

TITLE OF REPORT: Strategic Assessment Consultation Update
(March 2019)

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Summary

The annual strategic assessment has been undertaken and five draft priorities have been agreed by the Community Safety Board. This report will provide an update on the public consultation that is now underway, seeking residents' views on the draft priorities.

1. Background

- 1.1. The Community Safety Board has a legal requirement to undertake an annual assessment of the key crime, disorder and substance misuse issues that are impacting on the Borough. In addition, there is a requirement to carry out consultation with members of the public on the priorities identified during the assessment process.

2. Strategic Assessment

- 2.1. The strategic assessment brings together data from each of the responsible authorities that make up the Community Safety Board in order to understand the key crime, disorder and substance misuse issues that are affecting the Borough. The latest assessment was completed in January 2019 and five draft priorities were identified:

- Anti-social behaviour
- Domestic abuse
- The harm caused by substance misuse
- Hate crime, tensions and community cohesion
- Preventing violent extremism

3. Strategic Assessment

- 3.1. Public consultation is a statutory requirement of the strategic assessment process. Following approval of the draft priorities by the Community Safety Board in January 2019 an online consultation was developed, seeking residents' views on the proposed priorities.
- 3.2. The consultation has been made available to Viewpoint members via the Council's Viewpoint Online consultation portal and to the general public. The

consultation is also being promoted through the Gateshead Now email bulletin.

- 3.3. As well as consultation on the strategic priorities, this year's consultation also includes a section on general community safety issues, so residents can feed in their views about community safety-related issues in their neighbourhood.
- 3.4. Following agreement of the draft priorities by the Community Safety Board in January 2019, members of the Community Safety Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee were consulted at the January Sub-Committee meeting.

4. Results to Date

- 4.1. As at 18th March 2018 more than 400 responses to the consultation have been received. The purpose of the consultation is to seek views on the draft strategic priorities but there are also a number of other general community safety questions included so residents can feed in their views about their neighbourhood. Some headline results are outlined in the remainder of this section.
- 4.2. Nine in 10 respondents agree that the draft priorities identified in the strategic assessment are the most appropriate to prioritise. At this stage, anti-social behaviour appears to have the most support from residents, followed by substance misuse and domestic abuse.
- 4.3. The results from the general community safety section of the consultation show that half of respondents feel there has been no change in their neighbourhood in the last 12 months, while 43% feel that their neighbourhood has got worse. Although a number of residents feel their neighbourhood has declined, most people do not believe anti-social behaviour and crime to be a big problem and 80% of people report feeling safe where they live.
- 4.4. Please note, the figures quoted above are subject to change as there are still several weeks before the consultation closes.
- 4.5. Once the consultation ends, comparisons will be made with previous years' consultations to determine whether or not residents' perceptions have changed over time. Any significant changes will be shared with partners to address during 2019/20.

5. Next Steps

- 5.1. A number of specific issues have been identified through this year's consultation process. These include details of particular locations people avoid or where they believe there to be ongoing issues. These details will be shared with partners and, where possible, action will be taken to address these concerns.
- 5.2. At the end of the consultation period, the priorities chosen by the public will be weighted and the final results will be presented to the Community Safety Board who will agree the final priorities for 2019/20.

- 5.3. Results from the consultation will be included in the Partnership Plan for 2019/20

6. Recommendations

- 6.1. The Committee is asked to:
- (i) Agree to receive final details of the consultation process and the final priorities for 2019/20 once approved by the Community Safety Board.

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