

Date of issue: Wednesday, 19 February 2020

MEETING:	NEIGHBOURHOODS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES SCRUTINY PANEL (Councillors Plenty (Chair), Wright, Ajaib, Gahir, M Holledge, Hulme, Matloob, Minhas and S Parmar) <u>Non-Voting Co-Opted Members</u> Manvinder Matharu (Residents Panel Board) Trevor Pollard (Residents Panel Board)
DATE AND TIME:	THURSDAY, 27TH FEBRUARY, 2020 AT 6.30 PM
VENUE:	COUNCIL CHAMBER - OBSERVATORY HOUSE, 25 WINDSOR ROAD, SL1 2EL
DEMOCRATIC SERVICES OFFICER: (for all enquiries)	JANINE JENKINSON 01753 875018

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.



JOSIE WRAGG
Chief Executive

AGENDA

PART 1

**AGENDA
ITEM**

REPORT TITLE

PAGE

WARD

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

CONSTITUTIONAL MATTERS

1. Declarations of Interest

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*All Members who believe they have a Disclosable
Pecuniary or other Interest in any matter to be considered
at the meeting must declare that interest and, having*



<u>AGENDA ITEM</u>	<u>REPORT TITLE</u>	<u>PAGE</u>	<u>WARD</u>
	<i>regard to the circumstances described in Section 4 paragraph 4.6 of the Councillors' Code of Conduct, leave the meeting while the matter is discussed.</i>		
2.	Minutes of the last meeting held on 14th January 2020	1 - 10	-
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>		

SCRUTINY ISSUES

4.	Impact of the New Leisure Facilities	11 - 18	All
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ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

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8.	Date of Next Meeting - (Extraordinary) 17th March 2020	-	-

Press and Public

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Neighbourhoods and Community Services Scrutiny Panel – Meeting held on Tuesday, 14th January, 2020.

Present:- Councillors Plenty (Chair), Wright (Vice-Chair), Ajaib, Gahir, M Holledge, Hulme, Matloob (from 6.38pm), Minhas and S Parmar

Also present under Rule 30:- None

Apologies for Absence:- Co-opted Member Trevor Pollard (Resident Panel Board)

PART 1

42. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Gahir declared that he was a taxi driver and owned a taxi company. He remained in the Council Chamber throughout the meeting.

43. Minutes of the last meeting held on 28th November 2019

Resolved - That the minutes of the meeting held on 28th November 2019 be approved as a correct record.

44. Member Questions

None were received.

45. Housing Rents and Service Charges Update

The Interim Head of Financial Management presented a report that detailed the context and implications in relation to the setting of housing rents and service charges over the next four years.

Members were informed that the government would be implementing its plan to increase social rents by Consumer Price Inflation (CPI) + 1% from April 2020. Government policy dictated that local authorities had to follow the rent standard, as set out by the regulator of social housing, so as to align the regulation of council rents with those of private registered providers.

In February 2019, the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government had published the 'Direction on the Rent Standard 2019', which set out requirements in relation to the setting of social housing rents. A further document 'Policy statement on rents for social housing' set out the practical steps required to implement the new regime from 1 April 2020. Members were referred to paragraph 6.6 of the report which set out the current rent caps for 2019/20 and the proposed caps for 2020/21.

(Councillor Matloob joined the meeting)

Neighbourhoods and Community Services Scrutiny Panel - 14.01.20

The Interim Head of Financial Management outlined the impact of the new policy on the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) and Council tenants as follows:

- The estimated average weekly rent for 2019/20 was £102.57 rising to £105.34 in 2020/21 – this equated to a 2.7% increase.
- The HRA 30 year Financial Business Plan had been updated to reflect the CPI+1% increase over the next five year. The impact on the 2020/21 forecast was an estimated increase in rental income of £0.82 million.
- It was explained that the full Universal Credit scheme continued to be rolled out and would affect all new claims. The financial impact on the HRA for 2020/21 was difficult to estimate, however the budgeted rental income collection rate had been revised downwards and the level of bad debts provision had been maintained in anticipation of the switch to monthly payments, longer processing times, and the merging of Housing Benefit with several other benefits into one payment. The HRA Financial Business Plan would be regularly reviewed as the impact of Universal Credit became clearer.
- Members were informed that the government had abolished the HRA cap that had previously controlled local authority borrowing for house building; the arrangements for future HRA borrowing were still emerging. A number of proposed new build schemes were in the development stage and these would be reviewed to ascertain the optimal balance of new units achievable, in light of any additional loan funding that became available.

The Chair then invited Members to comment and ask questions.

During the course of the discussion, the following points were raised:

- A Member queried why rent for properties leased from James Elliman Homes Limited was to increase by an average of 1.7% in April 2020, whereas Council house rents were set to increase by 2.7%. It was explained that government legislation determined the rent increase of council owned properties and did not apply to other housing providers.
- It was queried how long it would take the HRA to recover the £9 million it had not received under the previous government policy that had required rents paid in the social housing sector to be reduced by 1% a year, over a four year period. In addition, information regarding the current level of debt in the HRA was sought. In response, it was explained that to restore the £9 million of income not received would take approximately 20 years. The current level of rent arrears debt was £1.5 million. The Service Lead, Strategic Housing Services explained that he was unable to provide a figure for the overall HRA level of debt, but agreed to circulate this information to the Panel following the meeting.
- A Member queried if the 1.7% voids rate was sufficient, in light of the uncertain financial impact the roll out of Universal Credit would have on the HRA. It was explained that the 1.7% was set to align with the 30

year HRA Financial Business Plan; 1.7% was a prudent benchmark figure that took into consideration the possible financial impact of Universal Credit.

- A Member asked if it was possible to quantify the financial impact that Universal Credit was currently having on the HRA and to forecast the level of HRA debt following the full roll out of the scheme. The Service Lead, Strategic Housing Services agreed to provide further information to the Panel.
- Concerns were raised regarding the standard of cleaning in communal housing areas. It was asked what the services charge provided and if a record was kept of the dates and times that cleaning was undertaken. In response, it was explained that the service charge contributed to the maintenance of communal areas, including lift repairs, grass cutting, and ground maintenance. The Service Lead, Strategic Housing Services agreed to discuss concerns regarding particular housing estates outside of the meeting.
- Concern was raised regarding the impact a rent increase would have on tenants in receipt of Housing Benefit. It was reported that under 50% of tenants were in receipt of full Housing Benefit, and approximately 70% received a partial Housing Benefit; therefore the roll out of Universal Credit would impact a significant number of Council tenants.
- A Member asked whether the conversion to Universal Credit had caused tenants financial difficulties, or if the main issues experienced were due to the six week delay period. It was explained that there was a combination of factors, including people facing difficulties budgeting and managing their finances.

Resolved –

- (a) That the Service Lead, Strategic Housing Services be requested to circulate responses to the queries raised, as detailed above.
- (b) That the Neighbourhoods and Community Services Scrutiny Panel noted the following aspects of the report, which would be considered by Cabinet on 20th January 2020, and then by Council on 28th January 2020:
 - I. Council house dwelling rents for 2020/21 to increase by 2.7% (CPI + 1%) over the 2019/20 rent with effect from Monday 6th April 2020. This was in line with current government guidelines and legislation.
 - II. Garage rents, heating, utility and ancillary charges to increase by 1.7% with effect from Monday 6th April 2020. This was based upon the September CPI figure.
 - III. Service charges to increase by 1.7% with effect from Monday 6th April 2020. This is based upon the September CPI figure.

- IV. 'Other committee' property rents to increase by an average of 1.7% from Monday 6th April 2020 in line with the September CPI figure.
- V. Properties leased from James Elliman Homes to increase by an average of 1.7% from Monday 6th April 2020 in line with the September CPI figure.
- VI. DISH property rents are recommended to increase by 2.7 % (CPI + 1%) over the 2019/20 rent with effect from Monday 6th April 2020. This is as per the Council's recommendation to the DISH Board.

46. Western Rail Link to Heathrow - Transport Modelling of Proposed Closure of Hollow Hill Lane

The Service Lead, Major Infrastructure Projects introduced a report that detailed the rationale behind Network Rails routing choice for the Great Western Main Line and Western Rail Link to Heathrow at Langley; and the transport modelling of the proposed closure of Hollow Hill Lane.

The Network Rails representatives in attendance - Ruth Leuillette (Senior Sponsor) and Jane Cassidy (Contents Manager) were invited to address the Panel.

Ruth Leuillette provided Members with a presentation regarding Western Rail Link to Heathrow - modelling outputs, including the proposed mitigation measures, ahead of a Development Consent Order (DCO) submission to the Planning Inspectorate. In association with the DCO, an environmental statement would be prepared, setting out the mitigation measures in relation to traffic, noise, air quality and environmental impact.

The objective of the Western Rail Link to Heathrow scheme was to provide direct access to and from Heathrow Airport Terminal 5 from the west, avoiding the need to interchange at London Paddington. Members were informed that the design and delivery methodology had been developed to minimise the risk of disruption on the Greater Western Main Line rail line.

The following key points were highlighted during the presentation:

- A Section 106 Agreement was in place to reduce the number of heavy goods vehicle movements being undertaken. This was positive for the surrounding communities.
- With regard to the closure of Hollow Hill Lane, it was reported that model outputs had been used to assess traffic flow, noise and air quality impacts. The modelled data had been calibrated against the observed data and the model had been validated.
- The DCO required proposed mitigation measures to be proportionate to the impact of the scheme and this would be based on data outputs gathered from the modelling exercises. Mitigation options would

continue to be discussed with Slough Borough Council officers ahead of the DCO submission.

- The most affected junctions identified from the strategic model had been assessed at a local level to find suitable mitigations. Options for consideration included, highway improvements for the most affected areas and the implementation of robust construction management statements.
- Station Road/Waterside Drive Junction had been identified as a junction that would be over capacity; to improve traffic flow in this area, a review of the signal timings would be undertaken and it was anticipated that altering the timings would suitably mitigate any detrimental impact.
- Langley High Street/Parlaunt Road, Langley High Street/Trelawney Avenue, and A4 London Road/ Langley High Street had been modelled as under capacity in all scenarios. Therefore, no significant mitigation measures were proposed.

In concluding the presentation, the Network Rail representative explained that the DCO was scheduled to be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate by spring 2020, subject to a funding statement being received from the Department for Transport. Following examination, the Planning Inspectorate would submit a report with a recommendation to the Secretary of State (SoS). The SoS would then have three months to consider granting consent to the scheme.

The Chair then invited comments and questions from the Panel.

Members had a wide-ranging discussion, during which the following points were raised:

- Concern was raised regarding the assessment of Langley High Street/ Parlaunt Road as being under capacity. The modelled outputs had concluded that there would be no significant impact in this location. Members refuted this assessment and stated that the volume of traffic in this location during peak times was currently over capacity and often gridlocked during peak times. The Chair invited the Network Rail representative to attend a site visit to observe the traffic flow during peak times. In addition, it was highlighted that there were three peak traffic times in Slough: mornings, school pick up time (around 3.30pm for half an hour) and evenings. A Member asked if the three peak times had been taken into consideration during the traffic modelling. The Network Rail representative was unable to confirm the times that had been modelled; however it was explained that the total traffic flow for the whole day had been taken into account. The Network Rail representative agreed to check the timings used and report back to the Panel.
- A Member asked what measures would be put in place to mitigate any detrimental impact resulting from the closure of Hollow Hill Lane. It was reported that with some changes to the traffic signal times the

traffic flow could be accommodated. It was anticipated that traffic would divert and be redistributed onto the wider strategic network.

- It was noted that to keep Hollow Hill Lane open on its exiting alignment would involve the construction of a bridge. A Member sought clarification regarding the proposals for a bridge. In response, the Service Lead, Major Infrastructure Projects reported that consultants had been commissioned to carry out a detailed feasibility study. It was not anticipated that Network Rail would provide any costs for the construction of a new bridge. It was accepted that funding for a bridge would have to be stimulated by commercial and housing growth.
- It was queried if the impact to surrounding areas, such as Iver Heath and Uxbridge Road had been considered. It was explained that the impact on surrounding areas was a matter for the relevant neighbouring local authorities to consider.
- A Member expressed frustration that Langley Road had been closed for six months and traffic flow data had only been gathered for one week during the closure. The validity of the data was queried, given the limited time period over which the sample data had been collected.
- It was noted that some of the data used to model the scenarios was five years old; concern was raised regarding the validity of the data, due to it being out of date. In response, it was explained that the data gathered was used as a 'baseline'. Modellers were able to incorporate subsequent developments that had been granted planning consent to re-evaluate projected scenarios and the impact on the road network. The 2028 scenario model assumed that the smart motorway scheme had been fully implemented.
- It was requested that the traffic survey data gathered by Network Rail be shared with the Panel to allow Members sufficient time to consider the information. Concern was raised that it would be too late to scrutinise the information once planning consent had been granted. A Network Rail representative explained that the data was interlinked with other aspects of the project and the resource to extract this information was not available. In addition, it was reported that a full package of information would be published alongside the submission of the DCO. Network Rail would continue to liaise with Council officers regarding mitigation options, ahead of submitting the DCO.

Resolved – That the presentation and report be noted.

(The Chair announced that the Panel would adjourn for a ten minute break (at 8.10 pm). The Panel reconvened at 8.20 pm when the same Members were present)

47. Airbnb Licensing

The Planning Manager introduced a report that outlined the issue of Airbnb licensing and the remedial action that could be taken.

Members were informed that Airbnb was an online market place for arranging and offering lodging and homestays. The company did not own any of the

real estate listings, nor did it host events, rather it acted as a broker, receiving a commission fee from each booking made. The broker arrangement provided by Airbnb enabled property owners to let out rooms or whole properties to people seeking short term lets.

In relation to planning enforcement, it was explained that officers were keeping a 'watching brief' on the issue and taking a 'reactive' stance by responding to complaints received from neighbours.

The Chair highlighted that many residents were unaware that planning permission was required for this type of activity. He raised concerns that Airbnb activity was having a detrimental impact on neighbouring residents' amenities, housing land supply, and the availability of family sized accommodation in Slough. He highlighted that planning permission could be automatically granted if an Airbnb arrangement was unchallenged. He proposed that the matter be referred to Cabinet, and that the Cabinet be requested to allocate sufficient resources to allow planning enforcement to be considered for all Airbnb properties that require planning permission for change of use.

The Panel supported the proposal and agreed that given the current housing need and the shortage of family accommodation in Slough, action was needed to effectively control this aspect of the local economy and provide good housing for residents.

Resolved – That a report be referred to Cabinet requesting that sufficient resources be allocated to allow planning enforcement to be considered for all Airbnb properties that require planning permission for change of use.

48. Five Year Plan - Outcome 4 Update

The Service Lead, Housing Services presented a progress report regarding Outcome 4 of the Council's Five Year Plan 2019-2024 – 'Our residents will live in good quality homes'.

Members were provided with an update on each of the key actions being undertaken, as detailed in Appendix A of the report.

In relation to key action 1 (Implement New Housing Strategy) - it was reported that a new Housing Strategy was in the process of being implemented. Public consultation on the Strategy would be undertaken throughout February and March 2020, before the final version was made available in April 2020. In the interim, the Service Lead, Housing Services agreed to circulate a draft version of the Strategy to the Panel.

The Chair invited comments and questions from the Panel.

During consideration of the report Members raised the following points:

- Referring to the findings of the satisfaction survey, set out in Appendix B of the report – a Members asked why leaseholders were significantly less satisfied than Council tenants. It was explained that leaseholders paid a service charge and were liable for the cost of repairs and maintenance of their properties; this was sometimes the cause of dissatisfaction. It was reported that the diverging level of satisfaction indicated in the Slough survey, reflected national trends.
- It was noted that the Housing Development and Contracts Service was working up plans to develop over 600 housing units over the next four years. A Member suggested that HRA borrowing could be used to fund the delivery of affordable housing in Slough.
- A Member queried how consultation with 'hard to reach' people, such as the homeless and those living in temporary accommodation was undertaken. It was explained that engagement events had been held throughout July and August 2019, and people living in temporary accommodation had been invited along to discuss their options. It was difficult to engage with rough sleepers in a forum setting; however the voluntary sector and a team of outreach workers spoke to rough sleepers about the options available to them.
- A Member asked if the Council's Housing Department was suitably staffed and asked if recruiting additional officers would assist in preventing homelessness. In response, the Service Lead, Housing Services explained that since the introduction of the Homelessness Reduction Act in 2018, the number of homeless approaches to the Council had tripled. The Housing Team had recruited two new members of staff and it was felt there was sufficient capacity within the team to manage the current caseload. However, there were processing issues, in particular outdated IT systems and software that needed to be addressed to improve the efficiency of the department. For example, the current IT software used involved the double entry of data; the implementation of one system would remove this duplication.
- A Member asked what the most common reason for homelessness was. It was explained that in many cases, a short term tenancy agreement ended and was not renewed by the landlord. The private rented market in Slough was becoming increasingly competitive, in part due to London borough councils offering landlords 'incentive payments' to house homeless people.
- It was queried how housing was allocated and if people living in temporary accommodation were given priority on the waiting list. It was explained that eligibility for housing was determined by a number of factors. For example, a person who presented as homeless would be given a higher priority than someone living in temporary housing.
- Concern was raised regarding the number of Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO) and the loss of residential family homes in Slough. A Member asked if there were measures that could be taken to stop landlords converting houses into HMOs. The Panel was advised that if a landlord met the qualifying conditions, the Council was unable to refuse a licence.

Resolved –

- (a) That the Service Lead, Housing Services be requested to circulate the draft version of the Housing Strategy to the Panel.
- (b) That the progress of the Outcome 4 Action Plan be noted.

49. Food Poverty Task and Finish Group Update

The Policy Insight Analyst presented a report that sought approval of the proposed Terms of Reference for the Food Poverty Task and Finish Group.

Resolved – That the Terms of Reference for the Food Poverty Task and Finish Group, as set out in Appendix A of the report be agreed.

50. Neighbourhoods and Community Services Scrutiny Panel 2019/20 Work Programme

The Policy Insight Analyst presented the Forward Work Programme and updated Members on relevant items.

The Panel was informed that a request had been received from Councillor Smith to scrutinise the impact of the proposed changes to the layout of the A4 and the junctions at Brands Hill, Colnbrook. Members agreed to schedule an extraordinary meeting on 17th March 2020 to consider this item.

In addition, a Member raised concerns regarding a number of highway issues in Slough, including yellow line painting, permit car parking, delay in works being carried out, and lack of disabled car parking bays. It was agreed that this issue would be considered at the 17th March meeting.

27th February 2020

It was explained that the Home Improvement Agency report would not be available for the February meeting and should be removed from the list of expected items.

17th March 2020 – extraordinary meeting

The Panel agreed to consider the following items:

- Homeless Prevention Strategy
- Rough Sleeper Action Plan
- Impact of the proposed changes to the layout of the A4 and junctions at Brands Hill, Colnbrook.
- Highways Issue in Slough (addressing the concerns as detailed above)

Resolved –

- (a) That an extraordinary meeting be scheduled to be held on 17th March 2020, to consider the items listed above.

(b) That subject to the updates set out above, the Forward Work Programme 2019/20 be approved, as set out in Appendix A of the report.

51. Members' Attendance Record 2019/20

Resolved - That the details of the Members' Attendance Record be noted.

52. Date of Next Meeting - 27th February 2020

Resolved - That the date of the next meeting was confirmed as 27th February 2020.

Chair

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

SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Neighbourhoods and Community Services Scrutiny Panel

DATE: 27th February 2020

CONTACT OFFICER: Alison Hibbert – Leisure Services Manager
(For all enquiries) (01753) 875896

WARD(S): All

PORTFOLIO: Health and Wellbeing– Councillor Pantelic

PART I
FOR COMMENT & CONSIDERATION

IMPACT OF THE NEW LEISURE FACILITIES**1 Purpose of Report**

To advise the NCS Scrutiny Panel on the perceived impact of the council's leisure capital development programme, which was part of the council's five year leisure strategy, adopted by Cabinet in 2014, which aimed to get more Slough residents more active, more often.

2 Recommendation(s)/Proposed Action

The NCS Scrutiny Panel is requested to note the report and progress made in delivering the council's high level five year leisure strategy and the impact of the new leisure developments on the town and its residents.

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

All the actions within the Slough Leisure Strategy contribute towards achieving the overarching vision of the Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy and will make significant contributions to the delivery of the following outcomes:

- **Protecting vulnerable children** - New leisure facilities will be safe environments for children and will target those who are disadvantaged.
- **Improving mental health and wellbeing** – It is well established and accepted that taking part in regular sport and physical activity contributes greatly to better mental health and general wellbeing.

3b. The JSNA

The JSNA examines the needs of all residents of Slough to identify those groups that experience poor outcomes and access to services. It sets the scene for the development of local strategies and provides evidence for these groups.

3c. Five Year Plan Outcomes

The key drivers for the Leisure Strategy are to deliver the following outcomes of the 2018 Five Year Plan:

- **Outcome 1: Slough children will grow up to be happy, healthy and successful**
Taking part in regular sport, physical activity and other related positive leisure activity is proven to improve the physical health and mental wellbeing of children and young people, along with educational attainment and confidence and self esteem.
- **Outcome 2: Our people will be healthier and manage their own care needs –**
Addressing the rates of inactivity in our adult population is a key priority for the council. Improved leisure facilities that are accessible and cater for a range of abilities will be a key area for turning the tide on this inactivity.
- **Outcome 3: Slough will be an attractive place where people choose to live, work and stay –** Attractive and accessible leisure facilities will attract people to the borough to live, work and visit.
- **Outcome 5: Slough will attract, retain and grow businesses and investment to provide opportunities for our residents -** Good quality, accessible leisure facilities are attractive to employers to ensure a healthy workforce, which is imperative for a businesses success.

4 Other Implications

(a) Financial

All the leisure capital projects have come in on budget and to predicted timescales.

The re-procurement of the leisure contract in 2017, which appointed Everyone Active as our chosen leisure provider for the next 10 years, to operate and manage our new leisure facilities, is expected to provide a surplus in funding of over £10 million to the council over this period.

(b) Risk Management

The leisure strategy capital development team kept a detailed risk register for all the council's major leisure schemes. The risk register was reported to the Leisure Strategy Board fortnightly and a monthly highlight report was produced for CMT.

Risks/Threats/ Opportunities	Current Controls	Risk Management Matrix Score	Future Controls
Everyone Active fail to achieve targeted performance and cannot make agreed payments	Monthly and quarterly meetings held to discuss performance with contractor	2	Ongoing monitoring of financial performance against contract
Everyone Active fail to adequately maintain new facilities	Bi-monthly maintenance visits using FM 180 facility management	2	Maintain current arrangements

	system by property services. Unannounced visits by client officer		
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(c) Human Rights Act and Other Legal Implications

There are no Human Rights Act implications in regard to this report

(d) Equalities Impact Assessment

Equality impact assessments were prepared for areas where closure of facilities would potentially impact existing users e.g. ice users and the provision of a temporary rink.

(e) Workforce

The delivery of the leisure capital programme has initiated a number of full and part time employment opportunities across all phases of the project including construction, new job opportunities in the leisure facilities working for Everyone Active and freelance coaching roles with the Active Slough team.

In addition to this Everyone Active run an apprenticeship programme in Slough offering eight placements a year for Slough residents to work whilst studying for level 2 / 3 qualifications in leisure management or fitness and health.

(f) Property

Arbour Park Community Sports Stadium is currently operated and managed by the council's building management team. The council is responsible for the full costs of operating and maintaining the building.

Under the leisure contract Everyone Active is responsible for the operating and full maintenance and repairs to The Centre and Langley Leisure Centre, Slough Ice Arena and Salt Hill Activity Centre. Their legal responsibilities are detailed in the comprehensive leisure contract and associated leases. Monitoring of their performance in regard to the management and care of the buildings is overseen by the Leisure Client Manager, Michael Shepherd, and routine inspections are carried out by mechanical and electrical specialists through property services.

(g) Carbon Emissions and Energy Costs

The Centre has received a BREAM energy rating of excellent and Arbour Park a good rating. The facilities that were designated as refurbishment schemes were not required to undertake BREAM assessment but all facilities have been awarded very good energy efficiency scores. A more detailed breakdown of the individual buildings is available on request.

5 Supporting Information

5.1 Leisure Strategy

The Slough leisure strategy, adopted in 2014, set out an ambitious five year programme to achieve four main priorities:

1. To provide new, quality core leisure facilities for Slough residents
2. To provide a network of improved and accessible free leisure facilities in neighbourhood parks and open spaces
3. To provide a comprehensive programme of accessible opportunities for local residents of all ages and abilities to participate in regular physical activity
4. To procure a new leisure operator to manage the new, core leisure facilities.

5.2 Capital programme

The leisure capital portfolio was managed and delivered in partnership with Slough Urban Renewal (SUR) with our chosen construction Partner Morgan Sindall Construction. This has resulted, over a four year construction programme, a network of state of the art leisure facilities.

5.3 **Arbour Park Community Sports Stadium** had a two phased opening which enabled Slough Town Football Club to take up residency at the stadium for the 2017/18 football season. Phase 2 was completed in May 2017 with the opening of the first floor and 250 seater stand. The stadium was voted best non-league stadium of the year in 2017 and hosted the FA draw and televised the best FA Cup run for Slough Town FC through Sky Sports. The facility has a full community use programme hosting grass roots clubs for training and fixtures. It has also hosted national squads for training and fixtures too, including the Welsh Women's squad and England Under 18s. During 2018 /19 the stadium was used by hirers for a total of 14,700 hours.

5.4 **Slough Ice Arena** opened to the public in March 2018 and the official opening attracted over 3,000 visitors on the day to take part in skating and climbing sessions. The building was voted best South East community building of the year by LABC and was shortlisted for the national awards.

Over the last year of operation the facility has hosted the following:

- Dancing on Ice – Interview and selection / training sessions
- Who Bares Wins – ITV Cancer awareness programme
- Cinema on Ice
- Skate with Santa
- Build a snowman / snowing on ice session
- Christmas Gala (Everyone Active Figure Club)
- Hosted Slough Jets games, who have gone on to win the National Ice Hockey League 2

5.5 **Salt Hill Activity Centre** opened its doors to the public in June 2018 with the community open day attracting over 2,500 visitors who were able to use the multi activity centre for free throughout the day. The centre is a popular venue for families and in one weekend hosted over 20 birthday parties. Over the past year Berkshire Fire Service have used the indoor caving system for training purposes.

5.6 **Langley Leisure Centre** opened its doors to the public in July 2018 with a formal opening attended by Olympic athlete and world record holder, Colin Jackson. The centre has proved to be a very popular facility for local users and has surpassed expected membership targets and usage.

5.7 **The Centre** opened its doors to the public in March 2019 involving a seamless closure of Montem Leisure Centre and the opening of the new facility. New membership for the facilities have exceeded targets and the new, modern facilities have been warmly received by the community. The centre has recently won the international architectural awards for best leisure centre design for our architects GT3.

5.8 **New leisure contract**

Early in 2015 the council commenced its procurement programme to appoint a leisure operator to manage the new leisure facilities. After a twelve month procurement exercise Everyone Active were awarded a ten year contract, which commenced in June 2017. The new contract offers the council a far more favourable financial package, with the council able to recoup some of the investment it has made in its award winning leisure facilities, with an estimated saving to the council of over £10 million over the next ten years. The council has recruited a leisure client officer to monitor the contract and they meet monthly with the contractor in formal contract meetings. The contractor is required to produce quarterly performance reports and an annual business report.

5.9 **Current levels of usage of Everyone Active managed facilities**

In 2018/19; the first full operating year for Everyone Active, the following usage figures were recorded:

- 898,393 centre visits
- 2,085 swimmers taught every week
- 230,478 fitness visits
- 13,425 school swimmers annually
- 65,853 Ice skating visits
- 139,887 casual swimming visits
- 6,092 fitness members (annual and direct debit)
- 72,904 activity visits
- The highest percentage of users is recorded as 16 years and under at 28%.
- The lowest percentage of users are aged 65+ at 5.4%
- 80% of fitness members have SL1, SL2 and SL3 post codes
- 55% of people with fitness membership have an SL3 postcode

5.10 **Neighbourhood capital development programme**

Over the last five years sports facilities in parks and open spaces across the borough have seen significant investment including the installation of twenty six green gyms, seven new multi use games areas (MUGAs) a skate park, a parkour park, seven artificial cricket wickets, four cricket practice nets and a network of dedicated walking tracks.

5.11 **Summary of impact of new leisure provision in Slough**

Active Lives Survey	The Active Lives Survey, an annual survey carried out by Sport England, reports the activity levels of people across the country and is broken down by local authority areas. Since 2012 Slough has seen a decline in the activity rates of its residents and in 2014 was reported as the tenth most inactive area nationally. However in the 2019 published data Slough saw a significant decrease (3.2%) in the number of people reported as inactive (doing less than 30 minutes of activity a week).
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Health Beliefs Survey	<p>In 2019 the council carried out the largest ever survey of residents attitudes to health and physical activity. 1,600 face to face surveys were undertaken and this indicated that inactivity is decreasing and activity levels are improving above those reported in the national Active Lives Survey. To view the report follow the link below: https://www.publichealthslough.co.uk/campaigns/health-beliefs/</p> <p>However the survey indicated that we need to publicise our new facilities much better to local residents.</p>
New leisure facilities	<p>Slough Borough Council's investment in the town's leisure offer has attracted much interest and praise. This has resulted in a number of awards for the designs of the buildings, visits from other developers and local authorities looking to develop their own offer, a visit from Sport England's national directors team and the new facilities being used for popular TV programmes and high profile national sports teams.</p> <p>To date the council have received following awards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Best national non league football stadium 2017 – Arbour Park • Best regional community building (LABC) – Arbour Park 2017 • Best regional community building (LABC) – Slough Ice Arena - 2018 • Best design community facility (Thames Vally Awards) – Slough Ice Arena - 2019 • Best international leisure facility design (architecture) - The Centre 2019
New leisure operator	<p>The award winning leisure operator Everyone Active became the council's new leisure contractor in June 2017. The 10 year contract is estimated to return over £10 million to the council over the period of the contract.</p> <p>As part of the contract Everyone Active also offer an outreach programme in local neighbourhoods, providing healthy walks, seated exercise, badminton, pilates and zumba classes in community venues.</p> <p>A benchmarking exercise on cost shows that Everyone Active offer the cheapest membership prices in Berkshire, amongst local authority run facilities.</p>
Use of leisure centres	<p>Our new leisure facilities are predicted to have over 1.2 million visits in 2019 /20 an increase of over 400,000 visits since 2017 when all facilities were last open to the public.</p> <p>Most notable have been the increases in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children and adult swimming lessons • Schools using the new centres for swimming lessons • Membership at Langley Leisure Centre • Children's ice skating lessons • Bookings of venues for children's parties. <p>The council have been working hard with Everyone Active to make their performance data more meaningful and we now have the ability to drill down and monitor membership and visits via postcode data,</p>

	<p>which will enable us to target areas of low take up.</p> <p>In the spring our looked after children and care leavers will be given a package of free use of all leisure facilities.</p>
New dedicated leisure contract manager	To ensure that out new leisure centres are operated and maintained to very high standards a new dedicated leisure contract manager has been appointed. They report quarterly to the leisure strategy board, chaired by the council's director for adults and community, Alan Sinclair on the operator's performance.
Use of parks and open spaces for sport and physical activity	<p>The green gyms in particular have proved to be a very popular resource, which are seeing greater usage across the borough. Salt Hill and Manor Park Recreation Ground also host the 'Big Community Workouts' weekly, based around the use of the green gyms, which is facilitated by qualified community coaches.</p> <p>At seven of the green gym sites we have installed smart devices to measure usage. In the last ten months 63,943 hits have been recorded.</p> <p>All new facilities in parks are free to use.</p>
Active Slough	The council's Active Slough team over the last four years have offered a comprehensive and affordable activity programme of over 90 sessions a week to people of all ages and abilities, in accessible venues across the borough. An average of 1,250 participants engage with the Active Slough programme every week. For 2019/20 we have already delivered over 5,500 hours of community sport and physical activity sessions through the Active Slough programme.

6 Comments of Other Committees

Not applicable

7 Conclusion

- 7.1 In 2014 the council set out to deliver a highly ambitious five year leisure strategy which aimed to address the high levels of inactivity in our diverse communities across the borough. The strategy identified four key priorities as detailed in section 5.1 of this report.

The strategy has successfully delivered against the key priorities, giving the residents of Slough excellent sporting provision through the core leisure facilities and a network of green gyms and exercise provision, free to use in local neighbourhoods.

The council's investment is now starting to see positive results with a large increase in visits to leisure centres and other leisure facilities along with national data reporting a decrease in our resident's inactivity, the first shift since 2012.

8 Background Papers

Not applicable

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SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Neighbourhood and Community Services Scrutiny Panel

DATE: 27th February 2020

CONTACT OFFICER: Beth Wilks, Interim Community Safety Partnership Manager
(For all Enquiries) (01753) 875 146

WARD(S): All

PART I
FOR COMMENT AND CONSIDERATION**SAFER SLOUGH PARTNERSHIP UPDATE****1. Purpose of Report**

The purpose of this report is to update members of the progress of the Safer Slough Partnership (SSP), in relation to delivery of work aligned to the partnership 2019/2020 priorities. The report will summarise key workstreams, projects, and deliverables achieved to date.

2. Recommendation(s)/Proposed Action

The Panel is requested to note the report.

3. The Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy, the JSNA and the Five Year Plan

The [Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy](#) (SJWS) is the document that details the priorities agreed for Slough with partner organisations. The SJWS has been developed using a comprehensive evidence base that includes the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA). Both are clearly linked and must be used in conjunction when preparing your report. They have been combined in the Slough Wellbeing Board report template to enable you to provide supporting information highlighting the link between the SJWS and JSNA priorities.

3a. Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy Priorities

Through critical projects and workstreams, the SSP seeks to reduce and tackle issues which include domestic abuse, serious violence, modern slavery, substance misuse, and exploitation, in turn creating a safer and cleaner environment for those who live, work, learn, visit and invest in Slough. The SSP thus supports the priorities of the Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy which are as follows:

1. Protecting vulnerable children
2. Increasing life expectancy by focusing on inequalities
3. Improving mental health and wellbeing
4. Housing

3b. **Five Year Plan Outcomes**

The Safer Slough Partnership is proactively working to support outcomes 1, 3, and 5 of Slough Borough Council's Five Year Plan, which are as follows:

1. Slough children will grow up to be happy, healthy and successful
2. Slough will be an attractive place where people choose to live, work and stay
3. Slough will attract, retain and grow businesses and investment to provide opportunities for our residents

4. **Other Implications**

(a) Financial

There are no financial implications of proposed action

(b) Risk Management

There are no risks identified or human rights/other legal implications arising from this report; rather the report provides a summary of the Safer Slough Partnership's activity.

(c) Equalities Impact Assessment

Feedback and close monitoring of data will be analysed according to SBC equalities monitoring categories, thereby enabling any differential impact on particular groups to be identified.

5.0 Supporting Information

5.1 Local Strategic Partnerships: The Safer Slough Partnership (SSP), Slough Wellbeing Board, and the Slough Safeguarding Partnership are the three key statutory partnership boards that Slough Borough Council coordinates and maintains. These three partnership boards proactively work to support the Slough vision and strategic outcomes of the council. They are continuing to develop and build upon their collaborative working, with different priorities aligned to ensure the best outcomes for the community of Slough. Figure 1 provides an emerging diagrammatical overview of the connectivity between strategic partnership boards, multiagency 5 year plans, and the Slough 2040 Vision, all of which is underpinned by data and evidence.

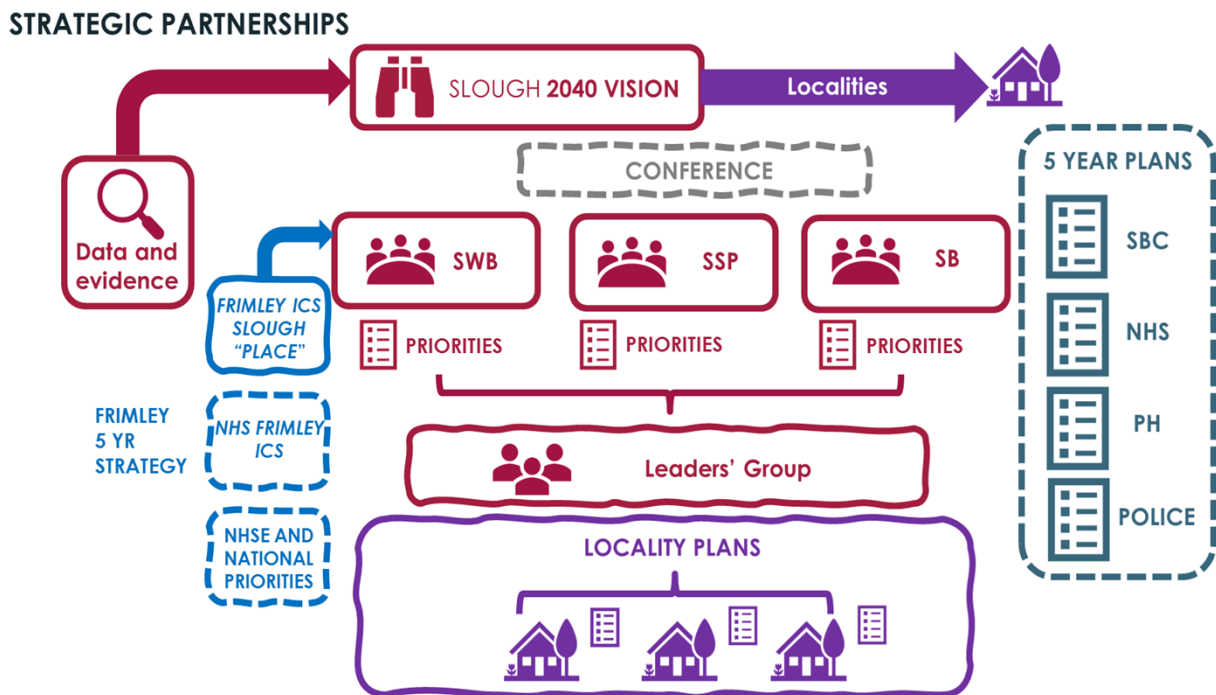


Figure 1: Strategic Partnerships
Please note: SB is the Slough Safeguarding Partnership.

5.2 Purpose of the SSP: The SSP is the local statutory Community Safety Partnership for Slough, accountable for compliance with the statutory responsibilities set out in the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. The partnership serves to provide strategic and coordinated, proactive responses to reduce crime and disorder within the borough, and improve community safety, making Slough a place where people want to live, work, visit, and invest. The SSP is co-chaired by the Chief Executive of Slough Borough Council and the Local Policing Area Commander for Thames Valley Police, who are supported by representatives from multi-agency statutory and community partners; figure 2 captures multi-agency partners who form the SSP.



Figure 2: Safer Slough Partnership members

5.3 Priority Areas: Selection of priority focus areas for the SSP is informed by bringing together both quantitative and qualitative data and insight from multiagency partners, which in turn forms the evidence base used to co-design and develop sustainable interventions and solutions. The six priority focus areas of the SSP for the 2019/2020 financial year are Violence Against Women and Girls, Boys and Men (VAWG+), Serious Violence, Modern Slavery, Child Sexual Exploitation, Acquisitive Crime, and Individuals with Multiple Disadvantages; table 1 outlines these thematic priority areas and the delivery mechanisms in place to ensure prompt and effective responses.

Theme	Delivery Mechanism	
Violence Against Women and Girls, Boys and Men (VAWG+)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Domestic Abuse Delivery Group & action plan • FGM Progression Group & action plan 	Funded Provision: The Choices Programme - Preventative Intervention
Serious Violence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slough Violence Taskforce & action plan. Matrix groups sit beneath to support the delivery of the group. • Serious Youth Violence & Child Drug Exploitation Meeting • <i>Funded Provision: 2 x Youth Gang Intervention workers in Slough Youth Offending Team</i> 	
Modern Slavery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slough Modern Slavery Group 	
Child Sexual Exploitation	The SSP supports the work of the Slough Safeguarding Boards who are responsible for the governance of this priority area	
Individuals with Multiple Disadvantages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Funded Provision: Browns Project</i> • <i>Funded Provision: Substance Misuse Outreach workers</i> 	
Acquisitive Crime	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bicycle Theft Action Plan • Support provided through regular operational policing meetings 	

Table 1: Safer Slough Partnership thematic priority areas and deliverables

5.4 The Domestic Abuse Delivery Group: The Domestic Abuse (DA) Delivery Group is responsible for providing a tactical focus for DA on behalf of the Safer Slough Partnership. The group currently meets on a quarterly basis to monitor, review, and support:

- Projects and services supporting victims of DA e.g. the Brave Project, as well as those aimed at educating and holding perpetrators to account, evaluating and considering the effectiveness of the work delivered
- Training needs, both for practitioners and the wider community
- The nature and scale of DA in Slough, to inform necessary projects, programmes, and services
- Methods of raising awareness of DA amongst the community in Slough
- Multi-agency referral pathways and processes to ensure prompt and effective support for victims and their families, and perpetrators
- Best practise, observed both nationally and locally, to enable enhancement of the slough offer in relation to DA

5.5 Local VAWG+ Strategy: Through combining information from the national VAWG strategy, and national and local research, the DA Delivery Group has developed a 1 page VAWG+ strategy, which outlines the key objectives of the delivery group, in relation to education and awareness, DA service provision, community and partnership working, and changing the behaviour of perpetrators. An action plan, co-produced by multi-agency partners who attend the DA Delivery Group, sits beneath the strategy, to ensure deliverables and progression against the key objectives.

5.6 Domestic Abuse Train the Trainer Programme: 15 multi-agency representatives received 'Train the Trainer' DA Training, in turn enabling multi-agency partners to deliver their own training, ensuring that domestic abuse experts are located in different statutory and community settings within Slough.

5.7 The FGM Progression Group: The FGM Progression group has divided the focus on FGM between a clinical response and a community response. Akin to the DA Delivery group, the FGM Progression group works to review and advise upon on referral pathways & procedures, advise upon and support the delivery of training and education, identify gaps in service provision and funding/partnership resources to address them. The group was successful in securing funding from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, to fund a 6 month pilot of a non-clinical 'Family Centre', which aims to support women who are suffering trauma following the procedure, and raise awareness of the illegality of FGM, and the physical and emotional harm it causes, enabling parents to safeguard their children.

5.8 Violence Taskforce: The Violence Taskforce was initiated in October 2019 to provide a multi-agency coordinated approach to serious violence in Slough, facilitating the coordination and collation of evidence to ensure informed decision making in relation to interventions and sustainable solutions. The group is responsible for monitoring the impact and value of deliverables under the local serious violence strategy, to ensure the best response for Slough is achieved, ensuring a safer community for all. A number of different workstreams have subsequently developed from the taskforce, which include the following:

- **The Data and Insight Workstream:** Working to better understand the drivers behind a young person's involvement in violent activity, to inform evidence based interventions which target causal factors, at critical points in a young person's life.
- **The Interventions Workstream:** Focussing on mapping gaps existing in the current provision, aimed at preventing involvement in violent activity, proposing developments to the Slough Offer, and exit strategies for those already involved. A key element of this workstream is to ensure that the Slough Offer is sustainable, and developed with the involvement of the local community, with a key focus on capacity building resources which already exist, in place of parachuting in short term services.
- **The communications Workstream:** Ensuring effective information sharing amongst multi-agency partners and the wider community of Slough, and the development of a local knife crime campaign.

Funding from central government (Violence Reduction Unit Fund, Early Intervention Youth Fund, and Surge Funding) is being used to support the work of the violence taskforce at a local level, with the following interventions already being delivered:

- Targeted 1 to 1 support for those at risk of involvement/involved in violent activity
- Practitioner gangs awareness training (70 staff trained)
- Drama based performances in schools which highlight the risks of gangs and associated issues
- Workshops which educate young people about gangs, knife crime, county lines, and how to reduce the risk of involvement
- School based youth work aimed at preventing exclusion

The expansion of CCTV coverage across Salt Hill Park is also underway.

5.9 Youth Gang Intervention workers: The SSP has funded 2 youth gang intervention workers within Slough Youth Offending Team, to deliver focussed intervention around serious youth violence to young people. Work delivered has included preventative workshops, a Serious Youth Violence programme, a summer residential, and the delivery of victim awareness work, which uses real life testimony from a serving prisoner, who was previously involved in serious violence as a young person.

5.10 Knife Crime Research: The Safer Slough Partnership currently has 2 university placement students carrying out research on knife crime in Slough. The focus of the research is primarily around the sourcing and availability of knives in Slough for young people, and involves working with multi-agency practitioners and young people to better understand how we can address the problem locally.

5.11 The Choices Programme: Through interactive digital stories, the Choices Programme supports young people in understanding the process of making 'good' choices, and what can drive/influence those choices; it moves beyond 'symptoms' i.e. gang involvement, violence, exploitation etc. to tackling 'causes', therefore equipping young people to better manage all issues they may encounter in today's society. The programme builds the knowledge, skills, and motivation to make better-informed decisions. Over 1000 sessions of the primary phase have been delivered to pupils in Slough, with 3280 year 5 & 6 students taking part. The year 7 element of the secondary phase of the programme has been co-designed with local schools, and other key stakeholders such as the Engage Team, Youth Parliament and SSP; delivery of this phase will be piloted during the current (2019/20) academic year. Design of the year 8 element is scheduled for the 2020/2021 Academic year.



Figure 3: Interactive digital stories, the Choices Programme

5.12 Child Sexual Exploitation and Choices Programme Awareness Sessions:

In order to equip parents to identify the signs of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and grooming, the SSP supported the delivery of 8 community based sessions. The sessions were further used to encourage parental engagement with the Choices Programme, enabling young people to continue to explore concepts and material from the programme, beyond the classroom environment

5.13 The Slough Modern Slavery Group: The Slough Modern Slavery Group works to ensure that the Safer Slough Partnership is able to provide a multi-agency co-ordinated approach to address the issue of modern slavery and exploitation in Slough. Using the priorities set out by the Anti-Slavery Commissioner, the group is identifying and raising awareness of the issues, as they relate to Slough, amongst partners and the wider community, providing direction for operational activity. The group are proactively supporting the Responsible Car Wash Scheme to improve working conditions for employees in car washes in Slough, and are building upon the current multi-agency response to cuckooing, ensuring potential cases are addressed quickly and effectively. In partnership with the Willow Project, the group has enabled and supported the training of over 125 Slough practitioners, to ensure the development of a multi-agency workforce who are equipped to spot the signs of modern slavery and respond effectively.

5.14 Local Modern Slavery Strategy: Through combining information from the anti-slavery commissioner's priorities, and national and local research, the Slough Modern Slavery Group has developed a 1 page Modern Slavery strategy, which outlines the key objectives of the delivery group, in relation to victim identification and care, enforcement, partnerships, and private sector engagement. An action plan, co-produced by multi-agency partners, sits beneath the strategy, to ensure progression against the key objectives.

5.15 Modern Slavery Campaign: To mark national anti-slavery day (18th October), the Safer Slough Partnership launched wave two of its hard-hitting campaign to raise awareness of modern slavery. Posters for the campaign were produced in English, Polish, Romanian, Urdu and Punjabi, and shared across the partnership. The campaign lasted for six weeks with a range of outdoor advertising including posters displayed on the back of 25 buses on Slough routes, in GP surgeries, council buildings, hospitals, Shelter, Slough Police Station. A poster also featured in Slough Highlights newsletter which reaches 6000 SBC tenants, Slough Citizen Magazine, the taxi driver newsletter & the licensing newsletter. Social media, including twitter and Facebook were also used to promote the campaign by the partnership. Modern slavery key rings are also being distributed to new SBC tenants. During the interim period between the 2018 and 2019 anti-slavery day campaigns, a smaller adnozzle campaign (figure 4) was launched in a number of petrol stations across Slough, to maintain awareness amongst the community.



Figure 4: Examples of Safer Slough Partnership Modern Slavery Imagery on Slough Petrol Pumps

5.16 The Browns Project: The SSP have continued to fund the specialist Browns Provision, to provide intensive practical and emotional support to people living in Slough, who are suffering with multiple disadvantages which may include homelessness, substance misuse, domestic abuse, low level offending, unemployment, and mental ill-health, in order to support them in achieving positive changes within their lives. A range of positive outcomes for those engaged with the service have been achieved including, decreases in arrests and reduced calls to the police, no longer selling drugs, maintaining accommodation, and full-time

employment. Since the start of the service in Slough, it is estimated that the project has saved the public sector approximately £400,000 (these cost savings are calculated from various cost analysis documents).

5.17 Substance Misuse Outreach: The SSP have continued to fund START Criminal Justices Outreach Workers, to engage with substance misusers in the criminal justice system, or those at risk of entering the criminal justice system with the aim of reducing their offending. A range of positive outcomes for those engaged with the service have been achieved including; abstinence from illicit drug use, return to full time employment, and engagement with emotional and mental wellbeing services.

5.18 Acquisitive Crime: The SSP continues to support the acquisitive crime agenda. Through partnership working, a bicycle theft action plan has been developed, focusing on increased public awareness and the availability of bike marking and registration, as well as physical security measures. Work is also underway to tackle residential burglary and theft from motor vehicle.

5.19 The Jubilee River: Following 2 deaths by drowning in the Jubilee River which runs through Slough, representatives from SBC, the environment agency, TVP, RBFRS, and The Riverside Centre worked together to prevent people from swimming in the river. Activities included the replacement of fencing, signage detailing the dangers of swimming in the river, delivery of water safety talks in schools, and the dissemination of leaflets and information, including within the local press. In 2019, there were no deaths by drowning in the Slough stretch of the Jubilee River.

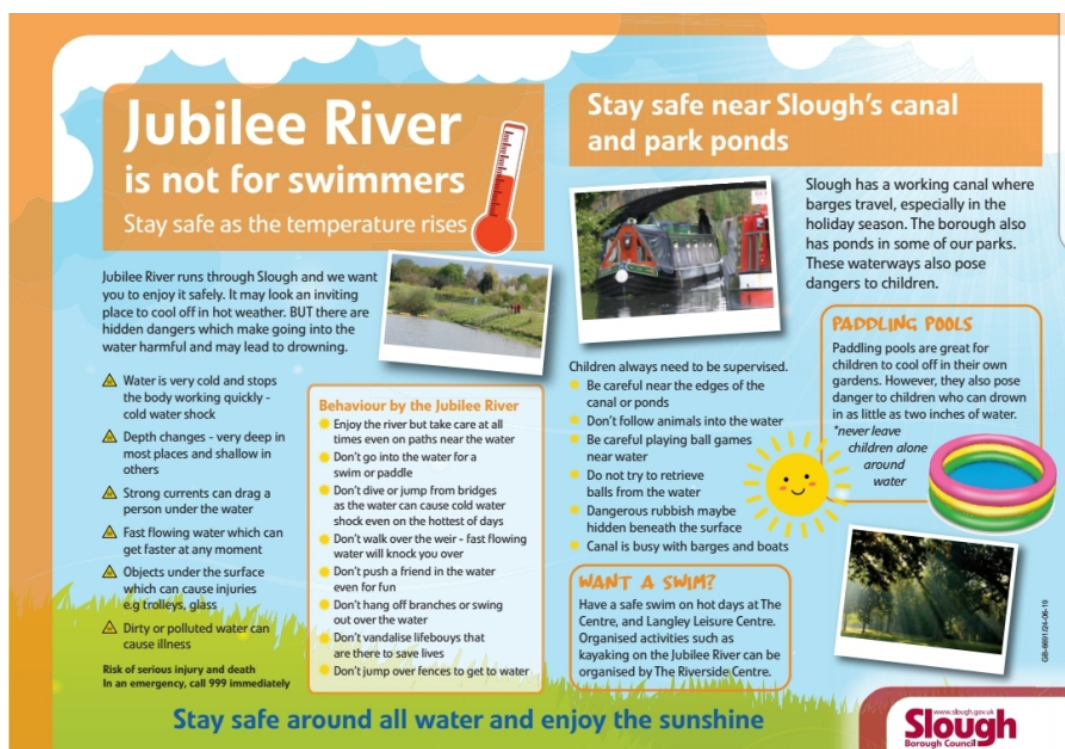


Figure 5: Jubilee River leaflet

6. **Comments of Other Committees**

None

7. **Conclusion**

This report has summarised critical projects and deliverables by the Safer Slough Partnership, which collectively strive to reduce crime and disorder in Slough, and keep safe our diverse and vibrant communities. The partnership will continue to proactively listen and engage with residents to better understand and respond effectively to concerns in relation to criminality and safety.

8. **Appendices Attached**

'A' Safer Slough Partnership Strategy

'B' Safer Slough Partnership VAWG+ Strategy

'C' Slough Violence Taskforce Presentation

9. **Background Papers**

None

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Safer Slough Partnership (SSP) Strategy Map

Vision: Slough is a town in which all people feel safe and secure

Mission: To focus on reducing crime, violence and harm, increasing community resilience so that people are able to help each other to live in a diverse, evolving and vibrant community.

Safer Slough Partnership Strategic Goals 2019 - 2020

Drivers

- Funding
- Partner's priorities
- Political agenda
- Safeguarding
- Public Concern
- Projects
- Changes in criminal behaviour
- Available information
- Resources
- Global developments
- Global crisis

Stakeholders

What must we achieve for them?

Capabilities

What do we need to excel?

Skills

Where do we need to develop in order to excel?

Resources

How do we ensure we are resourced appropriately?

Protecting People

1

JW/SG

Emerging Risks

2

JW/SG

We will develop clear stories and partnership communications plan – 'You said, we did'

3

JW/SG

We will identify shared goals in order to eliminate duplication, increase effectiveness and service delivery

4

GT

The SSP priorities will support and enhance partners corporate priorities

5

GT

Slough Brand – Safe, Secure Community

6

PS

We will build stronger influential connections

7

BJ

We will ensure that our partnership delivery mechanisms offer robust, effective and sustainable solutions

8

GT

We will communicate our successes with pride

9

GM

We will be more responsive, agile and creative in our work

10

GT

Our teams will have the right expertise and capacity

11

GD

Through analysis we will advance our understanding of existing and potential crime threats

12

SG

We will develop new partnership performance monitoring frameworks

13

JB

We will build an ideas-driven culture based on more in-depth and up-to-date knowledge of crime and community safety developments

14

GT

We will invest in research

15

JW/SG

We will develop strong case studies and project information

16

JW/SG

We will work in partnership, using the skills and abilities available

17

GD

We will ensure that as a partnership we have the right mechanisms to deliver

18

SG

We share information to help aid understanding in order to identify sustainable solutions

19

RK

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Safer Slough Partnership VAWG+ Strategy

Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy 2016-2020

<p>Preventing Violence & Abuse</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Raise Awareness of VAWG across all sections of society to support early identification. Social norms, behaviours and practices tolerating VAWG amongst communities continue to shift in recognition of its unacceptability. Focus on prevention and early intervention for both victims and perpetrators (causal factors). 	<p>Provision of Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transform services to improve early access for those individuals experiencing multiple disadvantages. Transform services to provide support at an earlier stage so that fewer victims reach crisis point. Needs led interventions. 	<p>Partnership Working</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Needs led intervention for victims, perpetrators, and children enable and delivered through a multi-agency VAWG partnership. Multi-agency sharing of information to enable development of an evidence base to support a needs assessment. More employers introducing policies to support staff who may be victims of VAWG. 	<p>Pursuing Perpetrators</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduction in reoffending. Partnership intervention to tackle perpetrators. Improve confidence and access to the Criminal Justice System for victims of VAWG. Greater focus on changing the behaviour of perpetrators through disruption, based on strong evidence of what works, and centred on victim safety.
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Local Problem Profile – What We Know

Page 33	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Crime Survey for England and Wales reports that nationally 4 out of 5 victims did not report partner abuse; such that local police figures of reported domestic abuse are likely to largely underestimate the true extent of the problem. Slough based research carried out by Imkaan and Warwick University identified that the diverse cultural landscape of Slough may result in people affected by domestic abuse experiencing multiple barriers in accessing support. These barriers may contribute and compound secondary abuse. Culture can be used as an excuse to collude with abuse. The current financial landscape requires the development and enhancement of community led responses to domestic abuse within Slough. The effects of domestic abuse have long term impact on the wellbeing and development of children throughout early and later life. Coercive control is often prevalent and disguised. It can be as damaging as physical violence, harder to recognise, and as a result more difficult to respond to. There are multiple offenders who have repeatedly abused both the same victim and different victims.
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The Slough Response

<p>Education & Awareness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Slough will build resilience within the community, educating residents, schools, politicians, and practitioners, on abuse and harmful practices, and how to access services and support. 	<p>Provision of Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Slough will ensure victims of domestic abuse and their families have access to appropriate services, according to their needs. 	<p>Community & Partnership Working</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multiagency partners, both statutory and voluntary, will work together to ensure effective information sharing, provision of service, awareness raising, and consistent processes and procedures. Multiagency partners will work with the community of Slough to develop and enhance community based responses to domestic abuse and the wider VAWG+ agenda. 	<p>Changing the Behaviour of Perpetrators</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Slough will hold domestic abuse perpetrators to account through positive police intervention, prosecutions where appropriate and possible, perpetrator programmes, and signposting to support agencies. Victim safety will be at the centre of any activity undertaken.
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Developing a Violence Taskforce in Slough



HM Government

Serious Violence Strategy

April 2018

Page 35

In July 2019, the Government announced a new legal duty on public bodies to prevent and tackle serious violence. The new 'public health duty' covers the police, local councils, local health bodies such as NHS Trusts, education representatives and youth offending services. This is to ensure that these services work together to share data, intelligence and knowledge, to understand and address the root causes of serious violence, including knife crime. The challenge of serious violence is not a law enforcement issue alone, communities and local partnerships are at the centre of the response.

Local Strategy

Safer Slough Partnership Serious Violence Strategy

Highlights from the National Serious Violence Strategy

<p>Early intervention + prevention</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building resilience • Supporting positive alternatives • Timely interventions • Trauma based approaches 	<p>Effective law enforcement and criminal justice response</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tackling knife crime • Stop and Search • Weapons sweep operations • Test purchases • Victims Strategy and code • Support for victims in court 	<p>Supporting communities and local partnerships</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CSPs to take a leadership role • Knife crime awareness programmes • Develop a local understanding of youth violence and produce assessments • Building Resilience to violence in local Communities 	<p>County Lines and Drugs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raise Awareness of county lines (Public and Professionals) • Update education guidance • Address specific threats and challenges • Focus on Drug treatment and testing on arrest
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The Local Problem Profile – what we know

- The environment can impact negatively on young people (the built environment, town centre and parks) leading to a lack of connection and belonging.
- Young people are at greater risk from family association and can suffer negatively from peer associations, leading them to adopt those behaviours.
- Social Media provides a platform to disseminate negative information, increasing fear and impacting on perceptions.
- Exclusion and missing from mainstream education greatly increases involvement in gangs and serious violence.
- The age of gang membership has reduced with younger children now involved in gangs behaviour.
- The perception among young people is that Knife carrying is a reality; motivated out of fear.
- Slough needs a culture where everyone recognises their role in tackling serious violence, including challenging thresholds and gaps in services.



The Slough response

<p>Prevention</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build resilience and support education in schools and wider communities to raise awareness. • Create, promote and communicate a positive view of our town. 	<p>Early intervention</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young people are identified and receive an effective intervention at the earliest opportunity to stop them becoming involved in gangs and serious violence. 	<p>Enforcement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knife crime and County Lines and related criminality will be tackled robustly. 	<p>Reactive intervention</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People already involved in gangs, County Lines activity and those committing serious violence will receive the right intervention at the right time.
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Slough Violence Taskforce

Key Objectives of the Slough Violence Taskforce

- Provide a multi-agency co-ordinated approach to address serious violence in Slough
- Coordinate the collation of evidence to ensure informed decision making
- Identify root causes and drivers of serious violence to ensure the development of evidence based interventions, which achieve long term sustainable solutions
- Perform a needs assessment of gaps in service capacity and provisions
- Monitor the impact and value of deliverables under the local strategy, to ensure the best response for Slough is achieved, ensuring a safer community
- Identify work streams and deliverable under the local serious violence strategy
- Facilitate the exchange of knowledge, information, and best practice in relation to serious violence
- Support evidence based policy making in relation to serious violence



Serious Violence Taskforce – Purpose

Slough Violence Taskforce

To provide a multi-agency, co-ordinated approach to address the issue of serious violence in Slough

Data & Insight

Understand and identify root causes & key issues around involvement in violence

Identify available and missing data

Understand barriers to (and ways to improve) data sharing

All of the above will be used to support and inform the work of the violence reduction interventions group

Violence Reduction Interventions

Map the current 'Slough Offer' and gaps in provision

Identify and implement interventions that tackle the root causes of violence

Identify long-term, sustainable solutions

Work with partners & the community to build resources that exist

Develop a case management process

Communications

Reassure residents that the taskforce is working together to tackle violence in our town

Identify & develop innovative methods to communicate with our Slough communities

Inform the community of the activities of the violence reduction interventions group

Explore innovative methods for encouraging behavioural change

Supporting Resources & Funding

Early Intervention Youth Fund

Surge Funding (£1.9 million across Thames Valley)

Violence Reduction Unit Fund (£1.16million across Thames Valley)

The Early Intervention Youth Fund delivering a four tiered programme of work aiming to prevent young people being exploited into violence and offending through gangs and County Lines drug dealing. Work ranges from broad reach awareness raising in schools to targeted intervention with young people already involved in gangs and knife crime.

Funding has been split, between centrally and locally funded interventions/ purchases. Locally, spend plan proposals include programmes diverting children at risk of becoming involved in knife crime and gangs, increased CCTV, a communications campaign, and support of the Choices Programme, to help children to identify threat and risk, and make good choices that keep them safe.

Funding is being split between strategic activity to support the development of a Thames Valley wide Violence Reduction Unit and on the ground delivery. Spending being considered includes; pilots in trauma intervention in custody, custody coaches, drug diversion, engagement events with community groups and stakeholders, work with Microsoft on Information Sharing etc.

More details to be released shortly.

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SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Neighbourhoods and Community Services Scrutiny Panel

DATE: 27th February 2020

CONTACT OFFICER: Difaf Sharba, Policy Insight Analyst
(For all Enquiries) (01753) 875411

WARDS: All

PART I
FOR COMMENT AND CONSIDERATION

NEIGHBOURHOODS & COMMUNITY SERVICES SCRUTINY PANEL
2019/20 WORK PROGRAMME

1. **Purpose of Report**

For the Neighbourhoods and Community Services Scrutiny Panel (NCS Scrutiny Panel) to discuss its work programme for 2019-20.

2. **Recommendations/Proposed Action**

That the panel review the work programme and potential items listed for inclusion.

3. **The Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy, the JSNA and the Five Year Plan**

3.1 The Council's decision-making and the effective scrutiny of it underpins the delivery of all the Joint Slough Wellbeing Strategy priorities. The NCS Scrutiny 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 The work of the NCS Scrutiny Panel also reflects the priorities of the Five Year Plan, in particular the following:

- Our residents will have access to good quality homes

3.3 In particular, the NCS Scrutiny 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 Scrutiny 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**

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

6. **Appendix Attached**

A - Work Programme for 2019/20 Municipal Year

7. **Background Papers**

None.

Neighbourhood and Community Services Scrutiny Panel Work Programme - 2019/20

Task & finish group	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food Poverty Task & Finish Group 	
Meeting Date	
17 March 2020	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highways parking in Slough • Impact of the proposed changes to the layout of the A4 and junctions off it at Brands Hill, Colnbrook • Housing Strategy 	
1 April 2020	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing Services Scrutiny Indicators • Osborne <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Missed appointments (including missed appointments by residents in the report back on performance with regard to missed performance) ➤ Voids Update (including length of voids) ➤ Non contractual routine repairs ➤ Rechargeable repairs ➤ % target for appointments kept (emergency and urgent) in a different visual to being based on volume as at present ➤ Asbestos: Details of the contractors / analysts undertaking surveys and asbestos removal 	

To be programmed:

- Key Worker Housing Update (information only) – To be rescheduled
- The Home Improvement Agency - findings of the review – To be rescheduled
- Housing allocation policy
- Homelessness prevention strategy
- Rough sleeper action plan
- Licensing of Houses in Multiple Occupation update (October 2020)
- IMD 2019 (2020/2021)

MEMBERS' ATTENDANCE RECORD

NEIGHBOURHOODS & COMMUNITY SERVICES SCRUTINY PANEL 2019 – 20

COUNCILLOR	MEETING DATES							
	24/06/2019	05/09/2019	31/10/2019	28/11/2019	14/01/2020	27/02/2020	17/03/2020 (extraordinary meeting)	01/04/2020
M. Holledge	Ab	Ab	P	P	P			
Gahir	P	P*	P	P	P			
S Parmar	P	P	P	P	P			
Plenty	P	P	P	P	P			
Ajaib	P	Ap	P	P	P			
Matloob	P	P	P	P	P*			
Hulme	Ap	P	P	P	P			
Minhas	P	P*	P	Ap	P			
Wright	P	P	Ap	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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