Preparation • Tennis and Ten Pin Bowling Update • Slough Borough Council Cultural Strategy 	1st March 2012

Items are subject to review by the committee

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