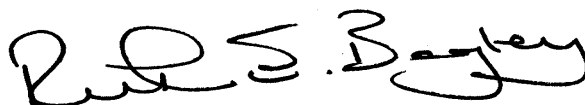


Date of issue: Wednesday, 18 February 2015

<b>MEETING:</b>	<b>NEIGHBOURHOODS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES SCRUTINY PANEL</b> (Councillors Plenty (Chair), Coad, N Holledge, Malik, Mansoor, Shah, Sidhu, Sohal and Wright)
<b>DATE AND TIME:</b>	THURSDAY, 26TH FEBRUARY, 2015 AT 6.30 PM
<b>VENUE:</b>	MEETING ROOM 3, CHALVEY COMMUNITY CENTRE, THE GREEN, CHALVEY, SLOUGH, SL1 2SP
<b>DEMOCRATIC SERVICES OFFICER: (for all enquiries)</b>	DAVE GORDON 01753 875411

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

<u>AGENDA</u> <u>ITEM</u>	<u>REPORT TITLE</u>	<u>PAGE</u>	<u>WARD</u>
1.	Apologies for absence. Declarations of Interest  <i>All Members who believe they have a disclosable pecuniary or other pecuniary or non pecuniary interest in any matter to be considered at the meeting must declare that Interest and, having regard to the circumstances described in Section 3 paragraphs 3.25 – 3.27 of the Councillors' Code of Conduct, leave the meeting while the matter is discussed, save for exercising any right to speak in accordance with paragraph 3.28 of the Code.</i>  <i>Members are asked to confirm that they do not have a declarable interest.</i>  <i>All Members making a declaration will be required to complete a Declaration of Interests at Meetings form detailing the nature of their interest.</i>		
<b>CONSTITUTIONAL MATTERS</b>			
2.	Minutes of the last meeting held on 7th January 2015	1 - 8	
3.	Member Questions  <i>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.</i>		
<b>SCRUTINY ISSUES</b>			
4.	The work of the Safer Slough Partnership	9 - 20	
5.	Slough Borough Council support for Neighbourhood Action Groups	21 - 26	
6.	Prostitution update	27 - 32	
7.	Forward Work Programme	33 - 36	
<b>ITEMS FOR INFORMATION</b>			
8.	Attendance record	37 - 38	
9.	Date of Next Meeting - 30th March 2015		

## 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. Please contact the Democratic Services Officer shown above for further details.

The Council allows the filming, recording and photographing at its meetings that are open to the public. Anyone proposing to film, record or take photographs of a meeting is requested to advise the Democratic Services Officer before the start of the meeting. Filming or recording must be overt and persons filming should not move around the meeting room whilst filming nor should they obstruct proceedings or the public from viewing the meeting. The use of flash photography, additional lighting or any non hand held devices, including tripods, will not be allowed unless this has been discussed with the Democratic Services Officer.

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**Neighbourhoods and Community Services Scrutiny Panel – Meeting held on Wednesday, 7th January, 2015.**

**Present:-** Councillors Plenty (Chair), Coad, N Holledge, Malik, Mansoor, Shah, Sohal and Wright (Vice-Chair)

**Also present under Rule 30:-** Councillors Smith and Strutton

**Apologies for Absence:-** Councillor Sidhu

**PART 1**

**37. Declarations of Interest**

Cllrs Malik and Mansoor declared their status as tenants of Slough Borough Council (SBC) property.

**38. Minutes of the last meeting held on 2nd December 2014**

The minutes of the last meeting were accepted. However, as the meeting had operated as inquorate, the following resolutions were made in relation to the business discussed:

**Real time passenger information**

- 1) That the Panel recommend Cabinet reviews the current level of accuracy of RTPI in order to set a target for RTPI accuracy and a suitable timeframe.
- 2) That, subsequent to this, the responsible Cabinet member is recommended to report back to the NCS Scrutiny Panel in six months.
- 3) That the Panel recommends that no further capital expenditure on RTPI be made until the Cabinet is satisfied that worthwhile levels of RTPI will be achieved.

**Street cleansing**

- 1) That the Panel notes the report.
- 2) That the Panel recommends that, if financially viable, housing land be included in the next contract.
- 3) That the Panel recommends that, to ensure improved monitoring of contractors' work, SBC monitor street cleanliness on
  - a) The day of the contractor inspection; and
  - b) The day of cleaning.

This is in preference to the present system of random locations which has lacked sufficient focus.

Furthermore, the minutes of the meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> October 2014 had not been formally approved on 2<sup>nd</sup> December given the quoracy issue. In confirming the

## Neighbourhoods and Community Services Scrutiny Panel - 07.01.15

accuracy of the minutes of the meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> October 2014, the Panel agreed that minute 24 (Slough bus station) be amended to read:

Resolved: That a survey of users be undertaken in direct consultation with Cllr Strutton.

### 39. Member Questions

No questions were received prior to the meeting.

### 40. Resident survey

SBC conducted the survey on an annual basis, compiling the views of tenants and leaseholders. The findings would be used to consult with residents and Councillors on the current service and potential future improvements.

In previous years (including the last survey in 2013) the questions used reflected those used across the nation by most housing associations. However, in 2014 SBC decided to focus more on the views and aspirations of tenants (around 2/3rds of the 2014 survey contained new material). This led to three key themes being identified: satisfaction with services, residents' priorities and aspirations and involvement and engagement.

In terms of satisfaction with services, the overall level (77% being 'satisfied' or 'very satisfied') remained unchanged from 2013. In terms of specific subsections of this, progress had been good with the exception of repairs and maintenance. Regarding priorities and aspirations, residents' main concerns were housing that was affordable, in a good state of repair and situated in a pleasant neighbourhood. In terms of differences between tenants and leaseholders, the former had drug dealing and traffic / parking issues as particular concerns and the latter identified young people loitering as a problem. On the final key theme, there did seem to be some appetite for resident involvement albeit not along the traditional lines of residents' group meetings.

SBC had compiled a significant bank of data which would continue to be analysed to provide detailed findings.

The Panel raised the following points in discussion:

- Repairs and maintenance were areas of little or no improvement, with members also concerned that residents' complaints were often only acted on when Councillors became involved. SBC were undertaking a series of follow up projects targeting this, with qualitative research continuing to refine the information taken from the survey and focus groups being used for further work. A paper summarising the findings from this could be circulated to members.

**Neighbourhoods and Community Services Scrutiny Panel - 07.01.15**

- The views of residents and leaseholders would be used in the imminent retendering process.
- Leaseholders had concerns that they received an inferior service to tenants. In particular, the issue of parking spaces being close to property was raised by elderly leaseholders in the context of long nights or icy conditions.
- As well as the repair work itself, the role of customer care at all stages in forming the right impression was recognised. It was also imperative that any undertakings given (e.g. timings of work) were adhered to once repairs started. Work with MyCouncil would be undertaken to resolve any issues.
- There were approximately 6,400 council tenants, with around 650 involved in the survey. This sample size allowed for a high level of confidence in the results within a 2% margin of error. The sample had been selected by market researchers, using a random selection process within certain defined parameters (e.g. levels of unemployment, families and single tenants, equality and diversity criteria) to ensure the sample was largely reflective.
- The findings would be used as part of a learning and improvement cycle. As one part of this, there were lead officers for housing in the three areas (North, South and East) into which SBC was divided. These officers would be alerted to specific issues in their area and asked how they would address them, with progress then to be monitored.
- Tenants' panels had been scrapped as they did not reflect modern methods of participation. Whilst local residents were keen to be involved in consultation, traditional methods of meetings were no longer as effective in securing participation. One change to gathering information had been the employment of Tenant Participation Officers, who would be active in an area where a concern had been identified and then move to a different part of the Borough once the matter was rectified.
- There were also concerns that, whilst minor repair work was undertaken promptly, more major work was more problematic. In addition, it had been reported that errors with the initial repairs had led to the need to revisit the property.
- Concerns that tenants were unsure over what is included in services charges had led to SBC looking into options. The possibility of offering choices to tenants and providing greater transparency on charges was being investigated.
- The recent launch of the neighbourhood service had led to issues with tenant awareness of its role. However, SBC was not required to consult with tenants prior to the merger which created the service as it had not led to a material change in service; face to face interviews with tenants were currently being conducted to clarify the situation.
- The results of the survey were mainly subjective, based on levels of customer satisfaction. SBC did compile objective KPIs which could be shared with members; however, the questions asked in the survey were useful in reflecting the experience of service users.

## Neighbourhoods and Community Services Scrutiny Panel - 07.01.15

- Leaseholders reflected lower levels of satisfaction with the service. This often seemed to be based on a feeling that they were not included in provision to the same extent as tenants.

### Resolved:

- 1) That the report be noted.
- 2) That an update be given to the Panel on 30<sup>th</sup> March 2015.

## 41. Voids performance

An improvement in turnaround times for void properties was required as the current contract approached termination. The contract was divided at SBC, with one officer responsible for housing stock and another for corporate property. This arrangement had been created to improve transparency, and workshops would be held with Councillors as part of this.

KPIs had indicated that the service was improving, with the average number of days spent working on voids reducing from 12 to 9 between February 2013 and March 2014. Costs to SBC had been reduced, as the number of properties where work required expenditure above the limit of liability (which meant that SBC were liable to pay) had also reduced. There had also been a significant reduction in the number of days for the completion of routine and decent voids, from an average of 30 days in January 2014 to 15 in September 2014.

Project 20 had identified approximately £120,000 of wilful damage which could be charged back to the tenant.

The Panel raised the following points in discussion:

- The improvements had lifted the service from the lower quartile nationally to the upper quartile. Additional improvements could be made by investment in the computer system which would increase the number of days per week on which properties could be let.
- In cases of wilful damage, there were problems around recollection of debts. Where tenants remained in the Borough, collection rates stood at over 50%. The definition of wilful damage extended to all matters which were the tenants' responsibility; even in cases of accidents, this fell into the category. A project on rechargeable repairs was currently being undertaken, with funds being reclaimed as applicable.
- SBC did not have the power to charge a damage deposit prior to a tenant taking on property.
- The definition of 'decent homes' included properties where any work required did not involve a structural aspect; long term voids needed these more substantial repairs.

**Resolved:** that the Panel approved the progress made in relation to major and minor housing repairs.



**42. Review of allocation scheme 2013 - 18**

The Localism Act had allowed SBC to introduce its own policy on allocations, which had started in January 2014. The housing service had agreed to present a review on any unintended consequences raised by this new policy, and how they would be resolved. In summary, the waiting list had declined from approximately 7,900 to 1,600. However, some of these may have been on the original list erroneously, as 2,800 had not replied to SBC correspondence with 500 letters returned as the addressee was not registered at the property. Equally, others had moved outside of Slough, leaving only 1,600 applicants under the new system. For the first 10 months of the new system, new applications were kept separate.

The new policy had reduced the bureaucracy involved and allowed greater focus to be placed on applicants. However, the following amendments were proposed to the policy:

- 1) The requirement for applicants to be in full time employment to be amended as follows: single applicants to have an average of 16 hours work per week, and joint applicants 24 hours.
- 2) The policy on those in training or undertaking volunteer work affected a low number of applicants. However, it would now be tightened to include those whose training or volunteering reflected the hours mentioned in the above point, and where training led to a recognised qualification. Similarly, volunteers would need to be undertaking their work on a formal basis accredited by the Slough Council for Voluntary Services.
- 3) Property owners were now to be excluded from making applications.
- 4) Care leavers would be assisted in finding property in the private rented sector and the definition of those eligible for SBC property would be tightened.
- 5) New housing would be offered to applicants who were eligible under the criteria listed in the report (page 67, section 6.10).

The Panel raised the following points in discussion:

- An equality impact assessment (EIA) had been undertaken in the formulation of the new policy. The policy had also been reviewed by a QC specialising in the area, and had also subsequently been appraised in light of recent cases involving London authorities.
- SBC held equality and diversity information on the applicants on the waiting list. This could be shared with members.
- Subletting was prohibited, and SBC checked that residents were the original applicants. Passports were verified, with Border Agency technology used in the process. In addition, tenant verification checks were undertaken and this would be continued under any new contract.
- In cases where a tenant was evicted by their landlord under Section 21, the case would need to progress through the relevant legal process. Within 28 days of the eviction itself, the tenant would then be put through a triage process by MyCouncil. If the eviction was not due

**Neighbourhoods and Community Services Scrutiny Panel - 07.01.15**

to any action on the part of the tenant, temporary accommodation would be found and then the person(s) concerned would be placed on the waiting list as suitable according to the applicable criteria.

- Local media and SBC channels would be used to publicise new properties.
- Money raised by SBC under the Right to Buy scheme would be reinvested in housing stock. To ensure that this did not suffer from a high level of attrition, there would be no discount on new properties in the first 10 years of their existence.
- Care leavers also had some responsibility to engage with the system. Since 2013 housing and children's services had a joint protocol on resolving care leavers' accommodation, which they undertook simultaneously.
- Satisfactory conditions were prescribed by law, and included matters such as levels of crowding, health and heating. Details of this could be provided to members.
- The proposed changes to the policy, if accepted, would take effect at the end of January 2015.
- Geographic proximity had been included in the criteria for assessing applicants. However, it was accepted that this may not have the importance of some of the other criteria; making this a more sophisticated criteria would be investigated by the housing team.

**Resolved:**

- 1) That the Panel recommend the proposed amendments to the policy in paragraphs 6.3 to 6.8, subject to the comments above.
- 2) That the issue of vulnerable residents be brought to the Panel on 30<sup>th</sup> March 2015.

**43. Garage management**

The item on garages was deferred until 30<sup>th</sup> March 2015.

**44. Service charge billing - Florries law**

The information in the report was noted. At this stage, further discussion on an agenda item was not requested by the Panel.

**45. Forward Work Programme**

After discussion, the Panel made the following decisions regarding their future work:

**Resolved:**

- 1) That the item on garages be taken on 30<sup>th</sup> March 2015.
- 2) That updates on the following areas of housing be taken on 30<sup>th</sup> March 2015:
  - Rehousing of residents affected by new housing benefits rules;

**Neighbourhoods and Community Services Scrutiny Panel - 07.01.15**

- Incentives to encourage residents to move; and
- Vulnerable residents.

**46. Attendance record**

The attendance record was noted.

**47. Date of Next Meeting - 26th February 2015**

Chair

(Note: The Meeting opened at 6.30 pm and closed at 9.16 pm)

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**SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**REPORT TO:** Neighbourhoods and Community Services Scrutiny Panel

**DATE:** 26<sup>th</sup> February 2015

**CONTACT OFFICER:** Louise Asby, Community Safety Manager (01753 875146)

**WARD(S):** All

**PORTFOLIO:** Councillor Sohail Munawar – Commissioner for Social and Economic Inclusion

**PART I**  
**CONSIDERATION AND COMMENT**

**THE WORK OF THE SAFER SLOUGH PARTNERSHIP (SSP)**

1. **Purpose of Report**

This report gives an overview of the crime and disorder issues in Slough and the work of the local Community Safety Partnership in tackling those issues. We seek Member views on this work.

2. **Recommendation**

The Panel is requested to discuss the information provided and consider the effectiveness of the programmes of work in place to tackle SSP priorities.

3. **Joint Slough Wellbeing Strategy Priorities**

- Health and Wellbeing – The SSP contributes to Health and Wellbeing through the provision of high quality drug and alcohol services and promoting positive behaviour change.
- Safer Communities – The SSP contributes to Safer Communities through working to ensure the borough is a safe place to live, visit, work and play; increasing confidence in reporting of crime and anti-social behaviour; and reducing crime, its fear and perception. The work of the SSP in supporting these priorities is set out in the report.

4. **Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA)**

The JSNA highlights crime and disorder, domestic abuse and alcohol and drugs misuse as priorities.

## 5. **Other Implications**

### (a) **Financial**

The SSP priorities will be delivered within the existing budgets and grant funding of the partnership

### (b) **Risk Management**

The risks associated with the SSP priorities were taken into account by the SSP board and correlate to other plans such as the Thames Valley Police Delivery Plan 2014-15.

<b>Risk</b>	<b>Mitigating action</b>	<b>Opportunities</b>
Legal	None	None
Property	None	None
Human Rights	None	None
Health and Safety	None	None
Employment Issues	None	None
Equalities Issues	None	None
Community Support	None	None
Communications	None	None
Community Safety	None	None
Financial	None	None
Timetable for delivery	None	None
Project Capacity	None	None
Other	None	None

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

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

### (d) **Equalities Impact Assessment**

Feedback and close monitoring of data is analysed according to Slough Borough Council equalities monitoring categories, thereby enabling any differential impact on particular groups to be identified. Those who are from minority ethnic groups, those with learning and physical disabilities and those with mental health problems are all at a disproportionately greater risk of becoming victims of anti-social behaviour.

## 6. **Supporting Information**

### 6.1 **Background**

The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 introduced the requirement for local authorities, Police and other key agencies to work together to tackle crime and disorder via Community Safety Partnerships. The Safer Slough Partnership (SSP) is Slough's Community Safety Partnership.

### 6.2 **Governance and Membership**

The SSP is a Priority Delivery Group (PDG) which reports to the Slough Wellbeing Board and its work feeds into the Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy. Meetings take place quarterly and members include Slough Borough Council (including an elected member), Thames Valley Police, Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue, East

Berkshire Clinical Commissioning Group and Thames Valley Probation. The Police and Crime Commissioner attends one meeting a year and is represented by a member of his office at all meetings. The following members are co-operating bodies who support delivery: Slough Business Community Partnership, Slough Council for Voluntary Services, and Registered Social Landlords. There is also a representative of the Berkshire Bench (magistrates) who is invited to support the work of members.

### 6.3 Aims and objectives

The SSP seeks to reduce crime, anti-social behaviour and the fear of crime. It also seeks to reduce the harm that drugs cause to individuals, families and the wider community and create a safe place and cleaner environment for all those who live, work, visit and invest in Slough.

### 6.4 Funding

Funding was received from the Police and Crime Commissioner for 2014/15 as follows:

- Community Safety Partnership: £ 97,030
- Drugs Intervention Project: £193,620
- Youth Offending Team: £75,212
- Total: £365,862

A subsequent payment of £16,257 was made to make up for an oversight on the YOT funding element, which has changed this year.

### 6.5 Challenges

Continued investment and focus on crime reduction in Slough has reduced crime of real concern to our communities significantly. This has been achieved despite the on-going challenges faced in Slough, which include:

- A local transient population, which makes it difficult for partners to bring about long term changes in crime and ASB. It also makes it difficult to detect crime or to identify regular offenders.
- There are high levels of new arrivals and asylum seekers in Slough, many of whom are at risk of exploitation.
- Population density and houses of multiple occupation (HMOs): Slough has one of the highest levels of population density and over-crowded housing in England and Wales, coupled with one of the largest population increases and widening diversity; this can act as an aggravating factor with regards to crime, including burglary and violence as well as anti-social behaviour.
- Population age: Slough has a younger population when compared to other areas. As the surge of young people approaching secondary school age draws near, there is a potential for increasing demand made upon policing and community safety.

### 6.6 Current SSP priorities

Priorities are determined based on the outcomes of the Strategic Assessment. The Strategic Assessment is an annual report which identifies current and future

opportunities and risks relating to crime, anti-social behaviour, drug misuse and behaviour affecting the environment in Slough. It identifies priorities, strategic actions and targets that will be monitored and supported by the SSP. Specific action plans are drawn up to ensure multi-agency delivery at an operational level. The Strategic Assessment is currently being updated for 2015/16 in order to review priorities.

In order to effectively reduce harm in 2014/15 the SSP used the Strategic Assessment to identify the following priorities:

- P1. Reduce violent crime.** Particular effort will be made to reduce
  - Domestic Abuse
- P2. Acquisitive Crime.** Particular effort will be made to reduce:
  - Burglary
- P3. Anti-Social Behaviour.** Particular effort will be made to:
  - Respond to ASB casework

The partnership supports (but does not lead on) the work of the Slough Local Safeguarding Children's Board (LSCB) including around Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), and the Safeguarding Adults Partnership Board around protecting vulnerable adults.

The partnership also supports Thames Valley Police in disrupting Organised Crime Groups and raising awareness of cybercrime.

#### 6.6.1 Targets

- Reducing property crime – **19.8%** reduction in burglary from the base line year (2013/14) and increase the outcome rate to above **20.4%**
- Reducing violent crime – **2.3%** reduction in violent crime from the baseline year (2013/2014) and increase the outcome rate to **above 52%**
- Reducing anti-social behaviour – **21%** reduction in reports from the baseline year

Partners' measures that we report to the Police and Crime Commissioner have been amended to include new targets around CSE:

- Number of Slough premises provided with CSE information packs
- Numbers of professionals attending LSCB multi-agency CSE training
- Numbers accessing Domestic Abuse Services (victims and perpetrators)
- Non-police referrals to MARAC
- Number of gating projects in crime and ASB hotspots
- Successful completions for criminal justice clients
- Number of clients with multiple 'tests on arrest'
- Number of drug-related offences
- Number of clients referred into rapid prescribing
- First time entrants (FTE) to the Youth Justice system



### 6.6.2 The overall crime picture in Slough

All crime has reduced by 7% when comparing January-December 2013 to January-December 2014. This is part of a long-term trend: crime has fallen in Slough by 40% between 2003 and 2014. For a number of years (2003 – 2010) Slough had the highest levels of crime in the Thames Valley. Recent initiatives from the SSP have altered this and now Oxford and Reading have higher levels. During Quarter 2, Slough also overtook Milton Keynes for the first time.

For performance statistics please see Appendix A.

### 6.6.3 The work of the SSP towards its targets

The SSP has worked hard to achieve these results, focussing on prevention and intelligence-led work to create an environment of sustainable crime reduction, and working with colleagues in neighbouring boroughs to tackle cross border crime. Community Safety funding is carefully targeted and enables prevention, support and engagement work to take place in order to maintain the reduction in crime that Slough has experienced over recent years. Without such funding, much of this work would not have taken place, resulting in rising crime levels not just in Slough, but across neighbouring localities.

Work has focussed on the SSP's key priorities and includes the following:

#### Domestic Abuse and non Domestic violent crime

- The new Domestic Abuse strategy is in progress and full consultation is taking place. An action plan will be implemented focussing on prevention and early intervention. The Domestic Abuse Partnership Manager is leading on this work.
- VMAP – Violence Multi-Agency Panel: the Police Foundation carried out extensive research and analysis into violence, both domestic and non-domestic, which has resulted in a fortnightly panel meeting looking at all repeat cases of violence in Chalvey and Britwell. This is the final year of a four-year project and the panel is a pilot at this stage. Regular reports are being produced to assess the outcomes of the pilot. If successful in reducing violent crime in Slough, the partnership will look to roll out VMAP across all wards.
- The Police run regular Nightsafe Patrols on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights to deter and tackle violent crime in the town centre, supported by the Street Angels volunteers.

#### Local Alcohol Action Area

Slough put in a successful bid to become one of the government's Local Alcohol Action Areas. The aim of this scheme is to tackle drink-related crime and disorder and the damage alcohol causes to people's health. There is already a lot of good work going on in Slough and this scheme supports this work and adds value by ensuring we are working with the right people, putting effective strategies in place, sharing best practice and carrying out appropriate analysis and evaluations.

#### Launch of a Community Alcohol Partnership

UK Alcohol Treatment Trial (UKATT) suggests that for every £1 spent on alcohol treatment, the public sector saves £6. The Council has launched a Community Alcohol Partnership (CAP) pilot, initially covering Langley and Kedermister. Local

partners, including businesses, are helping to tackle the problem of underage drinking, counterfeit alcohol, street drinkers and anti-social behaviour.

### Burglary

Levels of burglary have been reducing in the long term but are subject to short term surges in incidents, for example the increase in the value of gold led to a significant increase in domestic burglary. The partnership recognises this type of offending is subject to wide variations and has put in measures to improve intelligence and its response to burglary. Below are some examples:

- Investment in mobile automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) technology
- Awareness raising campaigns around Asian gold burglaries
- Seasonal burglary awareness raising campaigns
- Cross border working and intelligence sharing
- Gating schemes to block off problem alleyways, and target hardening initiatives
- Tackling drug related offending through the provision of rapid prescribing and treatment
- The Integrated Offender Management team continues to work with prolific serious acquisitive crime offenders who typically require intensive support.

### The CCTV Service

The CCTV service works closely with Thames Valley Police and other agencies, including the Neighbourhood Services, to tackle crime and antisocial behaviour in Slough.

The centre has a state of the art digital video monitoring and recording system capable of producing high quality video evidence for the identification of suspects and the prosecution of offenders. CCTV recorded over 4160 incidents over the past year and provided Police with 513 DVD evidence packs to use in prosecutions.

Core activities undertaken by the control room include monitoring 82 fixed CCTV cameras located across the borough, 6 re-deployable cameras located at crime hot spots, and 5 fixed site ANPR cameras located at key arterial routes into the town.

In addition, the control room also provides an emergency out of hours call handling service, manages the council's 24/7 ASB Hotline, handles fire, intruder and panic alarm system monitoring for many council buildings, also emergency plan and external liaison (including Heathrow), key holding and issuing for Housing Service properties, the staff lone worker monitoring service and monitoring and surveillance services for Thames Valley Police and Slough Town Against Crime. Careline is also run from the CCTV control room. Last year the team handled nearly 63,000 incoming alarm activations resulting in over 30,000 outgoing assistance request calls and provided the Careline service to 248 new clients.

The control room played a pivotal role in handling last year's EDL march in the town, and in coordinating the flood response.

### Neighbourhoods teams

Neighbourhood Services provides a tenure blind service, across 3 geographic areas co-terminus to the police. This approach allows staff to resolve issues without needing to be concerned whether the land is under public or private ownership. Staff carry out educational and enforcement functions.

Neighbourhood Services provides a key central function tackling issues related to anti-social behaviour and enviro-crime, becoming a single point of contact within the council for its customers and partner agencies, and so taking the operational lead for all matters relating to ASB. The focus is on problem solving, developing multi-agency responses and long-term sustainable solutions.

The Neighbourhood Services concept is about developing new flexible approaches to work. The developing fourth team will tackle the most complex, difficult and long standing issues of crime, ASB and enviro-crime across the borough. Persistent and resistant ASB case review work will be identified through multi-agency tasking and those identified through VMAP and the Neighbourhood Services ASB cases.

#### Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

CSE has been a key priority area since 2011 for the LSCB. The SSP has funded a CSE coordinator to support this work. Developing CSE knowledge and processes is set out in the LSCB Business Plan.

#### Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

The LSCB Executive has also identified FGM as part of the Board's 2014 work. The multiagency safeguarding children procedures include FGM as abuse. In 2012, the Council commissioned further training on FGM and FGM was the focus of the LSCB annual conference last year. The SSP supports this work around FGM.

### 6.7 Antisocial Behaviour (ASB)

6.7.1 The Home Office definition of ASB is "any aggressive, intimidating or destructive activity that damages or destroys another person's quality of life". This is a deliberately broad definition as antisocial behaviour is subjective and may vary from person to person and community to community, and can include noisy neighbours, littering, graffiti, ASB in parks, street drinking, dog fouling and prostitution. The Community Safety team work very closely with the Police, Neighbourhood Services and other partner to tackle ASB. Community Safety is a cross cutting agenda and tackling ASB requires a joined up and holistic approach. The SSP is the strategic lead for ASB and Neighbourhood Services take the operational lead. ASB policies and procedures are due to be reviewed in order to ensure that best practice is achieved across the partnership.

6.7.2 ASB surveys are conducted with residents in the borough. The results of these indicate that the issues of most concern to residents are environmental issues, including flytipping and littering (Baylis & Stoke, Britwell, Central, Chalvey, Cippenham Green and Wexham Lea) and people being drunk or rowdy in public places (Britwell, Chalvey and Farnham). People congregating and intimidating others was also highlighted as a concern across the borough.

- 6.7.3 New legislation was rolled out in October – the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014. An ASB Implementation group has been established and meets on an ongoing basis with all relevant Slough partners to discuss the legislation further and look at local thresholds and the impact of the new legislation on Slough. New policies and procedures are in place covering Community Protection Notices and the Community Trigger. ASBOs have now been replaced with CBOs: Criminal Behaviour Orders.
- 6.7.4 ASB case work: risk assessments are carried out for each reported case of antisocial behaviour and multiagency case conferences are held where required with an action plan then implemented. New guidelines for tackling neighbour disputes have recently been introduced to manage expectations and to promote the use of mediation.
- 6.7.5 The SSP has invested in campaigns to encourage reporting of crime and ASB and has maintained a 24-hour ASB hotline, managed by the CCTV Team, to take calls at any time of day or night. This hotline has been publicised in the Citizen, local papers, and via leaflets and wallet-sized cards, distributed at events and door-knocking exercises. Residents can also contact us via the Slough Borough Council website and email.

For more detailed information on the new ASB legislation, please see [Appendix B](#).

## 6.8 Conclusion

The SSP is performing well against its targets. The effective use of intelligence and targeted work has enabled resources to be directed in an effective manner resulting in a 40% reduction in the annual level of reported crime since April 2003. Its future performance depends on continued partnership working and focussing on joint priorities across our organisations, with strong leadership from Slough Borough Council.

## 7. Appendices attached

- A - SSP Performance table
- B - ASB legislation

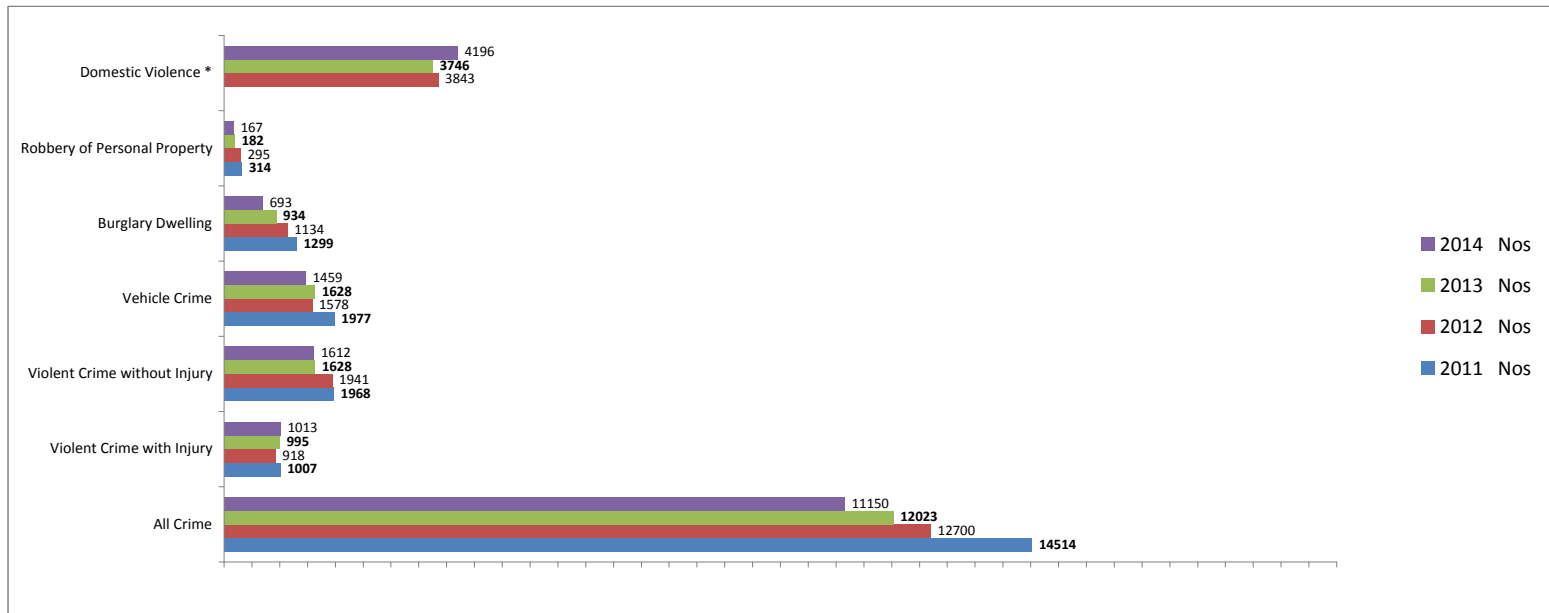
## 8. Background Papers

None.

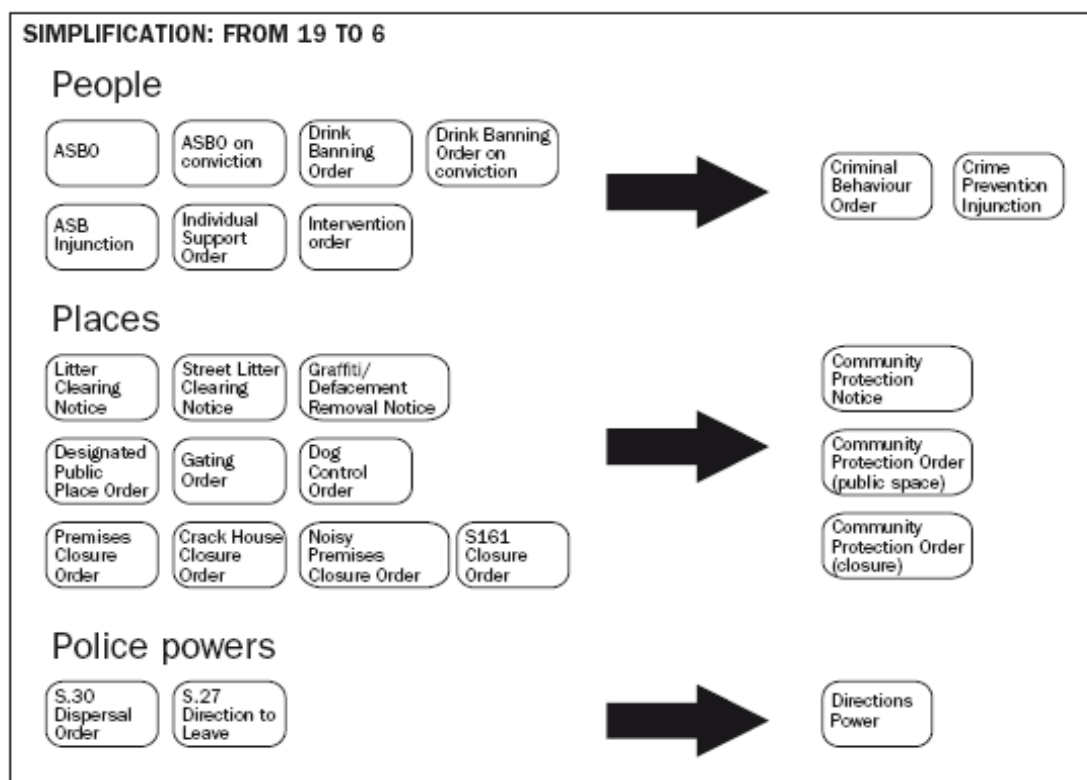
Appendix A

SSP Performance Table									
Crime Type/YTD	2011 Nos	2011 % change	2012 Nos	2012 % change	2013 Nos	2013 % change	2014 Nos	2014 % change	% change 2011 vs 2014
All Crime	14514		12700	-12%	12023	-5%	11150	-7%	-23%
Violent Crime with Injury	1007		918	-9%	995	8%	1013	2%	1%
Violent Crime without Injury	1968		1941	-1%	1628	-16%	1612	-1%	-18%
Vehicle Crime	1977		1578	-20%	1628	3%	1459	-10%	-26%
Burglary Dwelling	1299		1134	-13%	934	-18%	693	-26%	-47%
Robbery of Personal Property	314		295	-6%	182	-38%	167	-8%	-47%
Domestic Violence *			3843		3746	-3%	4196	12%	9%

\* Data recorded for April to March rather than January to December



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**The Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 sets out the following tools:-**

**Criminal Behaviour Orders** — issued by the courts after conviction, the order will ban an individual from certain activities or places and require them to address their behaviour for example attending drug treatment programmes - a combination of prohibitions and positive activities, designed to be preventative and not punitive. A breach would see an individual face a maximum five year prison term.

**Civil injunctions** – a purely civil injunction available in the county court for adults and the youth court for 10 to 17 year olds. Designed to nip bad behaviour in the bud before it escalates. The injunction would carry a civil burden of proof, making it quicker and easier to obtain than previous tools. For adults, breach of the injunction could see you imprisoned or fined. For under-18's, a breach could be dealt with through curfews, supervision or detention. Delayed until March 2015.

**Community Protection Notices** – one order for local authorities to stop persistent environmental ASB like graffiti, neighbour noise or dog fouling; and for police, social landlords and local authorities to deal with more serious disorder and criminality in a specific place such as closing a property used for drug dealing (level 2). Designated powers will need to be given to police and social landlords to issue the notices.

**Police Dispersal Power** – a Police power to direct any individual causing or likely to cause ASB, crime and disorder away from a particular place and to confiscate related items. A person can be removed from an area for up to 48hrs, if authorized by a Police Inspector or above. PCSO's will be given designated power to use the directions power.

**Public spaces protection orders (PSPO's)** – intended to deal with a particular nuisance or problem in a particular area that is detrimental to the local community's quality of life, by imposing conditions on the use of that area which apply to everyone. They are designed to ensure the law-abiding majority can enjoy public spaces, safe from ASB. This will replace the DPPO, Gating Order and dog control orders. PCSO's will be able to confiscate and dispose of alcohol.

**Closure powers** – this power is a fast, flexible power that can be used to protect victims and communities by quickly closing premises that are causing nuisance or disorder. Both local authority and police can use this power to close residential or business premises. The notice is for a 48hr period, and the closure is for a period up to 6 months.

**Absolute grounds for possession** – to speed up the possession of secure and assured tenancies in cases where ASB or criminality has already been proven by another court. Local authorities, social and private landlords will no longer need to prove that it is reasonable to grant possession, the court will be more likely to determine cases in a single, short hearing. The new absolute ground is intended for the most serious cases of anti-social behaviour and landlords should ensure that the ground is used selectively. Delayed until Jan 2015.

**To enable local involvement and accountability, the Act also includes the following 2 measures:-**

**Community Remedies** – this tool gives victims a say in the out-of-court punishment of offenders for low level crime and ASB. The Act places a duty on the PCC to consult with members of the public and community representatives on what punitive, restorative or rehabilitative actions they would consider appropriate to be on the Community Remedy document.

**Community Trigger (response to complaints)** - To give victims and communities the right to request a review of their case and bring agencies together to take a joined up, problem-solving approach to find a solution.



**SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**REPORT TO:** Neighbourhoods, Community & Customer Services  
**DATE:** 26<sup>th</sup> February 2015

**CONTACT OFFICER:** Ginny de Haan, Head of Consumer Protection & Business Compliance  
 John Griffiths, Head of Neighbourhood Services

**(For all Enquiries)** (01753) 877912

**WARD(S):** All

**PART I****INFORMATION****Slough Borough Council support for Neighbourhood Action Groups****1. Purpose of Report**

To follow on from the report to N&CC Scrutiny in September 2014 on reviewing and developing support to Neighbourhood Action Groups (NAGs) and specifically

- To share feedback from NAG chairs, and others, for the future support of NAGs and community forums in Slough.
- To review options on how NAGs and community forums can shape the future delivery of the priorities for Slough and the councils Five Year Plan objectives
- To make recommendations for the council's future support of NAGs and community forums within the limited resources available.

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

- The Panel is requested to note the report and agree recommendations on how the council provides support in the future for Slough's NAGs and community forums.

**3. The Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy, the JSNA and the Corporate Plan****3a. Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy Priorities**

Neighbourhood Action Groups and community forums have considerable potential to impact positively upon the '**Safer Slough**', '**Housing**' and '**Regeneration & Environment**' priorities of the Joint wellbeing Strategy

Cross-Cutting themes:

Neighbourhood Action Groups strongly support **Civic responsibility**, the part that residents can play in delivering Safer Communities and in improving Slough for the benefit of everyone.

#### 4. **Other Implications**

##### (a) Financial

There are no financial implications of the information report. Delivery will be within existing team budgets

##### (b) Risk Management

There are no risks associated with this information paper

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

There are no Human Rights Act Implications associated with this information paper

#### 5. **Supporting Information**

##### 5.1

The report to N&CC Scrutiny in September provided background to the current position with NAGs, and community forums, in Slough and it was agreed that as;

*'multi-agency problem solving groups consisting of partner agencies, key stakeholders but most importantly members of the local community brought together to plan and action the main concerns identified by the local community'*.

NAGs have the potential to be a valuable community asset in helping to support and improve communities in Slough.

##### 5.2

It was also identified that whilst some work very well, effectively focusing local activity around key community priorities, in other areas NAGs are working less well, experiencing a variety of difficulties surrounding membership and ongoing commitment; there is varied success in that community engagement is inconsistent across the borough. Also some NAGs have evolved to become part of Community Forums which have a wider remit.

##### 5.3

Since the previous report there has been considerable work completed on the Five Year Plan around agreeing outcomes for the future whilst delivering services within the financial strategy and with reducing resources how to prioritise that delivery. The 5YP recognises the council's strong community leadership role and the importance of, *'working with local people and helping them to do more for themselves'*. Thus support that the council can provide via its officers and Members to help to facilitate NAGs, community forums and other local groups become more effective, delivering action that is important to their communities and which are also likely to impact positively upon the overall ambitions for the town.

## 5.4

Feedback from a workshop held on 10<sup>th</sup> February 2015 given in detail in Appendix 1 indicates that:

- Inconsistencies remain in NAG coverage in Slough; some NAGs are considering joining together and others are concerned about their sustainability. The need to have 3-4 committed members to share organisation of a group was considered essential
- Engagement is sporadic; residents attend for key issues but then lose interest. It was agreed that work to identify what people wanted for their area was important.
- Engagement by a council, or police officer has a strong positive effect upon motivation of group members
- Communication generally is of concern. Some use social media but are wary of its potential for abuse by a minority. Others feel that the council has many contact points which potentially causes delay. All felt that they needed to understand how to focus communication effectively for their individual community e.g. older people tend not to use social media although social media could be a way to engage younger people more effectively.
- Learning from the participation initiative currently being rolled out by the Neighbourhood Services Transition Board could be very useful
- The role of elected Members was discussed and that utilising Member support to encourage and actively promote engagement with NAGs and other community groups was crucial.
- It was recognised that the current review by Thames Valley Police of Neighbourhood Policing had not yet been concluded and that the outcomes of that review may impact upon how NAGs operate in the future.
- The opportunity to provide single points of contact within the council for NAG/group chairs was discussed as were annual forums for chairs/secretaries; for both ideas were seen as being very positive.

## 6. Comments of Other Committees

None

## 7. Recommendations

### 7.1

It is recommended that in order to more fully support community engagement that the following actions are considered and agreed as appropriate:

#### 7.1.1

That a Members Task & Finish Group is established to

- Engage with existing NAGs and community groups and assess the need for specific support on a ward by ward basis. Including sustainability of groups, options for merging groups, extending or restarting groups and whether an area is best served by a NAG or other type of community group.
- Assess and promote the role of NAGS and other groups in increasing community engagement, helping to delivery the council's 5YP outcomes as part of the council's and members community leadership role and the council's reducing resources.

- That more research into how other local authorities support NAGs and in particular examples of good practice in development of Communications strategies, support packages and whether a single point of contact for NAG and other group chairs is feasible in Slough. Together with consideration of other partnership agency reviews, i.e. TVP neighbourhood Policing
- Propose next steps and agree future expectations and performance

## 8. **Appendices**

Appendix 1 – Notes from NAGs Workshop – 10<sup>th</sup> February 2015

## 9. **Background Papers**

'1' - Five Year Plan 2015 – Growing a place of opportunity and ambition

## **Appendix 1.**

### **SBC Support for NAG's / Community Forums**

**Attended by:** Raymond Jackson, Colnbrook NAG  
Teresa Munday, Foxborough NAG  
Margaret Innis, Chalvey Community Forum  
Cllr Sharif  
Ginny de Haan, SBC  
Jane Rose, SBC  
Karen Lewis, SBC  
Louise Asby, SBC

**Apologies:** Vicki Brenner, Colnbrook Community Association  
Linda Hegarty, Haymill NAG  
Yvonne Roles, Britwell NAG  
Cllr Plenty  
Leo Tarring, SBC

#### **Introduction - Ginny de Haan**

This meeting is the start of a conversation, looking at how best SBC can support NAG's / Community Forums in the future. We want to get people's views on how we can support groups to work more effectively. A report will be taken to Scrutiny at the end of February.

The council needs to find significant savings over the coming years, so we need to change the way we operate. SBC's 5 Year Plan, its key strategy, was discussed.

#### **Overview of Resident Participation - Karen Lewis**

See attached slides

#### **Discussion Points around Priorities and Future Support - Jane Rose**

The areas considered were:

- What works?
- What doesn't work?
- Achievements/ / successes
- Aspirations
- What do you personally get from being involved?,

whilst consideration was given to the Safer Slough Partnership priorities, representation on the groups - age, ethnicity, diversity, and access to groups, such as via social media.

- Foxborough and Kederminster NAG's are considering joining together.
- Chalvey doesn't have a NAG, but a Community Forum.
- Colnbrook NAG - The group has been revamped after it fizzled out. Is it sustainable?

- Agencies attending meetings does enthuse others, particularly new group members, however appearances can be patchy; this can effect member motivation.
- Colnbrook advertise their meetings on Facebook and various other ways.
- Foxborough meet quarterly; most people turn up then. Updates are sent out between meetings, via email and those without email are spoken to personally.
- There's a need to improve communications, use technology, two-way dialogue, its about being cleverer how we do things and reducing duplication of effort.
- Foxborough have lot of elderly people in their area; therefore have to carefully consider how communication occurs - most don't want to use technology. One member of police staff and one SBC staff member attend each meeting; this gives the 'ins' to organisations.
- Need to utilise / encourage Cllrs to attend the meetings; acknowledged a lack of participation in some areas. It was felt Cllrs should be driving these groups within their communities, reflecting their role in Community Leadership.
- Chalvey Community Forum - the group is self-sufficient, invites agencies to attend and other officers ask to attend. People turn up when 'something worries them'. Key is 3-4 committed volunteers to take on the roles of Chair, Secretary etc.
- Residents need to know how to contact the Chairs / groups, be flexible with the approach. Discussion on virtual networks.
- Input to meetings from SBC vital - where non-attendance will occur, feedback to be provided via email.
- Concerns raised around social media and the need for it to be very closely monitored.
- Key to success is to identify what in the community residents' want to change; this brings engagement. And publicise.
- Some groups need more people, take the load off Chairs so they don't have to do it all.

Ginny de Haan thanked all for their contributions and advised that they would be kept informed of developments. The group was reminded that the TVP review of neighbourhood policing had yet to be completed and that the outcome of that review could impact upon future partnership working.

Jane Rose  
Enforcement & ASB Transition Co-ordinator

**SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**REPORT TO:** Neighbourhoods and Community Services

**DATE:** 26<sup>th</sup> February 2015

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

**WARD(S):** *Chalvey, Baylis & Stoke, Farnham*

**PART I**

**FOR CONSIDERATION AND COMMENT**

**PROSTITUTION UPDATE**

1. **Purpose of Report**

This paper is being submitted to update on action taken to tackle prostitution as requested by the Committee.

2. **Recommendation**

The Panel is requested to discuss the information provided and consider the effectiveness of the programmes of work in place to tackle prostitution.

3. **Joint Slough Wellbeing Strategy Priorities**

- Health and Wellbeing – The SSP contributes to Health and Wellbeing through the provision of high quality drug and alcohol services and promoting positive behaviour change.
- Safer Communities – The SSP contributes to Safer Communities through working to ensure the borough is a safe place to live, visit, work and play; increasing confidence in reporting of crime and anti-social behaviour; and reducing crime, its fear and perception. The work of the SSP in supporting these priorities is set out in the report.

4. **Other Implications**

(a) **Financial**

*There are no financial implications of proposed action*

(b) **Risk Management**

<b>Risk</b>	<b>Mitigating action</b>	<b>Opportunities</b>
Legal	None	None
Property	None	None
Human Rights	None	None
Health and Safety	None	None
Employment Issues	None	None
Equalities Issues	None	None
Community Support	None	None
Communications	None	None
Community Safety	None	None
Financial	None	None
Timetable for delivery	None	None
Project Capacity	None	None
Other	None	None

(c) Human Rights Act and Other Legal Implications

*No legal implications*

(d) Equalities Impact Assessment

*No implications*

5. **Supporting Information**

**5.1 Background**

- There are two distinct groups of street sex workers in Slough– British girls who are local to Slough and who have drink and/or drug addictions, and Romanians who come to the UK to earn as much as they can from prostitution to send home to their families, and who do not usually have addictions. The British group are aged from mid twenties to thirties in age range. The Romanian workers are younger, aged from eighteen to twenty five.
- The good transport links bring regular clients into Slough (for example, airport workers on their way home).
- The main ‘hotspots’ have traditionally been Chalvey (around Ledgers Road and Montem Lane) and Stoke and Baylis (on Stoke Poges Lane). Farnham Road has recently emerged as a hotspot.
- There is a council-led Thames Valley-wide prostitution strategy forum, comprising Milton Keynes, High Wycombe, Reading, Oxford and Slough, which meets quarterly.

**5.2 Issues discussed and concerns raised at previous scrutiny panels**

Issue	Outcome of discussion	Current situation
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<p>Why Slough attracts prostitution</p>	<p>The British sex workers are born and bred in Slough so it is close to home for them. Romanian girls come here due to the good transport links (eg near Heathrow). Also it is hard to deter them via Police enforcement due to changes in legislation.</p>	<p>Enforcement activity with UK Border Agency (UKBA) is ongoing to tackle and deter the Romanian sex workers. Support and engagement work with British girls is still looking positive and the female outreach report worker carries out regular outreach (see 5.4.2 below)</p>
<p>Use of ASBOs (now replaced by CBOs – Criminal Behaviour Orders)</p>	<p>ASBOs and now CBOs need a lot of evidence, which is very hard to collect due to changes in legislation (eg street cautions – need 3 in a 3-month period before an arrest can be made). Courts see sex workers as the victims.</p>	<p>As before. Officers will consider CBOs, however it is a long process to get to court and CBOs are not always appropriate. Can also use Community Protection Notices and Dispersal powers.</p>
<p>How best to tackle kerb crawlers</p>	<p>Warning letters eg from CCTV intelligence, and prosecutions when operations are run. Discussions with Reading re possibility of sharing their ‘Change’ programme. The Change programme will provide education to kerb crawlers around the wider issue of sex working – but only if numbers are sufficient and courses are self funding and run regularly.</p>	<p>At present there are not sufficient numbers to warrant a programme. We will continue to monitor and review the situation. Kerb crawling warning letters sent out when suspicious activity is observed.</p>
<p>Reporting levels</p>	<p>Reporting levels are low despite the anecdotal evidence from residents – we encourage people to report on the Police non-emergency 101 number or the council’s ASB hotline.</p>	<p>Reporting levels are still fairly low however they have increased most likely due to proactive police operations around brothels. Reporting is to be encouraged.</p>
<p>Displacement</p>	<p>Evidence of displacement to Baylis and Stoke</p>	<p>There is more activity now on the Farnham Road. Outreach workers and Police are engaging with the sex workers in this location and the</p>

		British girls are all on the Sex Workers Action Group (SWAG) case management agenda. The Horlicks Bridge is now closed which has caused further displacement.
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5.3 The Thames Valley Police Strategy was replaced locally with a Partnership Action Plan which continues to be monitored. It covers four strands: prevention/support, intelligence, enforcement and reassurance.

Work in progress and arising from the action plan includes:

Strand	Activities taking place
Prevention of ASB related to prostitution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Targeted patrols – outreach workers and Police regularly engaging with sex workers</li> <li>• Town hall slip road was blocked off preventing use by kerb crawlers to circle area</li> <li>• Lookahead is a hostel for those with addictions and support needs and has emergency as well as long term accommodation</li> </ul>
Intelligence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information sharing with partners and neighbouring boroughs eg Ealing, Hounslow, Reading</li> <li>• Use of targeted CCTV operations to identify kerb crawlers and sex workers</li> </ul>
Enforcement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Warning letters and street cautions issued (see 5.4.1 below)</li> <li>• Working with UKBA to serve letters served on Romanian sex workers, (see 5.4.3 below)</li> <li>• Kerb crawler prosecutions</li> <li>• Operations to close brothels</li> </ul>
Reassurance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Police attend residents' meetings and update as appropriate</li> <li>• Regular police presence in known 'hotspots'</li> </ul>

## 5.4 How the situation has changed

5.4.1 In 2014, officers issued:

- 70 street cautions to sex workers
- 5 UKBA letters
- 10 dispersals issued under section 35 of ASB and Policing Act 2014
- 2 prosecutions for men soliciting sex

5.4.2 Sex Workers action Group (SWAG) meeting: all street sex workers are referred to the SWAG case management meetings. Numbers of British girls remain constant as there are some with very chaotic lives who are not ready to exit street sex work, although most will engage with outreach workers and the Police. It is important to note that girls will only seek help and exit prostitution when they feel ready and support is there when they need it in the meantime.

5.4.3 The number of Romanian girls has recently increased. This may be because of recent operations in neighbouring boroughs. The UKBA has issued letters to Romanian sex workers inviting them to interview to look at their situation and whether they are exercising their treaty rights. If they do not turn up they will be due for arrest and removal from the UK. NB Removal is not the same as deportation and they would be able to return to the UK after removal if they wished to do so. The UKBA would have to allow them 3 months to show they are exercising their treaty rights before reissuing letters. Cross-borough work with Hounslow and Ealing is ongoing.

5.4.4 The number of kerb crawlers had reduced in Chalvey, due to the closure of the old town hall slip road and the changes to the road system, which made it impractical to circle the Montem Lane/Ledgers Road/A4 route. Numbers have risen in this location since the closure of the Horlicks Bridge. This is being monitored by Police and CCTV has been reinstated in Ledgers Road.

5.4.5 According to Police the number of street sex workers in Slough has dropped. However this may be because they tend to pick up customers in the street and take them to a home address or a brothel. There is also a trend to use the "Adult work" website where they can work from home or a brothel and book on via the website. During 2014 there were at least 15 known brothels in Slough, 8 of which were closed down.

5.4.6 According to Thames Valley Police, there is no evidence that British females are trafficked. The Romanian females are recruited in Romania and travel across Europe to work in the sex industry in the UK, Spain, France and Italy. This recruitment involves the workers being brought to the UK possibly by an organised crime group, however they do know why they are coming and what work they are going to do. The workers remain in possession of their passports and ID cards and are free to go back to Romania if they wish. These workers are tied in to the organisers until they have paid off the monies they owe to get them to the UK and for the accommodation. The police believe the girls keep approximately 25% of the money they take from the customers with the rest going to their organisers to pay off debts. Work around trafficking is ongoing.

6. **Comments of Other Committees**

*n/a*

7. **Conclusion**

Ongoing work is taking place to tackle prostitution in the borough. The main hotspot was originally Chalvey, along with Baylis & Stoke and now Farnham wards. The number of complaints regarding these locations is low and Police activity and outreach is still focussed on tackling the problem. The action plan is ongoing and we encourage residents to report any concerns to the ASB hotline or Police 101 number.

8. **Appendices Attached**

*n/a*

9. **Background Papers**

*n/a*

**SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**REPORT TO:** Neighbourhoods & Community Services Scrutiny Panel

**DATE:** 26<sup>th</sup> February 2015

**CONTACT OFFICER:** Dave Gordon – Scrutiny Officer  
**(For all Enquiries)** (01753) 875411

**WARDS:** All

**PART I**

**TO NOTE**

**NEIGHBOURHOODS & COMMUNITY SERVICES SCRUTINY PANEL  
2014/15 WORK PROGRAMME**

1. **Purpose of Report**

1.1 For the Neighbourhoods and Community Services Scrutiny Panel (NCS Scrutiny Panel) to discuss its current work programme.

2. **Recommendations/Proposed Action**

2.1 That the Panel note the current work programme for the 2014/15 municipal year

3. **Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy Priorities**

- **Housing**
- **Regeneration and Environment**
- **Safer Communities**

3.1 The Council's decision-making and the effective scrutiny of it underpins the delivery of all the Sustainable Community Strategy priorities. The NCS Panel, along with the Overview & Scrutiny Committee and other Scrutiny Panels combine to meet the local authority's statutory requirement to provide public transparency and accountability, ensuring the best outcomes for the residents of Slough.

3.2 In particular, the NCS Panel specifically takes responsibility for ensuring transparency and accountability for Council services relating to housing, regeneration and environment, and safer communities.

4. **Supporting Information**

4.1 The current work programme is based on the discussions of the NCS Panel at previous meetings, looking at requests for consideration of issues from officers and issues that have been brought to the attention of Members outside of the Panel's meetings.

4.2 The work programme is a flexible document which will be continually open to review throughout the municipal year.

5. **Conclusion**

5.1 This report is intended to provide the NCS Panel with the opportunity to review its upcoming work programme and make any amendments it feels are required.

6. **Appendices Attached**

A - Work Programme for 2014/15 Municipal Year

7. **Background Papers**

None.

**NEIGHBOURHOOD AND COMMUNITY SERVICES SCRUTINY PANEL**  
**WORK PROGRAMME 2014/15**

Meeting Date
Thursday 26 February 2015
<b>Crime and Disorder Committee</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Crime and Disorder –<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Update from Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner</li><li>○ Safer Slough Partnership performance and priorities</li><li>○ Future Slough Borough Council activity to support Neighbourhood Action Groups</li><li>○ Prostitution update</li></ul></li></ul>
Monday 30 March 2015
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Garages</li><li>• Housing Allocations Policy Implementation and Implications<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Rehousing of residents affected by new housing benefits rules</li><li>○ Incentives to encourage residents to move</li><li>○ Allocations and Vulnerable residents</li></ul></li><li>• Road Safety Strategy</li><li>• Waste strategy</li></ul>

**Currently Un-programmed:**

- Transport Working Group (now Transport Forum) – review of progress (to be taken in summer 2015)
- Update on Neighbourhood Services littering, fly tipping and enviro-crime pilot project – Summer 2015
- Update on Real Time Passenger Information – Cabinet Member – Summer 2015

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**MEMBERS' ATTENDANCE RECORD**  
**NEIGHBOURHOODS & COMMUNITY SERVICES SCRUTINY PANEL 2014 – 15**

	MEETING DATES						
COUNCILLOR	03/07/2014	04/09/2014	29/10/2014	02/12/2015	07/01/2015	26/02/2015	30/03/2015
Coad	P	P	P	Ap	P		
Holledge	P	P	P	P	P		
Malik	P	P	P	Ap	P		
Mansoor	P	P	P*	Ap	P*		
Plenty	P	P	P	P	P		
Shah	P	P	P	Ap	P		
Sohal	P*	P*	P	Ap	P		
Sidhu	Ap	Ab	Ab	Ap	Ab		
Wright	P	Ap	P	P	P		

P = Present for whole meeting  
 Ap = Apologies given

P\* = Present for part of meeting  
 Ab = Absent, no apologies given

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