

	<b>Cabinet</b> 5 February 2024
	<b>Interim Corporate Director          Communities and Regeneration</b>
	<b>Lead Member -          Cabinet Member for Safer          Communities and Public Protection          (Councillor Harbi Farah)</b>
<b>Proposed Safer Brent – Community Safety Strategy</b>	

<b>Wards Affected:</b>	All
<b>Key or Non-Key Decision:</b>	Key Decision
<b>Open or Part/Fully Exempt:</b> <small>(If exempt, please highlight relevant paragraph of Part 1, Schedule 12A of 1972 Local Government Act)</small>	Open
<b>List of Appendices:</b>	Two Appendix 1: Safer Brent - Community Safety Strategy 2024-2026 Appendix 2: Overarching -Safer Brent Action Plan 2024-2026
<b>Background Papers:</b>	N/A
<b>Contact Officer(s):</b> <small>(Name, Title, Contact Details)</small>	Kibibi Octave, Director of Communities 020 8937 4255 <a href="mailto:Kibibi.octave@brent.gov.uk">Kibibi.octave@brent.gov.uk</a>  Simon Egbor, Head of Community Safety and Prevention 020 8937 5853 <a href="mailto:simon.egbor@brent.gov.uk">simon.egbor@brent.gov.uk</a>

## 1.0 Executive Summary

- 1.1. This report presents the proposed Safer Brent – Community Safety Strategy and accompanying action plan for 2024 – 2026. The priorities for the plan were set by the Safer Brent Partnership. However, the Cabinet Member for Safer Communities and Public Protection, provided a strong steer to revise how these priorities should be addressed, by incorporating a Public Health, early intervention, preventative approach to reducing crime within Brent. The strategy has been re-designed to reflect this and in consultation with our communities,

partners and stakeholders. The strategy has incorporated recommendations made by Scrutiny.

## **2.0 Recommendation(s)**

2.1 Cabinet approves the Safer Brent - Community Safety Strategy, and Action Plan.

## **3.0 Detail**

### **3.1 Cabinet Member Foreword**

3.1.1 This strategy sits under the Borough Plan priority of “Thriving Communities”. The Borough Plan tells us, safety should be the most important priority for the council. And gives a commitment to work hard to prevent crime and anti-social behaviour. The Borough Plan states that prevention is essential in tackling the causes of crime. In it we have we have told our residents that we will help people leave criminal lifestyles, pursue justice for victims, work with our communities to build trust, prevent criminality and improve our response to crime. The proposed Safer Brent – Community Safety Strategy aims to deliver on all of the above.

### **3.2 Background**

3.2.1 The Safer Brent Partnership (SBP), is a statutory board, more generically known as a Community Safety Partnership. These partnerships were established by the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 with the aim of creating “an alliance of organisations which generates strategies and policies, implement actions and interventions concerning crime and disorder within their partnership area”.

3.2.2 The Safer Brent Community Safety Strategy and accompanying action plan is part of their work. This proposed strategy was approved for onward sign – off at the SBP’s July board meeting.

3.2.3 The strategy identifies 4 Priorities these are:

- Tackling Violent Crime
- Challenging Domestic Abuse, Sexual Abuse and Preventing Violence Against Women and Girls
- Focus on Incidents Impacting Our Community
- Protecting Those Most Vulnerable

## **4.0 Stakeholder and ward member consultation and engagement**

4.1 Following a strategic assessment exercise, community groups were consulted, including dedicated focus groups, presentations at various delivery groups and boards, as well as Brent Connects community meetings.

- Online consultation – 96 respondents

- Member consultation online event – x2
- Focus Groups – Pupil Referral Units (staff), New Beginnings – (Service Users) Group, College of North West London – (Students), Brent LBGTQ+ Network (chair and co-chair), Brent Multi – Faith Forum, Al Saddiiq Cultural Centre (Users)
- Brent Connects Meetings x4
- Safeguarding Children’s Board
- Scrutiny Committee

4.2 The strategy was presented to senior managers on 27 September 2023 who recommended that Public Health leads again review the strategy which has been completed. Further revisions were also recommended to the graphics and text of the strategy and the implementation date to commence from 2024 to 2026 as opposed to 2023.

4.3 A final review of the strategy and action plan was held with the newly appointed Chair of SBP and related members on 18 December 2023.

4.4 The strategy was also presented to senior managers and lead members on 24 January 2024 with it recommended the strategic action plan activity around bleed kit training should sit with one delivery board. This will now fall under priority, tackling violent crime and will be omitted under the priority protecting the most vulnerable.

4.5 Under the strategic action plan priority on focusing on incidents impacting our community, (Prevention, Reduction and Public Confidence) a recommendation was also made that the wording under the measure is changed from harder to engage, to seldom engaged.

4.6 A further amendment will also be made on page 11 relating to the installation of knife bins.

4.7 Following consideration by the Resources & Public Realm Scrutiny Committee on 24 January 2024 a recommendation was also made that the priority around tackling violent crime should have a specific emphasis on knife crime due to the spike locally and nationally. It was agreed to reword the priority to, tackling violent crime with a specific focus on knife crime.

4.8 Due to time limitations, these changes could not be made before the submission deadline of this report to Cabinet but all of the above recommendations will be implemented before the strategy is published.

## **5.0 Financial Considerations**

5.1 No additional resource has been identified to deliver this strategy. The majority of activity earmarked to tackle crime and support victims and offenders is funded by external grants.

## **6.0 Legal Considerations**

6.1 The strategy supports expectations under Section 6 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, the Prevent Duty 2015, Serious Violence Duty 2022, and the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022. Creates a duty imposed on an authority to do all it reasonably can to prevent serious violence in its area

## **7.0 Equality, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI) Considerations**

7.1 The public sector equality duty, as set out in section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, requires the Council, when exercising its functions, to have “due regard” to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited under the Act, to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between those who have a “protected characteristic” and those who do not share that protected characteristic. The protected characteristics are age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, and sexual orientation

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7.3 Given that the strategy incorporates requirements of, in particular, the Prevent Duty and the Serious Violence Duty, whilst interventions aim to be supportive, rather than punitive, concerns may be raised that activity disproportionality impacts individuals from BAME backgrounds.

## **8.0 Climate Change and Environmental Considerations**

8.1 The council has adopted an existing Climate Adaptation and Resilience Plan, due to be reviewed every two years, which focuses on the direct impacts of climate change within the borough boundary (flooding, extreme heat, drought and water shortages, extreme cold). No negative climate change or environmental considerations have been identified at this stage in terms of rolling out this strategy.

## **9.0 Human Resources/Property Considerations (if appropriate)**

9.1 The Community Safety and Prevention Team is made up of 30 staff, with 27 grant funded roles, across 4 teams with very distinct areas of work. These are:

- Rescue and Response, the Pan – London Team set up to respond to county lines exploitation.
- The Prevent Team, who delivery objectives to meet our Prevent duty and related counter – terrorism response measures,
- The Homes for Ukraine Team, helping those migrating from areas of conflict and,

- The Core Community Safety Team

9.2 The proposed Safer Brent – Community Safety Strategy, with the exception of the ASB and CCTV Team, in Regeneration, is largely reliant on delivery undertaken by the Core Community Safety Team, in the Communities Directorate. This is a relatively small team with only 3 core funded posts. The remainder of the roles are grant funded and this has an impact on staff retention and continuity of service.

## **10.0 Communication Considerations**

10.1 There are no direct communications implications following this paper. However, going forwards, delivery of the accompanying action plan presents an opportunity to highlight success stories.

**Report sign off:**

***Alice Lester***

Interim Corporate Director of Communities and  
Regeneration