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| <b>Report To:</b>          | <b>CABINET</b>   | <b>Date:</b> | <b>29<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2024</b> |
| <b>Heading:</b>            | <b>COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP - STRATEGIC PLAN</b>   |              |                                     |
| <b>Portfolio Holder:</b>   | <b>COUNCILLOR JOHN WILMOTT, EXECUTIVE LEAD MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY SAFETY AND CRIME REDUCTION</b> |              |                                     |
| <b>Ward/s:</b>             | <b>ALL</b>   |              |                                     |
| <b>Key Decision:</b>       | <b>YES</b>   |              |                                     |
| <b>Subject to Call-In:</b> | <b>NO</b>  |              |                                     |

### **Purpose of Report**

Tackling crime, anti-social behaviour and protecting vulnerable people are corporate priorities for the Council and that of the Community Safety Partnership (CSP). The Ashfield CSP, of which the Council is a key statutory partner, has proposed a new Community Safety Strategic Plan, setting focus to key thematic areas over the next three years (2024-2027).

Whilst the partnership and agencies within them will continue to focus on all demands relevant of their service area, additional focus will be placed on new priorities to support a safer Ashfield, which are:

- Tackling Anti-Social Behaviour
- Protecting Vulnerable People
- Addressing Serious Violence, Domestic Abuse & Violence Against Women and Girls
- Tackling Neighbourhood Crime

This plan will guide the partnership to build on significant work already being achieved to build safer and more cohesive communities, ensuring service accountability for responsible agencies and that key deliverables are undertaken to tackle crime and disorder, and safeguard those who are at risk.

## **Recommendation(s)**

- To note the positive work of the Community Safety Partnership over the past three years and approves the new Community Safety Plan for 2024-2027.
- To agree for the proposed priorities in the Community Safety Plan
- To ask the Executive Director – Place, in consultation with the Executive Lead Member for Community Safety and Crime Reduction and the Ashfield Community Safety Partnership, to prepare an action plan to implement the plan's priorities
- To present the new Community Safety Plan and the action plan to Council for approval by 31<sup>st</sup> May 2024

## **Reasons for Recommendation(s)**

This refreshed plan builds on the previous Community Safety Plan. The report contains refreshed priorities and how these now need to be developed to meet current demands.

The new plan has been formulated using an evidence-based process to agree the new priorities, drawing on analysis of partnership crime and community safety data and the outcomes of a public consultation to capture the views of key stakeholders and residents across Ashfield.

## **Alternative Options Considered**

That the Council does not approve the new plan. This would result in priorities relevant to Ashfield not being appropriately addressed and delivered. The requirement to produce a Community Safety Strategic Plan is a statutory requirement. This option is not advised.

## **Detailed Information**

Community Safety Partnerships were established under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 with an overarching aim of protecting communities and making them feel safer. They have responsibility for implementing strategies, frameworks and interventions concerning crime and disorder within their partnership area.

There are five responsible authorities that make up the Ashfield CSP, these are:

- Ashfield District Council
- Nottinghamshire Police
- Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service
- HM Prison and Probation Service
- Mid-Nottinghamshire Place-Based Partnership (NHS)

The co-location of partners within the Community Safety Hub located at Ashfield District Council offices includes many of these partners and has facilitated more effective joined-up working through

neighbourhood tasking meetings, improved sharing of information and increased co-operation between agencies to support delivery or partnership objectives.

Collectively, these organisations direct community safety delivery and ensure that priorities remain relevant and appropriate across the partnership. They work in coalition with other bodies such as social housing providers, Nottinghamshire County Council, drug and alcohol service providers, voluntary and faith sector, and the Police and Crime Commissioner.

The partnership has a duty to give due regard to the priorities of the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) and Safer Nottinghamshire Board (SNB). This includes priorities such as serious violence, domestic abuse, violence against women and girls and neighbourhood crime. The Ashfield CSP will support the work of the PCC whilst delivering on local priorities relevant to Ashfield.

The new plan outlines how agencies will address key priorities shown above. The plan will be monitored on a quarterly basis at the CSP Strategic board where all statutory agencies are present. The CSP will be responsible for holding agencies to account where they have failed to fulfil the actions they committed to within the plan.

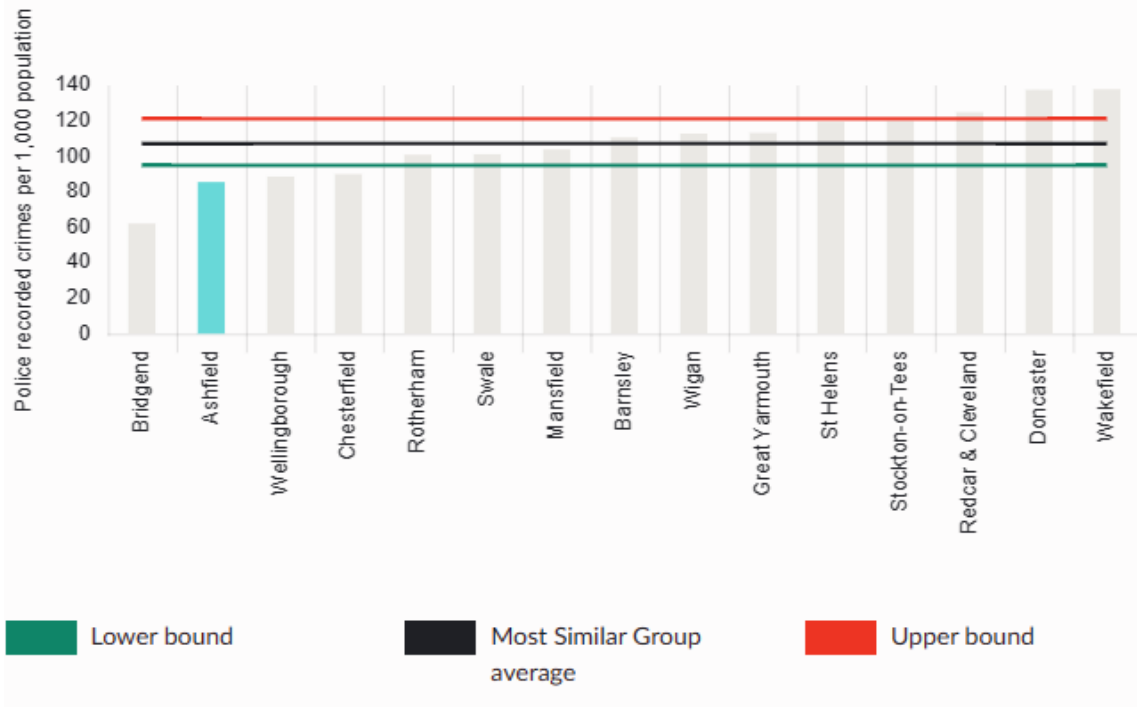
As part of the consultation process when devising the revised plan, all statutory consultees were notified as well as drug and alcohol services, Nottinghamshire County Council and The Police and Crime Commissioner's Office. There was also a period of consultation with the public to enable them to have input, including the Council's recent Residents' Survey.

The draft plan is attached to the report. Approval from Council will be required. If approved the Council will undertake a period of publicity and ensure awareness is raised. The plan and associated documents will be made available on the Council's website and circulated with partner agencies.

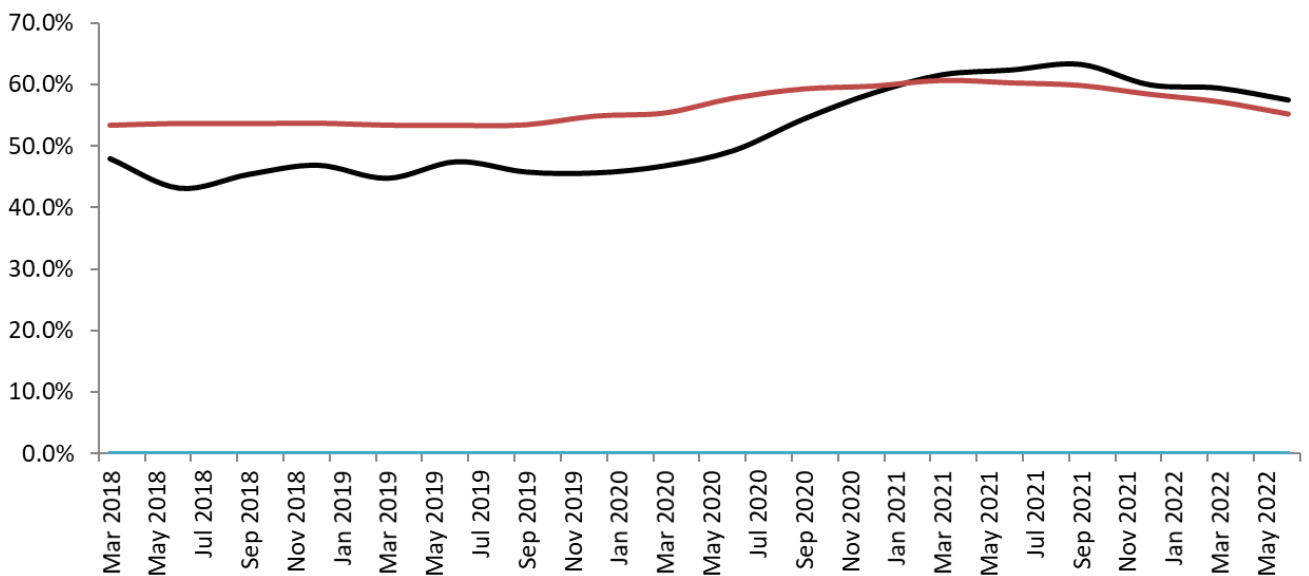
### **Previous Plan (Achievements)**

Over the course of the previous partnership plan, there has been significant developments undertaken by the Community Safety Team and that of the Partnership. This has been illustrated below:

- Marked sustained reductions of reported anti-social behaviour (ASB) across Ashfield by - 35.16% (January 2021 – December 2023 Police Crime figures)
- Over £1.8 Million of external funding secured for Community Safety interventions in the past three years (which is considered high external investment in comparison to other District or Borough Council's across Nottinghamshire) that has statistically resulted in lower levels of crime than other comparable areas; indicating that the work of the CSP and Council's Community Safety is having a positive impact long term in tackling crime and disorder across the District.



- Successfully awarded funding to deliver the last three consecutive rounds of the Home Office Safer Streets programme for Coxmoor, Kirkby Carsic, Sutton and Sutton East, and delivered approximately £150k funded projects in Hucknall town centre. This has enabled the Council and its partners increase safety provision; including increasing our public space CCTV from 29 to 59 devices, increased street lighting, 8 alleyway closures, safe space accreditation and shop watch schemes in all three town centres, burglary reduction scheme, diversionary and healthy relationship programmes, and our revolutionary 'U.K first' safe point cameras amongst others.
- Findings of the Nottinghamshire Police Crime Survey, confirmed Ashfield has also seen positive improvements in public trust and confidence in the police/CSP since 2020, largely driven by funded projects (safer streets) secured by the partnership and improvements in visibility (Operation Springboard) and local activity (Intervention and engagement events) to tackle issues that matter most to people in the area (Ashfield in black – force average in red).



- Enhanced partnership work at a tactical and operational level to help tackle ASB and protect vulnerable people through key initiatives such as Operation Springboard, the Vulnerable Adult Support Scheme, Complex Case Panel and neighbourhood tasking meetings, and service co-location amongst others.
- Funding and interventions implemented to address domestic Abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls etc including securing White Ribbon accreditation until 2025, and successful delivery of the and Sanctuary and Serenity scheme which is providing support and safe accommodation to survivors of domestic abuse.
- The body for fly tipping reporting DEFRA released on 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2023 relating to updated 2021/22 statistics confirmed Ashfield is ranked in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quartile comparatively and close to being in the top quartile, with our position out of 309 local authorities being 80<sup>th</sup>. With additional focus being placed on education and prevention over the duration of the next plan.

Over the course of the new plan, there will be increased strategic focus on outcome-based accountability, placed based problem solving and partnership visibility, and strengthened strategic alignment with health and social care partners, regulatory services, communications; in tandem to further emphasis on preventable demands via education, early intervention, community cohesion (engagement) and designing out crime. The Council and partnership will continue to pursue external investment if viable and relevant to the CSP and Council priorities.

## **Implications**

### **Corporate Plan:**

Approval of this plan will directly contribute to the delivery of the Safer & Stronger priority within the Council's Corporate Plan, and support the delivery of the Cleaner & Greener and Homes & Housing priorities.

### **Legal:**

As detailed in the body of the report, the CSP Strategic Plan is formulated as required by the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. Regulation 4 and Schedule 3 of the Local Government (Functions and Responsibilities) (England) Regulations 2000 require Full Council to adopt the Partnership Plan. At this stage there are no direct consequences arising from the recommendation that adversely affect individual's rights and freedoms as set out in the Human Rights Act 1998.

As part of the plan, legal consequences may occasionally arise in the future delivery of the plan objectives which would need to be reviewed at the time. [08/01/2024]

### **Finance:**

No direct financial implications arising from this report. All actions within the plan will be undertaken from existing resources or funded by the Community Safety Partnership and/or external funding received to assist delivery e.g. Safer Streets projects [PH 09/01/2024].

| <b>Budget Area</b>               | <b>Implication</b> |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|
| General Fund – Revenue Budget    | Not applicable     |
| General Fund – Capital Programme | Not applicable     |

|   |                |
|---|----------------|
| Housing Revenue Account – Revenue Budget    | Not applicable |
| Housing Revenue Account – Capital Programme | Not applicable |

**Risk:**

There is an organisational risk of requirements set with the plan not being delivered within tolerance. As set out within the body of the report, a framework under the CSP Strategic Board has been implemented to enable quarterly reporting and agency accountability which will help mitigate such risk.

**Human Resources:**

No direct implications.

**Equalities:**

This plan supports duties under the Public Sector Equality Duty, Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 requires authorities to have due regard to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act, advance equality of opportunity between people from different groups, and foster good relations between people from different groups.

Consideration has also been given to Articles 10 and 11 of the European Convention on Human Rights which provide for the rights of freedom of expression and assembly. An Equalities Impact Assessment Form has been produced as part of this report.

**Other Implications:**

The plan is seeking to address issues which impact on the quality of life and public safety. These issues can affect both the physical and mental well-being of residents and therefore the proposals would have a significant impact on community well-being.

**Background Papers**

Community Safety Partnership Plan

**Report Author and Contact Officer**

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