

ASHFIELD DISTRICT COUNCIL



Council Offices,
Urban Road,
Kirkby in Ashfield
Nottingham
NG17 8DA

Agenda

Cabinet

Date: **Monday, 24th June, 2019**

Time: **10.00 am**

Venue: **Council Chamber, Council Offices, Urban Road,
Kirkby-in-Ashfield**

For any further information please contact:

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01623 457316

CABINET

Membership

Chairman:

Councillor Jason Zadrozny

Councillors:

Tom Hollis
Helen-Ann Smith
Samantha Deakin
David Martin
Daniel Williamson

John Wilmott
Kier Barsby
David Hennigan
Matthew Relf

FILMING/AUDIO RECORDING NOTICE

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SUMMONS

You are hereby requested to attend a meeting of the Cabinet to be held at the time/place and on the date mentioned above for the purpose of transacting the business set out below.



R. Mitchell
Chief Executive

AGENDA

Page

1. To receive apologies for absence, if any.
2. **Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary or Personal Interests and Non Disclosable Pecuniary/Other Interests.**
3. **To receive and approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 11 March 2019** 5 - 12
4. **Overview and Scrutiny: Crime and Disorder Recommendations** 13 - 20
5. **Ashfield Community Partnership Strategic Plan** 21 - 124
Key Decision
Portfolio Holder for Community Safety – Councillor Daniel Williamson
6. **Homelessness Shared Service** 125 - 128
Key Decision
Portfolio Holder for Housing – Councillor Kier Barsby
7. **Budget - Draft Outturn 2018/19** 129 - 142
Non-Key Decision
Portfolio Holder for Finance – Councillor David Martin
8. **Procurement Strategy** 143 - 172
Non-Key Decision
Portfolio Holder for Finance – Councillor David Martin

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CABINET

Meeting held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Urban Road, Kirkby-in-Ashfield,

on Monday, 11th March, 2019 at 10.00 am

Present: Councillor Jason Zadrozny in the Chair;

Councillors Christian Chapman, Tom Hollis,
Robert Sears-Piccavey, Helen-Ann Smith and
John Wilmott.

Officers Present: Craig Bonar, Lynn Cain, Julie Clayton,
Carol Cooper-Smith, Ruth Dennis, Aimee Dobb,
Katherine Green, Peter Hudson, Mike Joy,
Theresa Hodgkinson, Robert Mitchell, Neil Oxby,
Paul Parkinson and Shane Wright.

In Attendance: Councillor Matthew Relf.

Richard Knight, Sue Knight and Maureen
Newton (Hucknall Heritage Society).

Jamie Beckett, Dave Mackey, Chris Metcalf and
Sophie Wilmott (Sutton Community Academy).

CA.77 Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary or Personal Interests and Non Disclosable Pecuniary/Other Interests

No declarations of interest were made.

CA.78 Minutes

RESOLVED

that the minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 18th February, 2019 be received and approved as a correct record.

At this point in the proceedings and in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 4 (Order of Business), the Chairman proposed an amendment to the order of the business bringing items 6, 7 and 8 forward on the agenda. Having put the suggestion to Cabinet, all Members present consented to this course of action.

CA.79 Proposed Hucknall Conservation Area

The Interim Director of Place and Communities sought Cabinet's approval to designate the new Conservation Area in Hucknall Town Centre as outlined in the report. Intensive work had been undertaken to gather evidence to justify

the area being designated for its special architectural and historical interest and a public consultation exercise had been carried out which had garnered over 200 responses.

Members of the Hucknall Heritage Society, Richard Knight, Sue Knight and Maureen Newton addressed the Cabinet and informed Members that they had been campaigning tirelessly since 2004 to endeavour to halt any further demolition of historically important buildings in Hucknall and therefore greatly welcomed the Conservation Area proposals.

The Chairman took the opportunity to thank the Heritage Society for their hard work and ongoing commitment towards Hucknall Town Centre and reminded Cabinet that the Council was currently in discussions with the new owners of the former Byron Cinema regarding their exciting proposals for its refurbishment.

Members considered the alternative option of declining to designate the Hucknall Town Centre Conservation Area. However, the option would carry a risk that the architectural and historic character of the area would be eroded, or would continue to erode, and significant buildings and mature trees would be vulnerable to demolition or removal. Not designating could also undermine the distinct heritage and environmental quality of the area.

RESOLVED

that the designation of the Hucknall Town Centre Conservation Area be approved and implemented in accordance with legislative requirements.

Reasons:

Local Planning Authorities are under a duty to review whether any parts of their area should be designated as conservation areas. Officers in Development Management and Conservation teams have identified that the Town Centre of Hucknall is an area of special architectural and historical interest and justifies being designated as a Conservation Area. A public consultation has been held on the proposal and the majority of responses received by the Council were in support.

Designation would provide a planning control to enable the conservation and enhancement of the special historic and architectural interest of the defined area. Designation would also provide controls over the demolition of buildings and structures and the planning authority will be able to exercise greater control over the design of new buildings, structures and extensions. The designation would confer a level of protection for trees that are not currently protected.

CA.80 Sutton-in-Ashfield Town Centre Masterplan

The Interim Director for Place and Communities presented the results of the public consultation exercise for the Sutton Town Centre Spatial Masterplan. The Masterplan, if adopted, would provide a framework to enable the Town Centre to respond positively to future challenges and social changes including the protection of its architectural and focal places.

Chris Mackey, Sutton Community Academy Principal and two students, Sophie Wilmott and Jamie Beckett, thanked the Cabinet for their invite and spoke about the changing face of the Town Centre and possible solutions for improving it as a destination in future years. Cabinet were impressed with the suggestions and expressed a desire to meet with students again to discuss ideas in more detail.

Chris Metcalf, the Academy's Sports Centre Manager and Treasurer of the Sutton Town Centre Group, spoke about his ongoing commitment towards long term community development to enable future opportunities for children, families and businesses alike. The Sutton Town Centre Group were also active with local businesses and were due to meet for a business breakfast during April 2019.

Members considered the alternative option of declining to adopt the Masterplan but this was not recommended as the Masterplan was needed to futureproof the town centre and provide a framework for investment and development.

On conclusion of the discussion, the Leader thanked Sutton Community Academy for taking the time out to attend the Cabinet meeting and reiterated his desire to continue to develop a productive and rewarding dialogue between both organisations.

RESOLVED that

- a) the representations made to the draft Sutton Town Centre Spatial Masterplan and its accompanying paper 'Sutton Town Centre – Rethink, Repurpose, Remake' be noted and the proposed changes identified in the Consultation Statement be approved;
- b) the Sutton Town Centre Spatial Masterplan document be adopted as a basis for future action in Sutton Town Centre;
- c) authority be delegated to the Interim Director of Place and Communities, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to make any minor changes to the Masterplan prior to publication;
- d) authority be delegated to the Interim Director of Place and Communities, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to produce an action plan.

Reasons:

1. To provide a framework which will allow Sutton Town Centre to respond positively to the economic and social changes in the area.
2. To provide a framework for future private and public investment in Sutton Town Centre.
3. To inform decisions in the emerging Local Plan.

CA.81 Approval to Submit Expression of Interest for the Future High Street Fund

The Interim Director of Place and Communities requested approval to submit an initial Expression of Interest to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, for the Government's Future High Streets Fund for Sutton Town Centre (by the deadline of 22nd March, 2019.)

It was announced in the New Year that the Future High Streets Fund would be offering £675m to District and City Councils to enable them to invest in their town centres and make them fit for the future and resistant to change. The Fund would be looking for local authority bids that can show a greater range of uses to add vibrancy to their town centres e.g. residential, leisure, commercial, events and culture.

Cabinet acknowledged that the Sutton Town Centre Masterplan had come at a good time and would influence the shape and development of the bid. However, caution was exercised as it was accepted that there would be an extremely competitive process taking place for access to the funding.

Members also discussed the additional Stronger Town Funding which was due to be distributed through the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) and the ongoing need for representatives to speak up for Ashfield and endeavour to secure its rightful share of any funding available.

Members considered the alternative option of declining to submit an Expression of Interest for the Future High Streets Fund but acknowledged that any opportunity to apply for Government funding for Sutton in Ashfield would be ultimately lost.

RESOLVED that

- a) an Expression of Interest for the Government's Future High Streets Fund be submitted in respect of Sutton in Ashfield Town Centre by the deadline of 22nd March, 2019;
- b) authority be delegated to the Interim Director of Place and Communities, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, for the dispatch of the Expression of Interest as appropriate;
- c) authority be also delegated to the Interim Director of Place and Communities, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to commission appropriate expert support for the bid if required.

Reason:

Approval is required from Cabinet to permit the Council to submit an Expression of Interest bid to the Government's Future High Streets Fund by the deadline of 22nd March, 2019.

(During consideration of this item, Councillor Tom Hollis left the room at 11.15 a.m. and returned to the meeting at 11.17 a.m.)

CA.82 Scrutiny Consideration of CCTV

The Service Manager for Scrutiny and Democratic Services presented the recommendations from Scrutiny Panel B in relation to the Council's CCTV provision and its impact within the communities of Ashfield.

Two visits had been made to the CCTV Control Room at Sherwood Lodge to view both daytime and night-time operations and an informal Working Group meeting had taken place with representatives from Planning, Licensing, Communications, Community Safety, Commercial Development and the Police to further consider key lines of enquiry that had emerged from earlier Panel discussions.

It was acknowledged through the informal Working Group that any commercial development opportunities were not available at the present time and that the Council could better utilise its communications team to raise awareness of the Council's CCTV provision and improve the public's perception of its remit and benefits.

Cabinet were also informed that Panel Members had raised concerns that the out-of-hours call handling service, as facilitated by the Sherwood Lodge Control Room, could be better managed to enable the Operatives to spend less time responding to non-urgent calls and more time monitoring CCTV. The Control Room handled around 3,000 out-of-hours calls for the Council in 2018 and although many calls were pertinent, the majority concerned non-CCTV related issues such as Council Tax enquiries and repairs thus diverting staff on numerous occasions from their main duties.

The Chairman took the opportunity to thank the Service Manager for Scrutiny and Democratic Services and the Scrutiny Research and Support Officer for their detailed, informative report and reiterated the Council's commitment towards the ongoing delivery of an effective and responsive CCTV provision.

RESOLVED that

- a) an investigation into the cost and benefits of upgrading cameras located on the Council's parks to incorporate HD/infra-red capabilities and to continue exploring new advances in camera technology (both mobile and fixed), be approved;
- b) an evaluation exercise be undertaken without delay to consider the relocation of the three cameras identified within the report as being underperforming;
- c) public awareness of the Council's CCTV provision be enhanced via all available platforms including social media, website and press releases;
- d) an ongoing commitment be secured towards increasing collaboration with the Police and gaining more analytical support from them as required;
- e) the feasibility and benefits of installing a call filtering system at the Sherwood Lodge Control Room to facilitate more time monitoring cameras and responding to relevant issues rather than answering a diverse range of non-urgent out-of-hours calls, be explored;

- f) further work be undertaken to enhancing the CPO work tasking programme based on real time CCTV evidence as reported, thus ensuring the correct level of enforcement capabilities are primarily available at any required point of need;
- g) the conclusions of the additional review of locations and camera upgrades be reported back to Scrutiny Panel B in due course.

Reason:

Consideration of Ashfield District Council's CCTV scheme was added to the Scrutiny Workplan in September 2017 for review.

(During consideration of this item, Councillor Robert Sears-Piccavey left the room at 11.24 a.m. and returned to the meeting at 11.26 a.m. Councillor Christian Chapman also left the meeting at 11.35 a.m.)

CA.83 Scrutiny Consideration of Unauthorised Encampment Protocol

The Leader introduced the report and the recommendations made by Scrutiny Panel A with regard to its review of the draft Ashfield District Council Unauthorised Encampments Protocol. The Panel had recommended, following the review, that the Council should take a more conciliatory stance towards dealing with unauthorised encampments with an emphasis on negotiation rather than enforcement action.

Having considered the report in detail, the Leader informed the Cabinet that he did not fully concur with this methodology and was of the belief that a dual approach to tackling the issue (both negotiation and enforcement running alongside each other) would be far more effective. Cabinet concurred with this course of action and felt that recommendations 1 to 4 should just be noted at this stage.

The Leader continued by giving a brief overview of the challenges and difficulties that were faced by the Council in 2018 when they were forced to deal with two unauthorised encampments on a Council owned park and football pitch. The costs of the clean-up were significant and tensions were running very high within the local communities and many residents felt fearful.

It was agreed at that time that the Council needed to take a tough stance to address the issues and this involved swift enforcement action to ensure the matters was resolved without delay. The Leader also commented that he felt the draft Unauthorised Encampments Protocol should be allowed to acclimatise for at least a year before it came forward for further review.

The Scrutiny Research and Support Officer gave a synopsis of the Panel's investigations and the subsequent Members' view that swift enforcement action without any prior negotiation consistently compounded the problems associated with unauthorised encampments and made matters ultimately worse. The Rural Community Action Nottinghamshire representative who attended a meeting of the Panel also concurred with this view and felt that negotiation prior to any enforcement action was preferable.

However, the Leader and all present at the meeting acknowledged that the review had generated some interesting and constructive debate and it had spotlighted an important issue for the Council. Mature cross-party debate had been welcomed and the Panel A Members and Scrutiny Officers were thanked once again for their contribution.

RESOLVED that

- a) recommendations 1 to 4 (outlined below), as submitted by Scrutiny Panel A, be received and noted at this present time:
- *the Protocol be amended to include two potential processes for dealing with Unauthorised Encampments; the primary approach focussing on negotiation, and the secondary approach focussing on enforcement action;*
 - *Officers be given the appropriate delegation to use their professional judgement and expertise, along with set criteria, to assess which process to utilise on a case by case basis;*
 - *the possibility of utilising the services of external delivery partners such as Rural Community Action Nottinghamshire via Service Level Agreements in supporting the actions of the Council to negotiate with the occupiers of unauthorised encampments be considered;*
 - *Officers continue to enhance their work with North Nottinghamshire Travellers Group to ensure effective and constructive collaboration between the member Councils in identifying further sites within the County;*
- b) it be agreed that the Unauthorised Encampment Protocol be reviewed in order to assess its effectiveness after one full year of operation;
- c) officers be thanked for their work in drafting the revised Unauthorised Encampment Protocol.

Reason:

Consideration of the draft Unauthorised Encampment Protocol was added to the Scrutiny Workplan in October 2018.

CA.84 Budget Monitoring (position to end of January 2019)

The Cabinet Member (Inward) presented the report which detailed the current 2018/19 forecast outturn position for the General Fund, HRA and Capital Programme based on actual expenditure and income to the end of January 2019 and forecast income and expenditure to the end of March 2019. It was noted that it would be the last budget monitoring report to Cabinet until the 2018/19 outturn report in July 2019.

Cabinet were asked to note that the valuation of a £707k, outlined in the first recommendation on page 137 of the report, was a typing error and should in fact read £662k.

Due to the fact that the report was for information only, Members did not have any alternative options to consider.

RESOLVED that

- a) the forecasted variances against revised budgets for the General Fund (underspend of £662k) and Housing Revenue Account (underspend of £188k), be noted;
- b) the planned use of £317k of Returned Business Rates from the Nottinghamshire Pool and £59k Business Rates Returned Levy from Central Government to support the 2019/20 General Fund Budget, be noted;
- c) the 2018/19 Revenue Outturn position which may further improve dependent upon the timing of Capital Receipts and their use in accordance with the Capital Receipts Flexibility Strategy, as approved by Council in October 2018, be noted;
- d) the significant forecast under-spend in the Legal and Governance Directorate which includes the financial impact of the Alliance Healthcare court case being settled, be noted.

Reason:

To report to those charged with Governance the financial position to January 2019 and comply with the Council's Financial Regulations.

(During consideration of this item, Councillor Helen-Ann Smith left the room at 12.00 noon and returned to the meeting at 12.05 p.m.)

The meeting closed at 12.06 pm

Chairman.

Report To:	CABINET	Date:	24 JUNE 2019
Heading:	OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY: CRIME AND DISORDER RECOMMENDATIONS		
Portfolio Holder:	PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR COMMUNITY SAFETY – COUNCILLOR DANIEL WILLIAMSON		
Ward/s:	ALL		
Key Decision:	NO		
Subject to Call-In:	NO		

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to present the recommendations resulting from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Crime and Disorder meeting that took place on 12 March 2019.

The meeting focussed on anti-social behaviour in Ashfield and included representation from Nottinghamshire Police, the Council's Community Safety and Housing Teams, as well as a charitable organisation providing support to adults, children, young people, and families.

Recommendation(s)

Cabinet is recommended to:

- a) consider the possibility of engaging a dedicated Mental Health Worker within the Complex Case Team should any additional funding become available
- b) having acknowledged the benefits of restorative justice, to consider its application on a wider basis and to focus on the rehabilitation of anti-social behaviour offenders through reconciliation with victims and local communities
- c) the Community Safety Team be requested to endeavour to capture additional anecdotal evidence from professionals and regular visitors to the courts to enable any ASB issues to be addressed more efficiently

Reasons for Recommendation(s)

To provide Cabinet with the considerations and recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee following its extraordinary meeting to consider crime and disorder in Ashfield.

Alternative Options Considered

None.

Detailed Information

Ashfield District Council's Community Safety Service

The Council's Community Safety Service consists of three core areas; Complex Case, Community Protection, and ASB and Nuisance. All of these three core areas play a pivotal role in addressing, preventing, and reducing anti-social behaviour across the District. Additional responsibilities of the Community Safety Service include CCTV, domestic abuse, and safeguarding.

Complex Case Team

The Complex Case Team focus on complex individuals who appear in crisis with multiple support needs. The Complex Case Team act as a single point of contact for the individual providing assistance with a range of issues including:

- Housing
- Finances
- Crime
- Employment
- Health
- Domestic abuse
- Drug misuse

Improving the quality of life for residents in Ashfield is central to the work of the Complex Case Team.

Community Protection Service

Community Protection Officers undertake a problem solving approach to tackle on-street anti-social behaviour, environmental, and nuisance related issues which affect the quality of life of residents in Ashfield. The Community Protection Service utilises high visibility patrols, resident engagement, proactive challenge, and preventative action.

Community Protection Officers follow a patrol plan including schools, parks, town centres, and estates, focussing on the areas which evidence the greatest levels of need. Situational demands are received and responded to accordingly. Operational hours for the Community Protection Service are typically between 08.00 to 22.00, seven days a week.

The Community Protection Service works collaboratively with the Police to undertake joint patrols in response to hotspot locations. Key areas of focus during joint patrols include; underage drinking, alcohol related anti-social behaviour, nuisance vehicles, and littering. The Community Protection Service also provides intelligence to key partners, including the Police and ASB and Nuisance Caseworkers when suitable.

ASB and Nuisance Caseworkers

ASB and Nuisance Caseworkers are the Council's most direct resource in addressing anti-social behaviour reports from residents. Caseworkers respond to issues and complaints raised by residents and seek to prevent reoccurrences of anti-social behaviour.

ASB and Nuisance Caseworkers respond to a variety of issues, including:

- Noise
- Fires
- Waste
- Abusive language

In response to the above issues, ASB and Nuisance Caseworkers utilise all available options, from early interventions to prosecution.

Anti-Social Behaviour Action

A wide variety of actions can be utilised in response to anti-social behaviour in Ashfield, including:

- Mediation
- Acceptable Behaviour Contracts
- Community Based Restorative Justice
- Verbal and Written Warnings
- Community Protection Notices
- Civil Injunctions
- Public Space Protection Orders
- Criminal Behaviour Orders
- Notice of Seeking Possession
- Fixed Penalty Notices

Overview and Scrutiny: Crime and Disorder Meeting

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is legislatively required to scrutinise crime and disorder issues through the Police and Justice Act 2006.

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Crime and Disorder Meeting took place on 12 March, 2019. Set by the previous Chair of the Committee, the meeting centred on anti-social behaviour in Ashfield, and more specifically on the following points:

- Anti-social behaviour issues in Ashfield
- Anti-social behaviour issues nationally
- Action taken against anti-social behaviour in Ashfield

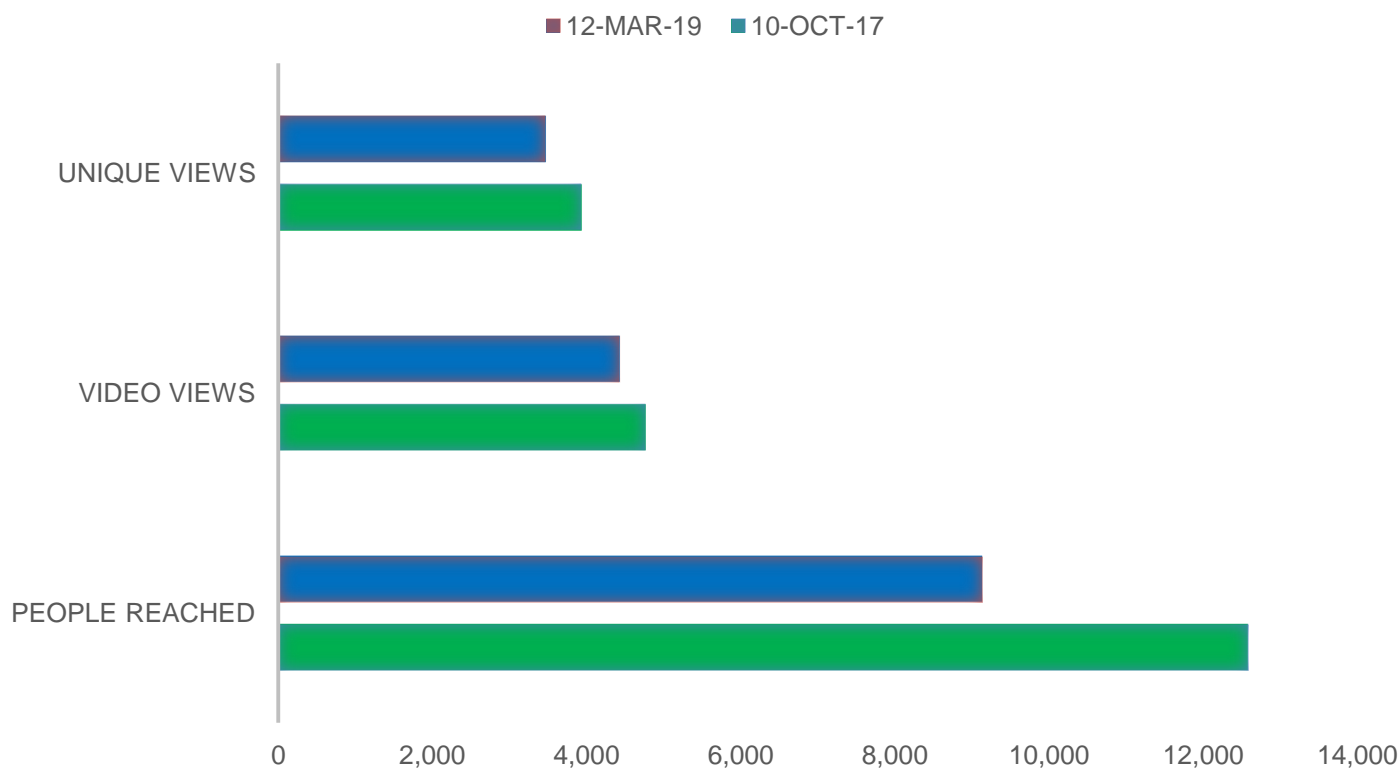
The meeting featured a presentation from the Council's Community Safety Service and from the Nottinghamshire Police Area Inspector for Ashfield. Following the presentations, the meeting was opened up for discussion and followed a question and answer format for Members in attendance and the public through Facebook Live and Twitter.

Full details of the Overview and Scrutiny: Crime and Disorder Meeting, including the agenda and minutes, can be found [here](#).

Following the success of livestreaming the 10 October 2017 Crime and Disorder meeting, the 12 March 2019 meeting featured real-time questions and was streamed via Facebook Live.

The following statistics have been gathered regarding the meeting:

CRIME AND DISORDER VIEWERSHIP STATISTICS



	2017 Meeting	2019 Meeting
Peak Live Viewers	47	61
Top Audience	Men, aged 45 - 54	Men, aged 45 - 54
Likes	33	37
Shares	14	26
Comments	155	158

Initially, the above figures indicate a decline in public engagement in the Crime and Disorder meeting compared to 2017. However, real-time engagement increased through submitted questions from viewers along with more comments, shares, and peak live viewers.

Additionally, the 2017 Crime and Disorder took place during Local Democracy Week, which led to an increased focus on community engagement, and also formed part of a package of wider engagement initiatives to promote local democracy. Due to mitigating factors, the 2019 meeting took place later than previous years, therefore missing Local Democracy Week.

The livestreaming and live tweeting of Crime and Disorder meetings has been hugely successful in engaging members of the public in the Council’s scrutiny function on a scale that is not otherwise experienced. Real-time questions from viewers have been instrumental in improving engagement and discussion at scrutiny meetings.

In addition, engagement was also sought from Nottinghamshire County Council Youth Forum. The Youth Forum submitted a series of questions for consideration, many of which were asked at the meeting and discussed by the Committee and invited speakers.

Recommendations:

At the conclusion of the Crime and Disorder meeting, and having considered all information presented during the meeting, Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed upon three final recommendations to present to Cabinet.

Mental Health Worker

To consider the possibility of engaging a dedicated Mental Health Worker within the Complex Case Team, should any additional funding become available.

At the Crime and Disorder Meeting, the Complex Case Team Leader addressed the Committee and gave a brief overview of the work the Complex Case Team does regarding anti-social behaviour. The Complex Case Team Leader stressed to Members that mental health issues are often at the forefront of issues faced by the people they support.

In response to this, Committee Members were keen to ensure the Council has adequate provision to deal with mental health issues faced by the people supported through the Complex Case Team. This recommendation is to explore the possibility of acquiring additional funding to support this need.

Restorative Justice

Having acknowledged the benefits of restorative justice, to consider its application on a wider basis and to focus on the rehabilitation of anti-social behaviour offenders through reconciliation with victims and local communities.

Committee Members were keen to see the continued use of restorative justice in dealing with perpetrators of anti-social behaviour in Ashfield. The Committee highlighted the benefits restorative justice can bring to both victims and perpetrators.

Community Evidence Gathering

The Community Safety Team be requested to endeavour to capture additional anecdotal evidence from professionals and regular visitors to the courts to enable any ASB issues to be addressed more efficiently.

Through the previous Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, a local Care Worker was invited to speak at the Crime and Disorder Meeting to explain their first-hand experience in supporting patients suffering from anti-social behaviour. Having visited elderly patients in Ashfield, the Care Worker had experienced problems accessing homes due to drug use and people causing nuisance in entrances and stairways.

This recommendation is for the Council's Community Safety Service and its partners to ensure improved and more frequent communications with professionals supporting people who are also victims of anti-social behaviour. This recommendation is to ensure that issues raised to the Community Safety Service and its partners are recorded and responded to in a proactive and timely

manner. Furthermore, to also ensure that all partners have the most relevant and up to date information available.

Implications

Corporate Plan:

Communities and Environment:

- Ensure the foundations for a good quality of life are in place; reducing crime and anti-social behaviour, and facilitating cleaner and more attractive neighbourhoods
- Supporting young people to be optimistic and ambitious about their futures
- Work with our partners to ensure we deliver services centred on the needs of people and places, rather than existing teams, agencies, or institutions

Legal:

Officers in the Legal Team work closely with Council Officers and our partners when assessing the use of enforcement powers and then provide the necessary assistance and support when the decision has been made to proceed with formal legal proceedings.

Finance:

Budget Area	Implication
General Fund – Revenue Budget	None.
General Fund – Capital Programme	None.
Housing Revenue Account – Revenue Budget	None.
Housing Revenue Account – Capital Programme	None.

Risk:

Risk	Mitigation
The recommendations were put forward by the Committee in response to the risks identified at the extraordinary Crime and Disorder Meeting. These included concerns regarding Mental Health Support, Restorative Justice and Community Evidence Gathering.	The recommendations submitted aim to provide focus and consideration relating to the risks identified.

Human Resources:

There are no human resources implications identified in this report. Subject to funding being identified, it may lead to the recruitment of a Mental Health Worker.

Equalities:

The Community Safety Partners recognise that some types of anti-social behaviour affecting minority communities, such as BAME and LGBT, are often under reported and would be classified as Hate Crime in most instances. ADC is working with Nottinghamshire Police and representative groups to increase confidence and reporting of hate crimes.

Other Implications:

There are no other implications identified in this report.

Reason(s) for Urgency

None.

Reason(s) for Exemption

None.

Background Papers

None.

Report Author and Contact Officer

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Agenda Item 5



Report To:	CABINET	Date:	24 JUNE 2019
Heading:	ASHFIELD COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP - STRATEGIC PLAN 2019-2022 (NEW PLAN - 2019)		
Portfolio Holder:	PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR COMMUNITY SAFETY - COUNCILLOR DANIEL WILLIAMSON		
Ward/s:	ALL		
Key Decision:	YES		
Subject to Call-In:	YES		

Purpose of Report

To update Members regarding the rewrite of the Ashfield Community Partnership (ACP) Strategic Plan 2019-2022. It is a legal requirement that the Council develops, in conjunction with its partners, a strategy setting out how the various agencies will work together to address crime and disorder issues and improve quality of life for local residents.

The report asks Cabinet to consider the contents and recommend adoption of the refreshed strategy to Council.

Recommendation(s)

To recommend approval of the Ashfield Community Partnership Strategic Plan 2019-2022 to full Council.

Reasons for Recommendation(s)

The Crime and Disorder Act 1998, as amended, requires that every district has a Community Safety Partnership and an associated Strategic Plan in place.

Approval of the Ashfield Community Partnership Strategic Plan 2019-2022 will ensure legislative requirements are met.

Alternative Options Considered

(with reasons why not adopted)

Failure to approve the ACP Strategic Plan will breach legislative requirements for the Partnership to produce a rolling three-year strategic plan.

ACP is already working to the Strategic Plan and targeted activity is in operation.

Detailed Information

The Ashfield Community Partnership meets the statutory obligation arising from the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. The Partnership is responsible for compliance with the statutory duties set out in the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, Police Reform Act 2002, Police and Justice Act 2006 and Policing and Crime Act 2009.

The specified responsible authorities in the Partnership are:

- Ashfield District Council
- Nottinghamshire Police and Nottinghamshire Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner
- Nottinghamshire County Council
- Nottinghamshire Fire & Rescue Authority
- Ashfield and Mansfield Clinical Commissioning Group
- Nottinghamshire Probation Trust
- The Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire and Rutland Community Rehabilitation Company Limited

There is a requirement for all Community Safety Partnerships to produce three year Strategic Plans which contain information about how the Partnership will address crime and disorder, substance misuse, antisocial behaviour and reduce re-offending. Plans are reviewed and updated annually in line with a Strategic Assessment.

The plan recommends the following priorities for the Ashfield Community Safety Partnership for the following three years:

- Anti-social behaviour
- Vulnerable people
- Domestic Abuse
- Violence
- Integrated working

The **Integrated Partnership Hub** has seen the co-location of both the Nottinghamshire Police Safer Neighbourhood Team and a contingent of the Police Response Teams. This has both strengthened partnership activity and provided greater community reassurance.

Whilst a number of partners now utilise the shared space in the hub the partnership is particularly keen to encourage greater engagement with health and children's services.

A core principle identified by the partners is a commitment to community engagement and empowerment to ensure that communities have a greater involvement in the work undertaken by the partnership.

The Strategic Plan outlines how the various agencies will work together to improve the quality of life for local residents through improved community involvement and integrated partnership working.

The previous strategic plan did not reflect the current demands being placed upon partners and therefore it has been completely rewritten.

A period of community consultation was undertaken using a digital survey and face to face engagement at various community events. The results of this consultation are contained within the separate Community Engagement report.

The draft Ashfield CP strategy was considered and recommended for approval to Cabinet at the Ashfield and Mansfield Strategic Group meeting on 18th April 2019.

Throughout February and March 2019 the strategic plan has been shared with strategic partners for comments and consideration and the reporting officer has met personally to discuss the plan with representatives from key partners.

Implications

Corporate Plan:

The Ashfield Community Partnership Strategic Plan 2019-2022 is aligned to the current corporate Priorities under the Place and Communities theme:

- Targeting Resources to reduce crime and disorder
- Placing Communities at the Heart of Decision making
- Changing the way we work and deliver services
- Tailoring services to local areas

It is highly likely that the new Corporate Plan will align well with the Ashfield Community Partnership Strategic Plan given known political priorities the shared evidence base and professional input.

Legal:

Adoption of the Strategic Plan will ensure the Council complies with statutory requirements, as set out in the report. The Strategic Plan is part of the Policy Framework, as defined in the Constitution, and as such falls to Council for approval.

Finance:

Budget Area	Implication
General Fund – Revenue Budget	None
General Fund – Capital Programme	None
Housing Revenue Account – Revenue Budget	None
Housing Revenue Account – Capital Programme	None

Risk:

Risk	Mitigation
Failure to approve the ACP Strategic Plan will breach legislative requirements for the Partnership to produce a rolling three-year strategic plan.	n/a

Human Resources:

No impact upon employees or their terms and conditions of employment.

Equality issues cut across all themes of this strategy, ranging from communication and engagement with the community, empowerment, domestic violence and socio-economic influences that impact crime and disorder. It is recommended that facets of the strategy are periodically assessed for their equality impact and reviewed accordingly.

Equalities:

(to be completed by the author)

This report will not have any positive or negative impacts on people in any of the groups of protected characteristics.

Other Implications:

(if applicable)

N/A

Reason(s) for Urgency

(if applicable)

Reason(s) for Exemption

(if applicable)

Background Papers

(if applicable)

- 1) Ashfield Community Partnership Strategic Assessment 2019.
- 2) Ashfield Community Partnership Community Consultation 2019

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acp

Ashfield

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

STRATEGIC PLAN

2019-2022



NOTTINGHAMSHIRE
Fire & Rescue Service
Creating Safer Communities



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FOREWARD:



Rob Mitchell
Chair of Ashfield
Community
Partnership



Jason Zadrozny
Leader of
Ashfield District
Council

PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS IS A DRAFT DOCUMENT AND IS BASED ON THE CURRENT POLITICAL STRUCTURE AT THE TIME OF WRITING.

IT WILL BE AMENDED PRIOR TO PUBLICATION.





OUR VISION:

“Making our communities safer and our residents feel safer.”



What is Ashfield Community Partnership?

The Ashfield Community Safety Partnership is a multi-agency body responsible for tackling and addressing crime and disorder in Ashfield. The Partnership is made up of a number of statutory and non-statutory agencies including:-

- Nottinghamshire Police
- Nottinghamshire Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner
- Ashfield District Council
- Nottinghamshire County Council
- Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service
- Ashfield and Mansfield Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)
- Nottinghamshire Probation Trust
- The Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire and Rutland Community Rehabilitation Company Limited
- The business community
- Voluntary sector organisations
- Residents/Community



The Strategic Plan:

The Ashfield Community Partnership Strategic Plan 2019 - 2022 is a three year rolling document, which identifies how the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) plans to tackle local community safety issues that matter to the local community.

The plan is revised annually through reviewing information set out in the Community Safety Strategic Assessment and from information obtained from the annual community consultation which ensures that current issues are taken into account and used to direct the CSP's strategy and actions.

Strategic Assessment for 2019-2022.

Community Consultation Report 2018.

(Hyper links to be inserted when the documents are published on the website.)



Legal Framework and Government policy

Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) are a statutory feature of the network of partnerships that help to tackle crime and reduce reoffending and were set up under Sections 5-7 of the Crime & Disorder Act 1998.

Police and Crime Commissioner

We work very closely with the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) for Nottinghamshire who has an important statutory role in relation to Community Safety Partnerships. The current PCC for Nottinghamshire, Paddy Tipping, was elected for a second term in May 2016 and will remain in office for a period of four years.

The mutual duty of PCCs and Community Safety Partnerships is to cooperate, having regard to each other's priorities, as set out in the Police and Crime Plan (in the case of the PCC) and the strategic assessments (in the case of MCP). The Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner work with partners across community safety and criminal justice services to address policing and crime issues facing victims and citizens of Nottingham and Nottinghamshire. The Commissioner works with partners and funds community safety activity to tackle crime and disorder. Grants are also made available to relevant organisations for the reduction of crime and disorder.

The Police and Crime Commissioner also has a monitoring function and where a community safety partnership is not carrying out its duties effectively and efficiently the Commissioner can request a report from the responsible authorities on an issue of concern, if reasonable and proportionate to do so. He can also merge community safety partnerships with the consent of the authorities themselves.

The Commissioner has published his Police and Crime Plan 2018-2021 to reflect his commitment light of new and emerging priorities for policing. This is the latest version:

<https://www.nottinghamshire.pcc.police.uk/Document-Library/Public-Information/Police-and-Crime-Plan/New-Plan-2018-2021/Police-and-Crime-Plan-2018-2021.pdf>



In addition to the above, this Partnership Plan takes into consideration and aligns with the following legislation, strategies and policies:

Strategy/ Policy	How the Plan Aligns
Localism Act 2011	<p>This piece of Legislation gives a clear signal that local authorities must work with local communities and neighbourhoods to find solutions to problems in their area and places the community at the heart of decision making. It allows local authorities to work together with each other in new ways to drive down costs in designing and delivering services.</p>
Police and Crime Commissioner Plan	<p>The Police and Crime Plan sets out priorities and what is expected from the Commissioner, Chief Constable and agencies contributing to community safety over the coming years.</p> <p>Reducing crime depends on strong communities, active citizens and agencies that respond to public concerns. The Commissioner’s priorities will be achieved through strong partnership working, encouraging more volunteering and engagement with communities to support local crime prevention work and cut reoffending.</p>
Offender Rehabilitation Act 2014	<p>This Act was passed in March 2014 and ensures all offenders receive at least 12 months supervision in the community on release from custody. Crucially, this allows the Government and Community Safety Partnerships to begin tackling the unacceptably high reoffending rates within communities.</p>
Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014	<p>The Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 is the law that guides what agencies can do about anti-social behaviour.</p> <p>It made big changes to the way agencies deal with anti-social behaviour, providing better protection for victims and communities. The law sets out the following 6 tools for agencies: Injunction; Criminal Behaviour Order, Dispersal Powers; Community Protection Notices and Orders; Public Spaces Protection Orders; Closure of Premises.</p>

	<p>For LOCAL INVOLVEMENT and ACCOUNTABILITY, the 2014 Act also includes Community Remedy and the Community Trigger.</p> <p>The 'Community Trigger' is intended to tackle persistent ASB and places a duty on CSP's to act to resolve cases, if it determines that insufficient action has been taken.</p>
Nottinghamshire Families Outcomes Plan	<p>Describes the approach to eligibility, targeting and measuring outcomes under the second phase of the Government's Troubled Families Programme. The plan draws together strategic priorities from across a range of public services and what Nottinghamshire County Council and partner agencies aim to achieve with each family.</p>
Care Act 2014	<p>The Care Act helps to improve people's independence and wellbeing. ACP will analyse a rich data set to identify the communities within Ashfield that have the greatest need for support. We will cooperate as set out in the Care Act.</p>
Nottingham Fire and Rescue – Integrated Risk Management Plan 2014-2019	<p>This Service plan set out a number of key priorities for community safety partnerships.</p> <p>Priority 1: Service Delivery. Develop partnerships with other fire and rescue services and other agencies. Identify and support the most vulnerable in our society</p> <p>Priority 4: Engagements and Partnerships. Strengthen relationships with partners to protect the most 'at risk' people in our communities. Work with youth and educational services broadening prevention message to include anti-social behaviour and general well-being. Work in collaboration with Police and Criminal Justice Agencies to develop an approach to tackle youth anti-social behaviour, fire setting and arson.</p>
Nottinghamshire Prevent Strategy	<p>This strategy seeks to align public agencies behind a common goal of reducing demand. The Strategy articulates a desire to pilot new service delivery models within 3 areas of Nottinghamshire that suffer from stubbornly high levels of public service demand. One of the 3 pilot areas identified is the existing partnership plus area, Sutton East.</p>

<p>Safer Nottinghamshire Board Review and priorities</p>	<p>The current Safer Nottinghamshire Board priorities are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vulnerable People • Youth Crime Reduction • Modern Slavery • Domestic Abuse • New and Emerging Communities • Hate Crime • Crime in rural areas
<p>Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act (2004)</p> <p>Call to end Violence against Women and Girls (2010)</p>	<p>Domestic Homicide Reviews were established on a statutory basis under section 9 of the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act (2004). This provision came into force on 13th April 2011.</p> <p>Strategic governance for domestic violence and abuse links to the national 'Violence Against Women and Girls Agenda'. ACP has overall responsibility for conducting a review when a domestic homicide has occurred.</p> <p>These themes provide focus to the sector's work in encouraging victims to disclose the abuse and in the longer term reduce repeat victimisation</p>



Crime and Disorder

In the 12 months (October 2017 – September 2018), Nottinghamshire Police recorded 11354 offences in the Ashfield District. This is an increase of 17.51% (1692 offences) on the previous year.

	Current: Oct 2017- Sept 2018	Previous: Oct 2016-Sept 2017	Volume Change	%Change	Target
Total recorded crime	11354	9662	1692	17.51%	Reduce
Victim based crime	10181	8649	1532	17.71%	Reduce
Violence against the person	3439	2824	615	21.78%	Reduce
Sexual offences	381	373	8	2.14%	Reduce
Robbery	128	57	71	124.56%	Reduce
Burglary	952	1007	-55	-5.46%	Monitor
Vehicle offences	1102	922	180	19.52%	Reduce
Theft from person	53	28	25	89.29%	Reduce
Bicycle theft	142	100	42	42.00%	Reduce
Shoplifting	1320	868	452	52.07%	Reduce
Other theft	957	1082	-125	-11.55%	Monitor
Criminal damage and arson	1707	1388	303	22.98%	Reduce
Other crimes against society	1173	1013	160	15.79%	Reduce
Drug offences	177	180	-3	-1.67%	Monitor
Possession of weapons	84	67	17	25.37%	Reduce
Public order offences	654	592	62	10.47%	Reduce
Miscellaneous crimes against society	258	174	84	48.28%	Reduce
Anti-Social Behaviour	3582	3377	205	6.07%	Reduce

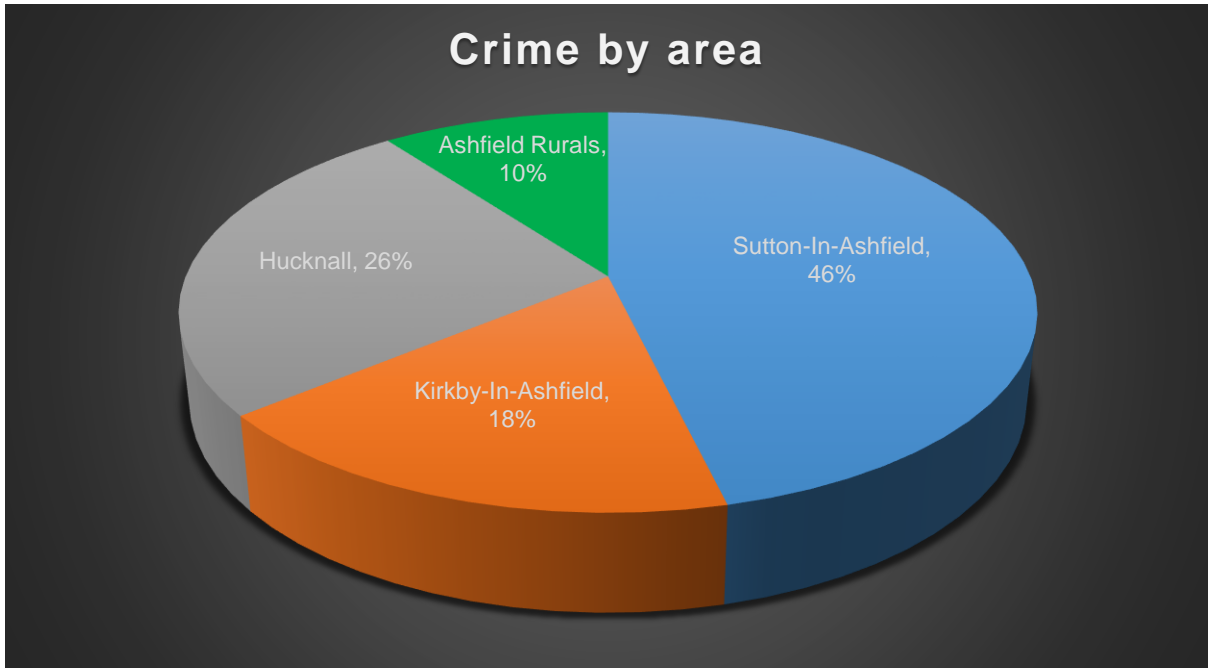
There is an increase in recorded crime of 17.51% (1692 offences) which can partly be attributed to a change in Police crime recording practices particularly around Violence Against the Person – 21.78% (615 offences).

Significant increases can be seen in the following:

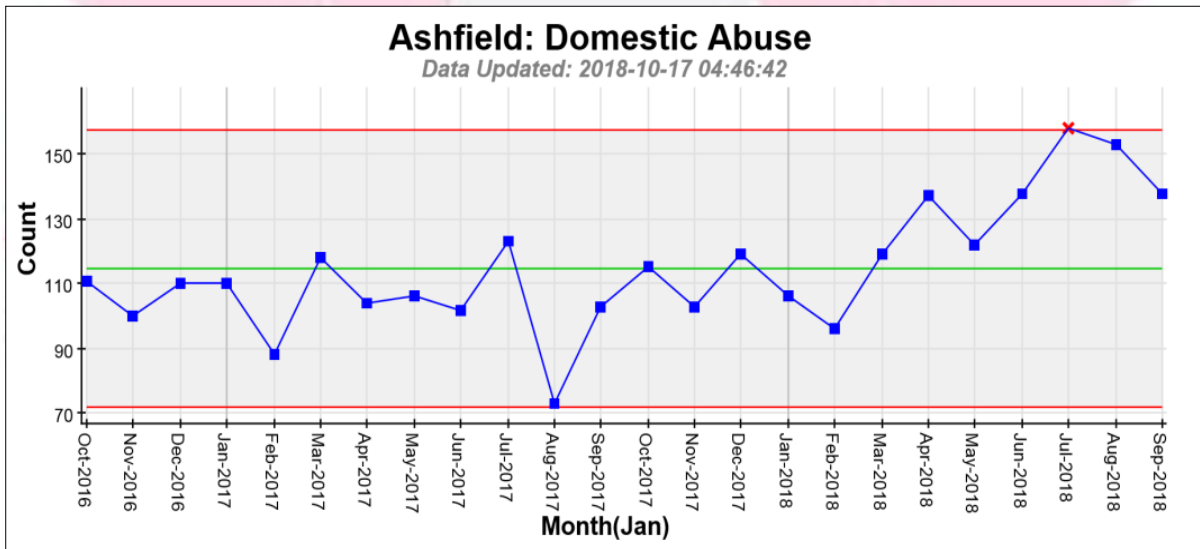
- Robbery – 124.56% (71 offences),
- Theft from Person – 89.29% (25 offences),
- Shoplifting – 52.07% (452 offences)
- Miscellaneous Crimes Against Society – 48.28% (84 offences)
- Criminal Damage and Arson – 22.98% (303 offences)
- Vehicle offences – 19.52% (180 offences)

Only three reporting areas show a reduction:

- Other Theft -11.55% (125 offences)
- Burglary 5.46% (55 offences)
- Drug Offences – 1.67% (3 offences)



Crime percentages loosely mirror the population figures for each main area. Sutton-In-Ashfield and Hucknall combined account for 72% of all crime.

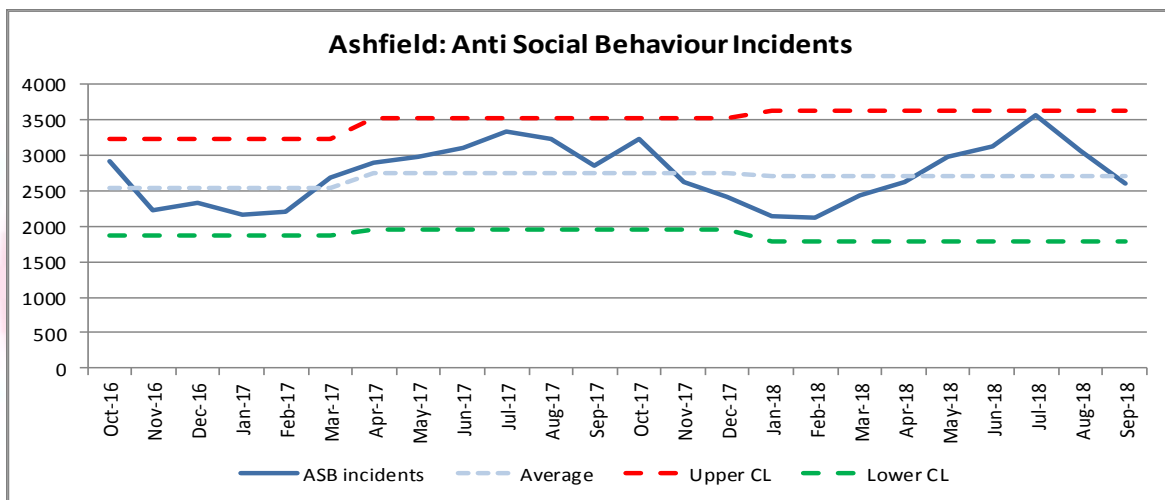


	Current: Oct 2017- Sept 2018	Previous: Oct 2016- Sept 2017	Volume Change	%Change	Target
Domestic Abuse	1456	1328	128	9.64%	Reduce

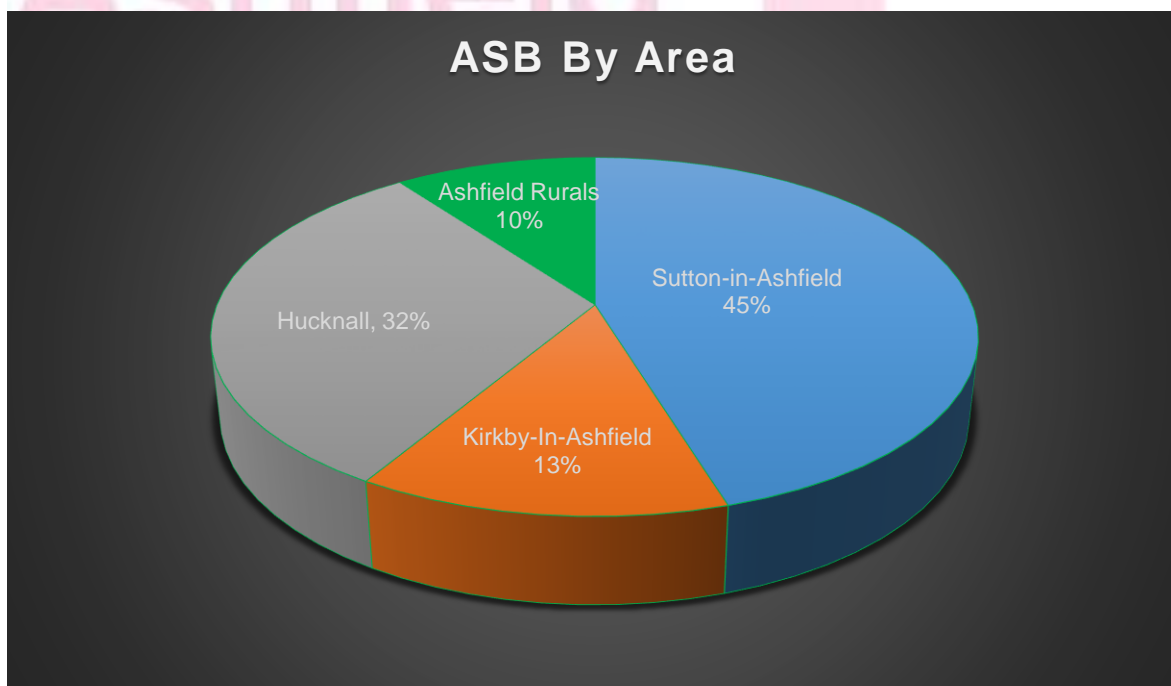
Domestic abuse reporting has continued to rise over the past two years with a 9.64% (128 offences) rise between October 2017 and September 2018. This is encouraging as it demonstrates a potential improved confidence in the ability of organisations to support victims and deal positively with perpetrators.

Anti-Social Behaviour

Levels of reporting of Anti-Social Behaviour rose slightly by 6.07% (205 offences) and reductions seen in two of the key areas; Environmental -13.69% (33 offences) and Personal -1.16% (7 offences). The only rise being in Nuisance -9.67% (245 offences).



Sutton-In-Ashfield and Hucknall account for 77% of all reported antisocial behaviour.

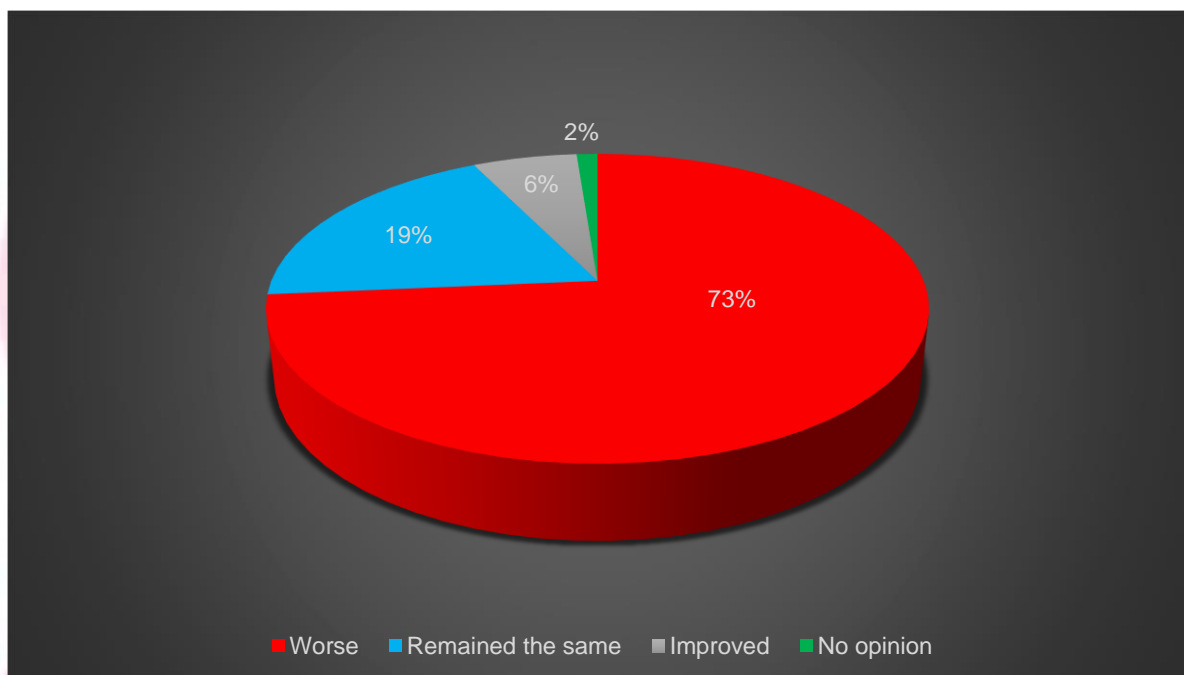


Community Consultation 2018.

A recent Community Consultation in the Ashfield District showed that the largest proportion of residents, 73%, identified that crime and anti-social behaviour in the District had become worse over the past twelve months. 19% identified that it had remained the same and only 6% identified that it had improved.

It is important to note that this consultation was completed at a time that the local media was dominated by issues connected to the controlled substance known as 'Mamba' and the associated anti-social behaviour.

“Thinking about your local area, 15-20 minutes’ walk from where you live, how have levels of crime and anti-social behaviour changed over the past year?”



Headlines;

- Levels of crime and anti-social behaviour are perceived as becoming **worse** over the past year.
- Respondents identified that a **well-established community, good neighbours** and **visible authority** in the community are the key factors in making their area safe.
- Respondents stated that **drug issues** and a **lack of Police** are the key factors in making their area an unsafe place.
- Respondents perception is that **substance misuse** and **youth issues** are the main contributors to levels of crime and anti-social behaviour.

- Respondents claim to have a good understanding of **cybercrime, hate crime** and **child sexual exploitation**, but less so about **modern day slavery** and **preventing radicalisation**.
- Respondents are most concerned about **drug taking and dealing, nuisance vehicles** and **rowdy/inconsiderate behaviour**.



PRIORITIES:

Priorities	Cross Cutting Themes
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Anti-social behaviour• Vulnerable people• Domestic Abuse• Violence• Integrated working	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Alcohol and substance misuse• Mental health

How will we address these priorities?

It should be accepted that the above priorities will very often be linked and there will be an ongoing necessity for them to be addressed in a flexible manner. The completed Ashfield Community Safety Partnership Plan will therefore be a dynamic document.

All partners have committed to sharing information and identifying means to gather relevant information and making best use of technology to inform tactical plans around priority issues.

Real-time data and intelligence will be utilised to address those issues that affect our communities.

Problem solving is to be completed in partnership with specific focus groups being formed to address both emerging and long-standing issues.

Activities will be effective, deliver value for money and any new services or projects will be commissioned in areas of greatest need.

The Community Safety Partnership will target its resources to improve public confidence in services, address those issues that have the greatest impact and protect the communities that they serve.

The Mansfield and Ashfield Community Safety Partnership Delivery Group will be responsible for monitoring emerging issues and delivering the plan. They will then report outcomes to the Mansfield and Ashfield Community Safety Partnership Strategic Group to ensure that the plan is being effectively delivered.

The plan will be reviewed and updated on a yearly basis.

PRIORITY: ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

Aims:

- Increased identification and active targeting of offenders and hot spot locations
- Improved provision and promotion of support to victims and witnesses.
- Increased community empowerment to tackle ASB.
- Increased positive diversionary activity for those at risk from becoming involved in ASB.
- Improved management of perceptions and reassurance.
- Ensure people know how to report ASB.

What will we do?

- Provide consistent multi-agency approach to the identification and support of vulnerable and repeat victims of ASB.
- Take a partnership approach to the use of appropriate enforcement powers
- Support and develop partnership targeted seasonal education and awareness campaigns; i.e. Bonfire Night, Halloween, end of school year.
- Continue to support primary and secondary school education initiatives locally and countywide.
- Engage fully in countywide strategies, policies and working groups enabling better outcomes for the communities of Ashfield.
- Expansion of the Community Alcohol Partnership to Kirkby-in-Ashfield and Hucknall.
- Increased public visibility from all partners in those areas experiencing high levels of ASB. This is to be dynamic and led.
- Support and engage with the Nottinghamshire Police Schools and Early Intervention Officer to tackle school absence and associated ASB.
- Continue to engage proactively with those misusing both drugs and alcohol within the communities of Ashfield.
- Conduct inter-agency research to better understand the results of our public consultation. (72%)

What does success look like?

- In the twelve months to the end of September 2018, there were 3,582 incidents of ASB reported to the police in Ashfield District, which was a six per cent increase on the previous year.

Indicators of success:-

- A downward trend in incidents.
- Communities and people are safer and feel safer. (Measured via the
- Improved public perception of ASB and connected issues as measured in the annual CSP Public Consultation.
- Reduce the number of repeat victims year on year in respect of ASB.

PRIORITY: PROTECTING VULNERABLE PEOPLE

Aims.

- Increased identification and support for vulnerable residents and victims.
- Improved early help support mechanisms.
- Improved multi-agency awareness and prevention programs.
- Increased proactive response to emerging and high-risk vulnerability concerns as they occur.
- Improved early intervention and community based assistance to tackle root causes of children and family vulnerabilities.
- Enhanced awareness of violent extremism and hate crime.

What will we do?

- Use a partnership approach to ensure vulnerable children, families and adults are identified through the ongoing development of the Ashfield Complex Persons Panel.
- Actively promote knowledge of and the referral process for, the Ashfield Complex Persons Panel.
- Support and develop a partnership approach to countywide and national strategies around vulnerable people (to include PREVENT, Modern Day Slavery, CSE and Hate Crime) and organised crime groups (County Lines).
- Raise awareness of vulnerability concerns through targeted campaigns and events.
- Support and assist voluntary and other community groups to identify commissioning and funding opportunities.
- Engage fully in countywide strategies, policies and working groups enabling better outcomes.
- Support and promote engagement through appropriate mediums to ensure residents are aware what is happening in their area.
- Support and promote the National Property Register, 'Immobilise', to safeguard resident's valuable items.
- Promote, both internally and externally, the use of the National Referral Mechanism for reporting suspected cases of modern day slavery.
- Work with Public Health and Education agencies to find ways in which key (age-appropriate) sexual educational messages for children can be communicated and reinforced; particularly around issues of consent, personal boundaries and appropriate behaviour.
- Reinforce messages for children and young people in respect of the safe use of the internet. This will also include providing guidance for parents; both in terms of technical solutions (e.g. parental controls) and support to assist them in identifying possible issues.
-

What does success look like?

- Communities and people are safer and feel safer.
- Increased perception and understanding of Cybercrime, Preventing Radicalisation, Child Sexual Exploitation, Modern Day Slavery and Hate Crime as measured in the annual CSP Public Consultation.
- Increased confidence in agencies to encourage reporting of hate crime.
- Hate crime recording to correlate with ONS data.

PRIORITY: DOMESTIC ABUSE

Aims.

- Improved challenge of underlying attitudes and behaviours.
- Develop early identification and intervention support.
- Increased support and risk reduction for high-risk victims of domestic abuse.
- Improved partnership working to ensure appropriate actions around perpetrators.
- Improved work with other partners to obtain the best outcomes for those affected by domestic abuse and their families.

What will we do?

- Support and develop partnership targeted education and awareness campaigns; i.e. White Ribbon.
- Support voluntary and other groups through identified commissioning and funding opportunities.
- Take a proportionate partnership approach to the use of appropriate enforcement powers.
- Support and develop the MARAC process to reduce risk for victims and families.
- Continue to support primary and secondary school education initiatives locally and countywide around healthy relationships.
- Engage fully in countywide strategies, policies and working groups enabling better outcomes for the communities of Ashfield.
- Support the countywide commissioning for Domestic Abuse Services. i.e The Serenity Project.
- Sustain early intervention processes.
- Work towards accreditation with the Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance (DAHA). DAHA is a partnership between three agencies who are leaders in innovation to address domestic abuse within housing; [Standing Together Against Domestic Violence \(STADV\)](#), [Peabody](#) and [Gentoo](#).
- Domestic Homicide Reviews will be conducted in line with Home Office Guidance. All agencies involved will identify what lessons there are to learn about the way local professionals and organisations work individually and together to safeguard victims.

What does success look like?

- Reduce the number of repeat victims year on year in respect of domestic abuse.
- Increased confidence in agencies to encourage reporting of domestic abuse.

PRIORITY: VIOLENCE

Aims.

- Increased proactive response to violence associated with night-time economy disorder
- Increase identification and support for young people involved with (or at risk of being involved with) violent crime.
- Increased identification and active targeting of offenders who are exploiting vulnerable groups
- Enhance awareness of violent extremism and hate crime
- Improved support for victims of violent crime
- Improved targeting of prolific and repeat violent crime offenders

What will we do?

- Promote and engage communities to report crime issues of concern via all appropriate channels (to include online reporting via the Nottinghamshire Police website and CRIMESTOPPERS)
- Support and develop partnership targeted education, awareness and crime reduction campaigns.
- Provide consistent multi-agency approach to the identification of repeat and high risk offenders for crime and ASB.
- Engage fully in countywide strategies, policies and working groups enabling better outcomes for the communities of Ashfield.
- Support voluntary and other groups through identified commissioning and funding opportunities for the reduction of re-offending.
- Reduced placement of vulnerable people into sensitive locations through development of the Ashfield Complex Persons Panel and liaison with Ashfield District Council Housing Services.
- Support and implement Nottinghamshire's Knife Crime Strategy 2018. (OPCC)

What does success look like?

- In the twelve months to the end of September 2018, there were 3439 violent crimes reported to the police in Ashfield. This was a **rise of 21.78%**.

Success:-

- A downward trend in incidents (excluding harassment and stalking).
- Communities and people are safer and feel safer.

PRIORITY: INTEGRATED WORKING

Aims.

- To further develop and improve partnership working across the Ashfield District.

What will we do?

- Have mutual respect within partner organisations.
- Actively listen to each other to improve outcomes for residents.
- Work from shared values.
- Better understand the priorities and limitations of partner organisations.
- Honesty with each other.
- Be customer and solution focused.
- Acknowledge each other's' views.
- Be inclusive.
- Have open communication and information sharing.
- Take an evidence based approach to the setting of shared priorities.
- Problem solving to be completed using approved methodology (OSARA).

What does success look like?

- An expanded and more inclusive partnership HUB.
- Increase public satisfaction in agencies across the Ashfield District. (Measured via the public consultation.)

Further information and Useful Contacts

Ashfield CSP - Community Safety Hub

Enquiries Tel: 01623 457947

Email: d.dakin@ashfield.gov.uk

Ashfield District Council

Tel: 01623 450000

Email: info@ashfield.gov.uk

Nottinghamshire Police

Non-Emergency Tel: 101

Emergency Tel: 999

www.nottinghamshire.police.uk

Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service

Non-Emergency Tel: 0300 330 1000

Emergency Tel: 999

www.nottinghamshirefire.gov.uk

Nottinghamshire County Council

Tel: 0300 111 8000

www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk

Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner Nottinghamshire

Tel: 01785 232385

Email: pcc@nottinghamshire.pcc.pnn.gov.uk

www.nottinghamshire-pcc.gov.uk

Crimestoppers

(Confidential anonymous reporting of crime)

Tel: 0800 555 111

www.crimestoppers.org.uk

The Pathway Project

(Assistance for victims of domestic abuse)

Tel: 01543 676800 (24 Hour Helpline)

www.pathway-project.co.uk

Nottinghamshire Victim Care

(A free and confidential service that provides information, advice, or practical and emotional support, to all victims of crime in Nottinghamshire, even if it has not been reported to the police)

Tel: 0800 304 7575

admin@nottsvictimcare.org.uk

Citizens Advice Ashfield

Citizens Advice Ashfield
Ashfield Health and Wellbeing Centre
Portland Street
Kirkby-in-Ashfield
Nottinghamshire
NG17 7AE

Debt Advice

Tel: 01623 784385

Email: debt@ashfieldca.org.uk

Telephone Advice

Tel: 03444 111 444



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acp

Ashfield

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT

2019-2022



NOTTINGHAMSHIRE
Fire & Rescue Service
Creating Safer Communities



Ashfield
DISTRICT COUNCIL



Derbyshire
Leicestershire
Nottinghamshire
& Rutland
Community Rehabilitation Company



NHS
Mansfield and Ashfield
Clinical Commissioning Group

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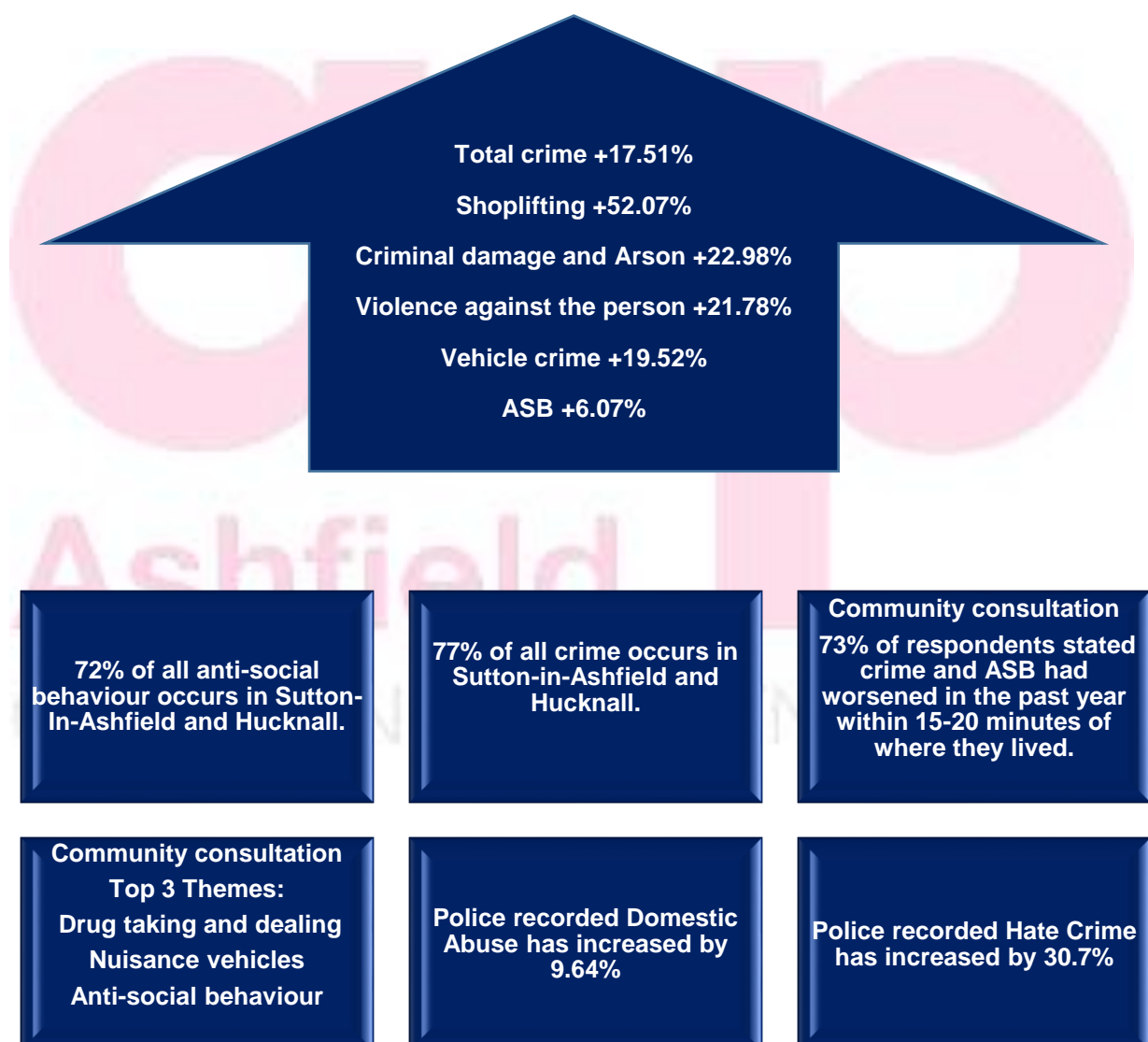
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Executive Summary

Between 1st October 2017 and 30th September 2018, total recorded crime in the Ashfield District was 11354 offences, which was a rise of 17.51% (1692 offences) on the previous year. There were only three areas that showed a reduction; burglary (5.46%), other theft (11.55%) and drug offences (1.67%).

The community consultation was conducted from 20.07.2018 to 30.09.2018.



Recommended Priorities:

Priority	What are we going to do?
Anti-Social Behaviour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased identification and active targeting of offenders and hot spot locations • Improved provision and promotion of support to victims and witnesses. • Increased community empowerment to tackle ASB. • Increased positive diversionary activity for those at risk from becoming involved in ASB. • Improved management of perceptions and reassurance. • Ensure people know how to report ASB.
Protecting Vulnerable People	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased identification and support for vulnerable residents and victims. • Improved early help support mechanisms. • Improved multi-agency awareness and prevention programs. • Increased proactive response to emerging and high-risk vulnerability concerns as they occur. • Improved early intervention and community based assistance to tackle root causes of children and family vulnerabilities. • Enhanced awareness of violent extremism and hate crime.
Domestic Abuse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved challenge of underlying attitudes and behaviours. • Develop early identification and intervention support. • Increased support and risk reduction for high-risk victims of domestic abuse. • Improved partnership working to ensure appropriate actions around perpetrators. • Improved work with other partners to obtain the best outcomes for those affected by domestic abuse and their families.
Violence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased proactive response to violence associated with night-time economy disorder • Increase identification and support for young people involved with (or at risk of being involved with) violent crime. • Increased identification and active targeting of offenders who are exploiting vulnerable groups • Enhance awareness of violent extremism and hate crime • Improved support for victims of violent crime • Improved targeting of prolific and repeat violent crime offenders
Integrated Working	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To further develop and improve partnership working across the Ashfield District.

Introduction

Ashfield Community Safety Partnership

Ashfield Community Safety Partnership (ACP) is a joint partnership between Ashfield District Council, Nottinghamshire Police, Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service, the Probation Service, and Mansfield and Ashfield Clinical Commissioning Group who work together to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour that affect our communities.

These agencies have a duty to come together and work with other groups, organisations and agencies to prevent crime and disorder.

The CSP was formed in response to the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 as a statutory requirement.

The quality of life for those who live, work or visit the Ashfield District depends on many organisations: the Council, Police, Fire and Rescue and healthcare organisations, as well as businesses, voluntary organisations, tenants and residents associations, community, race and faith groups, individual residents, workers and visitors. Tens of thousands of people have an impact on what it feels like to live and work in Ashfield District.

Purpose

This crime and disorder Strategic Assessment is prepared on behalf of the Ashfield Community Safety Partnership to inform strategic planning and commissioning processes, to ensure that community safety considerations form an integral part of the delivery of statutory services within the CSP. Full statutory requirements can be found in Section 17 Crime and Disorder Act (Formulation and Implementation of Strategy) Regulations (2007)2.

The crime and disorder strategic assessment is part of an intelligence process that is used to help tackle crime and disorder and to improve community safety. It is produced annually by the Community Safety and Strategic Partnerships Officer within the Ashfield District Council Community Safety Team, with contributions from across the partnership. It has detailed analysis that explores key and emerging problems and consultations with community groups.

The aim of the crime and disorder strategic assessment is to identify key crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour issues that affect the Ashfield District. It considers what needs to be achieved to help improve community safety, including how the community can feel assured and confident that their concerns and fears are being addressed.

Methodology

The previous priorities were set under the strategic plan for the years 2016/2017.

These priorities have been reviewed and are not reflective of the current climate in respect of the partnership and social and economic factors. Therefore, the new Ashfield Community Safety Partnership Plan will contain new priorities that will look forward from 2019 to 2022.

A period of public consultation took place over the period from 20.07.2018 to 30.09.2018.

Whilst the co-ordination of the consultation took place within the District's Community Safety Team, the delivery of the survey took place over a number of partnership communication channels and public events.

An online version of the survey was made available via the District's website and promoted through social media channels. Key partners provided similar opportunities, through the face-to-face completion and social media accounts.

The consultation was delivered at a number of locations and public events over the period. The times and places of these events were coordinated to encourage engagement with all sections of the community. All Ward Councillors were aware of the consultation and details of the survey were promoted through a number of political party sites.

Data from a wide range of sources was analysed to show how the CSP compares with other areas for the priority crime types and how volumes and rates have changed over time. Information from research was used to describe any notable risk factors and victim and offender characteristics as well as approaches to partnership working.

This approach ensures the most effective use of partnership resources and prevents the collation of data and information that is irrelevant to the development of the document. It allows focus to be placed on the issues that are most significant. The use of this approach does not mean that those issues which our communities face on a daily basis will not be dealt with. The process identifies the demands that will receive an elevated level of service while others are dealt with as usual business processes of the CSP.

Economic

Growth & Deficit Reduction

The Office for Budget Responsibility forecasts published in October 2018 provides an economic outlook over the next several years with forecast GDP growth of 1.3% in 2018, 1.6% in 2019 and 1.4% in 2020.

Consumer spending is being supported by low interest rates and was boosted in summer 2018 by the football World Cup and a prolonged period of good weather.

The Bank of England raised the base interest rate from 0.5% to 0.75% in August 2018 and this was only the second rise in over a decade. This rise may place pressure on some households, particularly those that are highly indebted and have little flexibility to respond to higher debt service levels.

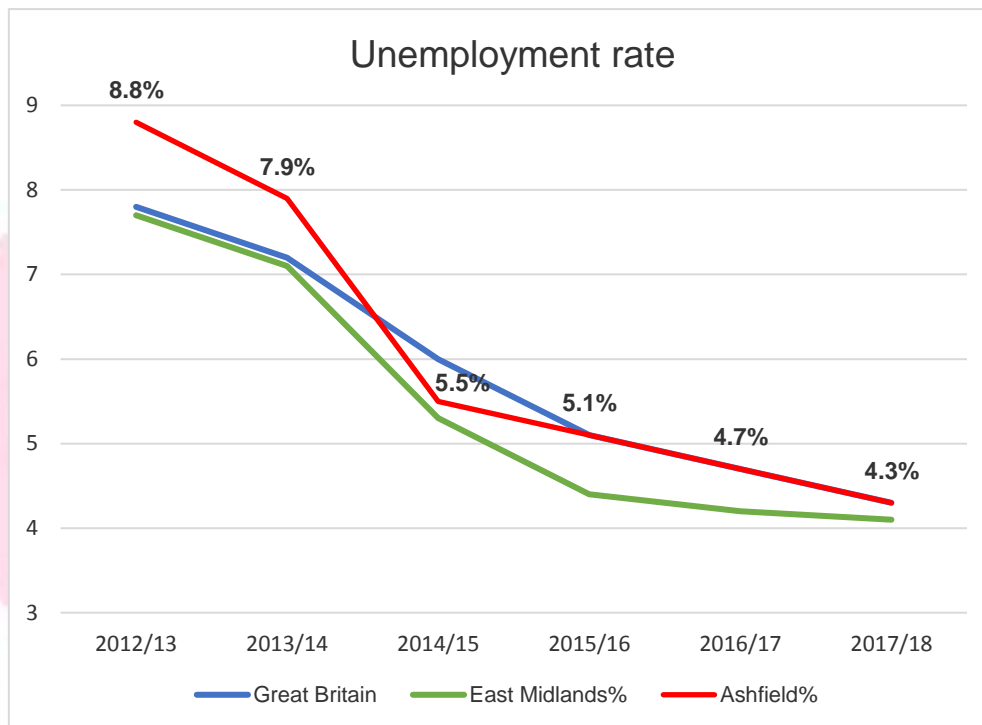
Whilst the Chancellor, Phillip Hammond, stated in his October 2018 Budget that the “era of austerity is finally coming to an end”, the effects will continue to be felt over the coming years.

It is unlikely that the reductions in central government funding to partner agencies will end. Pressure will continue on partners to do more with less and to make hard choices about services they will continue to support. The effect being:

- Any new initiatives will have to be delivered within existing budget and resources.
- A key element of successful partnership ventures will support the delivery of crime and disorder reductions and an acknowledgement of each parties own performance objectives.

Employment Levels

For the years April 2017 to March 2018 the average unemployment in Ashfield was 4.3%, a 0.4% fall in unemployment on the previous year. However, the July 2018 figure shows a rise to 4.6%.



Economic Activity

Jul 17 - Jun 18	Nottinghamshire	Ashfield	Bolsover	Erewash	Mansfield	Cannock Chase	Nuneaton & Bedworth
Economic activity rate males - aged 16-64	83.9	77.3	81.5	92.2	77.8	89.3	81.8
Economic activity rate females - aged 16-64	72.9	64.5	69.7	70.3	70.3	72.7	81.3

Worsening
 Improving

Social

Ashfield District covers an area of 10,956 hectares and is located on the western side of Nottinghamshire in the East Midlands Region. It adjoins seven districts within the county including Nottingham City to the south and Mansfield to the north and east, as well as part of the western boundary with Derbyshire.

There are three main urban areas in the District where housing, jobs and services are generally concentrated. The southernmost is Hucknall which lies immediately north of Nottingham. Kirkby in Ashfield and Sutton in Ashfield are to the north of the District and include the adjoining settlements of Annesley Woodhouse/ Annesley, Huthwaite, Stanton Hill and Skegby areas respectively.

Sutton in Ashfield, the largest of the three town centres, has been identified as a centre of Sub-Regional importance, with Hucknall being identified as a 'Major District centre' and Kirkby in Ashfield is the smallest of the three town centres, defined as a 'District centre' by the Ashfield Retail Study 2016. Three villages of Jacksdale, Selston and Underwood also contain significant residential areas, but lack the concentration of employment opportunities and services found in the main centres. The remainder of the District is primarily countryside but contains a number of smaller settlements such as Teversal and Fackley.

There are two parish councils within the District, Annesley and Felley Parish Council and Selston Parish Council.

The District comprises of 23 wards as of 2015 and has its administrative centre in Kirkby-in-Ashfield.

The District has excellent road links to much of the country due to its location beside the M1 motorway. Junction 26 of the M1, which is outside the District, provides a good link to Hucknall now that new routes around Bulwell are complete. Junction 27 of the M1 lies within the District and provides a major link to Ashfield's three towns and Junction 28 can be easily accessed via the A38 and other major routes including the A617; Mansfield-Ashfield Regeneration Route (MARR).

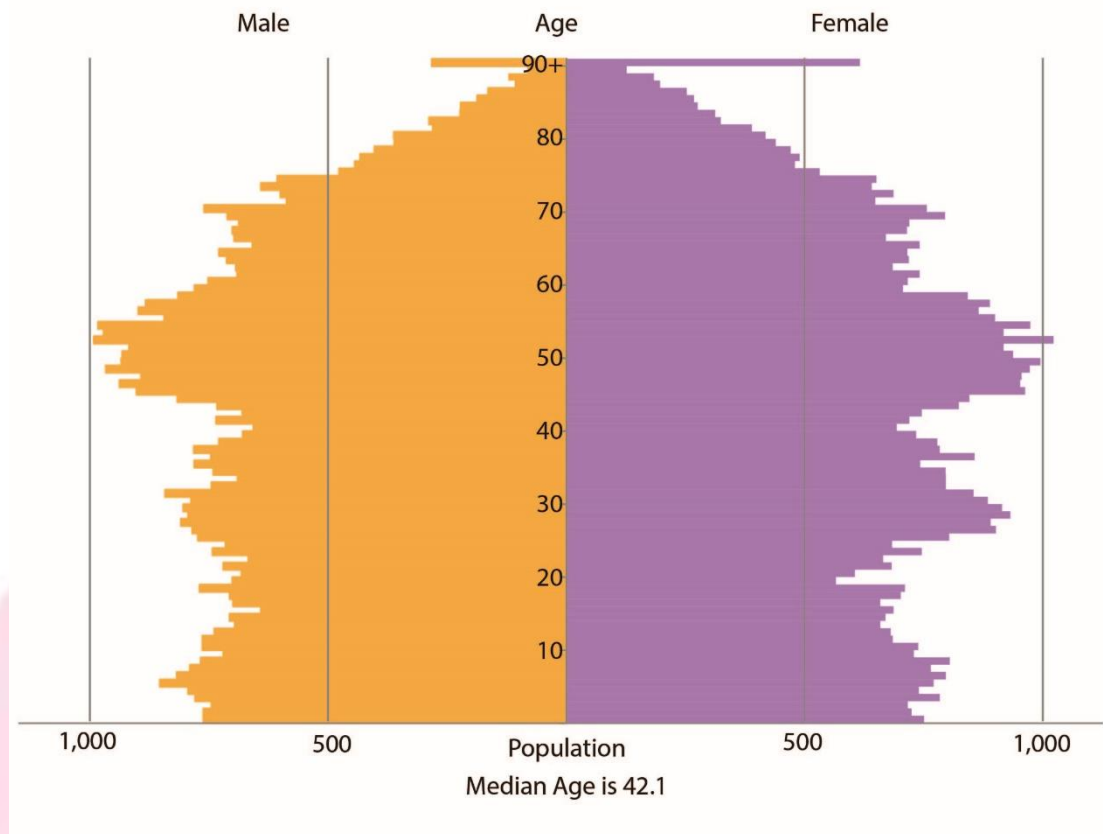
The 2017 mid-year population estimate shows the District to have a population of 126,164, with 61,931 males 64,233 females, the imbalance being due to the aging population. Population is increasing in Hucknall, Sutton in Ashfield and Kirkby in Ashfield but declining in the Rural Areas.

	Census 2001	Census 2011	2017
Working Age Population (16 – 64)	70,809	78,100	79,862
Pension Age Population (65+)	17,468	20,200	23,896
Households	46,600	50,900	-
Average people per household	2.39	2.35	-
Population density (people per sq km)	1017	1091	1152

Detailed Population Figures 2017

Ashfield has 23 wards.

	Total resident population		
	2015	2016	2017
Abbey Hill	3,458	3,450	3,601
Annesley & Kirkby Woodhouse	7,086	7,273	7,578
Ashfields	3,990	4,000	4,097
Carsic	3,937	3,919	4,027
Central & New Cross	7,843	7,948	8,166
Hucknall Central	6,711	6,714	7,034
Hucknall North	10,203	10,335	10,570
Hucknall South	7,451	7,534	7,600
Hucknall West	9,387	9,393	9,643
Huthwaite & Brierley	7,320	7,378	7,515
Jacksdale	3,412	3,413	3,410
Kingsway	3,160	3,128	3,185
Kirkby Cross & Portland	4,130	4,288	4,220
Larwood	3,294	3,283	3,394
Leamington	4,258	4,264	4,209
Selston	6,573	6,581	6,392
Skegby	6,749	6,796	6,791
St Mary's	4,048	4,053	4,017
Stanton Hill & Teversal	3,166	3,287	3,322
Summit	7,351	7,406	7,358
Sutton Junction & Harlow Wood	3,800	3,813	3,809
The Dales	3,149	3,134	3,070
Underwood	3,098	3,092	3,156
Ashfield	123,574	124,482	126,164
Hucknall	33,752	33,976	34,847
Sutton in Ashfield	48,260	48,592	49,023
Kirkby in Ashfield	28,479	28,828	29,336
Selston, Jacksdale & Underwood	13,083	13,086	12,958



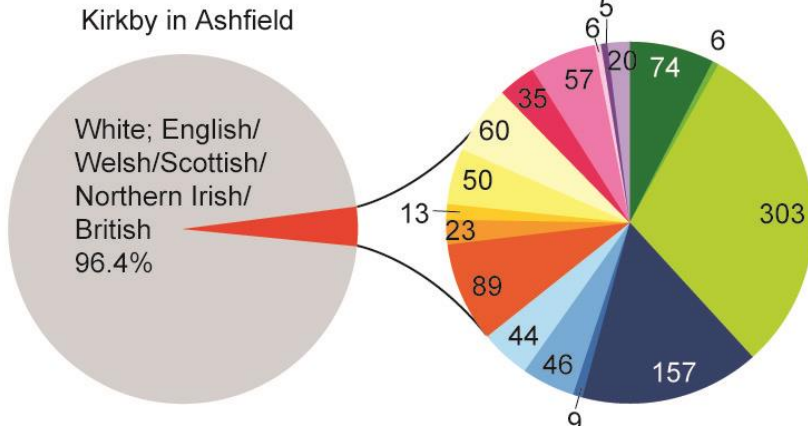
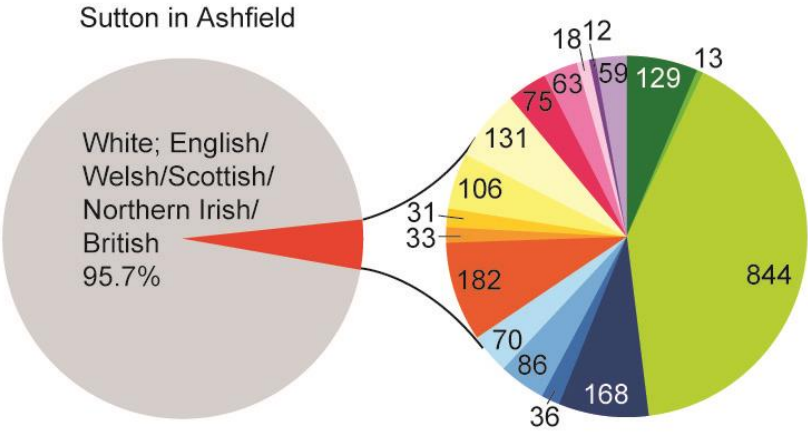
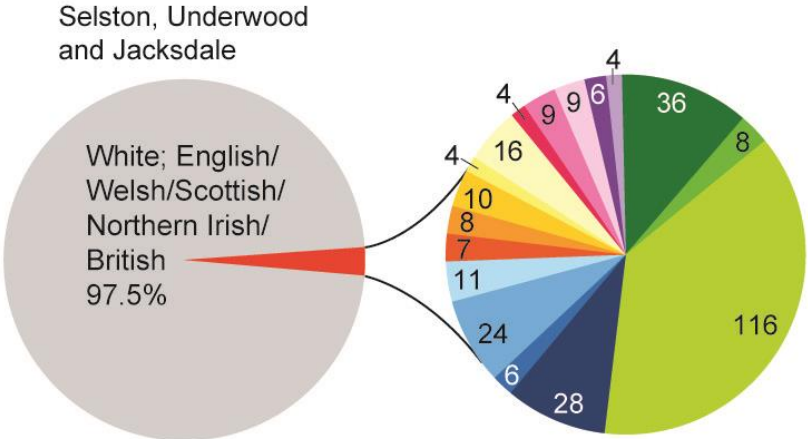
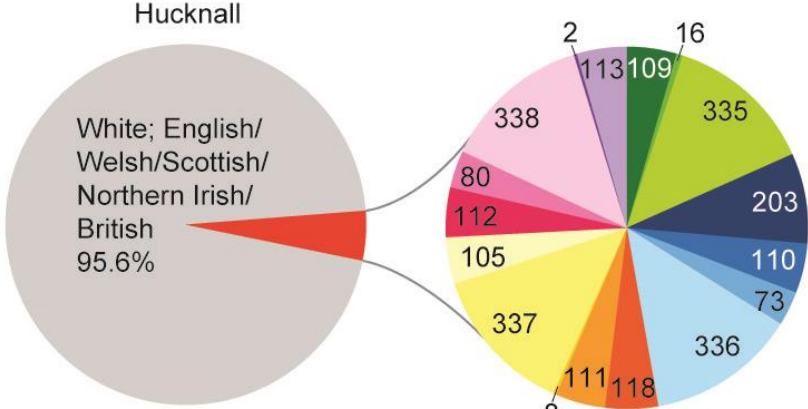
Ashfield has a history of industrialised wealth from coal mining and textile industries. Both declined in the 1980's creating high unemployment and widespread deprivation throughout the District. Since this time, the District has benefited from new employment opportunities and improvements to transport links including re-established railway links to Nottingham and the tram system in Hucknall. Recent regeneration projects are transforming Ashfield and the District is fast becoming a more desirable place to work and live with a wide range of visitor attractions.

The proportion of foreign nationals has increased following national increases in international migration. Sutton in Ashfield has the largest concentration of migrants with an increasing number of eastern Europeans settling in the New Cross area.

An Office for National Statistics study in 2014 showed that 3% of the population of Ashfield were not born in the United Kingdom.

The majority of migrants come to the district for employment. There is clearly a benefit for the local economy, but this also places additional demands on public services.

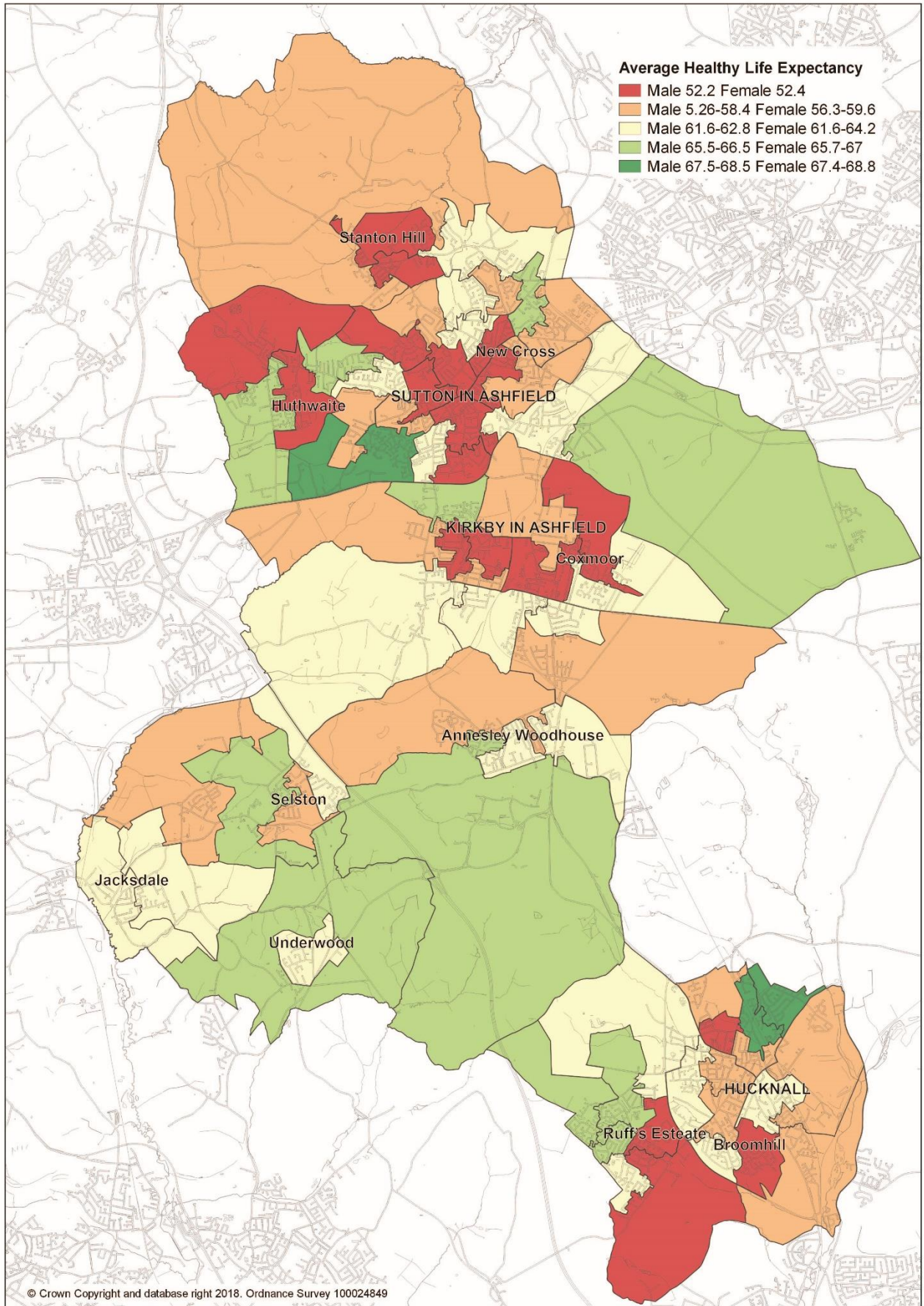
Population by Ethnic Group
Census 2011



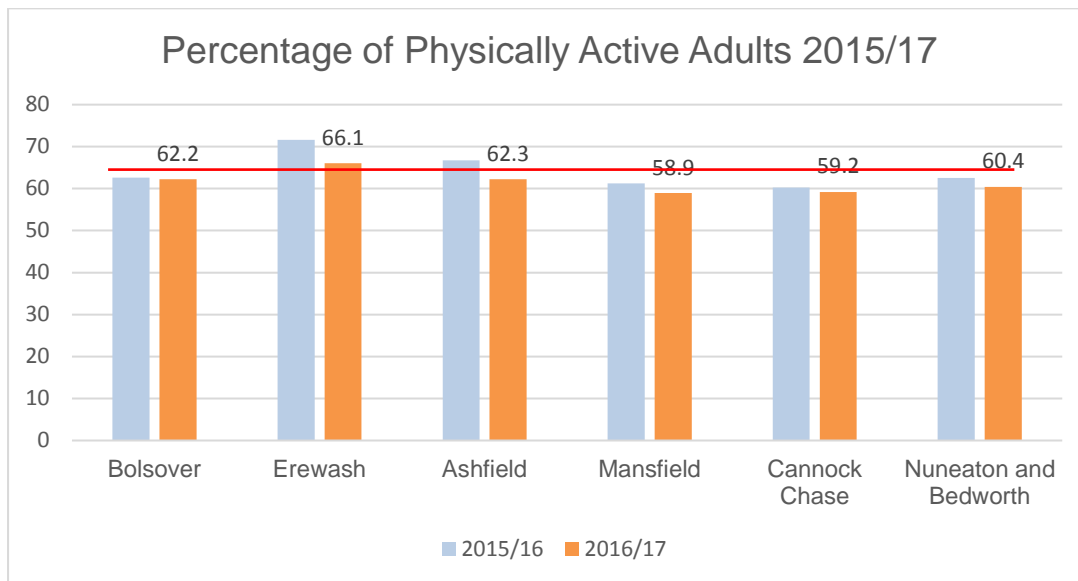
- White ;
 - Irish
 - Gypsy or Irish Traveller
 - Other White
- Mixed/Multiple Ethnic Groups;
 - White and Black Caribbean
 - White and Black African
 - White and Asian
 - Other Mixed
- Asian/Asian British
 - Indian
 - Pakistani
 - Bangladeshi
 - Chinese
 - Other Asian
- Black/African/Caribbean/Black British;
 - African
 - Caribbean
 - Other Black
- Other Ethnic Group;
 - Arab
 - Any Other Ethnic Group

- The health of people in Ashfield is generally worse than the England average.
- There are less people over the age of 18 diagnosed with diabetes than the England average;
- Obesity in children aged 4-5 is lower than the England average but obesity amongst 10-11 years is above average
- Excess weight in adults at 74% is higher than the England average (61.3%). The Regional average is 63.3%.
- There are health inequalities within Ashfield by level of deprivation. The difference in life expectancy between the most and the least deprived areas of Ashfield is 9 years for men and 6.9 years for women (based on death rates from 2011-2013). The difference in healthy life expectancy is 18.3 years for men and 18.9 years for women;
- Over the last ten years life expectancy has increased for men and women in Ashfield; 1 year for men and 1.5 years for women, the improvement is in line with the England average rates although they remain below average for England. Over the most recent period, life expectancy for both men and women has fallen slightly;
- There has been another decline in the number of adult smokers;
- Lifestyle indicators are generally worse than the average for England.

	Life Expectancy at Birth				Life Expectancy at Age 65			
	Male		Female		Male		Female	
	2013-15	2012-14	2013-15	2012-14	2013-15	2012-14	2013-15	2012-14
Bolsover	77.4	77.6	81.4	81.7	17	17	19.5	19.5
Erewash	79.6	79.7	82.9	83.1	18.3	18.4	20.7	21
Ashfield	78.1	77.9	81.7	82	17.7	17.8	19.7	20.1
Mansfield	78	78.1	81.6	81.7	18	18.1	20	20
Cannock Chase	78.9	79.1	82.9	82.5	18.1	18.2	20.6	20.6
Nuneaton and Bedworth	78.1	78.4	82.1	82.7	17.9	17.8	20.3	20.5
Nottinghamshire	79.4	79.4	82.8	82.9	18.5	18.5	20.7	20.8



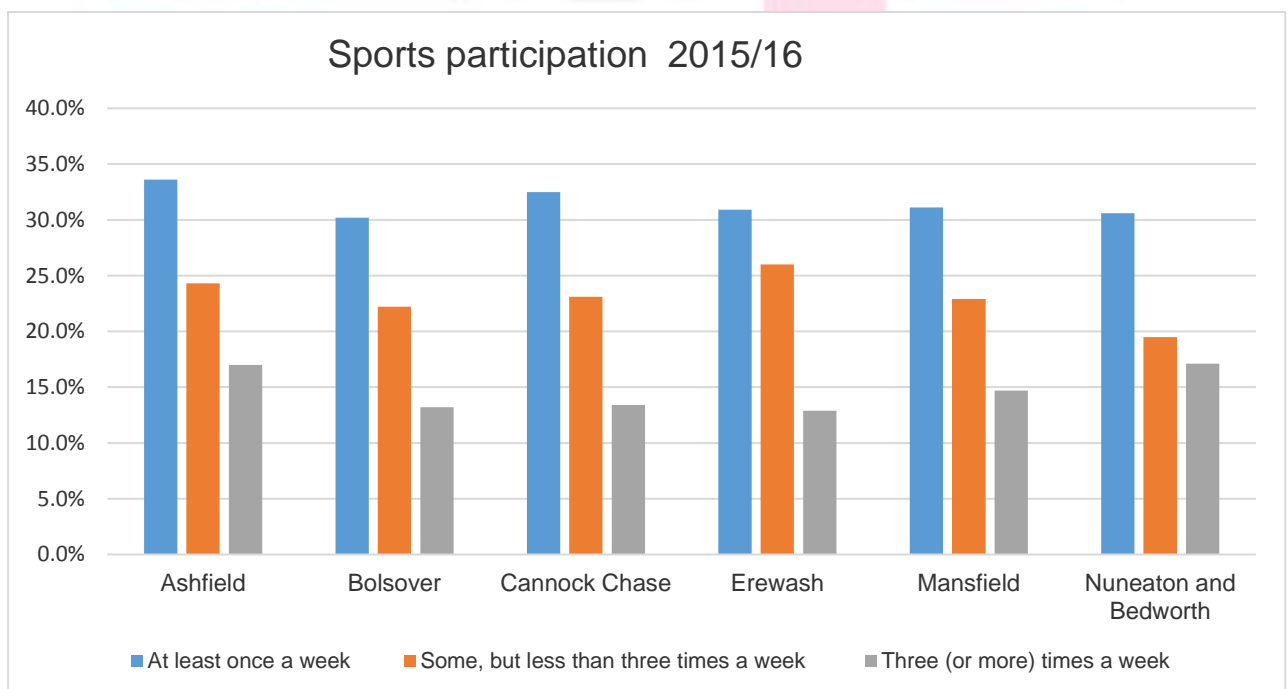
Participation in Sport and Physical Activity



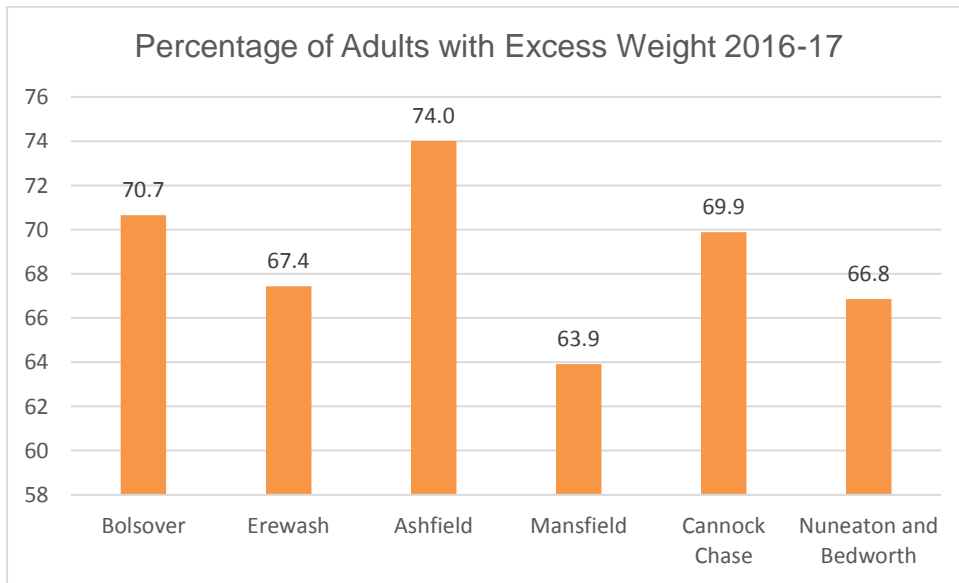
The East Midlands average was 64.4% in 2016/17

The physical activity of adults over the age of 19 has fallen in the district and is now below the average for the East Midlands.

The activity is 150 or more moderate intensity active minutes per week



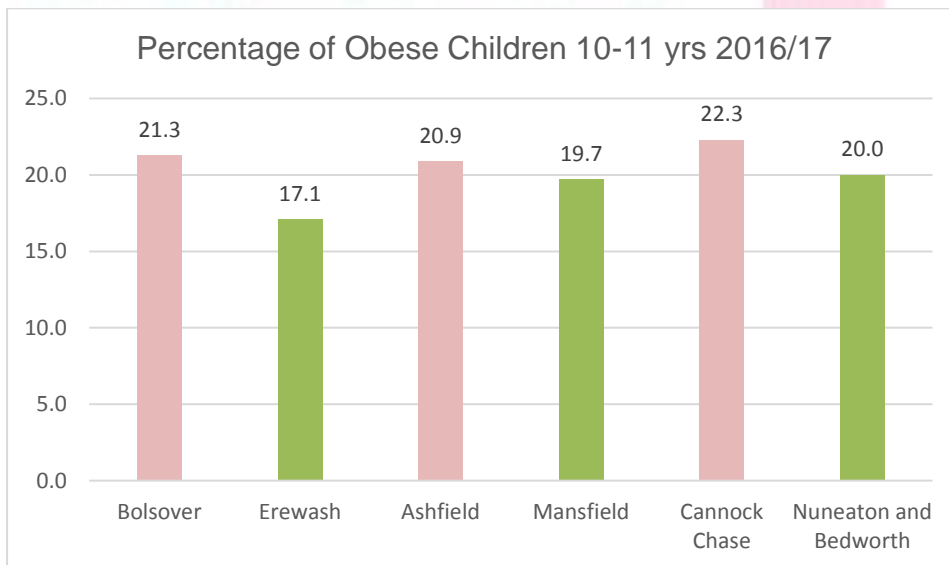
Adult obesity



The East Midlands average was 63.3% over the same period

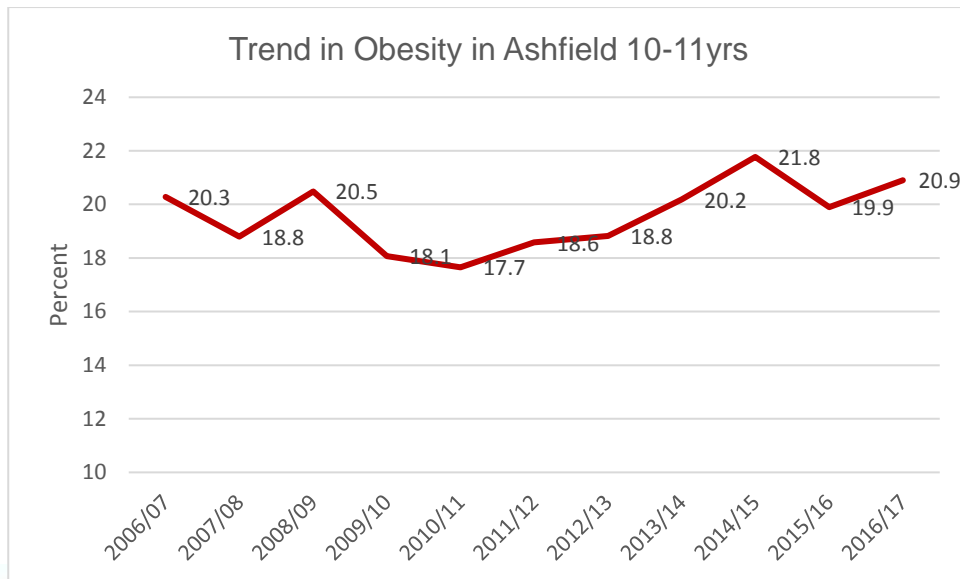
Adult excess weight is now measured from age 18, previously it was from age 16. However, in the previous reporting period, adult excess weight in Ashfield was above the Nottinghamshire average.

Childhood obesity



■ Improved since 2015/16
 ■ Worsened since 2015/16

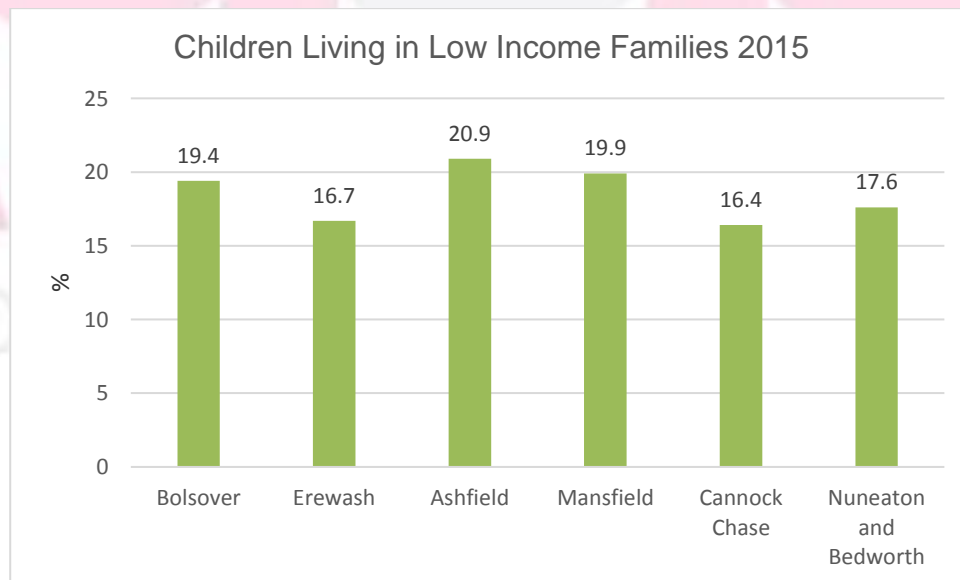
The Nottinghamshire average is 17.4% over the same period.



Source: Health and Social Care Information Centre, National Child Measurement Programme

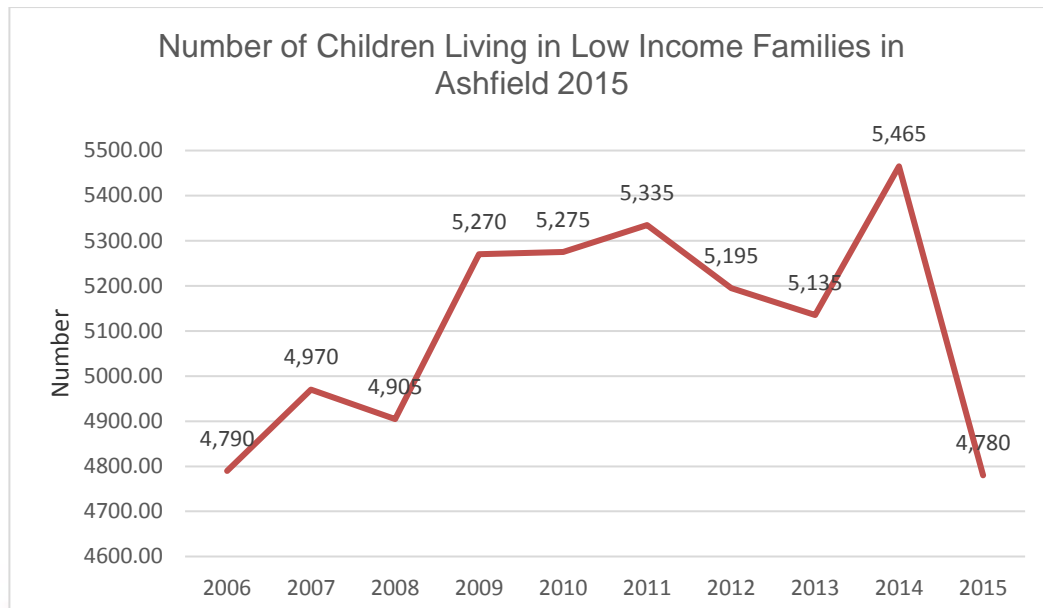
Children In Poverty

Latest data.



Improved
 Worsened

There has been an improvement in this category shown by the latest available data. The number of children in low income families has fallen to the lowest level since 2006.



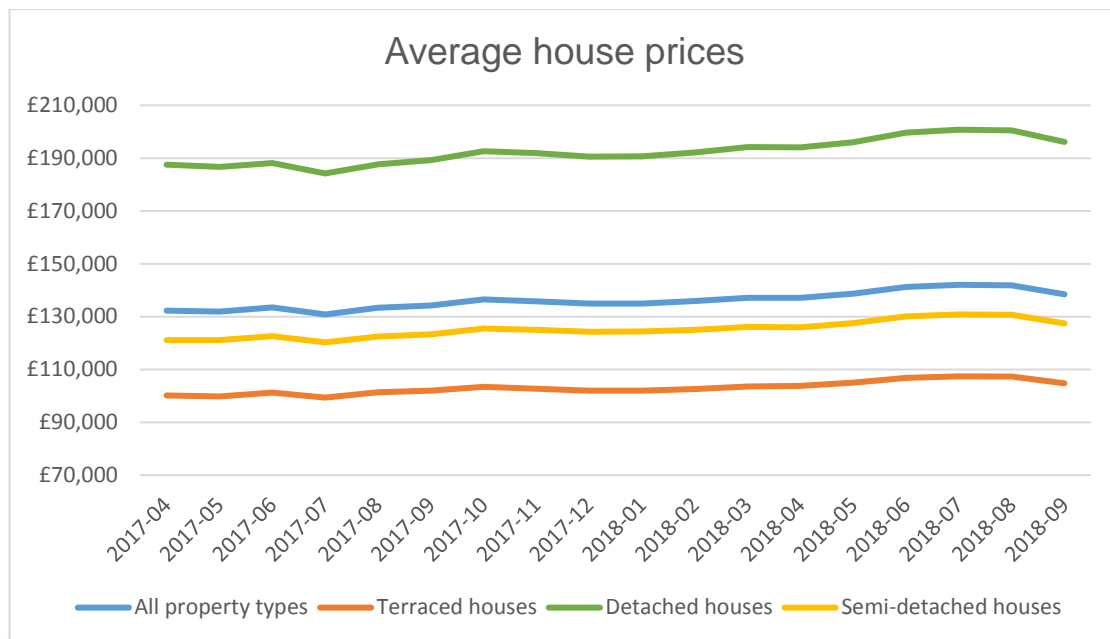
Source: HM Revenue and Customs (Personal Tax Credits: Related Statistics - Child Poverty Statistics)

Housing

Ashfield lies within the Nottingham Outer Housing Market Area (HMA) Area that comprises Newark & Sherwood, Mansfield and Ashfield Districts. The housing needs assessment undertaken across the HMA has highlighted the following key characteristics of households and housing within Ashfield, based on Census 2011 data.

Across the Housing Market Area Ashfield has the highest population of the three authorities, with the population rising by 4.1% to 124,482 between 2011-2016. Of this there is an above national average of people between the ages of 40 and 65. Ashfield also has the highest percentage of households with dependent children in the HMA, but has also seen a significant growth in single person households. The population of the district is due to rise by around 11% to 136,350 by 2033.

House prices are still amongst the lowest in the region although house prices have continued to rise in recent years with the average price now £138,425



Land Registry

Within the District of Ashfield there are 6790 (December 2018) council owned properties, down from 6866 in 2015 and a further 2182 owned by other Registered Housing Providers (at March 2017).

The number of long term vacant properties fell to 543 in October 2017, this number has fallen continuously since 2004 when it was 815.

The private rented sector makes up around 15% of all stock with over 8000 homes across the district whilst the majority of homes are owner occupied. Rents in the private sector are comparatively low with mean monthly rents of around £502 (compared to £548 in the County, £601 regionally and £829 at national level: Shelter, Q1 2018).

Actions by local government to improve transport links between Ashfield, Nottingham and Mansfield appear to have had an effect on both local and wider housing markets, both increasing house prices along the NET Tram Route and levelling out prices around the Mansfield to Ashfield Regeneration Route (A617).

Migration to and from the District is largely contained within the HMA and the Nottingham Core HMA, with the majority of moves between Ashfield and Mansfield, and from Nottingham and Broxtowe into Ashfield. Ashfield shows a net inflow of people, with significant inflows to Ashfield from Nottingham and Broxtowe. Migration from Nottingham has a significant impact, particularly in Hucknall.

Existing policy and housing strategy documents distinguish three main housing market areas within Ashfield – North (Sutton-in-Ashfield, Kirkby-in-Ashfield and surrounding settlements); South (Hucknall) and Rural (Selston, Jacksdale, Underwood, Bagthorpe and Brinsley areas – Selston Parish).

Welfare Changes

Universal Credit

Universal Credit (UC), is a new benefit administered by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) through a local Jobcentre Plus. The next phase of Universal Credit has been fully introduced in Ashfield. This means that Ashfield is now a “UC Full Service” area therefore any working age claimant who would like to make a new claim for help with their income and to help pay their rent must now apply for Universal Credit. Housing Benefit is no longer available for most new working age claimants.

Universal Credit replaces a range of existing benefits including Job Seekers Allowance, Income Support and Housing Benefit. Universal Credit is paid directly to a nominated householder; people not experienced in budgeting may mismanage their UC and get into debt. There have already been reports of increasing rent arrears in pilot areas and the full effects will not be known for some time.

Homelessness

Each local housing authority is required to consider housing needs within its area, including the needs of homeless households, to whom local authorities have a statutory duty to provide assistance.

The Housing Act 1977, Housing Act 1996, and the Homelessness Act 2002, placed statutory duties on local housing authorities to ensure that advice and assistance to households who are homeless or threatened with homelessness is available free of charge. All households that apply for assistance under the Housing and Homelessness Acts are referred to as ‘decisions’. However, these do not include households found to be ineligible for assistance (some persons from abroad are ineligible for assistance).

A ‘main homelessness duty’ is owed where the authority is satisfied that the applicant is eligible for assistance, unintentionally homeless and falls within a specified priority need group.

In the past year this issue has received significant publicity due to the high visibility of people perceived as being homeless within Sutton-In-Ashfield. The number of homeless in the district is supplemented by those individuals who have accommodation but choose to live on the street.

Homelessness has a number of layers with Rough Sleepers very tightly defined as ‘in/on bedding in the open air’ and does not include those residing in shelters or simply could not be found when the count took place.

Within the homeless population of the Ashfield District there are challenges around alcohol & substance abuse, mental health, and the various individual difficulties which led to someone sleeping on the street. The challenge for the partnership will be to minimise the impact of those individuals upon the settled community whilst

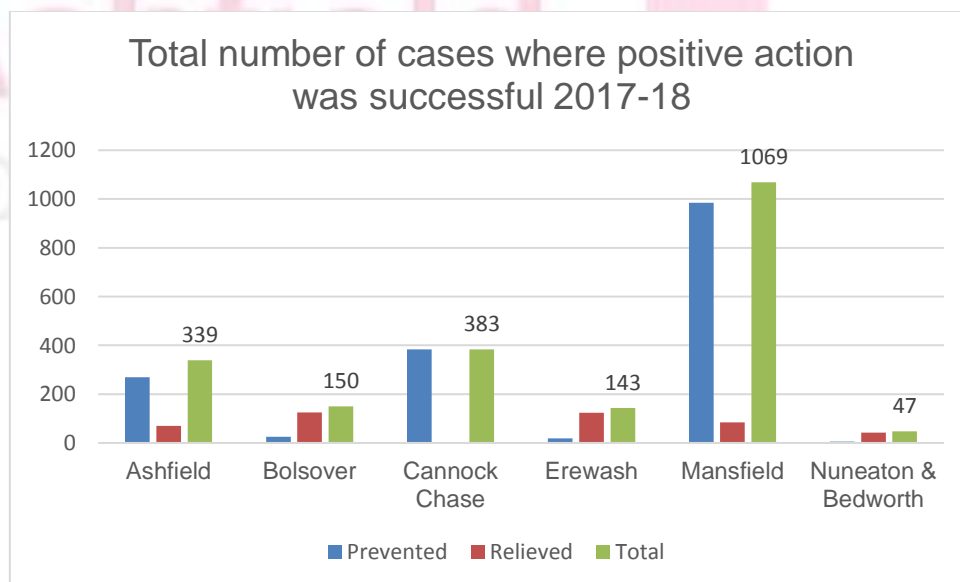
working alongside agencies supporting these individuals into a more positive lifestyle.

Accepted as being homeless and in priority need

	Ashfield		Bolsover		Cannock Chase		Erewash		Mansfield		Nuneaton and Bedworth	
	Number	Per 1000 households	Number	Per 1000 households	Number	Per 1000 households	Number	Per 1000 households	Number	Per 1000 households	Number	Per 1000 households
2017-18	123	2.28	29	0.85	57	1.34	17	0.33	189	4.04	180	3.3
2016-17	98	1.87	29	0.85	38	0.9	39	0.77	169	3.63	128	2.36
2015-16	93	1.77	46	1.36	19	0.45	22	0.44	114	2.48	137	2.52
2014-15	87	1.67	40	1.19	34	0.82	32	0.64	137	3	191	3.54
2013-14	85	1.64	30	0.9	42	1.01	26	0.53	150	3.3	172	3.22
2012-13	26	0.51	50	1.52	27	0.66	45	0.92	180	4	180	3.4
2011-12	16	0.33	54	1.69	41	1.05	36	0.75	128	2.98	139	2.73

Department for Communities and Local Government

Prevention of Homelessness



All DCLG homelessness statistics can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/homelessness-statistics>

Crime and Disorder

In the 12 months (October 2017 – September 2018), Nottinghamshire Police recorded 11354 offences in the Ashfield District. This is an increase of 17.51% (1692 offences) on the previous year.

	Current: Oct 2017- Sept 2018	Previous: Oct 2016-Sept 2017	Volume Change	%Change	Target
Total recorded crime	11354	9662	1692	17.51%	Reduce
Victim based crime	10181	8649	1532	17.71%	Reduce
Violence against the person	3439	2824	615	21.78%	Reduce
Sexual offences	381	373	8	2.14%	Reduce
Robbery	128	57	71	124.56%	Reduce
Burglary	952	1007	-55	-5.46%	Monitor
Vehicle offences	1102	922	180	19.52%	Reduce
Theft from person	53	28	25	89.29%	Reduce
Bicycle theft	142	100	42	42.00%	Reduce
Shoplifting	1320	868	452	52.07%	Reduce
Other theft	957	1082	-125	-11.55%	Monitor
Criminal damage and arson	1707	1388	303	22.98%	Reduce
Other crimes against society	1173	1013	160	15.79%	Reduce
Drug offences	177	180	-3	-1.67%	Monitor
Possession of weapons	84	67	17	25.37%	Reduce
Public order offences	654	592	62	10.47%	Reduce
Miscellaneous crimes against society	258	174	84	48.28%	Reduce
Anti-Social Behaviour	3582	3377	205	6.07%	Reduce

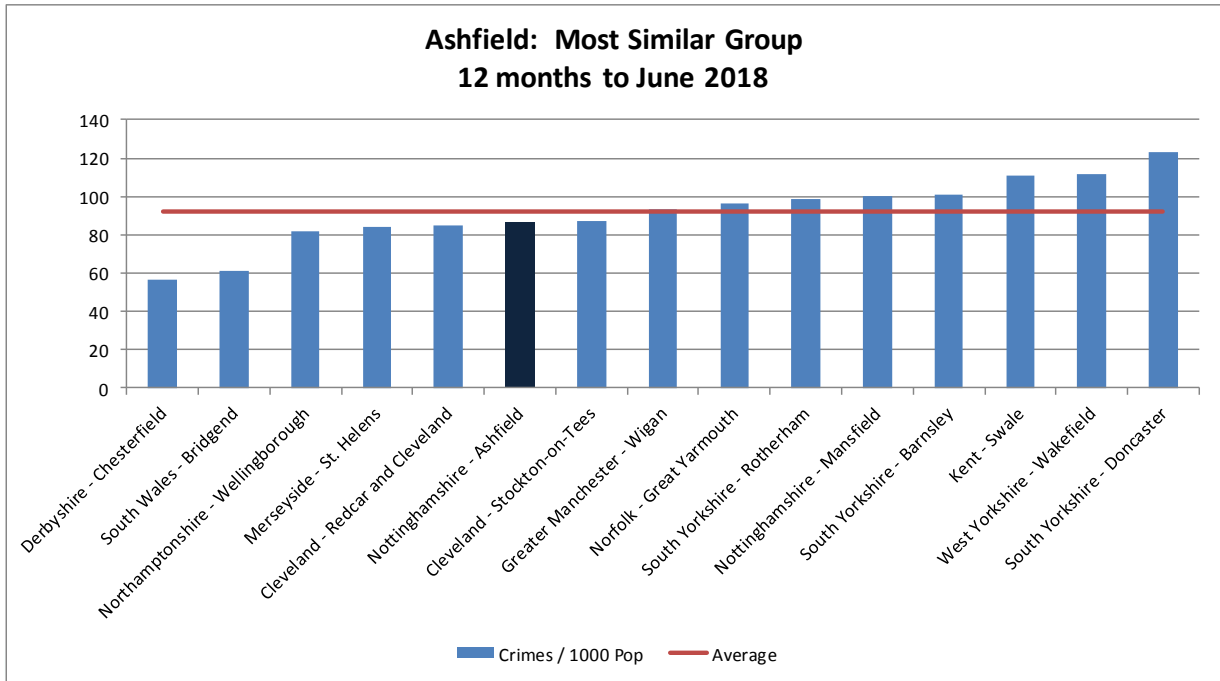
There is an increase in recorded crime of 17.51% (1692 offences) which can partly be attributed to a change in Police crime recording practices particularly around Violence Against the Person – 21.78% (615 offences).

Significant increases can be seen in the following:

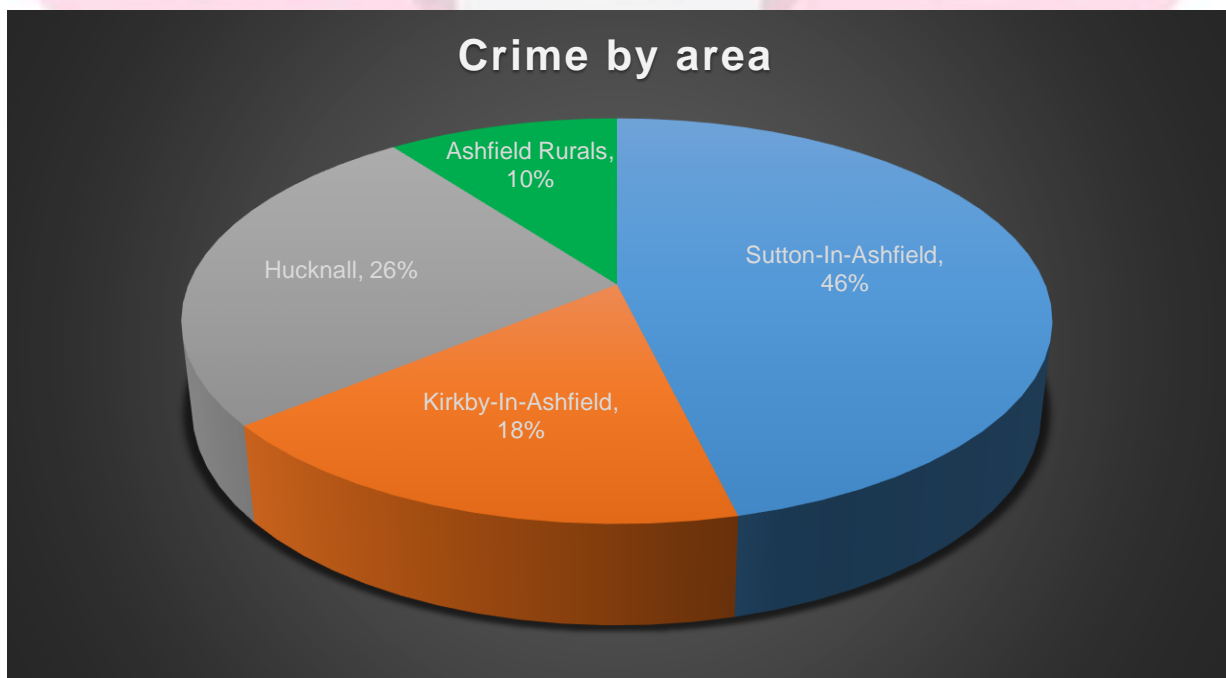
- Robbery – 124.56% (71 offences),
- Theft from Person – 89.29% (25 offences),
- Shoplifting – 52.07% (452 offences)
- Miscellaneous Crimes Against Society – 48.28% (84 offences)
- Criminal Damage and Arson – 22.98% (303 offences)
- Vehicle offences – 19.52% (180 offences)

Only three reporting areas show a reduction:

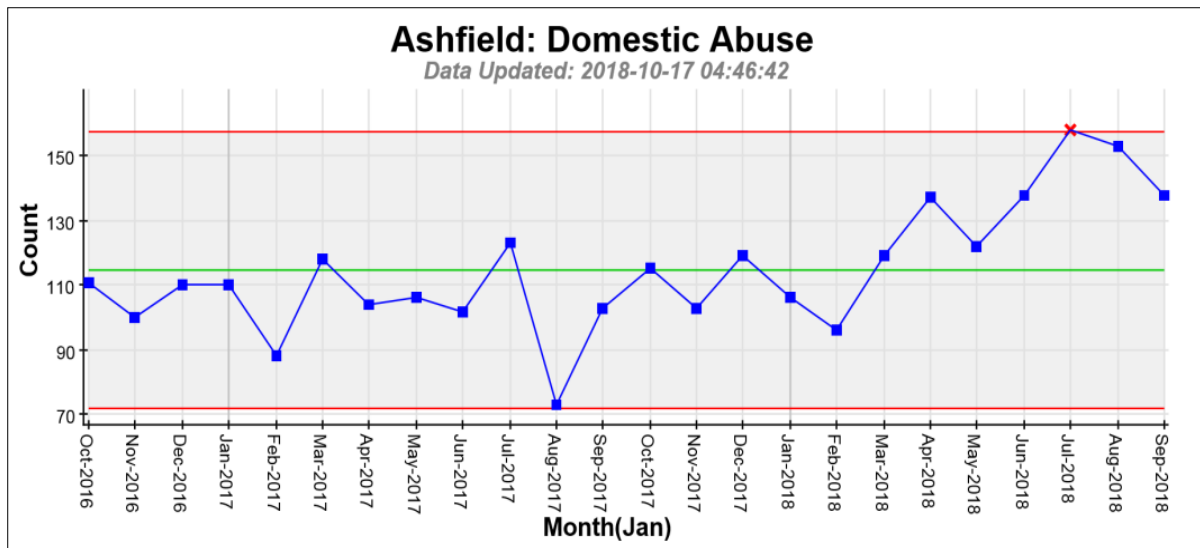
- Other Theft -11.55% (125 offences)
- Burglary 5.46% (55 offences)
- Drug Offences – 1.67% (3 offences)



Ashfield compares favourably when measured against similar areas. Crimes per thousand population are below the average.



Crime percentages loosely mirror the population figures for each main area. Sutton-In-Ashfield and Hucknall combined account for 72% of all crime.



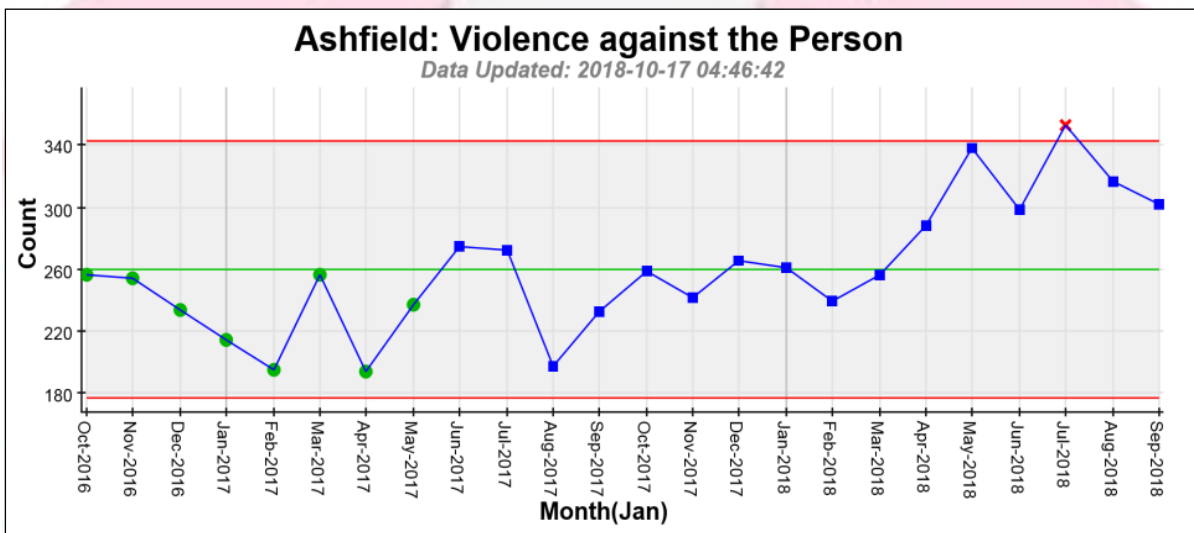
	Current: Oct 2017- Sept 2018	Previous: Oct 2016- Sept 2017	Volume Change	%Change	Target
Domestic Abuse	1456	1328	128	9.64%	Reduce

Domestic abuse reporting has continued to rise over the past two years with a 9.64% (128 offences) rise between October 2017 and September 2018. This is encouraging as it demonstrates a potential improved confidence in the ability of organisations to support victims and deal positively with perpetrators.

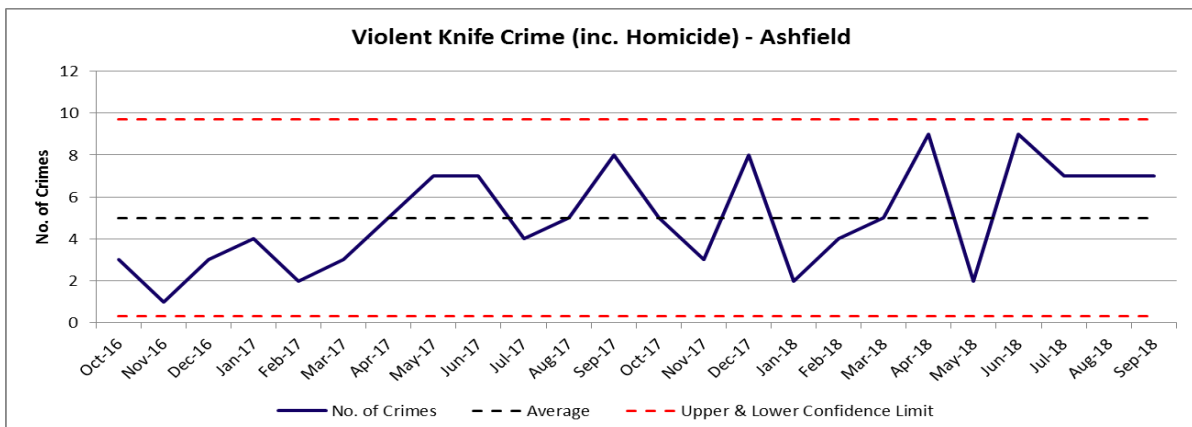
Women’s Aid Integrated Services (WAIS) deliver the following services in the Ashfield area:

- **Serenity Dispersed Refuge Accommodation.** External funding has supported refuge accommodation for women & children fleeing domestic abuse in Ashfield. There are six properties across Ashfield – 3 flats and 3 houses with 37 bed spaces.
Serenity can house:
 - Women with larger families
 - Women with older boy children
 - Women for whom communal refuge accommodation isn’t suitable
- **Indigo Team** – Offer support to women and children who are medium and standard risk. Support includes one to one support, drop-ins and healthy relationship programs. The teams are based with partners within the Ashfield Hub and with the Social Care Assessment Team.
- **DAR’S (Domestic Abuse Referral Service)** - The service takes referrals directly from GP’s and other health professionals.

- **CAT Team** (Children & Teen Team) – One to one support to children who have experienced domestic abuse in their home, one to one support to teenagers who have experienced abuse in their own relationship, group work in schools and throughout the school holidays.
- **Pets Project** – The Pets project offers support to women to flee domestic abuse by arranging fostering for their pets.
- **Helpline** – a 24-hour helpline for women and agencies offering information, advice and signposting.
- **Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVA), Court IDVAs and Integrated Offender Management (IOM)** – Women assessed as high risk via the Multi-agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) process and court receive support IDVAs.



Violence against the person has shown a rise of 21.78%. Whilst a proportion of this rise can be attributed to revisions Police recording practices, it is an area that will be addressed in the CSP plan moving forwards.



Knife crime in the United Kingdom continues to receive significant media attention. This in turn contributes to an increase in reporting.

The Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Commissioner has published Nottinghamshire's Knife Crime Strategy 2018.

The Knife Crime Strategy 2018 is a pan-agency agreement that will see partners working together with the voluntary sector to tackle every aspect of knife violence with a strong emphasis on education, early intervention and youth engagement.

Backed by Nottingham City Council and Safer Nottinghamshire Board, voluntary and community sector and criminal justice partners the strategy sets out four key areas of work:

- Identification and management of risk: Identifying those at risk of becoming perpetrators or victims of knife crime and managing these risks with diversion and enforcement.
- Developing resilient spaces: Making it harder for offenders to carry and use knives in public spaces by robust enforcement, particularly in the night-time economy.
- Communication and behaviour change: Ensuring clear messages are delivered and promoting alternative lifestyle options.
- Communities and the third sector: Working with the community and wider partners to build resilient neighbourhoods and tackle both the immediate and long-term impact of knife crime.

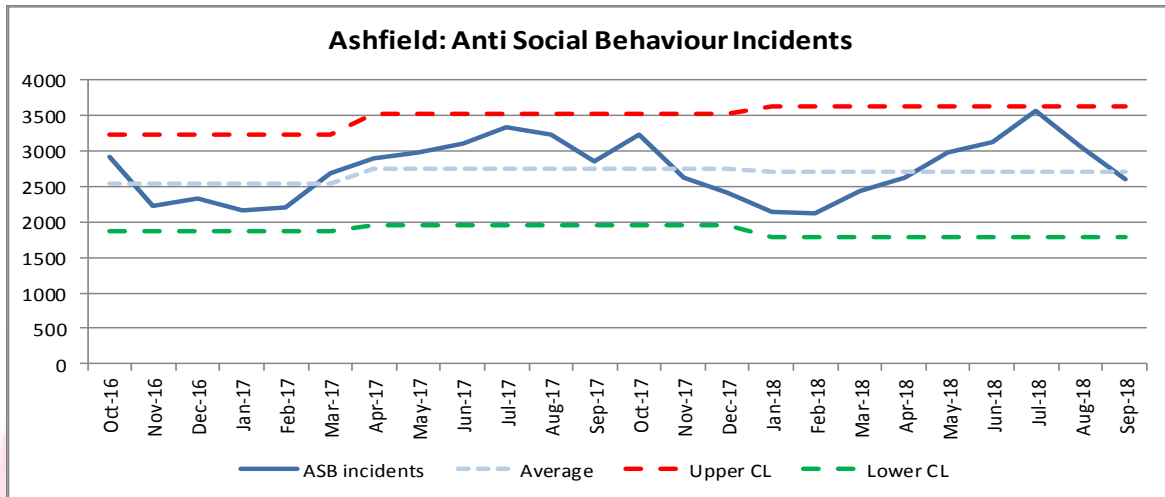
A recent Nottinghamshire 'Knife Amnesty' resulted in 31 knives being recovered in Ashfield as part of a countywide total of 418.

#LivesNotKnives

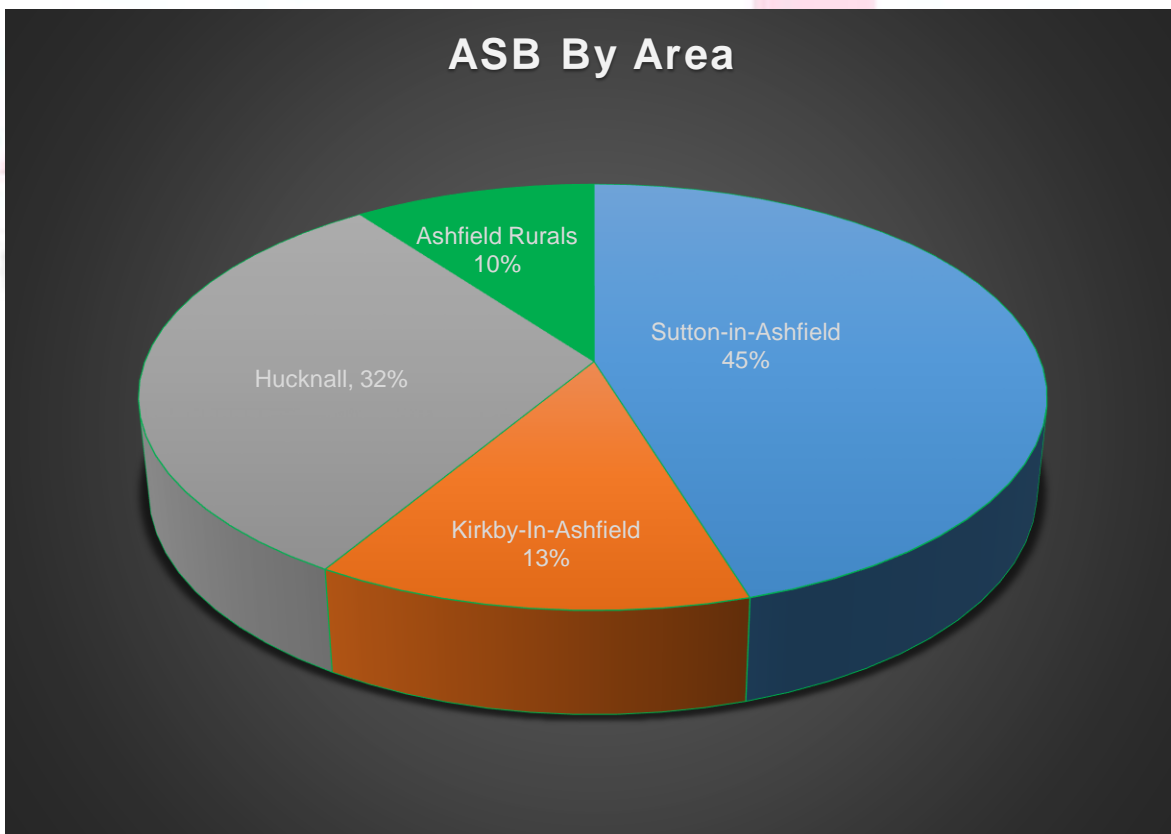


Anti-Social Behaviour

Levels of reporting of Anti-Social Behaviour rose slightly by 6.07% (205 offences) and reductions seen in two of the key areas; Environmental -13.69% (33 offences) and Personal -1.16% (7 offences). The only rise being in Nuisance -9.67% (245 offences).



Sutton-In-Ashfield and Hucknall account for 77% of all reported antisocial behaviour.



Hate Crime

A hate incident is any incident that is perceived by the victim, or any other person, to be motivated by hate, hostility or prejudice.

Data is collected under five strands:

- Race
- Disability
- Faith or religion
- Sexual orientation
- Gender identity

Nottinghamshire Police also collect data for:

- Misogyny
- Alternative subcultures

	Current: Oct 2017- Sept 2018	Previous: Oct 2016- Sept 2017	Volume Change	%Change	Target
Hate Crime	115	88	27	30.7%	Reduce

Hate crime reporting has increased significantly in the period between October 2017 and September 2018. This is against the background of BREXIT which has seen a national rise in reported hate crime in the United Kingdom.

It can be seen that the Ashfield District has shown a rise of 30.7% (27 offences) which could also be attributed in greater victim confidence in reporting instances of hate crime.

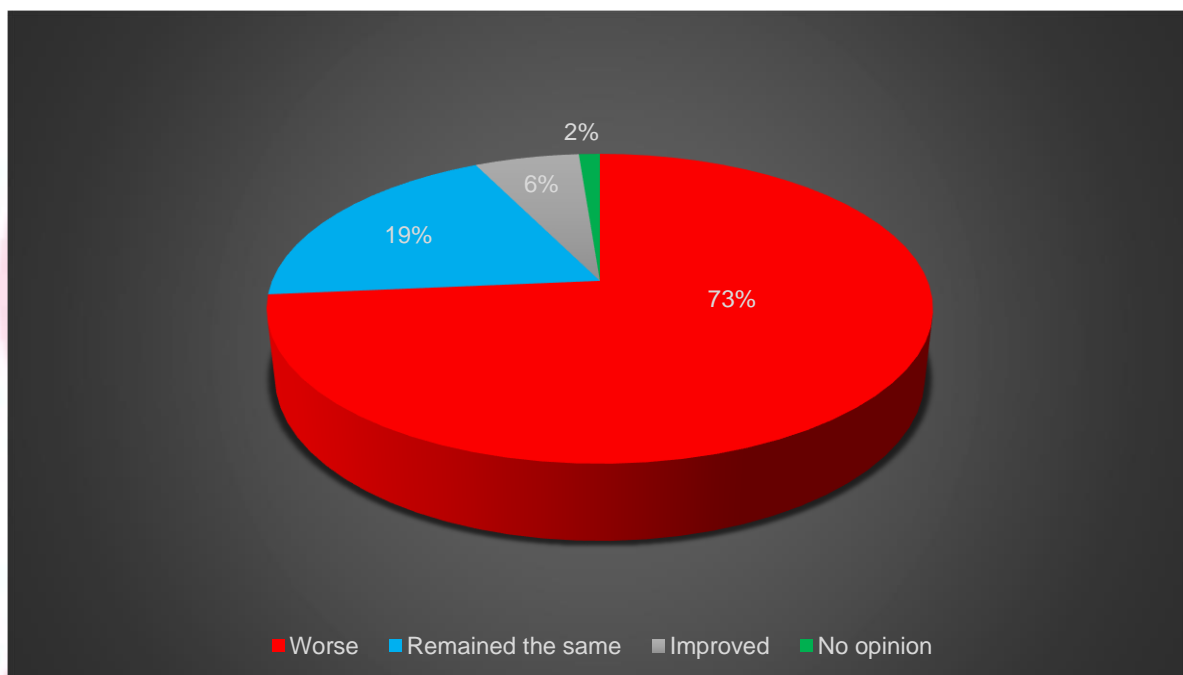


Community Consultation 2018.

A recent Community Consultation in the Ashfield District showed that the largest proportion of residents, 73%, identified that crime and anti-social behaviour in the District had become worse over the past twelve months. 19% identified that it had remained the same and only 6% identified that it had improved.

It is important to note that this consultation was completed at a time that the local media was dominated by issues connected to the controlled substance known as 'Mamba' and the associated anti-social behaviour.

“Thinking about your local area, 15-20 minutes’ walk from where you live, how have levels of crime and anti-social behaviour changed over the past year?”



When asked, **“What makes your area a safe place?”** the most common responses related to community and agencies. 20.2% mentioned a visible authority within the community and a further 17.6% talked about good neighbours.

When asked, **“What makes your area an unsafe place?”** there were two overwhelming categories: drug issues – 19.87% and a lack of Police – 18.57%.

It is important the partnership recognises community concern alongside more readily available datasets for recorded crime and disorder.

The fear or perception of crime is just as likely to have an impact on a community as a change in recorded incidents.

The consultation has gathered a significant amount of information about the communities’ opinions, awareness and concerns of community safety issues.

Headlines;

- Levels of crime and anti-social behaviour are perceived as becoming **worse** over the past year.
- Respondents identified that a **well-established community, good neighbours** and **visible authority** in the community are the key factors in making their area safe.
- Respondents stated that **drug issues** and a **lack of Police** are the key factors in making their area an unsafe place.
- Respondents perception is that **substance misuse** and **youth issues** are the main contributors to levels of crime and anti-social behaviour.
- Respondents claim to have a good understanding of **cybercrime, hate crime** and **child sexual exploitation**, but less so about **modern day slavery** and **preventing radicalisation**.
- Respondents are most concerned about **drug taking and dealing, nuisance vehicles** and **rowdy/inconsiderate behaviour**.

The details of the consultation will be used to inform the development of a new CSP plan, which will set out the strategic aims of the partnership over the next three years.



Review of Current CSP Priorities

Note: Due to financial restrictions and limited resources, there has been a period of two years since the last assessment which was prepared for 2016/2017. As such this section of the report will relate to the priorities which were set within that assessment.

The previous plan can be found at:

<https://democracy.ashfield-dc.gov.uk/documents/s4828/ACP%20-%20Enc.pdf>

Priority 1: Improving quality of life for residents of Ashfield

- Reducing vulnerabilities

Support continuation of medium risk Domestic Abuse Support

This is completed as part of daily business by the Nottinghamshire Police Safer Neighbourhood Team following a comprehensive risk assessment. It remains restricted by the lack of consent from some survivors.

Forging stronger links with Nottingham City Assurance and Learning Group for Domestic Homicides.

Partners attend the above and good practice is shared and adopted in respect of Domestic Homicide Reviews.

Mainstreaming emergency accommodation for survivors of Domestic Violence in collaboration with Women's Aid Integrated Services.

Serenity Dispersed Refuge Accommodation is fully established in the Ashfield District.

This is currently funded until 2020.

Continue to roll out ECINS (Empowering Communities Inclusion and Neighbourhood Management System) to help partners share information.

ECINS empowers multi-agency partnerships by providing a secure, encrypted, cloud-based central hub to manage, collaborate, share, task and audit evidence.

Ashfield District Council has embedded ECINS as the primary recording system for incidents of anti-social behaviour. Nottinghamshire Police and Nottinghamshire Fires and Rescue are utilising the system. It is utilised positively in the management of the Ashfield Complex Persons Panel.

Continue multi-agency partnership working through the Vulnerable Person's Panel to resolve problems / support victims.

This is now known as the Complex Person's Panel and is embedded as a referral and problem-solving tool within the partnership. Currently (December 2018) there are 5 active cases.

Continue building upon integrated working & the success of the New Cross and Broomhill support teams by expanding the learning to the wider hub teams

The New Cross and Broomhill Support Teams have now been embedded within the Community Safety Team at Ashfield District Council as the Complex Case Team. They now help vulnerable and hard to reach people across the district. Their 'triangle of need' ethos is embedded within the Community Safety team as the accepted working methodology. This was the subject of an independent evaluation by Nottingham Trent University that was shared with partner agencies.

Establishing a policy direction within ADC that requires all services to place a particular emphasis on key places and key people.

A review of services was completed in 2016/2017 which established a 'Systems Thinking' approach across the Community Safety Department. This focussed on establishing the underlying causes of repeat demands upon services and ensuring that those demands were reduced through targeted positive interventions. This ethos is now embedded within the service and is at the heart of case management.

- **Reducing enviro-crime**

Continue to work with residents to tackle issues such as dog fouling, littering.

Dog bags are available at various outlets throughout the district at a reduced cost.

A meeting of the full Council authorised an extension and variation to an existing Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) on 26th July 2018 for a period of three years commencing 01/10/2018 and this includes:

- Dog fouling in specified areas.
- Failing to produce device or other means or removing dog faeces on demand.
- Dogs specified maximum amount
- Dog exclusion in specified areas
- Dogs on leads in specified areas.

Community litter-picks are a regular event often led by elected representatives and litter picking is offered as an alternative to prosecution in respect of littering offences.

- To significantly reduce the crime and anti-social behaviour occurring in vulnerable families
- Reduce overall ASB

Focus on those individual and families that cause the most demand to public organisations. Targeted partnership working with the Family Service.

Caseworkers refer cases into the Family Service and work alongside them to assist those families that cause the most demand to public organisations. The Complex Case Team (ADC) work to identify 'troubled families' in the area and assign a key worker to act as a single point of contact.

Partners to ensure that suitable accommodation is made available to avoid vulnerable young people with mental health concerns being detained in custody and develop an appropriate place of safety.

Custody officers will not book a young person with mental health vulnerabilities into custody unless it is a last resort.

In the event the young person has committed a crime then the necessity for arrest is rigidly scrutinised and alternative options such as voluntary attendance interviews are explored. There should also be a safeguarding referral made if they are under 18. When detention is necessary then there is engagement between the custody officer and Emergency Duty Team at Social Care and the young person will be linked into the mental health workers who are based within the custody suites. The Police occasionally seek to remand young people overnight, but always refer them to Social Care who should seek an alternative provision via the relevant local authority.

If young people are brought to the custody suite for mental health issues only they are then either linked into the mental health triage team or diverted to a suitable place of safety such as a hospital.

Use of new Anti-social behaviour Tools and Powers.

The use of these powers is firmly embedded within the Ashfield District Council and Nottinghamshire Police. Community Protection Warnings and Notices have been effectively used to address issues of anti-social behaviour across the district. They were successfully used to restrict both the sale and usage of the controlled substance known as 'Mamba' within Sutton-in-Ashfield town centre.

Supporting development of Street Pastors in all of our town centres.

The Street Pastors are active and highly visible in Hucknall town centre. They voluntarily patrol the streets at night, helping and caring for people in practical ways. They hand out space blankets outside nightclubs, and flip-flops to clubbers unable to walk home in their high-heeled footwear; giving out water, chocolate for energy, personal alarms, carrying bus timetables; and ensuring the safety of vulnerable persons. Street pastors remove bottles and other potential weapons from the streets, in order to discourage violence and vandalism

- Reducing violent crime (including that related to the night-time economy)

Further development and Integration of the Community Alcohol Partnership (CAP.)

The Sutton-in-Ashfield/Huthwaite CAP is embedded within the community and meetings take place every six to eight weeks. In the past twelve months they have conducted the following:

- Proactive stencil campaign on pavements adjacent to licensed premises.
- CAP branded point of sale materials distributed to all licenced premises.
- Test purchase operation. Two individuals prosecuted and referred to Ashfield District Council Licensing Department for re-education into their responsibilities.
- Week of action completed during Alcohol Awareness Week.
- Continued promotion and support of the 'Challenge 25' initiative.
- Expanded membership following engagement from the Forge Café youth project.

The Selston CAP has been established and meets on a monthly basis.

Priority 2: Increased Community Involvement in decisions that affect them.

- Engagement with communities to ensure there is greater understanding of what is going on in specific areas.

Encourage greater uptake on Neighbourhood Alert.

Neighbourhood Alert provides an advanced community messaging system for Nottinghamshire Police.

Currently Neighbourhood Alert is managed effectively by Police volunteers based at Hucknall Police Station and has a weekly circulation of over two thousand recipients in the Hucknall and rurals area. The weekly 'Alert' highlights all crimes reported in the area and provides a valuable communication to residents.

Development of better connectivity and relationships between providers and the community.

It has been impossible to assess this as there is no recorded baseline for measurement.

Dragons Den style project.

The 2018 Dragons Den Project focused on promoting “Community Resilience, Community Cohesion, Diversity In order to promote Community Safety & Prevent Crime”

In the preparation, they worked with expert input from Young Minds and working alongside young artists from Emerge. The theme this year was to use Shakespeare and the concept of “festival” as a creative lens.

The competing schools were Holgate Academy, Quarrydale Academy and Kirkby College.

They were also tasked to design a creative exhibit for the Emerge Festival 2018. They all pitch their festival exhibit to a panel of Dragon’s Den Style Judges and compete for prize funding to develop their exhibit further for their school and local community.

Together We Are Better- project that identify people that live alone and would benefit from friendships from likeminded individuals – tackles loneliness.

This initiative was managed by ‘Jigsaw’ and allowed partner agencies to refer suitable candidates.

Priority 3: Improved Integrated Working at Local Level on priorities specific to each community

- Creation of more effective ‘citizen-shaped’ services.
- Redesigning the way mainstream services are delivered at a neighbourhood level

Continuing to support improvement in our Priority areas, coordinating activities from the various Partners to add value to the existing mainstream provision.

The focus on so called ‘Priority Areas’ has now shifted to a more dynamic approach to problem solving based on an intelligence and need led approach.

The five areas were:

- Broomhill
- New Cross
- Leamington
- Stanton Hill
- Coxmoor

Broomhill and New Cross had dedicated teams with offices on the relevant areas. These teams dealt with those individuals in crisis and had significant success as well as delivering considerable savings across the partnership.

These teams have now been mainstreamed as the 'Complex Case Team' and are now working with clients with complex needs across the District.

Process reengineering project to assess the ASB approach by Council and Police

A review of services was completed in 2016/2017, which established a 'Systems Thinking' approach across the Community Safety Department. This focussed on establishing the underlying causes of repeat demands upon services and ensuring that those demands were reduced through targeted positive interventions. This ethos is now embedded within the service and is at the heart of case management.

The right level of representation and involvement by partners (internal and external).

The integrated HUB is now thriving with representation and involvement from Ashfield District Council, Nottinghamshire Police, Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue, Women's Aid Integrated Services, Probation Services, Family Services, Catch 22 and Victim Care. Problem solving is conducted on a multi-agency basis with excellent results being achieved on the Sutton Town centre 'Mamba' issue and the ongoing anti-social behaviour issues on the Coxmoor estate at Kirkby-In-Ashfield.

Work with partners to better understand, prevent and reduce demand and take steps to bolster community volunteering

Working in partnership has allowed all organisations to understand their demand and work towards preventing and reducing it. Volunteers are a key element to this as they provide additionality and free key staff to complete other duties.

Ashfield District Council and Nottinghamshire Police both have well-advertised volunteer schemes.

The Ashfield District Council scheme has 16 schools signed up to the Green Buddy Scheme, over 350 people have taken part in environmental initiatives and 103 people registered as Environmental Volunteers.

To volunteer at Ashfield District Council individuals can contact Community Action on 01623 457092 or email: volunteering@ashfield.gov.uk

To volunteer at Nottinghamshire Police individuals can contact the volunteer co-ordinator on 101 ext. 8106922 or email volunteers@nottinghamshire.pnn.police.uk.

Taking lessons from the pilot in New Cross* and developing them across the area.

As has been previously stated the 'systems thinking' approach and working practices of the pilot are now embedded as the accepted method of working within Ashfield District Council's Community Safety Department.

Ensure there is practical information sharing agreements in place to support multi-agency and locality working.

This is ongoing and constantly evolving.

Increasing connectivity with the County Council's new Family Support unit.

Partner agencies can and do refer into the unit, but again there is no baseline for the measurement of outcomes.



Recommendations:

Priorities	Cross Cutting Themes
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Anti-social behaviour• Vulnerable people• Domestic Abuse• Violence• Integrated working	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Alcohol and substance misuse• Mental health

How will we address these priorities?

It should be accepted that the above priorities will very often be linked and there will be an ongoing necessity for them to be addressed in a flexible manner. The completed Ashfield Community Safety Partnership Plan will therefore be a dynamic document.

All partners have committed to sharing information and identifying means to gather relevant information and making best use of technology to inform tactical plans around priority issues.

Real-time data and intelligence will be utilised to address those issues that affect our communities.

Problem solving is to be completed in partnership with specific focus groups being formed to address both emerging and long-standing issues.

Activities will be effective, deliver value for money and any new services or projects will be commissioned in areas of greatest need.

The Community Safety Partnership will target its resources to improve public confidence in services, address those issues that have the greatest impact and protect the communities that they serve.

The Mansfield and Ashfield Community Safety Partnership Delivery Group will be responsible for monitoring emerging issues and delivering the plan. They will then report outcomes to the Mansfield and Ashfield Community Safety Partnership Strategic Group to ensure that the plan is being effectively delivered.

The plan will be reviewed and updated on a yearly basis.

PRIORITY: ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

Aims:

- Increased identification and active targeting of offenders and hot spot locations
- Improved provision and promotion of support to victims and witnesses.
- Increased community empowerment to tackle ASB.
- Increased positive diversionary activity for those at risk from becoming involved in ASB.
- Improved management of perceptions and reassurance.
- Ensure people know how to report ASB.

What will we do?

- Provide consistent multi-agency approach to the identification and support of vulnerable and repeat victims of ASB.
- Take a partnership approach to the use of appropriate enforcement powers
- Support and develop partnership targeted seasonal education and awareness campaigns; i.e. Bonfire Night, Halloween, end of school year.
- Continue to support primary and secondary school education initiatives locally and countywide.
- Engage fully in countywide strategies, policies and working groups enabling better outcomes for the communities of Ashfield.
- Expansion of the Community Alcohol Partnership to Kirkby-in-Ashfield and Hucknall.
- Increased public visibility from all partners in those areas experiencing high levels of ASB. This is to be dynamic and led.
- Support and engage with the Nottinghamshire Police Schools and Early Intervention Officer to tackle school absence and associated ASB.
- Continue to engage proactively with those misusing both drugs and alcohol within the communities of Ashfield.
- Conduct inter-agency research to better understand the results of our public consultation. (72%)

What does success look like?

- In the twelve months to the end of September 2018, there were 3,582 incidents of ASB reported to the police in Ashfield District, which was a six per cent increase on the previous year.

Indicators of success:-

- A downward trend in incidents.
- Communities and people are safer and feel safer. (Measured via the
- Improved public perception of ASB and connected issues as measured in the annual CSP Public Consultation.
- Reduce the number of repeat victims year on year in respect of ASB.

PRIORITY: PROTECTING VULNERABLE PEOPLE

Aims.

- Increased identification and support for vulnerable residents and victims.
- Improved early help support mechanisms.
- Improved multi-agency awareness and prevention programs.
- Increased proactive response to emerging and high-risk vulnerability concerns as they occur.
- Improved early intervention and community based assistance to tackle root causes of children and family vulnerabilities.
- Enhanced awareness of violent extremism and hate crime.

What will we do?

- Use a partnership approach to ensure vulnerable children, families and adults are identified through the ongoing development of the Ashfield Complex Persons Panel.
- Actively promote knowledge of and the referral process for, the Ashfield Complex Persons Panel.
- Support and develop a partnership approach to countywide and national strategies around vulnerable people (to include PREVENT, Modern Day Slavery, CSE and Hate Crime) and organised crime groups (County Lines).
- Raise awareness of vulnerability concerns through targeted campaigns and events.
- Support and assist voluntary and other community groups to identify commissioning and funding opportunities.
- Engage fully in countywide strategies, policies and working groups enabling better outcomes.
- Support and promote engagement through appropriate mediums to ensure residents are aware what is happening in their area.
- Support and promote the National Property Register, 'Immobilise', to safeguard resident's valuable items.
- Promote, both internally and externally, the use of the National Referral Mechanism for reporting suspected cases of modern day slavery.
- Work with Public Health and Education agencies to find ways in which key (age-appropriate) sexual educational messages for children can be communicated and reinforced; particularly around issues of consent, personal boundaries and appropriate behaviour.
- Reinforce messages for children and young people in respect of the safe use of the internet. This will also include providing guidance for parents; both in terms of technical solutions (e.g. parental controls) and support to assist them in identifying possible issues.

What does success look like?

- Communities and people are safer and feel safer.
- Increased perception and understanding of Cybercrime, Preventing Radicalisation, Child Sexual Exploitation, Modern Day Slavery and Hate Crime as measured in the annual CSP Public Consultation.
- Increased confidence in agencies to encourage reporting of hate crime.
- Hate crime recording to correlate with ONS data.

PRIORITY: DOMESTIC ABUSE

Aims.

- Improved challenge of underlying attitudes and behaviours.
- Develop early identification and intervention support.
- Increased support and risk reduction for high-risk victims of domestic abuse.
- Improved partnership working to ensure appropriate actions around perpetrators.
- Improved work with other partners to obtain the best outcomes for those affected by domestic abuse and their families.

What will we do?

- Support and develop partnership targeted education and awareness campaigns; i.e. White Ribbon.
- Support voluntary and other groups through identified commissioning and funding opportunities.
- Take a proportionate partnership approach to the use of appropriate enforcement powers.
- Support and develop the MARAC process to reduce risk for victims and families.
- Continue to support primary and secondary school education initiatives locally and countywide around healthy relationships.
- Engage fully in countywide strategies, policies and working groups enabling better outcomes for the communities of Ashfield.
- Support the countywide commissioning for Domestic Abuse Services. i.e The Serenity Project.
- Sustain early intervention processes.
- Work towards accreditation with the Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance (DAHA). DAHA is a partnership between three agencies who are leaders in innovation to address domestic abuse within housing; [Standing Together Against Domestic Violence \(STADV\)](#), [Peabody](#) and [Gentoo](#).
- Domestic Homicide Reviews will be conducted in line with Home Office Guidance. All agencies involved will identify what lessons there are to learn about the way local professionals and organisations work individually and together to safeguard victims.

What does success look like?

- Reduce the number of repeat victims year on year in respect of domestic abuse.
- Increased confidence in agencies to encourage reporting of domestic abuse.

PRIORITY: VIOLENCE

Aims.

- Increased proactive response to violence associated with night-time economy disorder
- Increase identification and support for young people involved with (or at risk of being involved with) violent crime.
- Increased identification and active targeting of offenders who are exploiting vulnerable groups
- Enhance awareness of violent extremism and hate crime
- Improved support for victims of violent crime
- Improved targeting of prolific and repeat violent crime offenders

What will we do?

- Promote and engage communities to report crime issues of concern via all appropriate channels (to include online reporting via the Nottinghamshire Police website and CRIMESTOPPERS)
- Support and develop partnership targeted education, awareness and crime reduction campaigns.
- Provide consistent multi-agency approach to the identification of repeat and high risk offenders for crime and ASB.
- Engage fully in countywide strategies, policies and working groups enabling better outcomes for the communities of Ashfield.
- Support voluntary and other groups through identified commissioning and funding opportunities for the reduction of re-offending.
- Reduced placement of vulnerable people into sensitive locations through development of the Ashfield Complex Persons Panel and liaison with Ashfield District Council Housing Services.
- Support and implement Nottinghamshire's Knife Crime Strategy 2018. (OPCC)

What does success look like?

- In the twelve months to the end of September 2018, there were 3439 violent crimes reported to the police in Ashfield. This was a rise of 21.78%.

Success:-

- A downward trend in incidents (excluding harassment and stalking).
- Communities and people are safer and feel safer.

PRIORITY: INTEGRATED WORKING

Aims.

- To further develop and improve partnership working across the Ashfield District.

What will we do?

- Have mutual respect within partner organisations.
- Actively listen to each other to improve outcomes for residents.
- Work from shared values.
- Better understand the priorities and limitations of partner organisations.
- Honesty with each other.
- Be customer and solution focused.
- Acknowledge each other's' views.
- Be inclusive.
- Have open communication and information sharing.
- Take an evidence based approach to the setting of shared priorities.
- Problem solving to be completed using approved methodology (OSARA).

What does success look like?

- An expanded and more inclusive partnership HUB.
- Increase public satisfaction in agencies across the Ashfield District. (Measured via the public consultation.)



Community Safety Partnership Public Consultation 2018

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Introduction

The Community Safety Partnership (CSP) carries out an annual Strategic Assessment. This makes use of a range of partnership data including police crime figures, anti-social behaviour data, demographic information, environmental services data and information from an annual public consultation. Based on the Strategic Assessment, a Community Safety Partnership Plan is either written every three years or refreshed annually. Data from this consultation has been included in the 2018 Strategic Assessment and will be used to develop a new Community Safety Plan for 2019-2022.

Public consultations form an important part of the Partnership's evaluation process, gathering data around the community's perception of crime and disorder and awareness of emerging issues in both their local area and the District as whole.

The 2018 consultation was designed specifically to:

- Understand public perception of progress in terms of tackling crime and ASB.
- Understand what contributes to making people feel safe and unsafe.
- Gain an understanding of people's concerns about some of the underlying issues that impact on Crime and ASB.
- Gain an understanding of people's awareness of new and emerging issues within the district.
- Understand those issues that cause the greatest level of public concern.

It is appreciated that the data collected may have a wider use than informing the CSP's annual Strategic Assessment and is therefore shared with a number of partnerships, networks and organisations across the district to help set priorities, develop plans and support funding bids. This will remain compliant with DPA/GDPR.

Method

The consultation took place over the period from 20.07.2018 to 30.09.2018.

Whilst the co-ordination of the consultation took place within the District's Community Safety Team, the delivery of the survey took place over a number of partnership communication channels and public events.

An online version of the survey was made available via the District's website and promoted through social media channels. Key partners provided similar opportunities, through the face to face completion and social media accounts.

The Consultation was delivered at a number of locations and public events over the period. The times and places of these events were coordinated to encourage engagement with all sections of the community. All Ward Councillors were made aware of the consultation and details of the survey were promoted through a number of political party sites.



Results and geographical distribution of respondents.

The total number of surveys was **756**.

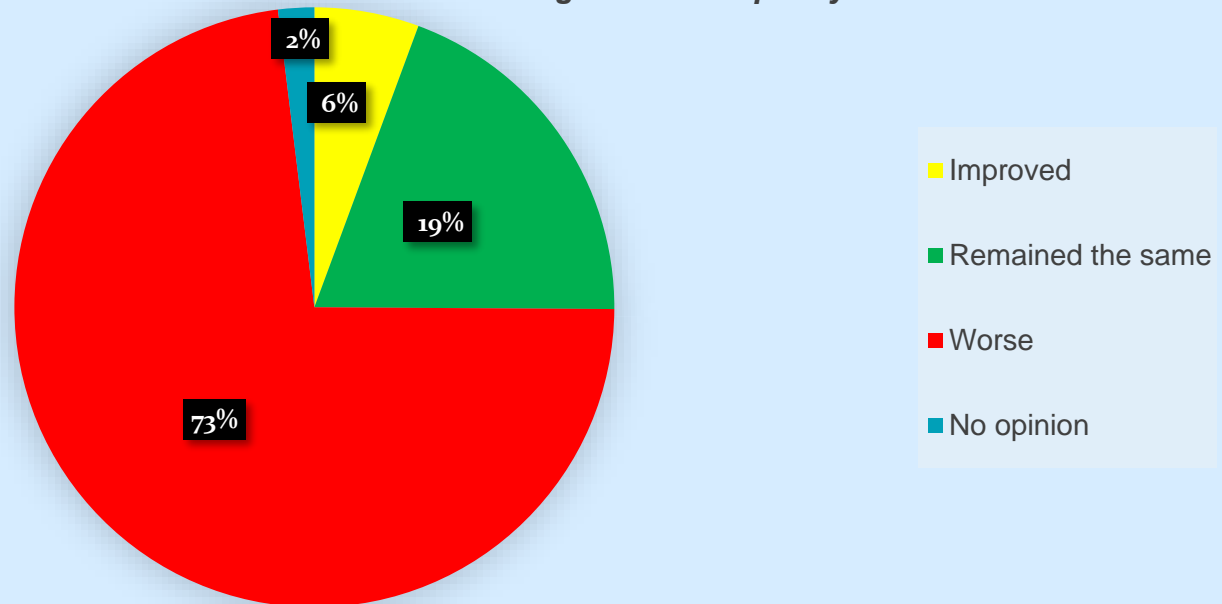
Area	% Total of Surveys
Sutton-in-Ashfield/Huthwaite/Skegby/Stanton Hill	43.13%
Kirkby-in-Ashfield/Annesley	27.68%
Hucknall	23.39%
Rural Villages – Selston/Jacksdale/Underwood	5.79%

Evaluation

Question 2 - "Thinking about your local area, 15-20 minutes' walk from where you live, how have levels of crime and anti-social behaviour changed over the past year?"

95% of respondents answered this question.

"Thinking about your local area, 15-20 minutes' walk from where you live, how have levels of crime and anti-social behaviour changed over the past year?"



Clearly, the data shows that the perception is that crime and anti-social behavior have become worse over the past year. The very fact that the next largest proportion of people believe that there has been no change indicates that there is a concern in respect of the public perception of the area.

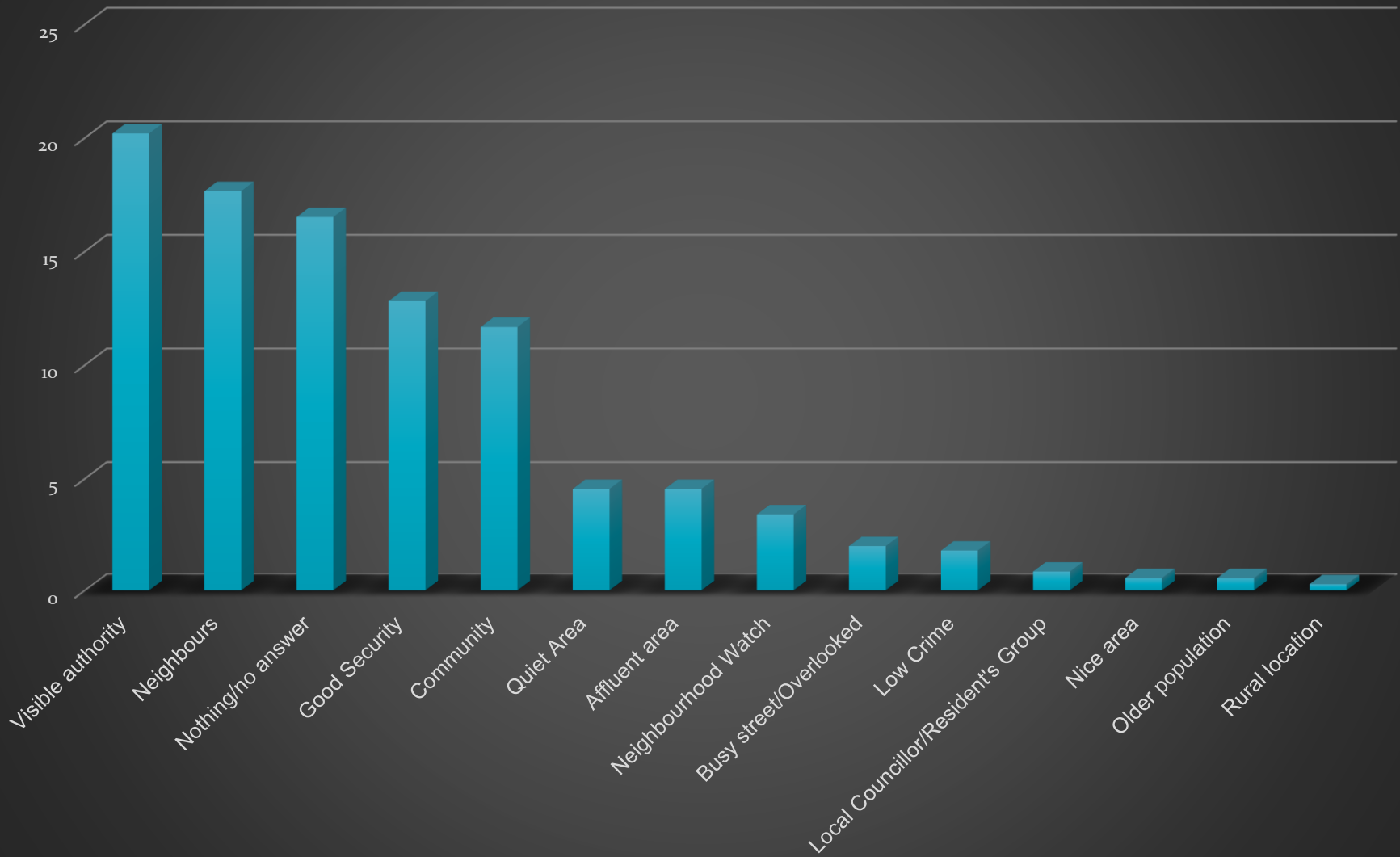
- *“More youths riding mopeds no helmets two on each really noisy. Young people hanging around in groups making you feel intimidated.”*
- *“Gone up at an incredible rate. We suffer ASB every single day and witness it wherever we go within Sutton, especially the centre and surrounding streets.”*
- *“Gone up massively. Most of my neighbours have had their garages or sheds broken into. Always seeing reports of theft and violence around Kirkby.*
- *“Crime has got bad around this area never see police or community support offices which we pay council tax for.”*
- *“It's very rural where we are and we don't have a problem with either.”*

Question 3 - What makes your area a safe place?

90.7% of respondents answered this question.

The content of the open question has been broken down into 14 themes. Each answer has been reviewed manually and scored against all 14 themes.

What makes your area a safe place?



There is a consistent message within this information that indicates that the people within the local community are what make other people feel safe, their immediate neighbours, those that live in the local area and the presence of those organisations who have a role addressing community safety issues.

These 14 themes can be grouped under broader headings that help us to understand the key components of community safety:

GROUP	%Total
Community	39.18%
Agencies	25.00%
Additional measures	18.91%
Environment	14.18%
Low levels of crime / ASB	2.02%

There is a strong message that people themselves make each other feel safe; they are part of a well-established community, with good relationships between neighbours. The greatest proportion of responses falls into this category (39.18%). They feel less likely to experience crime and disorder issues in the first place, but should something bad happen, someone would help or support them.

- *“Good friendly and caring community.”*
- *“Good neighbours, nice area, nice local school.”*
- *“Neighbours watching out for each other. Prevention - eg home lighting, cctv, alarm.”*

Confidence in local agencies is important, with over 25.0% giving examples in this category. The greatest proportion recognise a police presence as important. Other local organisations are also recorded, with the district council and Neighbourhood Watch being referenced and support of local Councillors, and residents groups.

- *“The sight of police officers on the street. Also to see these people being issued with a fine acts as a deterrent to future misdemeanors.”*
- *“Police officers, PCSOs and CPOs visible in the local area.”*
- *“The police and the council.”*



Additional measures in an area can have a positive impact on people's perception of safety; these include good street lighting, good home security, the presence of CCTV in the area and high levels of street cleansing. 18.91% list these as significant to their local area.

- *"Being secure in our own house. We have installed an alarm, security lights and extra locks."*
- *"The CCTV must seem to have a positive effect."*
- *"The security measures we have installed."*

The location and design of where people live clearly has a positive effect with 14.18% of respondents identifying this as making them feel safe.

- *"Luckily I live on a close so know most of my neighbours and we look out for each other."*
- *"I live in a private cul-de-sac and as such have no real issues as anyone visiting has nowhere to go if not on genuine visits."*
- *"I live on a terrace street to many eyes for people to commit crimes."*

Only small proportion (2.02%) mention the low levels of crime and disorder in their answer. This clearly presents a challenge for partner agencies to alter this perception.

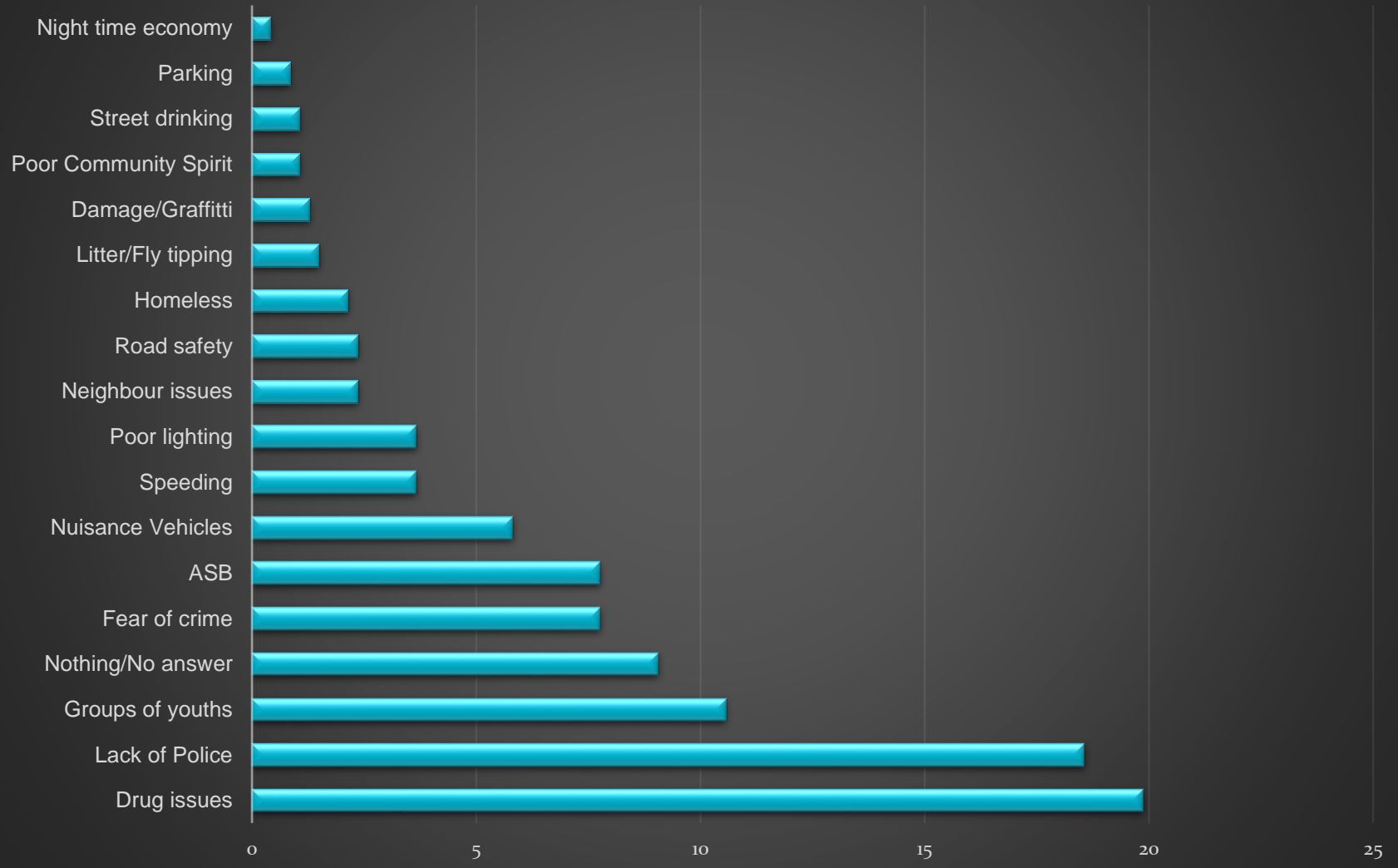


Question 4 - What makes your area an unsafe place?

92.86% of respondents answered this question.

The content of this open question have been broken down into 18 themes.

What makes your area an unsafe place?



It is clear that drug issues and a lack of Police are the two predominant issues. There is also a concern over groups of youths gathering across the district.

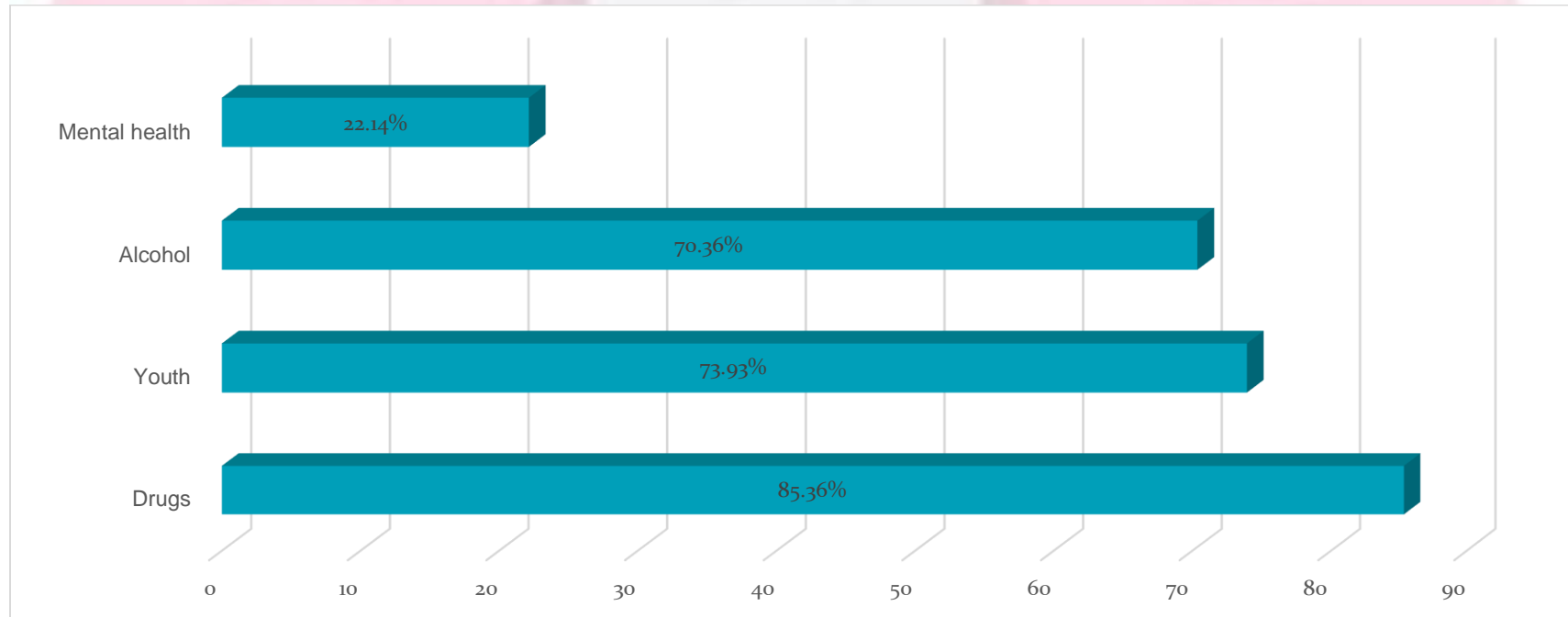
The top ten issues are:

	TOP TEN ISSUES 2018
1	Drug issues
2	Lack of Police
3	Groups of youths
4	Fear of Crime
5	Anti-social behavior
6	Nuisance vehicles
7	Speeding
8	Poor lighting
9	Road safety
10	Homeless.

It is clear that behaviour has a strong impact on how safe a person feels; they are more affected by **drug issues** (19.87%) and visible **groups of youths** (10.58%) than the **fear of crime** (7.7%). That may be due to the visibility of such issues. This is supported by the fact that a **lack of Police** is the second highest area for concern (18.57%). There are concerns around traffic related issues, with concerns about **nuisance vehicles** (5.83%), **speeding** (3.67%) and **road safety** (2.37%).

Question 5 - In your local area do you feel that levels of crime and anti-social behaviour are linked to any of the following? (Please tick all that apply)

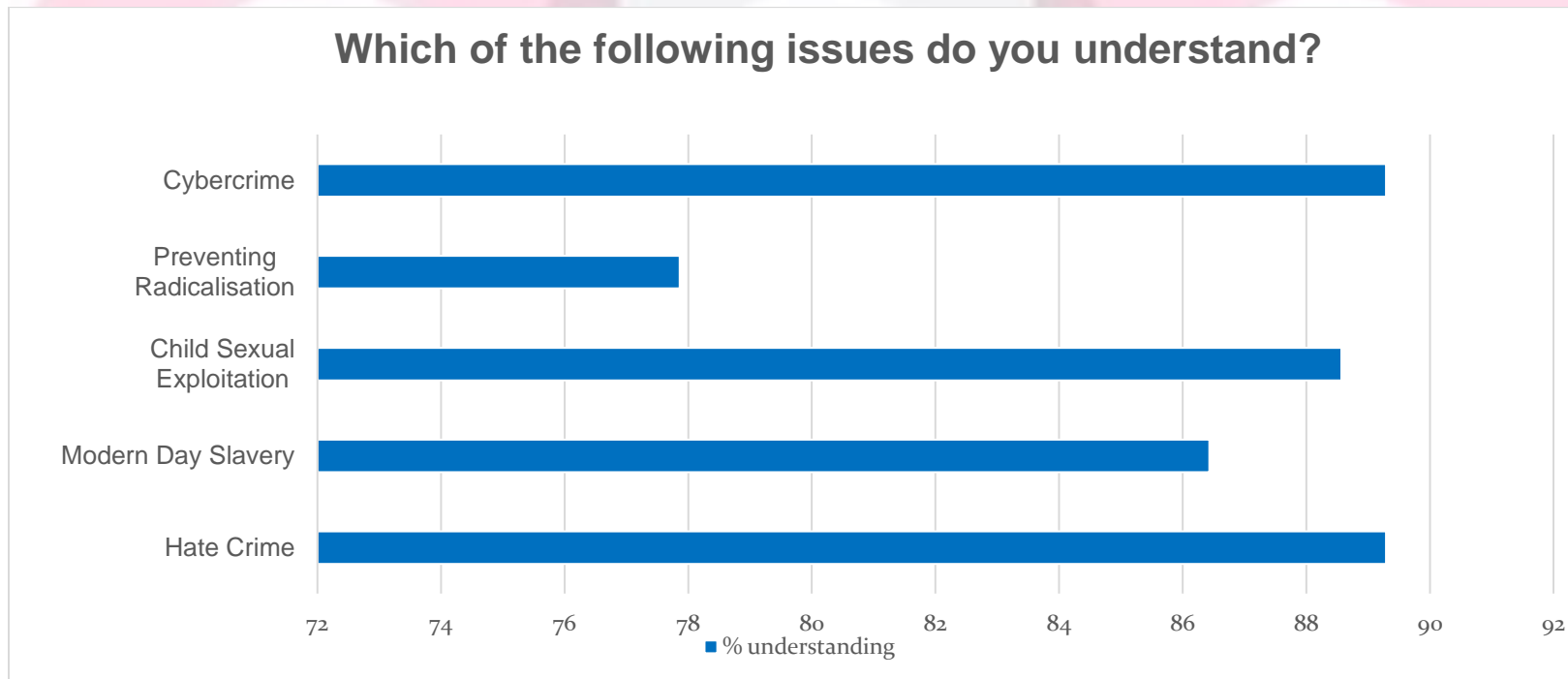
This question is intended to develop an understanding of some of the underlying issues within a community.



Substance misuse and youth issues are of high concern within the community with 85.36% suggesting that drugs are significant, 70.36% that alcohol is a factor and 73.9% that youth issues are important in their community. These concerns are consistent with the comments recorded in question 2 and are further supported by responses to Questions 6 and 8.

Question 6 - Which of the following issues do you understand? (Please tick all that apply)

This is designed to provide an understanding around the awareness of emerging issues within the Ashfield District.



An initial evaluation of the results is positive with high proportions of the community suggesting that their levels of understanding of the issues listed are high.

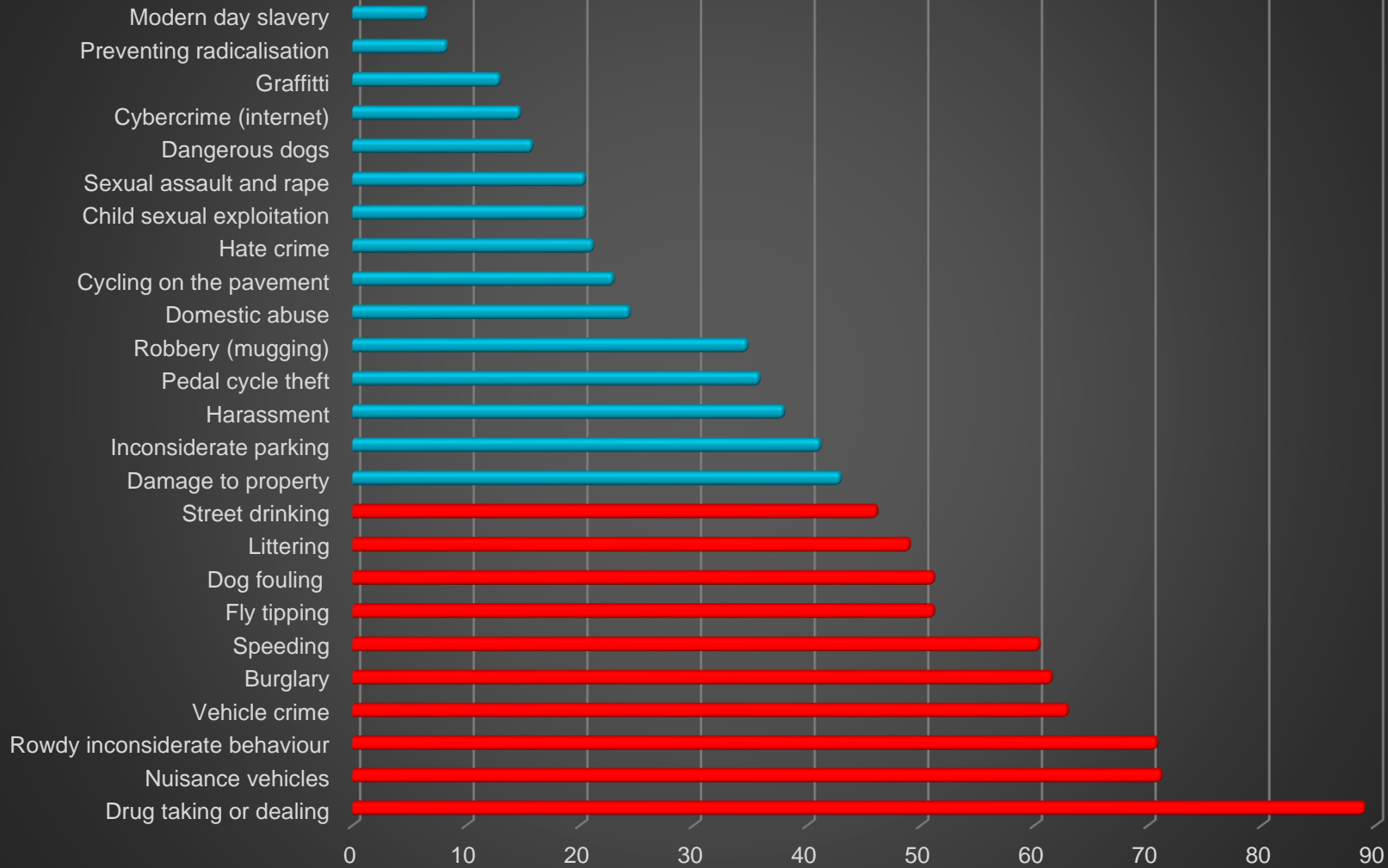
Awareness levels were highest around the issues of Hate Crime (89.29%), Child Sexual Exploitation (88.57%) and Cybercrime (89.29%).

Lower levels of awareness exist for Modern Day Slavery (86.43%) and Preventing Radicalisation (77.86%); these areas should be taken forward into the new Community Safety Partnership plan. Feedback from partners that delivered the face-to-face surveys suggests that those completing the survey were aware of the general terms, but did not necessarily understand the issues within a local context. This feedback means that the partnership should treat these results with some caution.

Question 7 - Now using your knowledge of the whole of the Ashfield District, please tell us the top 10 issues that concern you the most from the list below? (Please tick up to 10 boxes)

The aim of this question was to understand the communities concerns around a wide range of community safety issues. Respondents were invited to select up to 10 from a list of 26 options. The list of concerns is based upon those that were most frequently selected, with the top ten issues highlighted in red

Issues that concern you the most?



It is important to recognise that these responses are around levels of concern and therefore offer different information to the issues raised in questions 4 and 8. It should not be assumed that a person has a concern about an issue because it currently affects them.

However, it should be noted that 'drug taking or dealing' is clearly the predominant concern and this is a consistent theme between all of the previous questions.

	TOP TEN ISSUES OF CONCERN 2018	
1	Drug taking or dealing	88.93%
2	Nuisance vehicles	71.07%
3	Rowdy/inconsiderate behaviour	70.71%
4	Vehicle crime	62.86%
5	Burglary	61.43%
6	Speeding	60.36%
7/8	Fly tipping	51.07%
7/8	Dog fouling	51.07%
9	Littering	48.93%
10	Street drinking	46.07%

Question 8 - If there anything else you would like to tell us about crime and anti-social behaviour in the district of Ashfield?

The responses to this open question has been broken down into 20 themes with 64.63% of respondents providing a response.

The top five themes from those responses are as follows:

- 1. Lack of Police/other authority – 28.25%**
- 2. Fear of crime/levels of crime – 18.38%**
- 3. Drug taking or dealing – 11.21%**
- 4. Greater levels of enforcement required – 7.17%**
- 5. Street cleansing/litter/fly tipping – 4.93%**

There is a clear message in respect of a perceived lack of authority and the fear/levels of crime being a substantially higher percentage than other themes. Yet again drugs feature in the top 3 responses.

Respondent's comments:

- *“There should be tougher penalties; nothing came from us reporting our neighbour’s behaviour so we’ve had to learn to live with it. The police had no power whatsoever, although they tried their best.”*
- *“I have not seen a police officer, police support officer and community support officer walking these streets in over 1 year. I have tried to report what I believe is drug dealing but nothing was acted upon.”*
- *“Just that I think the Police do a great job with the resources that they have. Well done.”*

- *“We need more police officers, bring back local beat officers. Encourage and support new housing developments to set up neighbourhood watch. Police drop in sessions?”*
- *“I can only speak for a small part of Ashfield and there are worse areas I do know, but as I'm an older person in Hucknall I don't go out after dark and my door is locked up as I'm afraid. I here motor bikes or cars speeding down the road. Youths shouting even late at night or early morning. I don't leave anything on the front garden because they take them and smash up or leave on someone's garden elsewhere. I could go on but it won't get me anywhere. All the cuts of funding are just getting worse and with that all the things the funding is for are getting worse, whether it's looking after the drug abusers or mental health etc. I worry now how I will pay all my bills and they keep going up, the council tax the worst, the government cuts funds then it's passed to us but we can't say we are not paying we have to find it, so go without food, heating etc.*
- *“It doesn't appear to be being addressed appropriately. Crime is getting worse and it is usually drug related.”*
- *“I feel that the local drug users who hang around our schools, shopping centres and streets are a danger to members of the public & our children. This shouldn't be allowed as it is intimidating to everyone.”*
- *“Crime and antisocial behaviour as reported on social media has increased. I do not go into Sutton in Ashfield at night .”*

Conclusion

The consultation has gathered a significant amount of information about the communities' opinions, awareness and concerns of community safety issues.

Headlines;

- Levels of crime and anti-social behaviour are perceived as becoming **worse** over the past year.
- Respondents identified that a **well-established community, good neighbours** and **visible authority** in the community are the key factors in making their area safe.
- Respondents stated that **drug issues** and a **lack of Police** are the key factors in making their area an unsafe place.
- Respondents perception is that **substance misuse** and **youth issues** are the main contributors to levels of crime and anti-social behaviour.
- Respondents claim to have a good understanding of **cybercrime, hate crime** and **child sexual exploitation**, but less so about **modern day slavery** and **preventing radicalisation**.
- Respondents are most concerned about **drug taking and dealing, nuisance vehicles** and **rowdy/inconsiderate behaviour**.

Did the consultation achieve its aims?

1. Understand public perception of progress in terms of tackling crime and ASB

Findings from the consultation clearly show that an overwhelming proportion of respondents (73%) believe that levels of crime and anti-social behavior have increased or remained the same (19%) over the past twelve months.

Only 6% of respondents felt that there had been improvement.

Clearly, these results present a significant challenge for the Community Safety Partnership to address public perception.

2. Understand what contributes to making people feel safe and unsafe

There was a consistent message that positive relationships with neighbours and being part of an established community has the greatest impact on people's feeling of safety. The physical environment is also important, as is a visible presence of authority.

Note: A local level evaluation of these categories may give examples of good practice that can be developed in areas with higher levels of community safety concerns.

Whilst a wide range of issues contribute to people feeling unsafe they are dominated by two themes; a lack of Police/visible authority and drug issues. These themes are consistent throughout the survey and are a clear indication of the concerns of the respondents.

3. Gain an understanding of people's concerns about some of the underlying issues that impact on Crime and ASB

It is clear that communities recognise Alcohol, Drugs and Youth issues as significant contributors to the problems in their local communities. Levels of concerns around mental health were also recorded, but at a much lower level. Whilst the levels of crime and ASB associated with mental health may be lower, the complex needs of individuals often mean that the partnership resources required are greater. It should also be considered that issues around mental health might be less visible to the community and therefore harder to identify.

4. Gain an understanding of people's awareness of new and emerging issues in the district.

Respondents claim to have a high level of awareness of these issues; particularly for cybercrime and hate crime. Where levels of awareness were lower, for modern day slavery and preventing radicalisation, more work to raise awareness and educate the community on how to access appropriate services may need to be done.

5. Understand those issues that cause the greatest level of public concern

It is clear that there is a correlation between those issues that affect people's feeling of safety and those that cause them the greatest concern. Overall there are consistent issues raised around drugs and a lack of visible authority in the district. This evidence of community concern will be a valuable addition to the development of the new 2019 - 2022 CSP plan.

How will the data be used?

The information gathered within the consultation will be shared with local partners to be used to inform both strategic and local level work.

Where information relates to areas outside of the CSP, they will be passed on to the appropriate organisation. For example, road safety concerns will be shared with the casualty reduction partnership.

The results of this consultation may also identify the need to go back to the community and ask more focused questions around an issue as part of future engagement work. This will be delivered through the action plans developed to support the new CSP Plan.



Questionnaire:



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COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP CONSULTATION 2018

Question 1. – To help us locate the area where you live, please provide your postcode

Question 2. - Within your local area, a 15-20 minute walk from where you live, how do you consider levels of crime and anti-social behaviour changed over the past year?

Question 3. - What makes your area a safe place?



Question 4. - What makes your area an unsafe place?

Question 5. - In your local area do you feel that levels of crime and anti-social behaviour are linked to any of the following? (Please tick all that apply)

Alcohol

Mental Health

Youth

Drugs

Question 6. - Which of the following issues do you understand? (Please tick all that apply)

- Hate Crime
- Modern Day Slavery
- Child Sexual exploitation
- Preventing Radicalisation
- Cybercrime

Question 7. - Using your knowledge of the Ashfield District, please tell us the top 10 issues that concern you the most from the list below? (Please tick up to 10 boxes)

- Drug taking or dealing
- Modern day slavery
- Graffiti
- Pedal cycle theft
- Dangerous dogs
- Harassment
- Preventing radicalisation
- Cybercrime (internet)
- Nuisance vehicles
- Child sexual exploitation
- Hate crime
- Cycling on the pavement

- Domestic abuse
- Sexual assault and rape
- Dog fouling
- Vehicle crime
- Fly tipping
- Inconsiderate parking
- Damage to property
- Street drinking
- Robbery (mugging)
- Littering
- Speeding
- Rowdy/Inconsiderate behaviour
- Burglary

Question 8. - Is there anything else you would like to tell us about crime and anti-social behaviour in the Ashfield District.?

Ashfield
COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

Report To:	CABINET	Date:	24 JUNE 2019
Heading:	HOMELESSNESS SHARED SERVICE – DISSOLUTION AND RETURN TO ADC INHOUSE PROVISION		
Portfolio Holder:	PORTFLIO HOLDER FOR HOUSING - COUNCILLOR KIER BARSBY		
Ward/s:	ALL		
Key Decision:	YES		
Subject to Call-In:	YES		

Purpose of Report

To advise Members about the joint intention by both Councils and the rationale behind a proposal to dissolve the shared homelessness service between Mansfield District Council and Ashfield District Council and seek Cabinet approval to do so.

Historically as the creation of the shared service was formally approved by Cabinet, it is also appropriate that Cabinet formally approve its dissolution.

Recommendation(s)

To formally approve the decision to dissolve the homelessness shared service between Mansfield District Council and Ashfield District Council in order to deliver Ashfield's statutory homelessness function wholly in-house.

Reasons for Recommendation(s)

Since 2015 the Council's homelessness service, including housing advice, has been delivered by Mansfield District Council on a shared service basis.

The arrangement worked well. When the shared service was created the Council did not deliver any other frontline housing services as these were delivered by Ashfield Homes Limited (AHL), the Council's former arms-length management organisation (ALMO). Operating this single service in isolation without the direct benefit or support of the wider housing function meant that the required synergies for a robust end to end homelessness service were difficult to achieve. Equally without direct access to its social housing stock the Council were unable to adopt a flexible approach to meeting its obligations in respect of providing temporary accommodation for homeless households, something Mansfield DC as an in-house housing service was equipped to assist with.

In October 2016 the Council's housing stock was brought back in-house, thus meaning it was now in full control of those front line Housing services which closely aligned to the homelessness service. It also meant that the Council could now consider whether Ashfield residents would be better served and better value achieved by a homelessness service delivered directly by the Council itself.

In April 2018 the introduction of the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 brought changes in how the service was delivered and led to the Council taking significant steps to increase temporary accommodation provision in the District.

In October 2018 the Council, in partnership with Mansfield DC and Newark and Sherwood DC started work on the joint Homelessness Strategy. Now published, the Strategy has a number of common actions but also a number that are Ashfield specific and that need a local solution to a local issue.

It was the combination of these factors that led the Council to the conclusion that it would be more beneficial to deliver the homelessness service in-house. Colleagues at Mansfield DC agreed with the conclusion reached and on 24th January 2019 Rob Mitchell, CEO, wrote to Hayley Barsby, CEO at Mansfield DC to consider mutually dissolving the shared service. With a tacit agreement in place following a period of consultation the intention is for the service to return in-house as from 1st July 2019.

It is important to add that the Council will continue to work very closely with Mansfield DC and other partners in respect of the day to day delivery of the homelessness service and the strategic development of the service. The decision to end the shared service was not made on the basis of poor performance, it was because the circumstances within Ashfield are very different to what they were in 2015 and there is an opportunity for the Council to further develop and improve the service.

Alternative Options Considered

To continue with the shared service. This was not considered as the circumstances now are very different to when the shared service was created, meaning that in-house is the most appropriate delivery model.

Detailed Information

The homeless shared service began in 2015 following consideration from the Shared Service Partnership Board. The decision was a sound one for Ashfield since the majority of the Council's housing services at the time were delivered at 'arm's length' by AHL whereas the homeless service, being a statutory function, remained with the Council.

The Council benefitted from working alongside a knowledgeable and experienced MDC team. The arrangement also gave the Council access to additional units of temporary accommodation, something that was much needed at a time when the Council was heavily dependent upon bed and breakfast type accommodation.

In October 2016 the Council brought the ALMO back in-house and in doing so unlocked the potential to re-join the synergies of homelessness, allocations and stock availability. Homelessness is not a service that operates in isolation, it overlaps with a number of other services, in particular lettings. The effectiveness of the service and the speed with which households in urgent housing need are assisted is optimised when homelessness and lettings are aligned and working as one.

In April, 2018 the Homeless Reduction Act 2017 was introduced. The Act represented a significant change in the way homelessness was both prevented and administered and it was important that

during the implementation phase stability was needed, meaning the shared service should remain in place in order to ensure the consistency and compliance of the service.

Now, 12 months on, the implications of the Act are better understood. One noticeable impact has been the demand for temporary accommodation. The number of households being accommodated has increased as has the average length of stay. This is not an Ashfield phenomenon it has been experienced by Mansfield DC and others. It meant that Mansfield DC needed full use of their own temporary accommodation thus meaning the Council needed to look at its own local provision. In response to this over the course of the last 12 months the Council has doubled its temporary accommodation within the district, rising from 15 to 30 units. The Council has also stopped using Mansfield DC temporary accommodation whilst bed and breakfast type accommodation is now only used in exceptional circumstances.

The new Homelessness Strategy, developed by the Council in partnership with Mansfield DC and Newark and Sherwood DC sets out our vision for the future. The strategy does identify many commonalities across the sub-region and customer base but also highlights the unique issues and challenges within each District. Whilst there is no intention to take an insular approach there is an argument that these issues are best addressed locally, by tapping into the knowledge, skills and resources available.

Following the proposal to dissolve the shared service work was undertaken to ascertain which current MDC employees would be in scope to transfer to the Council in accordance with the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations 2006 (TUPE) and affected employees consulted with accordingly.

The number of employees within the shared service increased significantly in readiness for the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017. At the time it was agreed a review of the service including staffing requirements (numbers, roles, etc) would be conducted once the impact of the Act was better understood. Originally planned for summer 2019, the review will be given further consideration following the successful transfer of the service. The Council received additional funding to help implement the requirements of the Act, it is important that the service continues to be delivered in line with the funding available. The total expenditure budget for the homelessness service in 2019/20 is £364,440 funded from the General Fund (£237,820) and Grant Income (£126,620).

Implications

Corporate Plan:

The change will help ensure the Council is maximising opportunities to reduce and prevent homelessness. It will also assist in meeting the Council's aim of delivering good quality, value for money services.

Legal:

Homelessness is a mandatory Council function. Relevant legislation is outlined in the body of the report.

Finance:

Budget Area	Implication
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General Fund – Revenue Budget	The cost of operating the service in house will be funded from the overall available budget of £364,440 described above.
General Fund – Capital Programme	N/A
Housing Revenue Account – Revenue Budget	N/A
Housing Revenue Account – Capital Programme	N/A

Risk:

Risk	Mitigation

Human Resources:

Full consultation has been undertaken with affected staff and adhered to appropriate legislation. HR have been fully involved with the dissolution process.

Equalities:

No equality issues identified.

Other Implications:

N/A

Reason(s) for Urgency

N/A

Reason(s) for Exemption

N/A

Background Papers

N/A

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Agenda Item 7



Report To:	CABINET	Date:	24 JUNE 2019
Heading:	DRAFT OUTTURN 2018/19 ACCOUNTS		
Portfolio Holder:	PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR FINANCE – COUNCILLOR DAVID MARTIN		
Ward/s:	ALL		
Key Decision:	YES		
Subject to Call-In:	YES		

Purpose of Report

This report sets out details of income and expenditure incurred in 2018/19 in respect of the General Fund, the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) and the Capital Programme, how this compares to budget and provides an explanation of significant variances. This is the unaudited position and is therefore potentially subject to change. The audited Statement of Accounts will be presented to the Audit Committee on 22nd July 2019.

In summary the 2018/19 unaudited Outturn position compared to the approved Revised Budget was:

- General Fund – a £1.148m underspend
- HRA – a £2.104m underspend
- Capital Programme – a £4.715m underspend

Section 4 of the report also sets out the proposed carry-forward of 2018/19 unspent previously approved earmarked funding where this is in respect of projects where delays have been experienced during 2018/19 and for which there is no capacity to fund the cost balance of these projects from within 2019/20 budgets.

The report also includes details of further 2019/20 budget adjustments to reflect Officer Decisions taken in April 2019 in respect of Investment Technology reserve earmarked funding.

The report includes a recommendation to Council to utilise £55k of the 2018/19 General Fund underspend to fund the additional costs of the Council's revised post-election political structure and for the recurrent cost beyond 2019/20 to be included in the next update to the Medium Term Financial Strategy.

Recommendation(s)

Cabinet is requested to note:

- (i) The 2018/19 Revenue Outturn for the General Fund, the HRA Outturn and the Capital Programme Outturn.
- (ii) That 2019/20 revenue budgets will be adjusted to reflect carry-forward of 2018/19 approved but unutilised project funding from earmarked reserves and for Officer Decisions taken during April 2019 as set out in section 4 of this report.

Cabinet is asked to recommend to Council:

- (iii) Approval to carry-forward the £4.715m underspend on the Capital Programme to 2019/20 due to slippage (delays to schemes) included in the Programme.
- (iv) Approval to utilise £55k of the 2018/19 underspend to meet the additional costs of the Council's new political structure.

Reasons for Recommendation(s)

To report to those charged with governance, the Council's financial Outturn for 2018/19 and to comply with the Council's Financial Regulations.

Alternative Options Considered

(with reasons why not adopted)

The financial Outturn position is as reported within the 2018/19 draft Statement of Accounts therefore there are no other options. The proposed carry-forward of unutilised 2018/19 earmarked reserves will facilitate the delivery of specific projects from the reserves designated for this purpose. Not to approve the funding carry-forwards would prevent some projects from progressing or would require them to be funded from the General Fund balance which is not recommended.

Detailed Information

1. General Fund Revenue Outturn

The General Fund supports the day to day running of the Council's services, excluding Housing.

The table below shows the General Fund Revenue Outturn by subjective analysis and by Directorate.

	Revised Budget £'000	Actual Outturn £'000	Variance £'000	Note
<u>Subjective Analysis:</u>				
Employee Expenses	16,885	16,594	(291)	1
Premises Expenses	1,414	1,372	(42)	2
Transport Related Expenses	2,335	2,123	(212)	3
Supplies & Services	5,327	5,971	644	4
Transfer Payments	30,725	30,705	(20)	5
Income	(39,381)	(40,785)	(1,404)	6
Recharges (Net)	(4,825)	(4,543)	282	7
Total	12,480	11,437	(1,043)	
<u>By Directorate:</u>				
Chief Executive Officer	713	743	30	A
Resources & Business Transformation	(356)	(792)	(436)	B
Legal & Governance	998	761	(237)	C
Place & Communities	9,452	9,294	(158)	D
Housing & Assets	1,673	1,431	(242)	E
Sub Total	12,480	11,437	(1,043)	
<u>Financing and Investment Inc. & Expenditure</u>				
Net Interest	(181)	3	184	
Minimum Revenue Payment	1,809	284	(1,525)	
Capital Expenditure Financed from Revenue	113	54	(59)	
Sub Total	1,741	341	(1,400)	8
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	14,221	11,778	(2,443)	
<u>Funding</u>				
Government Grants	(2,783)	(2,783)	0	
Business Rates	(5,167)	(6,452)	(1,285)	9
Council Tax	(6,180)	(6,180)	0	
TOTAL FUNDING	(14,130)	(15,415)	(1,285)	
Net General Fund Deficit/(surplus) for the year before transfers to/from Earmarked Reserves	91	(3,637)	(3,728)	
Net contribution to/(from) Earmarked Reserves	(482)	2,098	2,580	10
Net General Fund Deficit/(surplus) for the year after transfers to/from Earmarked Reserves	(391)	(1,539)	(1,148)	

Explanation of variances to budget by subjective analysis:

(1) Employee Expenses (£291k underspend)

The staffing budget was £716k underspent due to vacancies throughout the Authority during the year; partially offset by agency staff costs of £470k. The budget for severance costs was underspent by £158k. The training budget was overspent by £90k but this is predominantly funded through additional income (see below). Recruitment costs of £29k and out of hours payments of

£15k were incurred. Members' Allowances budgets were underspent by £9k. Other employee costs were £12k underspent.

(2) Premises Expenses (£42k underspend)

The premises repairs budget was underspent by £42k.

(3) Transport Related Expenses (£212k underspend)

Fuel costs were £51k less than budget, car mileage and associated lump sum costs were £43k less than budget, contract and plant hire was £201k less than budget and transport insurance was £28k less than budget. These underspends were partially offset by additional spend on parts to maintain vehicles (£111k over budget).

(4) Supplies & Services (£644k overspend)

The main overspends were due to: additional payments to contractors (£329k) including insurance contract payments (£119k) and specialist contractors – largely funded from reserves, £237k payment of Domestic Violence grant to other local authorities (for which grant income was received – see (6) below), additional security staff at the Council's offices (£34k), postages (£48k), professional, consultancy and legal expenses (£82k) and equipment purchase costs (£55k). These overspends were partially mitigated by a £139k underspend on the cost of shared services.

(5) Transfer Payments (£20k underspend)

This is a slight underspend compared to budget for Housing Benefit and Discretionary Housing Payments. It represents a 0.06% variance on a budget of £30.7m.

(6) Income (£1.404m over-recovery)

The net income over-recovery compared to budget is mainly due to the following:

- Government grants received are in excess of the level budgeted (£1.052m) – Domestic Violence Grant (see (4) above, additional New Burdens funding, Housing benefit related grants, additional Homelessness funding, DEFRA Air Quality grant.
- Additional Planning services income (£272k)
- Apprenticeship Levy income (£80k)
- Additional licences and permits income (£49k)
- Additional Pest Control income (£39k)

The above additional income is partially offset by a £77k under-recovery of rent income (predominantly market rent income - £69k) compared to budget.

(7) Recharges (£282k under-recovery)

The net recharges budget under-recovery is due to being unable to recover budgeted levels of recharges due to the reduced cost of services to the Capital Programme and external customers.

(8) Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure

The main reason for the net underspend of £1.4m is due to a reduced in-year Minimum Revenue Payment (MRP) contribution requirement due to an over-provision in previous years (£1.221m) and reduced borrowing requirements due to delays in implementing some capital programme schemes.

(9) Business Rates

We received £1.285m business rates higher than budget in 2018/19. This is due to:

- £879k unbudgeted funding returned from the Nottinghamshire Pool in respect of both 2017/18 and 2018/19 contributions.
- £218k additional business rates
- £128k additional small business rates relief grant income (Section 31 grants)
- £59k non-recurrent Returned funding from the Government's Levy account.

(10) Transfers to/from Earmarked Reserves

Note 25 of the 2018/19 Statement of Accounts provides a detailed analysis of the movements in earmarked reserves. Key transfers to note are:

- £842k contribution from the additional business rates received (9 above) to the NNDR Equalisation reserve, £400k of this contribution is to recognise the financial impact of timing differences, which, all things being equal will result in a pressure of this value arising in 2020/21 and the balance relating to funding committed for the 2019/20 budget.
- £400k contribution from the MRP over-provision (8 above) to fund the costs of the Local Plan in 2019/20.
- £400k contribution to the Commercial Property Investment reserve to recognise the increase in investment, and therefore risk, in Investment Properties.
- £200k contribution to the Corporate Change reserve to help fund future costs associated with the Digital Services Transformation Programme and service review outcomes.

Summary explanation of variances to budget by Directorate:

A. Chief Executive

The £30k overspend on the Chief Executive's Directorate is due to recharges, largely in respect of revenue repairs to Urban Road offices.

B. Resources & Business Transformation

The key variances to budget for the Resources and Business Transformation Directorate which comprised the £436k underspend were:

- Severance budget savings (£210k)
- Performance Team staff vacancies (£45k)
- Commercial Team staff vacancies (£29k)
- Additional Crematorium income (£42k)
- Revenues & Benefits Service net additional Section 31 New Burdens Funding (£112k)

C. Legal & Governance

The main reason for the £237k underspend compared with budget is due to the settlement of the legal case with Alliance Health Care (£252k overall saving from the release of a provision and the award of costs); partially offset by minor overspends across the wider Directorate.

D. Place & Communities

The key reasons for the net £158k Directorate underspend are:

- Planning income greater than budget (£272k).
- Directorate wide staff savings through vacancies (£34k).
- Additional Pest Control income (£39k).
- Complex Case Team (£40k) one-off grant income from Nottinghamshire Fire & Rescue Authority.
- Place & Wellbeing S106 funding not utilised in 2018/19 for Sutton Realm (£34k). It should be noted that this budget is to be carried forward for use in 2019/20. (See section 4 below).
- Licensing services (£37k) largely due to additional income generation.
- Environmental Services and maintenance (£39k) including the cost of delivering the two Ashfield Big Spring Cleans.

These underspends were partially mitigated by the following overspends:

- Markets (£90k) largely due to income under-recovery.
- Additional cost of cemeteries provision (£59k).
- Garage workshop (£114k) largely due to additional expenditure on vehicle parts due to delayed purchase of replacement vehicles pending the outcome of the Transport Review.
- Leisure Centre provision – reduced income (£27k).
- Allotments service (£7k).
- Waste net pressure (£2k) – comprising; overspends on Domestic waste (£14k), bulky waste collection (£10k) and garden waste (£74k) largely mitigated by underspends on; trade waste (-£22k) and glass and recycling credits (-£74k).
- Outdoor recreation and provision of cafes (£22k).
- Other Directorate wide net overspends (£16k).

E. Housing & Assets

The main reasons contributing to the £242k underspend compared to budget are:

- Directorate wide staff vacancies (£51k)
- Homelessness service additional grant income (£103k) transferred to reserves to fund future service delivery
- Asset Maintenance savings (£82k)
- Other net savings to budget across the wider Directorate (£6k)

General Fund Usable Reserves Summary

From 2017/18 to 2018/19 the Council's earmarked reserves increased by £2.063m to £7.885m and the Council's General Reserve increased by £1.539m to £6.116m.

2. Housing Revenue Account (HRA)

The HRA is a ring-fenced landlord's account for the management and maintenance of the Council's housing stock. This account funds both day to day revenue costs as well as funding borrowing costs for capital work to maintain and improve council properties.

The table below shows the Outturn compared to revised budget for the HRA.

	Revised Budget £'000	Actual Outturn £'000	Variance £'000	Note
Income				
Rents, Charges & Contributions	(23,980)	(24,030)	(50)	1
Other Grants	0	(50)	(50)	2
Interest & Investment Income	(68)	(185)	(117)	3
Total Income	(24,048)	(24,265)	(217)	
Expenditure				
Borrowing & Capital Financing Charges	3,505	3,508	3	
Repairs & Maintenance	7,383	7,108	(275)	4
Supervision & Management	4,591	4,442	(149)	5
Interest Payable & Appropriations	3,546	3,618	72	6
Other Expenditure	235	118	(117)	7
Direct Revenue Financing	1,311	816	(495)	8
Transfer to / from Major Repairs Reserve	1,260	300	(960)	8
Total Expenditure	21,831	19,910	(1,921)	
Surplus for the year	(2,217)	(4,355)	(2,138)	
Net contribution to / (from) Earmarked Reserves	10	44	34	9
Net HRA Deficit/(Surplus) for the year AFTER transfers to/from Earmarked Reserves	(2,207)	(4,311)	(2,104)	

The Outturn for the HRA shows an in-year surplus of £4.355m before movement in reserves, bringing the total HRA balance at 31st March 2019 to £32.597m.

Income

- (1) Additional income of £50k compared to budget was received from tenants for rental income and chargeable damage and repair works.
- (2) A grant of £50k was also received which has been earmarked to fund the 2019/20 Affordable Housing Delivery Strategy (see point 9 below).
- (3) The interest and investment income received is £117k greater than budget due to the increase in interest rates from July 2018.

Expenditure

- (4) Repairs and maintenance budgets are underspent by £275k mainly due to:
- Reduced use of subcontractors in delivering the planned maintenance schemes during the year (£130k)
 - £115k vacancy savings on the housing repairs operative team, Estate Officer and Energy Performance departments
 - Reduced housing vehicle charges (£14k)
 - Reduced cost of void property clearance (£13k)
- (5) Supervision and Management costs are £149k less than budget mainly due to:
- Reduced training provision (£25k)
 - Reduced costs of operating and managing Community Centres (£18k)
 - Reduced repairs and maintenance of Housing Court Schemes (£26k)
 - Reduced running costs of the Brook Street office (£32k)
 - Tenancy Services vacancies (£40k)
- (6) The £72k spend above budget represents the transfer of a property from the General Fund to the HRA.
- (7) Other Expenditure is £117k less than budget due to:
- Refunds on empty properties being charged Council Tax (£58k)
 - Reduction in bad debt provision (£59k)
- (8) Direct Revenue Financing was £495k less than budget and the use of the Major Repairs Reserve was £960k less than budget, both due to delays in the implementation of some capital programme schemes.
- (9) The transfer to earmarked reserves represents the £50k Affordable Housing Grant (see note 2 above) less a transfer of £6k from the HRA Insurance reserve.

3. Capital Programme Outturn 2018/19

Details of the main 2018/19 Capital Scheme works and how they were funded are shown in the table below. The notes below the table provide explanations for key variances compared with the 2018/19 budgets.

Capital Scheme	Revised Budget £'000	Actual Outturn £'000	Variance £'000	Note
<u>Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Schemes</u>				
Management Fee	545	546	1	
Catch Up & Major Repairs	3,290	2,410	(880)	1
Service Improvements	129	100	(29)	
Contingent Major Repairs	95	93	(2)	
Exceptional Extensive Works	1,031	1,165	134	2
Disabled Adaptations - Major	157	154	(3)	
Disabled Adaptations - Minor	350	323	(27)	
Investment in Additional Council Dwellings	488	484	(4)	
Investment in New Dwellings	1,000	606	(394)	3
Major Repairs – Temporary Accommodation	153	5	(148)	4
Other HRA Schemes (less than £100k)	115	46	(69)	
TOTAL HRA Schemes	7,353	5,932	(1,421)	
<u>General Fund (GF) Schemes</u>				
Annesley Art Project	124	105	(19)	5
Brierley Forest Park Management Plan	102	97	(5)	
Friezeland Scooter Park/Jacksdale MUGA	118	0	(118)	6
Hucknall Leisure Centre	140	0	(140)	7
Improvement Grants – Disabled Facilities	1,233	917	(316)	8
Investment Properties	10,019	8,767	(1,252)	9
Kings Mill Reservoir Desilting	321	18	(303)	10
Leisure Transformation Programme	200	43	(157)	11
Vehicle Replacements	680	55	(625)	12
Papplewick Green Public Art Work	150	149	(1)	
Other GF Schemes (less than £100k)	917	559	(358)	13
TOTAL GF Schemes	14,004	10,710	(3,294)	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	21,357	16,642	(4,715)	
<u>FUNDING</u>				
Major Repairs Reserve/HRA contributions	6,027	4,583	(1,444)	14
Prudential Borrowing	11,287	8,859	(2,428)	15
Government Grants & Contributions	2,552	1,797	(755)	16
Reserve Contributions	165	54	(111)	17
Capital Receipts	1,326	1,349	23	
TOTAL FUNDING	21,357	16,642	(4,715)	

- (1) Delays to works on Council dwellings due to planned works being refused by tenants or structural issues being identified which have slowed progress. These works (and funding) are re-programmed into the 2019/20 works schedule.
- (2) Ecological findings and additional works have resulted in additional expenditure being incurred.
- (3) Suitable properties are only purchased as they are identified at an appropriate price.
- (4) This is a contingency budget which is only utilised when required.
- (5) Scheme delayed in respect of adoption of land and licences.
- (6) Scheme delays due to contractor availability.
- (7) Improvement works rescheduled to May 2019.
- (8) Occupational Health referrals less than anticipated and fewer complex cases received in 2018/19.
- (9) Suitable properties are only purchased as they are identified at an appropriate price.
- (10) Scheme delayed – awaiting formal approval to commence project from Heritage Lottery Fund.
- (11) Delay in appointment of professional team in 2018/19. This has now been progressed.
- (12) Majority of vehicle purchases were placed 'on-hold' pending the outcome of the Transport Review.
- (13) A large number of projects were added to the capital programme towards the end of 2018/19. Works (and spend) will overlap into 2019/20.
- (14) Lower than expected Decent Homes spend thereby reducing the HRA reserve contribution requirement.
- (15) Lower than anticipated spend on Investment properties and vehicles thereby reducing the 2018/19 planned borrowing requirement.
- (16) Reduced use of grant funding due to less spend on disabled facilities works in 2018/19.
- (17) Reduced use of reserves due to delays to capital works at Kings Mill Reservoir and some minor schemes.

4. Earmarked Reserves – Budget Adjustments 2019/20

The table below provides details of project funding which was approved for spend in 2018/19 which was not utilised in 2018/19 and is required to fund project costs in 2019/20:

Funding Commitment	Reserve / Funding Source	Approval Route	£
Enforced sale of empty properties	Economic Development & Place Reserve	Cabinet – March 2018	20,000
Discover Ashfield brand development	Economic Development & Place Reserve	ODR – June 2018	12,187
Coxmoor Observatory – feasibility work	Economic Development & Place Reserve	ODR – June 2018	3,000
Ambulance Heritage Society – feasibility work	Economic Development & Place Reserve	ODR – June 2018	3,000
Leisure Centre – Contract Tendering	Economic Development & Place Reserve	Cabinet – 21/01/19	50,000
Car Parking Orders & Bay Marking	Economic Development & Place Reserve	Cabinet – 18/02/19	24,200
Wharf/Brand Lane	Asset Repair & Renewal Reserve	Cabinet – 14/06/18	39,892
Sutton in Ashfield Town Centre Improvements to street furniture	Section 106	Cabinet – 14/06/18	34,220
TOTAL			186,499

Cabinet is asked to note that 2019/20 budgets will be adjusted to reflect the above planned spend which is to be funded from earmarked reserves.

Cabinet is also asked to note that 2019/20 budgets will also be adjusted to reflect the planned spend detailed in the table below:

Funding Commitment	Reserve / Funding Source	Approval Route	£
DST Programme - Consultancy	Investment Technology Reserve	ODR – 03/04/19	19,000
DST Programme – additional capacity & specialist support	Investment Technology Reserve	ODR – 16/04/19	40,500
TOTAL			59,500

Implications

Corporate Plan:

The Revenue and Capital Budget and Outturn reflect the priorities in the Corporate Plan.

Legal:

This report ensures compliance with the Council's approved Financial Regulations.

Finance:

Budget Area	Implication
General Fund – Revenue Budget	The financial implications are set out in the body of the report. The Outturn position will be used to update the Medium Term Financial Strategy and the Capital Programme.
General Fund – Capital Programme	
Housing Revenue Account – Revenue Budget	
Housing Revenue Account – Capital Programme	

Risk:

Risk	Mitigation
Failure to spend within approved budgets could impact the financial sustainability of the Council.	Regular financial monitoring reports to CLT and Cabinet.

Human Resources:

No adverse human resources implications were identified.

Equalities:

No adverse Equalities and Diversity implications were identified.

Other Implications:

No other implications

Reason(s) for Urgency

Not applicable.

Reason(s) for Exemption

Not applicable.

Background Papers

Statement of Accounts 2018/19 (Unaudited) as published on the Council's website.

Report Author and Contact Officer

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Report To:	CABINET	Date:	24 JUNE 2019
Heading:	UPDATE: PROCUREMENT STRATEGY		
Portfolio Holder:	PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR FINANCE – COUNCILLOR DAVID MARTIN		
Ward/s:	N/A		
Key Decision:	NO		
Subject to Call-In:	YES		

Purpose of Report

Periodically, strategies adopted by the Council require review and revision to remain relevant. This report presents the latest iteration of the Council's Procurement Strategy for the years 2019/20 through 2022/23.

Recommendation(s)

- 1. That Cabinet note and adopt the revised procurement policy and strategy**

Reasons for Recommendation(s)

In March 2018, Ashfield changed providers of the procurement service from Bassetlaw District Council to Nottingham City Council. Since that change, Ashfield's Contract Procedure Rules (CPR) have been updated to ensure continued good governance and to align our rules to those of the provider to achieve the best possible outcomes.

Likewise, the Procurement Policy and Strategy is therefore due for alignment reflecting the practical change to service delivery. Ashfield District Council's views and principles in that strategy remain the same and are led by strong values and ethics.

Alternative Options Considered

To not adopt a revised procurement strategy is not an option, as the previous strategy was aligned to the previous service delivery partner and holds limited value in that sense.

Detailed Information

The following outlines the changes made in the proposed version:

1. References to Bassetlaw District Council have been changed to Nottingham City Council.
2. References to “the shared procurement” unit have been changed to “the procurement service”.
3. All appendices have been deleted, all of which were templates used in service provision by the previous provider.
4. The 5 principles of effective procurement have been summarised to:
 - Commercial Efficiency
 - Residents at the Heart
 - Partnerships and Collaboration
 - Ethical Standards
 - Governance, Fairness and Transparency
5. The e-procurement section has been eliminated; processes have evolved such that all procurement activity is conducted electronically – therefore, this section is redundant.
6. The definition of the service and Ashfield’s expectations of the current service provider form part of the policy.
7. The section referencing the Corporate Plan and its intersection with Procurement has been deleted because:
 - The Corporate Plan referenced is the last corporate plan
 - The Corporate view is that the Procurement Service will intersect with all Corporate Priorities and, as such, will assist in its capacity to deliver those priorities.
8. The section on relevant legislation and guidance has been removed as:
 - The information is widely available from other public sources
 - The service is designed and implemented with the guidance and legislation having been fully considered. The audience for this policy and strategy will find it of limited value.

Implications

Corporate Plan:

None – The Procurement Policy and Strategy supports every priority within the Corporate Plan, and its impact on each priority remains the same; it adds value rather than detracts.

Legal:

None

Finance:

Budget Area	Implication
General Fund – Revenue Budget	None
General Fund – Capital Programme	None
Housing Revenue Account – Revenue Budget	None
Housing Revenue Account – Capital Programme	None

Risk:

Risk	Mitigation
N/A	N/A

Human Resources:

No implications

Equalities:

No implications

Other Implications:

None

Reason(s) for Urgency

N/A

Reason(s) for Exemption

N/A

Background Papers

Procurement and Policy Strategy

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CORPORATE PROCUREMENT POLICY AND STRATEGY 2019-2023

DRAFT

Revised: April 2019
Next review due: April 2021

FOREWORD

I am pleased to present this Corporate Procurement Policy and Strategy. A new Procurement Service has been in place since April 2018 and is currently provided by Nottingham City Council.

This Strategy provides Ashfield District Council with a cohesive framework to work within to ensure that we make the best use of the resources available to us in delivering Council services. It aims to ensure that our procurement procedures are as easy as possible for our local businesses to deal with and wherever possible, maximise the benefits to our local economy, residents and our strategic partners.

In addition to the guidelines set within European and national public procurement policy and legislation, there are also a number of local priorities and values that we have set for procurement practice in Ashfield. These include adoption of the Modern Slavery Charter and addressing social and ethical issues relating to blacklisting, zero hours, living wage and local employment. Our local priorities are key to how we deliver additional value and this strategy will put this at the heart of our procurement work. These priorities are shared by Nottingham City Council and are published in their Procurement Strategy as well.

Sustainable and responsible procurement can play a crucial role in meeting both the economic and social challenges that local authorities are currently facing. This Shared Procurement Strategy provides an opportunity to work closely with local and key suppliers and develop effective strategic partnerships to reduce costs and improve services for our residents.



Robert Mitchell, Chief Executive

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This document sets out the Council's strategic approach to procurement. It is not intended to be a procurement instruction manual, however, the principles contained within the Strategy are not optional, and it should be read in conjunction with the Contract Procedure Rules, contained in Part 4 of Ashfield's Constitution, Rules of Procedure.

The Local Government Act 1999 places a duty of Best Value on all authorities to secure continuous improvement in the way that functions are carried out, having regard to a combination of efficiency, economy and effectiveness. Effective procurement is crucial in securing high quality, best value public services and the Government has highlighted that the development of a clear Procurement Strategy is a key step towards achieving Best Value and delivering demanding efficiency targets. This is also supported through the clear strategic objectives of the new National Procurement Strategy (NPS) and the DCLG (now MHCLG) report on Local Government procurement.

This Procurement Policy and Strategy emphasises the increasing importance of Sustainable Procurement: using procurement to support wider social, economic and environmental objectives, in ways that offer real long-term benefits.

Effective procurement is crucial to achieving continuous improvement and to securing value for money in public services. The Council is one of the largest purchasers of goods and services in the region, and has both legal and moral responsibilities when making procurement decisions. It is important to ensure that procurement decisions are legal, ethical, in accordance with the policies and procedures of each Council, and that consideration is given to the impact on the economic, social and environmental well-being of each district. They should also be achieved in a manner that is open, fair, transparent and auditable.

Best Value and efficiency targets will not be achieved if the authority fails to approach competition positively, taking full account of the opportunities for innovation and genuine partnerships that are available from working with others in the public, private and voluntary sectors. Importantly, this Strategy seeks to balance two priorities:

- Delivering efficiencies and quality;
- Sustainable procurement, by engaging with local and regional suppliers to promote the local economy and taking account of the social and environmental impact of spending decisions.

A mixed economy and sustainable approach to procurement also relies on developing a collaborative approach to procurement with other Councils and organisations to achieve improved economies of scale where appropriate.

Furthermore this Procurement Policy and Strategy sets out the values of the Council in relation to social value, sourcing locally and our position in relation to supporting local businesses.

This Strategy provides a corporate focus for procurement. It embraces each Council's commitment to strategic procurement and sets out the Council's aspirations. It is not a 'user manual', and more detail on procurement processes and issues can be found in

the CONTRACT PROCEDURE RULES and on the Council's Procurement page on the external website.

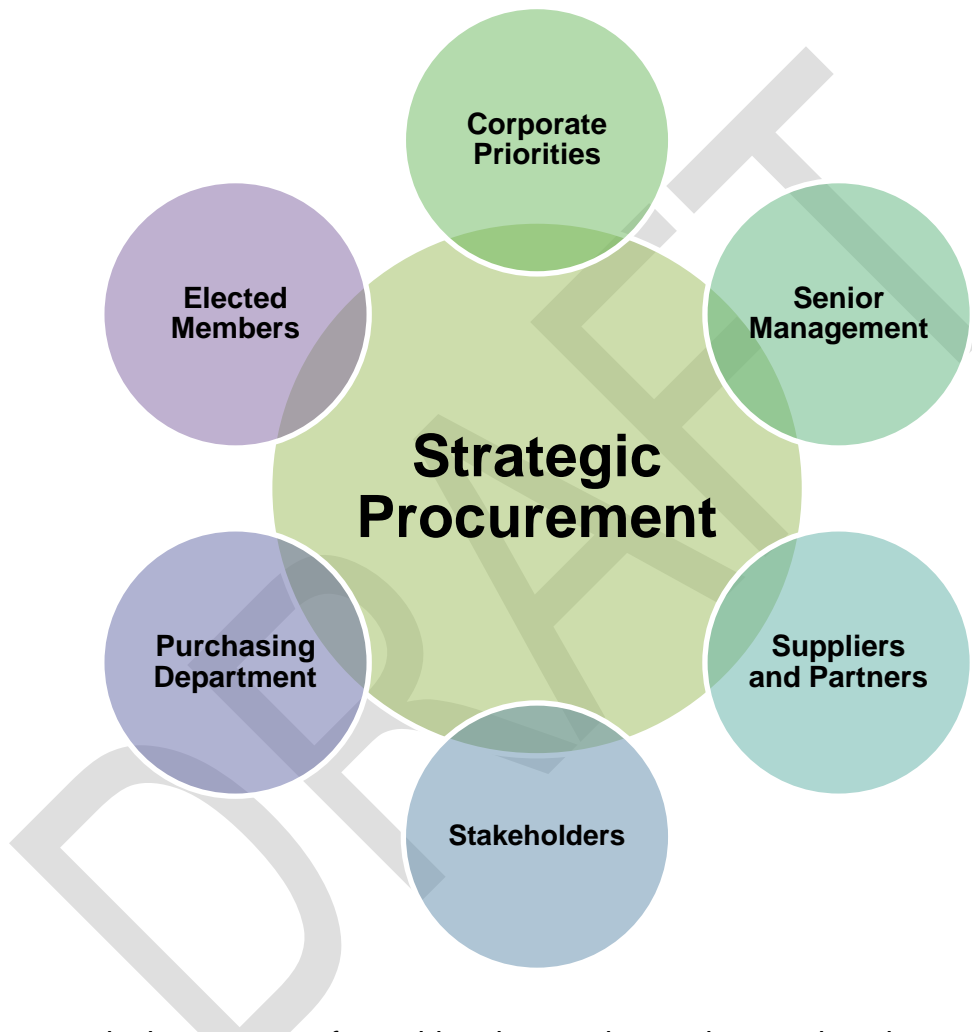
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WHOM THE STRATEGY IS FOR?

Councillors	To guide, challenge and review the way procurement is exercised at the Council.
Ashfield District Council Corporate Leadership Team	To manage their Service(s) in compliance with the principles and actions in the Strategy.
Procuring Officers	To support the Council's aims and objectives by implementing the Strategy across the Council.
Key Stakeholders e.g. residents, contracting organisations, voluntary sector	To inform and give an understanding of the direction of procurement at the Council and its requirements

STRATEGIC PROCUREMENT IN CONTEXT

Strategic procurement is a series of activities and processes that sits at the heart of the Council, providing the framework by which the Council obtains value for money in all of the goods, services and works that it requires. This can be illustrated by the diagram, which shows the inter-relationship between the role of corporate procurement and the Council as a whole:



Procurement is the process of acquiring the goods, services and works an organisation needs. It spans the whole cycle, comprising three phases:

- i) Identifying needs and deciding what is to be bought and when (procurement planning);
- ii) The process of awarding a contract, including defining the terms on which the goods, services or works are to be provided and selecting the contracting partner that offers the best value;
- iii) Managing the contract to ensure effective performance, Procurement also involves options appraisal and 'make or buy' decisions, which may result in the provision of services in-house where appropriate

Procurement encompasses all activity ranging from the negotiation of corporate contracts for the supply of routine goods and services through to complex partnership arrangements such as joint commissioning with other public sector organisations and construction projects.

SUSTAINABLE PROCUREMENT

Ashfield District Council and its service provider, Nottingham City Council, are committed to ensuring that services are delivered in a way that protects the quality of the environment and minimises any adverse impact on community well-being. Both Councils recognise that procurement can be integral in delivering more sustainable outcomes for the District. To achieve this, it is necessary to ensure that environmental and broader sustainability considerations are taken into account throughout the procurement process, where practicable.

“Sustainable Procurement is a process whereby organisations meet their needs for goods, services, works and utilities in a way that achieves value for money on a whole life basis in terms of generating benefits not only to the organisation, but also to society and the economy, whilst minimising damage, or indeed improves the environment”.

Put simply, sustainable procurement is good procurement.

Ashfield District Council and its provider, Nottingham City Council, are working regionally and nationally to develop and promote models of sustainable procurement, and engage with local collaborators, other public sector organisations, the business community, agencies and the voluntary sector to test these models.

ECONOMIC REGENERATION

Councils are one of the largest spending organisations in any region, and the more money that is spent locally, the greater the positive impact this will have on the local economy, particularly for small and medium sized businesses (SME).

EU Procurement legislation limits Councils’ ability to favour local businesses, but there are numerous ways in which it can legitimately support local businesses, including;

- Working pro-actively with partners to support local businesses through media and workshops to help explain how to do business with the Council, and to obtain their feedback in order to improve documentation, policies, procedures and processes;
- Providing information about forthcoming procurement activity through advertising tenders on the East Midland Councils e-Tendering portal:
https://www.eastmidstenders.org/procontract/emp/supplier.nsf/frm_home?ReadForm
and on Contracts Finder: <https://www.contractsfinder.service.gov.uk/Search>.
- Running supplier engagement events;
- Packaging contracts in a manner, wherever possible, that does not preclude the following from tendering:

- Local and regional companies;
- Small and medium sized enterprises;
- Newly formed businesses;
- The voluntary and community sector;

The challenge for procurement is to balance the following conflicting priorities:

- Obtaining value for money and the required quality;
- Sourcing locally wherever possible within the legislative framework;
- Procuring in a sustainable way with regard to environmental, social and economic factors; and
- Reducing the number of low value creditors (especially those where annual spend is less than £1,000).
- Reducing the number of invoices processed through the use of Purchasing Cards to procure low value, high volume goods.

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND RESPONSIBILITY

Councils have a role to play in addressing social impact and cohesion across the Region. Social benefits range from the creation of employment and training opportunities to the reduction and where possible elimination of issues of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) in the supply chain.

The Council will encourage 'supported businesses' i.e. organisations where 50% or more of their workforce are disabled, through its procurement processes by reserving contracts to supported businesses, where appropriate.

Where relevant to the subject matter of the contract, the suppliers/contractors approach to tackling unemployment and creating training and apprenticeship opportunities should be incorporated into the procurement process.

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

The approach to sustainable procurement reflects the corporate approach to sustainability. Specific guidance on sustainability issues in procurement is available on the Nottingham City Council's procurement website.

Nottingham City Council has worked with other Councils and agencies to establish and promote recycled content standards for products used in construction, highways maintenance, estates management and all printed matter.

The Council are aware that public perception of sustainability issues has grown immensely through focused media attention on climate change, flood defences, waste

and recycling, and have targets to deliver outcomes that support sustainable development.

Procurement in the Council plays a key role in contributing to sustainable development, through the buildings, goods and services they choose to purchase. With this in mind, each Council recognises it has a vital role in furthering sustainable development and is endeavouring to take into account the wider issues of sustainable procurement by:

- Reducing CO₂ emissions produced through Council operations, recycling and reducing domestic waste;
- Achieving savings for the Council through spend to save and energy efficiency projects that deliver long term value for money for the Council and the public sector as a whole;
- The installation of renewables and the creation of green energy;
- Making more efficient use of resources e.g. the re-use and recycling of materials in capital projects giving rise to reduced energy consumption;
- Leading by example and continuing to demonstrate our commitment to sustainable development;
- Considering the costs and benefits of environmentally-preferable goods and services as alternatives;
- Ensuring that where possible, vehicles purchased have low emissions of greenhouse gases (GHG's), and take into consideration the need to reduce emissions and air pollution.

The Council recognises that further work is to be done on sustainable procurement and endeavours to raise awareness. We also intend to promote awareness with contractors by embedding sustainability into engineering contracts and optimising use of resources.

EQUALITY AND COHESION

Sustainable procurement also includes the duty to ensure that equality and cohesion is addressed in all procurement activity, irrespective of whether provided from within the Council or indirectly through another organisation. Ashfield is committed to equality and diversity in its service provision and will ensure compliance with all legislation covering anti-discrimination and assess suppliers' and service providers' commitment to these aims and values when procuring goods and services.

Ashfield is addressing this through:

- Council adoption of the Modern Slavery Charter;
- Inclusion of directives in Ashfield's Contract Procedure Rules regarding completion by suppliers of a Declaration of professional and business conduct, including Blacklisting;

- Actively seeking commitment from suppliers not to use zero hour contracts, to recruit local apprentices and local labour and to pay the Living Wage;
- Where appropriate building equality and diversity terms and conditions into standard procurement documents;
- Providing workshops and written guidance for potential and existing bidders that include demonstrating the business case for equality and diversity;
- Providing workshops to assist Partner authority officers in addressing equality and cohesion in procurement activity;
- Monitoring compliance against equality and diversity requirements in contracts;
- Raising awareness and making plans to address the requirements of the Equality Act 2010.

The Equality Act (2010) (the Act) sets out anti-discrimination law in the UK. It identifies 'protected characteristics', age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation, pregnancy and maternity and marriage and civil partnerships.

The wider EU legislative framework supports achieving equality outcomes through procurement. The European Public Procurement Directives 2014 and the subsequent UK Public Contract Regulations 2015, provides that social issues may be taken into consideration in different ways at different stages in the procurement process and these social issues may include equality issues. In addition to the specific requirements of the relevant Directive and UK Regulations, the EU law principles of equal treatment, transparency, proportionality, non-discrimination on grounds of nationality, and free movement of goods and services also apply to all public sector contracts.

When conducting their procurement activities, central Government departments and their agencies must ensure that they meet their legal obligations under the Equality Act 2010 and its associated Public Sector Equality Duty in a way that is consistent with the Government's value for money policy and relevant public procurement law.

What is the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED)?

The PSED is contained within section 149 of the Equality Act 2010. It requires those public bodies that are subject to the duty, to have due regard to the three aims of the duty:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct prohibited by the Act;
- Advanced equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it; and
- Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it

The PSED should help ensure that public goods and services are acceptable to, and meet the diverse needs of all users to ensure that no one group is disadvantaged in accessing public goods and services.

SOCIAL VALUE

What does the Act apply to?

The Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012 applies to public service contracts and those public services contracts with only an element of goods or works over the EU threshold. This currently stands at £181,302 for the supply of services in local government. This includes all public service markets, from health and housing to transport and waste.

There is an important role for Commissioners of care for vulnerable people, including children, adults in the provision of Social care where they will be required to factor social value in at the pre-procurement phase, allowing them to embed social value in the design of the various services from the outset.

The Act does not require contracts for public works or public supply (goods), or contracts for services under the EU threshold, to consider social value. Whilst this means it will not be compulsory under the terms of this Act to apply social value below the threshold, or to goods and works contracts, this does not mean that commissioners cannot apply social value in these contracts.

Defining Social Value

Social value has been defined as “the additional benefit to the community from a commissioning/procurement process over and above the direct purchasing of goods, services and outcomes”.

Whilst there are many examples of providers delivering social value available to illustrate this, there is no authoritative list of what these benefits may be. The reason for this flexible approach is that social value is best approached by considering what is most beneficial in the context of local needs or the particular strategic objectives of a public body. In one area, for example, youth unemployment might be a serious concern, whilst in another, health inequalities might be a more pressing need. In recognition of this, the Public Services (Social Value) Act does not take a prescriptive approach to social value. It simply says that a procuring authority must consider:

- How what is proposed to be procured might improve the economic, social and environmental well-being of the relevant area.
- How, in conducting the process of procurement, it might act with a view to securing that improvement.

In doing this, the Act aims to give commissioners and procurement officials the freedom to determine what kind of additional social or environmental value would best serve the needs of the local community as well as giving providers the opportunity to innovate.

There are examples to draw upon for guidance. A number of public bodies around the UK have pioneered social value led approaches to commissioning and procurement, as well as social enterprises that have been delivering benefit across many public services markets for years.

What are the benefits?

There are a number of reasons why policy makers are taking social value increasingly seriously. Not only does this approach seek to create maximum benefit for the community and drive up service quality, but it can also lead to cross-departmental savings and support community organisations to enter the market.

Supporting the social economy

The Government has said it would like to see a much greater role for social enterprises and voluntary organisations in delivering public services, because it believes organisations rooted in the communities they are working with - and for - are often best placed to understand local needs, deliver personalised services and reach those most in need of support. However, the reality is that all too often public sector markets are created in such a way that only a small number of large providers are able to compete.

One of the obstacles social enterprises and other community organisations face is that commissioning and procurement activity often does not seek out the wider social, environmental and economic benefits that these providers bring to service delivery. This means they often miss out on contracts, even though they deliver a higher value return for communities. There is a very small pool of suppliers in many areas of public services such as waste and welfare, which inevitably limits competition, choice, innovation and value for money, making it difficult for commissioners to always best meet the needs of their communities.

The Act aims to change this and encourage civil society organisations to enter public services markets. As well as helping to organisations to win contracts directly, this could also stimulate a role for social enterprises as part of a wider supply chain, fostering greater partnerships between private companies and social enterprises as contracts require providers to draw on their combined skills and resources.

Further guidance on the Act can be found at:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/690780/Commissioner_Guidance_V3.8.pdf

This guidance provides information for suppliers as to how social value may be considered in procurement activity, as well as for commissioning officers. The evaluation of social value and its applicability to each procurement exercise will be undertaken on a case by case basis.

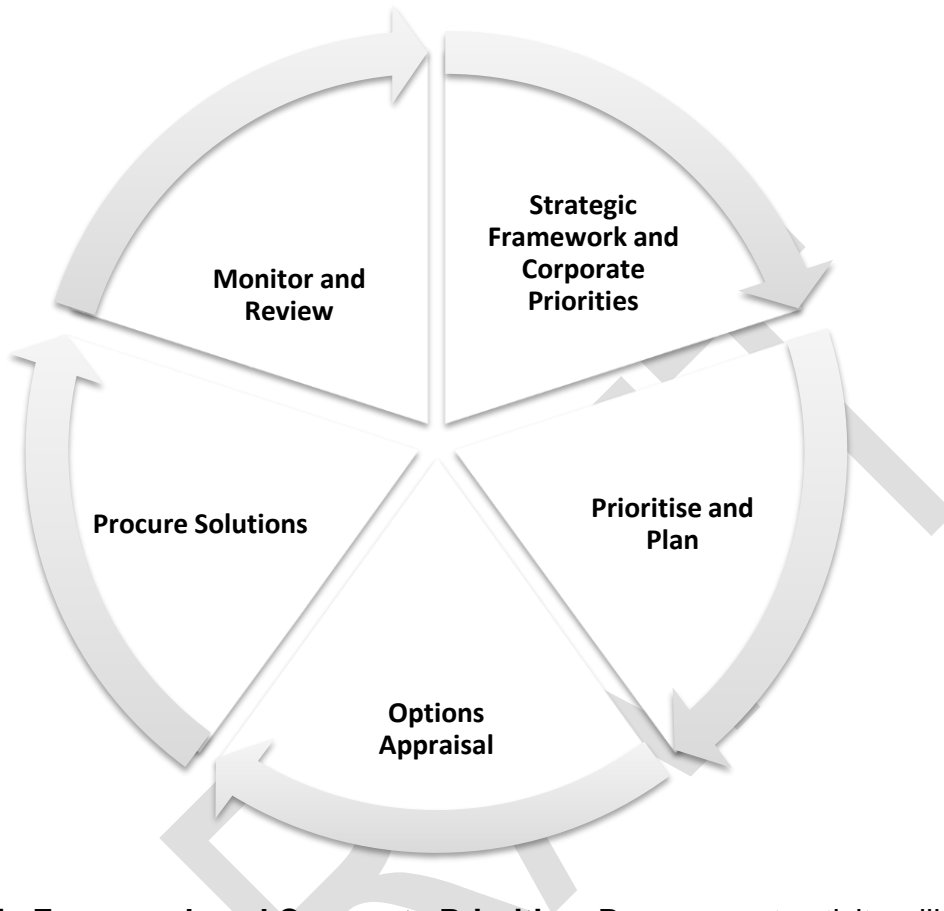
PRINCIPLES FOR EFFECTIVE PROCUREMENT

The following principles will form the basis of all procurement activity in order to achieve value for money:

- **Commercial Efficiency** - Procurement is central to meeting the significant financial challenges faced by the Council in the short and longer term. The delivery of our strategic priorities depends on the efficient and strategic use of our spending power – enabling reducing budgets to go further. We aim to do this by securing the best value for money, procuring the best possible services on the best terms, and driving efficiencies to deliver cashable and non-cashable benefits. We will support the Council's commercial effectiveness, embedding a commercial focus and driving commercial benefits from all contracts.
- **Residents at the Heart**- Procurement will place residents at the heart of everything we do; supporting the Council's aim of providing 'great services': designed to be value for money, fit together seamlessly and be right for citizens and customers - where, when and how they are needed.
- **Partnerships and Collaboration** - We believe that the key to success is joint planning across council departments and other organisations, including early stakeholder and user engagement to inform a joint procurement approach. Collaborating with partners offers opportunities to secure better value from our resources.
- **Ethical Standards** - Procurement has an important role to play in sourcing in a manner that ensures ethical standards are met, minimises the risk of social exploitation and rewards good employment practices. Our ethical procurement objectives are to ensure the well-being and protection of work forces throughout the supply chain, that people are treated with respect and their rights are protected. We will employ the highest ethical standards and operate in a fair and transparent way. We aim to minimise the risk of modern slavery and human trafficking in the supply chain by reviewing the market to identify areas of vulnerability and taking mitigating actions. This will include excluding suppliers with convictions for modern slavery, using robust contract clauses and monitoring supplier performance.
- **Governance, Fairness and Transparency** - We will ensure that all our procurement activity is conducted in a fair, open and transparent way, in compliance with the legal and procedural requirements of EU and UK Procurement Regulations and the Council's Contract Procedure Rules. We will preserve the highest standards of honesty, integrity, impartiality and objectivity and adhere to the Council's Code of Conduct at all times.

The Council will manage strategic procurement through the Nottingham City Council Procurement Team. It will be a corporate resource that leads on corporate contracts and supporting projects. It will provide support wherever required to departmental purchasing and contracting officers, and monitor procurement activity across the Council. The service will comprise a team of skilled and experienced officers, and the activity of the service will be predicated on maximising benefits.

It is important that procurement is seen and managed as a component of the commissioning cycle, illustrated in the following diagram:



Strategic Framework and Corporate Priorities: Procurement activity will operate within a strategic framework consisting of this Procurement Policy and Strategy and the Council's Contract Procedure Rules. Procurement activity must be carried out in a manner that supports the Council's strategic Corporate Plan priorities.

Prioritise and Plan: Strategic procurement activity will be planned over a three-year cycle. It will be undertaken in a performance management environment and will prioritise areas of activity that will generate significant savings or improved quality, and/or contribute to corporate priorities and service improvements. Localised service procurement activity should also be planned in order to avoid 'panic' buying and ensure that the service optimises its supply of all necessary goods and services. Effective forward planning will allow common areas of spend across the Council to be aggregated in order to obtain economies of scale and secure value for money.

Options Appraisal: Best Value requires the Council to demonstrate economy, efficiency and effectiveness of service delivery. Procurement decisions need to be taken, such as whether it is necessary to obtain good service or works, and whether they should be obtained internally or externally. Decisions also need to be made as to the most appropriate route to procure goods, services and works to ensure that the Council achieve value for money. Option appraisals will include alternative models of

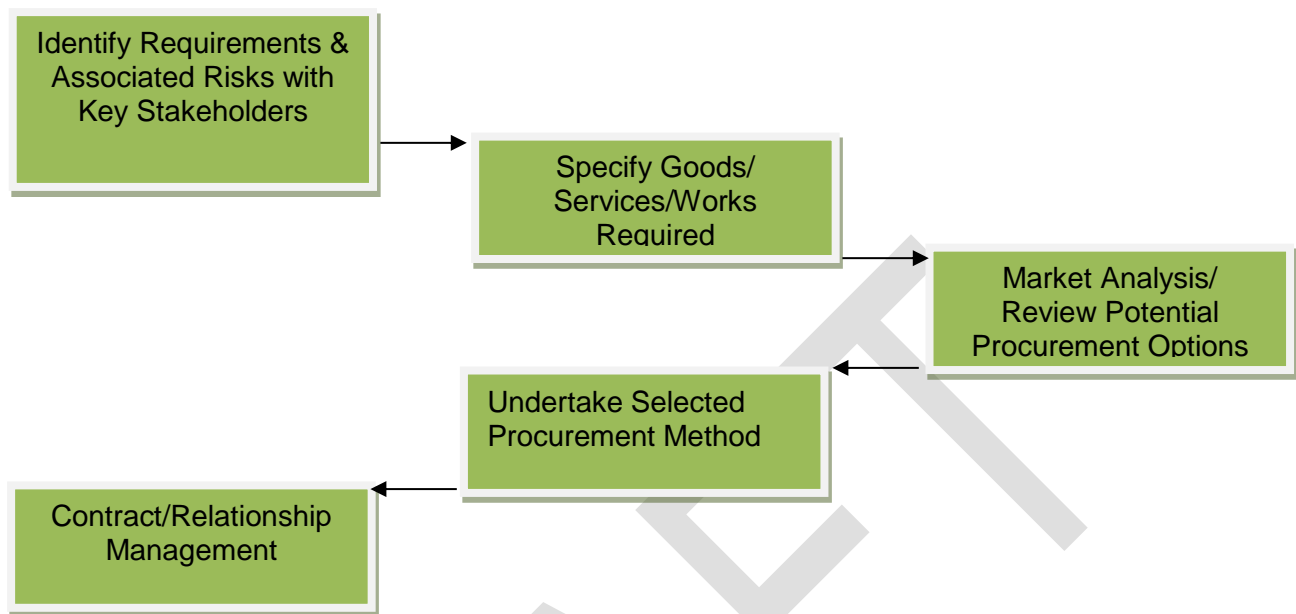
service delivery, including shared services with other public sector organisations, outsourcing of services and collaborative opportunities.

Procure Solutions: The actual procurement process will depend upon the required outcomes, but a typical process is illustrated in the diagram below. In all cases, the process must comply with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules and the Council's Constitution.

Monitor and Review: The monitoring and management of contracts is a critical factor, and can make the difference between a successful contract and a failed one. Contractual arrangements should be effectively managed and monitored throughout the contract duration. Where appropriate, contracts should include quality and performance standards that are monitored and reviewed. Contracts will be subject to continual review and supplier/contractor appraisal exercises. Benchmarking can be undertaken on a planned basis in liaison with both public and private sector organisations to measure the effectiveness of procurement decisions. A good working relationship should be developed with suppliers, and liaison meetings with major suppliers will be held at suitable intervals. Plans should be made well in advance of the expiry of a contract for re-letting it, based on a review of previous and current arrangements and performance.

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Diagram: Typical Procurement Process



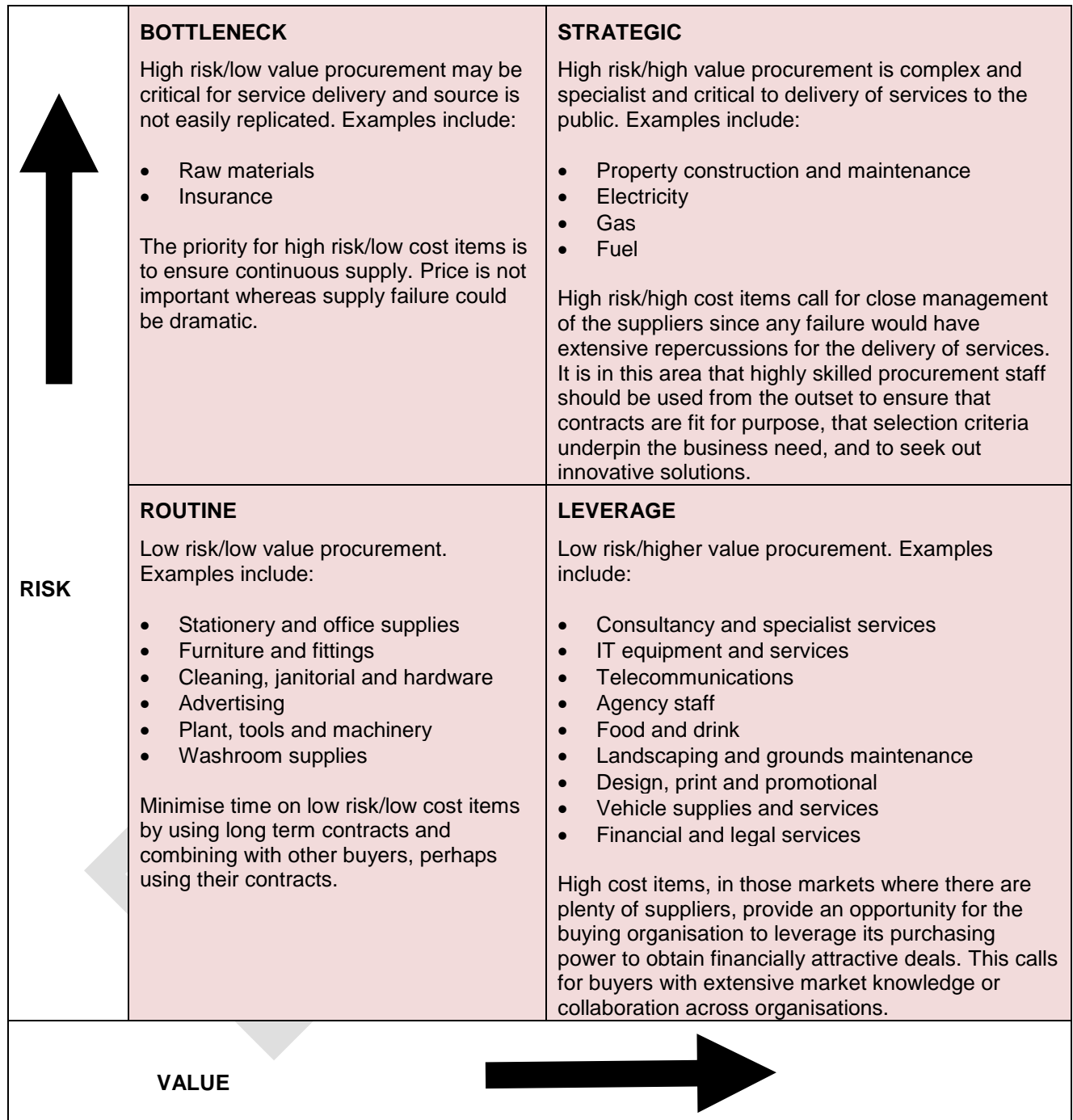
Procurement Analysis

The choice of procurement method will be dependent on the strategic importance, the value of the goods, services or works, and the potential risk associated with each procurement option. Different procurement options will be suitable for different goods and services and will involve undertaking different practical steps to achieve the desired outcome. The Council will develop the overall management of procurement by modelling the requirement on a risk/value matrix, illustrated below.

Equally, individual procurement decisions should also be considered on their own merits following an appraisal of the suitable procurement options. It is important that the option selected is the one most likely to deliver optimum value for money for the partner authority and its citizens, and tenders should thus be evaluated using a balanced scorecard evaluation model.

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PROCUREMENT ANALYSIS MODEL



VALUE FOR MONEY

The Council is committed to achieving Value for Money in order to demonstrate economy, efficiency and effectiveness of service delivery. Procurement decisions such as whether to continue to provide the goods, services or works, and whether to provide them internally or externally (Make or Buy) are central to this requirement.

It is essential that the Council not only adopts processes to secure best value, but can also evidence the efficiencies obtained to demonstrate delivery of national efficiency targets.

The ability to radically re-think and re-shape the way the Council undertakes procurement and secures continuous improvement is key.

Achieving procurement efficiency savings requires a combination of:

- Reducing the number of suppliers used;
- Reducing prices;
- Reducing purchasing transaction time for contracts and major projects;
- Eliminating / automating processes;
- Managing risks effectively;
- Improved contract management post award;
- Improving supplier performance.

Our approach for procurement efficiencies is therefore:

- Driven by optimising outputs and results;
- Driving down the cost of goods and services procured while balancing quality and cost;
- Responding promptly and effectively to service and resident requirements;
- Minimising administrative processes and unnecessary bureaucracy;
- Ensuring simple or routine transactions can be carried out in the most efficient manner;
- Considering all options in obtaining the most appropriate solution;
- Valuing innovation and creativity;
- Using competition to obtain best value;
- Proactively supporting the Council 's policies and priorities;
- Complying with legislation;
- Being transparent and accountable;
- Working in collaboration with other public sector organisations and government frameworks (e.g. CCS) in order to achieve value for money and maximise economies of scale for routine supplies.

In order to demonstrate value for money, the following is built into procurement activity:

- Performance indicators and targets (based on both quality and cost) are established as part of procurement processes;

- Procedures to manage contractual arrangements are established with performance measured and reported, including benchmarking arrangements;
- Procurement procedures and processes are regularly reviewed;
- The management of risk is an integral part of the procurement process;
- The Council invest in procurement training and systems to support the procurement process.

The Council values in-house service providers that demonstrate quality and value for money. Unless otherwise approved by the relevant Chief Officer, external businesses will not be used where the Council has its own in-house services capable and able to provide the service requirement. Should a decision be taken that an in-house service be exposed to competition, they will undertake this in an open and fair manner, and ensure that:

- Staff and their representatives are fully and properly consulted;
- Appropriate outcomes, performance standards and monitoring processes are developed;
- All information required for a due diligence process is identified and collected;
- Innovation is encouraged;
- Relevant Council policies and priorities are incorporated into any specification;
- Probity, accountability and competitive neutrality is ensured and conflict of interest is avoided or managed;

The responsibilities and accountabilities of all parties are explicit.

A key objective of this Procurement Strategy is to provide a means to improve quality and efficiency by harnessing competition. This can be through either:

- **Indirect competition** e.g. via benchmarking, market testing or external challenge. The Council will assess the competitiveness of different functions by reference to other Councils and organisations. In addition to comparing performance, this provides a vehicle for individual and organisational development, learning from experience and good practice.
- **Direct competition** i.e. alternative means of procurement. The Best Value review process will enable the Council to consider whether alternative means of procurement or service delivery is appropriate.
- **Consultants:** The Council will have an ad-hoc requirement to use external consultants and advisors to provide specialist advice and services not available within the Council and to provide support and challenge for major projects. The procurement, utilisation and management of consultants (and assessment of the resulting required outcomes) should be managed in accordance with the guidance issued in this Policy, the Contract Procedure Rules, and the Constitution.

PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT IN PROCUREMENT

Procurement activity, like all other Council activities, should be undertaken in a performance management environment. Key issues to consider in respect of performance management include:

Efficiency: Ensuring that we are driving down the cost of the goods, services and works we procure without compromising quality. Contracts approaching an optional extension period are an ideal opportunity to reduce costs with existing suppliers. A contracted supplier can often suggest ways for the Council to make savings so Officers should be in constant dialogue with their suppliers to ensure costs are minimised.

Planning: Planning annual procurement activity is essential to enable officers to undertake procurement in a more structured manner, identify options and prepare properly for a timely solution to be put in place.

Specifications: Where possible, specifications should include measurable outputs or outcomes, performance standards or other appropriate measures by which the contract can be assessed.

Contract Management: This a major factor in the success or failure of a contract. All contracts should have an associated officer with responsibility for monitoring and managing the contract, including the development of relationship management and the delivery of required outcomes and commercial benefits. Normally this will be the relevant Third Tier officer.

Review: It is important that lessons are learned (what went well, what did not go well), in order to inform future procurement decisions. Problems encountered in a project should be fed into risk analysis models for future projects. Annual reviews of activity, in terms of quality and quantity will be undertaken to ensure a professional, quality service is maintained and savings delivered are identified.

Training and Development: The key to delivery of effective public sector procurement requires people who are suitably trained and qualified to provide the necessary 'professional' input. This ranges from a formal procurement qualification and wide experience, to knowledge of basic procurement techniques. The level of expertise required depends on the frequency and complexity of the procurement activity.

Project Management: The new Corporate Project Management Framework has been developed in alignment with the Council's Performance Framework to ensure that effective programme and project management facilitates the successful delivery of the authority's priorities and outcomes.

PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATION

The Council acknowledges the importance of partnerships in delivering services. It already benefits from a range of partnerships with private, public and voluntary organisations.

The process of carrying out fundamental performance reviews will foster an open and constructive dialogue with all those involved or who may have something to contribute, be it from within the Council itself, or through partnership arrangements with the private and/or voluntary sectors. The Council will encourage the development of new methods or approaches to procurement that will deliver services more efficiently, effectively and economically.

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR PROCUREMENT

All procurement activity must be undertaken to their highest standards of ethics and probity. The Council insist on ethical standards from the suppliers, and in turn they must exhibit the highest ethical standards themselves. Officers and Members must not only be fair and above board in all business dealings, but should also avoid any conduct that is capable of having an adverse interpretation put on it.

All employees must adhere to the Bribery Act 2010, the Officers' Code of Conduct, and the Anti-bribery Policy.

RISKS AND MAINTAINING THE STRATEGY

Risks

The main risks that could prevent the Council from achieving the benefits from effective procurement include:

- Maverick buying;
- Not producing and reviewing relevant spend analysis;
- Using unreliable data as the basis for procurement decisions;
- Lack of support from managers for corporate buying and non-adoption of standard documents and processes;
- Non-compliance with corporate contracts resulting in not achieving potential savings;
- New procurement processes, documents and standards are unworkable and non-compliant;
- Procurements have an adverse effect on local suppliers.

It is anticipated that the actions identified in this Strategy will mitigate against the impacts of these main risks. Specific risks to individual procurements will be identified as part of the procurement project.

Maintaining the Strategy

The Corporate Procurement Policy and Strategy (2019-2023) will be owned by the Service Manager – Commercial Development and updated through the Corporate Leadership Team.

The Service

After an extensive benchmarking exercise from November 2017 to March 2018, officers determined that a best value service could be achieved via a service level agreement for the provision of Procurement services by Nottingham City Council.

Nottingham City Council will:

- Formulate and progress the Procurement Work Plan
- Raise any budget issues, quarterly
- Provide a report on Performance annually to the Council;
- Report quarterly to the Council on progress made in relation to the Procurement Work Plan;
- Prepare and supply to the Council an Annual Report and a separate Performance Report for each of the Council s' consideration and such reports shall contain information as agreed by all parties as detailed in the Service Level Agreement.
- The service outlined under this agreement will be provided to management and designated employees.
- The service will be managed and administered from Nottingham City Council's offices at Loxley House, Station St, Nottingham NG2 3NG
- The standard service will be provided from 09.00 am to 17.00 pm Monday to Friday, with the exception of Bank and statutory holidays.
- Employees shall be trained to the highest of standards of customer service;
- Employees are kept fully aware of corporate issues as they impact on the service;
- Employees shall ensure that confidentiality is maintained in all matters relating to customers, partners, and suppliers, and the information they provide and are provided with;
- They will deal with customers, partners, and suppliers promptly and efficiently.
- They will practice a flexible approach to providing advice and assistance throughout the procurement process
- Provide examples of tender specifications where possible;
- Responsible for the management and administration of the procurement process;

- Participate in tender evaluation groups, as set out in the Council 's Contract Procedure Rules;
- Provide written feedback to successful and unsuccessful contractors;
- Assist Officers with the feedback regarding disputes and challenges from successful and unsuccessful contractors;
- Standardise documents where possible:
- Assist in managing the information within the Contracts Register and savings record;
- Consider, review and harmonise contract end dates to facilitate a strategic approach to be taken to procurement;
- Review of spend in Council to address non-compliant areas of spend by formulation contracts;
- Explore existing framework agreements and best routes for procurement activity;
 - Provision of quality management information;
 - Consideration of local suppliers, where possible through appropriate paragraphs and clauses in the specification and/or contract conditions;
 - Arrange fortnightly clinics on-site (half a day), or as agreed locally;
 - Consideration of equity of service;
 - Review and amend with the consent of all parties the procurement process to improve efficiency.

THE ROLE OF THE COUNCIL

A Procurement Work Plan shall be established between the various Council Service Managers and the service provider, Nottingham City.

The Service shall provide the Council with monitoring data in relation to the Procurement Work Plan each quarter or at such intervals as agreed.

The Service shall report to the Council or any other member-level body in the Council.

In Consideration of this Agreement and the undertakings of the Service the Council hereby agrees and undertakes that:

- We will co-operate with the service provider in applying their general policies and practices in a way that is consistent with their rights and duties as employer of the Service staff. For example, in relation to Health and Safety, the Council shall be responsible for providing a safe working environment for Unit staff based at or visiting their offices so that Nottingham City Council can comply with its Health and Safety obligations as employer of Service staff.
- To fully support the work of the City Council's service team and to engage, instruct and motivate staff to use the service for all procurement activity and advice (above a pre-determined financial threshold).
- To understand the role of employees and to treat them with professional respect and courtesy.
- To recognise that the service will provide advice and support throughout the entire procurement process, but only officers of the Council can write the specification for works, goods and services in accordance with their needs.
- To highlight as soon as practicably possible proposed or new procurement projects in order that the relevant procurement process can be delivered on time. In the event of OJEU tenders to comply with the timescales set within the OJEU process.