

Scrutiny Committee Agenda



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Date: 7 January 2015
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A meeting of the
Scrutiny Committee
will be held on Thursday, 15 January 2015
at 7.00 pm
Lockinge, The Beacon, Portway, Wantage, OX12 9BY

Members of the Committee:

Councillors

Jim Halliday (Chairman)
Charlotte Dickson (Vice-chairman)
Eric Batts
Tony de Vere
Jason Fiddaman
Debby Hallett

Mohinder Kainth
Sandy Lovatt
Julie Mayhew-Archer
Fiona Roper
Alison Thomson
Richard Webber

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M Reed".

Margaret Reed
Head of Legal and Democratic Services

Agenda

Open to the Public including the Press

Council's Vision

The council's vision is to take care of your interests across the Vale with enterprise, energy and efficiency.

1. Notification of substitutes and apologies for absence

To record the attendance of substitute members, if any, who have been authorised to attend in accordance with the provisions of standing order 17(1), with notification having been given to the proper officer before the start of the meeting and to receive apologies for absence.

2. Minutes

There are no minutes to be presented to this meeting.

3. Declarations of interest

To receive any declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests in respect of items on the agenda for this meeting.

4. Urgent business and chairman's announcements

To receive notification of any matters, which the chairman determines, should be considered as urgent business and the special circumstances, which have made the matters urgent, and to receive any announcements from the chairman.

5. Statements, petitions and questions from the public relating to matters affecting the Scrutiny Committee

Any statements and/or petitions from the public under standing order 32 will be made or presented at the meeting.

6. Action List

To review actions taken since previous meeting and any outstanding actions (circulated separately/ tabled at meeting).

7. Community Safety Partnership: Review and Future

(Pages 4 - 43)

To consider the report of the Head of Legal and Democratic Services.

8. Abbey Meadow and Gardens

(Pages 44 - 57)

To consider the report of the Head of Economy, Leisure and Property.

9. Councillor Development Programme

(Pages 58 - 64)

To consider the report of the Head of Corporate Strategy.

10. Indicative Scrutiny work programme

(Pages 65 - 70)

To review the attached scrutiny work programme. Please note, this is an indicative programme only, and all items are subject to being withdrawn or dates rearranged without further notice.

Exempt information under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972

None

Scrutiny Committee



Report of Head of Legal and Democratic Services

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To: Vale Scrutiny Committee

DATE: 15 January 2015

South and Vale Community Safety Partnership – performance report

Recommendation(s)

(a) To note the progress that the South and Vale Community Safety Partnership (CSP) has made so far in 2014/15 in delivering its priorities and statutory functions

(b) To consider the anticipated direction of travel of the Partnership in 2015/16

Purpose of Report

1. The main purpose of this report is to update the scrutiny committee on the progress that the South and Vale Community Safety Partnership (CSP) is making to reduce crime and the fear of crime, focusing on the benefits it generates for residents, businesses and partner agencies in the two districts. The summary of the work the Partnership has been delivering since April 2014 to achieve its priorities is supplemented by the CSP quarter two (Q2) performance report, attached as Appendix A.
2. The report also briefly outlines the direction of travel that the South and Vale CSP is expecting to take in 2015/16 to address emerging key priorities.

Background

PURPOSE AND STRUCTURE OF THE CSP

3. The South and Vale Community Safety Partnership (CSP) was formed in April 2011, bringing together the two existing district CSPs that were created in accordance with the requirements of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. This was done so that the partnership was coterminous with the newly formed local police area and mirrored the shared working across the district councils.
4. Under the umbrella of the South and Vale CSP, a wide variety of local agencies work together to maintain low levels of crime and anti-social behaviour in both districts and ensure that residents feel safe and stay safe.
5. The Partnership involves the community safety portfolio holders from both district councils and officers representing:
 - South Oxfordshire District Council
 - Vale of White Horse District Council
 - NHS Oxfordshire
 - Oxfordshire County Council (OCC)
 - Thames Valley Police (TVP)
 - Probation Service
 - Sovereign Vale Housing Association
 - Oxfordshire Fire & Rescue Service
 - Soha Housing
 - Oxfordshire Public Health
6. The Partnership has a statutory duty to develop and publish a plan which sets out its priorities, actions and measures. The 2014/15 plan is attached as Appendix B. When drafting the current plan and to meet our statutory duties, we reviewed information from the Oxfordshire Strategic Intelligence Assessment along with the Thames Valley Police and Crime Commissioner's (PCC) plan and carried out a multi-agency workshop.
7. The CSP has a statutory duty to monitor the effectiveness of its Plan which is done through its quarterly performance reports that are reviewed at its quarterly Partnership meetings.

RESOURCES TO SUPPORT THE DELIVERY OF CSP PRIORITIES

8. To help the CSP deliver its priorities and statutory duties, it receives funding from the PCC. This income stream is not secure and is agreed on an annual basis. The Partnership's 2014/15 funding from the PCC is £117,111.
9. The CSP uses some of its grant to directly fund four officers:
 - ASB Co-ordinator (full time) – employed by the district councils and works within the community safety team
 - Community safety projects officer (full time) – employed by the district councils and works within the community safety team

- ASB Assistant (part time) – employed by Thames Valley Police
- Crime Reduction Adviser (full time) – employed by Thames Valley Police (the post holder moved to another role within the police in August and the post remains vacant, subject to a police review of the roles of this post)

10. The work carried out by the Crime Reduction Adviser included carrying out prevention surveys, promoting crime prevention tools like Cremark (property marking for large farming and plant machinery) to local communities and helping better secure the homes of victims of domestic abuse.

11. The CSP also uses its funding to support local capital and revenue projects that it believes will help the Partnership to deliver its priorities. Managed by the community safety team, this involves overseeing the CSP grant application process, drafting Service Level Agreements (SLAs), monitoring contract compliance and running the CSP budget group to ensure accountability and proper governance. In 2014/15, the community safety team is managing SLAs on behalf of the CSP for a range of projects, including a dedicated outreach service for victims of domestic abuse in South and Vale (please see page six for further project details) and a small repairs scheme to help vulnerable people stay safe in their own homes (further details on page 10).

12. A South and Vale CSP financial summary for 2013/14 and 2014/15 (quarter two) can be found in Appendix C.

DELIVERING THE COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP’S PRIORITIES AND STATUTORY DUTIES – SUMMARY OF KEY AREAS OF WORK IN 2014/15

To cut crimes that are of most concern to the public and to protect the most vulnerable members of our communities

REDUCING ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

13. There are a number of statutory functions relating to anti-social behaviour that the CSP funded staff are responsible for delivering:

Statutory responsibility	Relevant legislation
Consulting on and introducing Designated Public Place Orders (currently in Thame, Abingdon and Henley) to stop anti social behaviour related to the consumption of alcohol.	Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001 (to be replaced by Public Space Protection Orders as part of the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014).
On behalf of the CSP, managing Community Trigger process	Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014

Statutory responsibility	Relevant legislation
Managing the process for issuing Community Protection Notices (non noise related)	
Supporting police applications for Criminal Behaviour Orders	

Formal report recommendation	Relevant report
<p>Encouraging the reporting of racist incidents and crimes which should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the ability to report at locations other than police stations • the ability to report 24 hours a day. 	Recommendation 16 from the Macpherson Report

14. The CSP funded ASB Assistant who works for Thames Valley Police supports the Anti-Social Behaviour Officer (a police officer role) in monitoring action taken by neighbourhood officers to tackle cases of ASB reported to the police. This involves helping to draw up Acceptable Behaviour Contracts, Criminal Behaviour Orders and other police led ASB interventions as well as running regular neighbourhood ASB case meetings.

15. If residents don't feel able to report ASB to the police, they can contact the district council's community safety team by phone, email, website report form or in person to report the incident. The issues reported to the team are varied and range from neighbour disputes to racist abuse and harassment. We investigate the case thoroughly, working in partnership with relevant agencies and providing updates to the complainant until the issue has been resolved. This service provides residents who are unable or unwilling to report ASB to the police with an effective alternative reporting option. Victims/witnesses have a single point of contact for their case and feel actively supported by the councils. Acting as a 'critical friend', the community safety team ensures that appropriate and joined up action is taken by agencies to resolve cases.

ASB case study

A resident in Faringdon was suffering from noise nuisance caused by a neighbour who was frequently having parties. They contacted the community safety team's ASB Co-ordinator for help because they did not feel that their case was being taken seriously by other agencies.

The ASB Co-ordinator established that Sovereign were the Housing Association who owned the property in question. As a housing association normally takes the lead on a noise issue relating to its tenants, the Co-ordinator reported the problems to the appropriate Housing Officer.

The Housing Officer spoke to the complainant and agreed an action plan to resolve the problem. They also spoke to the people who were causing the noise nuisance. The ASB Co-ordinator advised the complainant to contact them again should problems persist but no further reports were received.

16. In addition, the CSP helps to fund local community based projects that aim to divert young people away from committing ASB. Progress updates on the delivery of these projects are included in the attached CSP Q2 performance report on page 4.

Outcomes from a CSP funded ASB diversionary project in South Abingdon

The Partnership agreed to continue funding DAMASCUS (a local youth outreach charity) in 2014/15 to build sustainable community cohesion in South Abingdon by supporting communities to connect with disengaged young people. These sessions are street based and include workshops focusing on bullying, sexual health, protective behaviours and drugs and alcohol for young people. They are also supporting a small community action team consisting of volunteers (adults) and young people to run community events. Although this project is not due to finish until the end of March 2015, it is already delivering tangible benefits to the community:

- 62 different young people aged between eight and 22 have so far engaged with the outreach workers, including groups of young people known to commit ASB.
- Outreach workers are providing 1-2-1 support work with three young people who are not in education, employment or training.
- The young people organised a community football academy for October half term and ran a Christmas bingo event for the senior citizens.

Feedback from one of the young people involved - "looking forward to the half term and doing something for the old people at Christmas"

TACKLING LOCAL PRIORITY CRIME (REDUCING DOMESTIC BURGLARIES AND VIOLENCE, PROMOTING A SAFER NIGHT TIME ECONOMY AND TACKLING RURAL CRIME)

17. The community safety team runs Nightsafe, a multi-agency sub group of the CSP which delivers initiatives to help reduce late night violence and associated crime and disorder. Resources, knowledge and data from TVP, licensing, community safety and Fire & Rescue are pooled to tackle premises of concern (e.g. running joint test purchase operations to prevent the sale of alcohol to underage people). Licensed premises sign up to the voluntary Nightsafe charter so they take a positive role in helping promote a safe night time economy.

Licensed premises' commitment to promoting responsible drinking

The community safety team, district councils' licensing teams and the police have continued to roll out Nightsafe across South and Vale. The number of towns signed up to Nightsafe in South and Vale now stands at five (Abingdon, Wantage, Didcot, Henley and Thame), involving over 50 licensed premises.

18. In addition, we promote strong educational messages to local communities about behaving sensibly and responsibly when on a night out (e.g. campaign in licensed premises to remind people of penalties for alcohol related disorder, test purchase operations).

Tackling underage drinking in Wantage and Grove – August 2014

To help put a stop to off licences selling alcohol to underage children and young people, the CSP's Nightsafe group worked with the police over the summer to carry out test purchase operations in Wantage and Grove.

A test purchase operation is where someone under 18 attempts to buy alcohol to see if the shop is prepared to serve them. All eight premises tested passed. In previous tests, four of the shops failed which shows that the partnership approach to tackling underage sales is making a difference.

19. CSP initiatives to tackle domestic burglaries and rural crime are included in the CSP Q2 performance report (Appendix A, pages 5-6 and 8-9).

REDUCING DOMESTIC ABUSE AND CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

20. In terms of reducing domestic abuse in South and Vale, the CSP has a statutory duty to conduct Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs). These take place when a murder has been committed in either of the district areas and the victim and offender were in some form of relationship. The main aim of a Review is to establish what lessons can be learned regarding the way in which local professionals and organisations work individually and together to safeguard victims. The community safety team is responsible for managing the DHR process. So far in 2014/15, the CSP has commissioned one DHR for a murder that happened in October in Abingdon (Hales Meadow - Culham side). It is also continuing to oversee a DHR that it commissioned in 2013/14 following a murder in Didcot. This is being run jointly with a Serious Case Review due to the age of the victim.

21. With funding from the CSP, Mears provides a small works sanctuary scheme to help people suffering from domestic abuse stay safe in their own homes. Details of how this service has been used so far in 2014/15 can be found on page 10 of the attached CSP Q2 performance report.

22. The CSP continues to fund a dedicated outreach service for women, men and children whose lives have been disrupted by domestic abuse in South and Vale. On behalf of the Partnership, A2 Dominion provides 38 hours of domestic abuse services each week across both districts. They also set up and run rolling help groups and enable those in need to draw upon the range of resources – from a 24 hour help-line, to accommodation provided in refuges. Performance figures for this service are included in the attached Q2 CSP report (pages 9-10).

Domestic abuse outreach service – a case study from 2014 (names have been changed)

Katie had been separated from her partner Lewis for nearly five years but she and her two daughters were being constantly harassed and emotionally abused. There was also a long history of significant violence from her ex-partner, against both Katie and her eldest child. Her case was referred to A2Dominion by social services.

Katie was receiving hundreds of text messages a day and phone calls from Lewis. He was harassing her at work and was spotted near her work and home on a number of occasions. She had reported his harassment on a few occasions to the police but felt too scared of his reaction if she was to apply for a non-molestation order. She disposed of her mobile phone so she could no longer receive text messages from him. The outreach service provided her with another mobile temporarily for safety reasons.

Katie was keeping her youngest daughter off school as she was concerned Lewis would try and take her.

Katie became mentally unwell, was having regular panic attacks and could not leave the house. She began to realise the severity of the situation and felt ready to move away from Lewis out of the area.

Over a ten month period, the outreach worker provided Katie and her children with the following support:

- arranged for target hardening works to be carried out to Katie's home
- secured support for the youngest daughter from the Early Intervention Service, Child Protection, Team Around the Child and the local school.
- gave Katie the confidence to report Lewis's actions to the police
- helped Katie access a food bank, benefits and a crisis loan when Katie was too unwell to work
- found places at a refuge for Katie and her children when she felt able to leave the area
- obtained travel warrant from social services and booked a taxi to get the family safely to train station
- found Pet Refuge spaces for the family pets as this was a major barrier to leaving

The family are now safely settled in a new area - they will be re-housed soon and be re-united with their two dogs. Katie is taking medication for her mental well-being and her youngest daughter is receiving therapy and support to help her cope with the emotional abuse Lewis put her through which was a way for him to continue abusing Katie.

23. The CSP has agreed an action plan to raise awareness in South and Vale about Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and how it can be stopped. It has also commissioned a pilot project in the Vale to help young people recognise the dangers relating to risky behaviours and to engage them in making positive life choices.

South and Vale pilot schools project to empower and protect vulnerable young people

Working with Oxford City Council and the TVP schools officer, the community safety team has set up a pilot project with The King Alfred School in Wantage and Faringdon Community College. The schools have identified small groups of young people who they feel are vulnerable and have been displaying risky behaviours.

Since September, a youth outreach provider called Inspired has been running workshops with these groups to build their self-esteem, self awareness and use of appropriate assertiveness skills. There is a focus on leadership and having a positive influence within their peer groups.

The young people are able to receive information and support on various issues such as online safety, pornography, alcohol and drug misuse, and healthy relationships. As well as working with the two lead schools, this project is also being delivered in partnership with local youth projects and relevant organisations depending on the groups' needs.

The project also includes taking the young people to a one-day workshop in Oxford to explore issues relating to CSE with professionals from agencies including the police and health.

The project ends on the 31 March 2015 when a full evaluation will be provided to the CSP. This will include the number of young people supported by this project, the number of referrals made to other agencies as a result of this project and to which agencies, at least one case study from a young person who took part and anecdotal feedback from schools and parents about the impact of the programme on young people.

A summary progress update on this initiative is provided in the attached CSP quarter two performance report (page 10).

To protect the visible presence of the police and partners to cut crime and the fear of crime and to reassure communities

SUPPORTING THE SOUTH AND VALE MULTI-AGENCY ASB TEAM

24. The community safety team is responsible for running Joint Agency Tasking (JATAC), a sub group of the CSP which tackles community safety issues that due to their scale, complexity or potential impact, need a multi agency approach. Officers from Thames Valley Police, community safety, environmental health, housing, Soha, Sovereign Vale, Mental Health, youth services, environment agency, Fire & Rescue and other agencies share resources, knowledge and data on a monthly basis to support:

- repeat victims of ASB
- medium/high risk ASB victims
- families in need of intervention to avoid ASB
- vulnerable individuals (e.g. homeless individuals, repeat missing young persons)

25. JATAC provides a framework for holding responsible agencies to account for the actions they've taken to support vulnerable residents and identifying any further action needed. Priority crimes/community safety issues that need a multi agency response are also discussed and actioned.

26. The value of this group is reflected in the regular and on-going participation of the broad range of organisations and in a recent Ofsted Inspection at Oxfordshire County Council, the inspectors highlighted the effectiveness and value of JATAC in supporting troubled families in South and Vale.

27. The CSP has a legal duty to provide a Community Trigger, in accordance with the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014. This mechanism gives victims

and communities the right to require agencies to review cases of persistent anti-social behaviour if they feel the issues have not been properly addressed already. The trigger could be activated by a member of the public, a community or a business. Rather than set up a new panel, the CSP will be able to use JATAC as the ASB case review panel for the statutory Community Trigger process which maximises resources. The Community Trigger process is managed by the community safety team.

To communicate and engage with the public in order to cut crime and the fear of crime and build trust and confidence with our communities

28. The community safety team actively promotes and supports initiatives run by local communities that help residents feel safer (particularly those most vulnerable to becoming victims of crime and ASB). For example, we have encouraged local businesses to become 'Safe Places' for vulnerable people in Wantage and Didcot by promoting the scheme in the council's business newsletter, made links to the various Street Pastor schemes in Abingdon, Wantage and Grove, Thame and Wallingford and attend the quarterly meetings of the Neighbourhood Action Group chairmen.
29. We also support the police in raising awareness amongst our councillors and residents about current crime trends and crime reduction initiatives (for example, sharing advice about reporting hare coursing via South and Vale News, signposting people to free 'no trick or treat' posters via Infocus, encouraging people to mark their property with Smartwater to help prevent burglaries via our residents' newsletter).

Work with criminal justice partners to reduce crime and support victims and witnesses

INTEGRATED OFFENDER MANAGEMENT

30. Working with the Probation service wherever possible to utilise their Community Payback scheme, the community safety team delivers a wide range of targeted community safety projects to help people feel safer in their communities. These range from clearing footpaths in Cumnor and North Hinksey to helping young people improve the appearance of an underpass in Faringdon to increase feelings of safety and access to community facilities. These projects deliver visible, tangible benefits to local communities and, where Community Payback has been involved, residents see offenders repaying their debt to society.

Cumnor path clearance (September 2014) – feedback from the parish

'I've run out of superlatives to describe what the Community Payback team has once again done...what a difference they made and as they were finishing off a couple of family groups walked by, perhaps being able to use the path for the first time in months'

'The good people of the Pinnocks Way estate will be forever in your debt and on their behalf I'd like to say a big thank you for the team's magnificent efforts'



SUPPORT FOR VICTIMS AND WITNESSES

31. The Partnership funds a small repairs scheme to enable vulnerable people who have been victims of burglaries and/or anti-social behaviour to feel and stay safe in their own homes. Through requests from neighbourhood police teams and/or residents themselves, the scheme (run by on behalf of the CSP by Mears) can provide target hardening home improvements including door chains, pricka strips and spy-holes. The scheme also installs CSP funded guard/memo cameras to collect evidence of repeat offences. Usage figures for this scheme between April and September are included on page 13 of the attached quarter two CSP performance report.

Installation of a memo camera leads to significant arrest

Footage captured on a memo camera that was installed by Mears at a repeat victim's address, along with a sighting, resulted in the arrest and charge of a prolific rural crime offender.

ANTICIPATED DIRECTION OF TRAVEL FOR THE CSP IN 2015/16

32. On behalf of the CSP, the community safety team is currently gathering information from a range of sources (police crime data, council and housing association data, agency stakeholder survey, district councillor survey) to produce an up to date Strategic Intelligence Assessment (SIA). As well as considering trends in crime and ASB over the past 12 months, the Assessment will also highlight any emerging issues that are likely to impact on community safety in the two districts in the next 12 months. The Partnership will use the SIA to help identify its priorities for 2015/16 which will be set out in its annual Plan.

33. From initial conversations with agencies within the Partnership, emerging key issues that are likely to influence the CSP's direction of travel are around protecting vulnerable people and managing areas of greatest risk to the community. Although local priority crime and ASB will still feature in the CSP's work, we expect its Plan to give greater emphasis to tackling domestic abuse and child sexual exploitation and helping protect missing persons and vulnerable adults.

Financial Implications

34. None

Legal Implications

35. None

Risks

36. The CSP funding from the Home Office has been reducing year on year, as the table below demonstrates.

- Oxfordshire County Council plugged the gap in 2012/13 and 2013/14
- The Home Office funding transferred to the PCC with effect from 1 April 2013.

South and Vale CSP Income	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16 estimate
Home Office Income	£234,128	£180,666	£101,525	-	-	-
Income OCC	-	-	£82,938	£82,938	-	-
Income PCC	-	n/a	n/a	£101,525	£117,111	£117,000
Total CSP Income	£234,128	£180,666	£184,463	£184,463	£117,111 (plus £16k from both district councils and £7.5k for CSE project)	£117,000

37. The income stream from the PCC is not secure and is agreed on an annual basis. We know that it will not cover all the existing activity of the CSP so without some mainstream funding, there is a significant risk that the two CSP funded posts within the community safety team will cease in 2015/16. The Legal, Licensing and Community Safety Manager has submitted a growth bid to cover the two posts currently employed by the district that are currently funded by the partnership. (ASB Co-ordinator and Community Safety Projects Officer)

Other Implications

38. None.

Conclusion

39. Despite a significant reduction in funding and staff over the past three years, the Community Safety Partnership has continued to deliver projects to meet the needs of local communities and ensure that statutory functions are delivered.
40. This is demonstrated in the quarterly Partnership performance reports and is reflected in the results of the most recent council resident's survey (2013/14, where 81 per cent of respondents in the Vale of White Horse said they were satisfied with the quality of community safety services in their local area. 74 per cent of respondents said that services provided in their local area to reduce crime, the fear of crime and antisocial behaviour (ASB) were of most importance to them.
41. In order to continue to provide services that tackle the most important community safety issues in South and Vale in the face of further reductions to the CSP budget, the Partnership:
- is seeking to mainstream fund the staff in point 9 above thus making the reduced level of funding available to support projects
 - anticipates the need to give greater focus to protecting vulnerable people when it sets its priorities for 2015/16

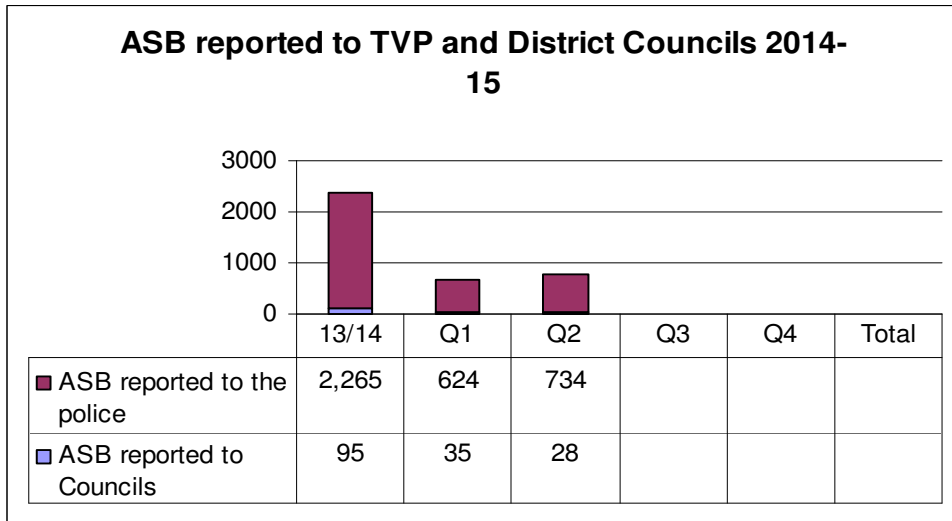
Background Papers

- Appendix A – South and Vale CSP performance report (quarter two 2014/15)
- Appendix B – South and Vale CSP Plan 2014/15
- Appendix C – South and Vale CSP financial summary for 2013/14 and 2014/15 (quarter two)

South and Vale Community Safety Partnership quarter two performance report 2014/15

DIRECTION OF TRAVEL INDICATORS

Reducing anti social behaviour



Levels of criminal damage reported to the police					
1 April – 30 September	Finally Recorded				Crimes per 1,000 population household
Criminal damage	2012	2013	2014	% change	2014/15
South	389	427	340	-20.4%	2.51
Vale	358	357	360	0.8%	2.93
South & Vale	747	784	700	-10.7%	2.71
Thames Valley	9384	8569	7952	-7.2%	3.46

Tackling local priority crime

Levels of burglary (dwelling and non-dwelling) reported to the police					
1 April – 30 September	Finally Recorded				Crimes per 1,000 population household
Domestic Burglary	2012	2013	2014	% change	2014/15
South	122	88	56	-36.4%	1.04
Vale	65	54	39	-27.8%	0.79
South & Vale	187	142	95	-33.1%	0.92
Thames Valley	3271	2646	2107	-20.4%	2.34

Burglar non dwelling	2012	2013	2014	% change	2014/15
South	260	274	205	-25.2%	1.51
Vale	140	176	157	-10.8%	1.28
South & Vale	400	450	362	-19.6%	1.40
Thames Valley	4580	4461	3379	-24.3%	1.47

Reducing domestic abuse and child sexual exploitation (CSE)

Level of domestic abuse reported to the police					
1 April – 30 September	Finally Recorded				Crimes per 1,000 population household
	2012	2013	2014	% change	2014/15
Recorded domestic abuse incidents - *domestic qualifier only					
South	199	195	173	-11%	1.28
Vale	161	192	148	-23%	1.21
South & Vale	360	387	321	-17%	1.24
Thames Valley	5148	5284	5248	-1%	2.29
Non- recordable domestic abuse - domestic qualifier only					
South	587	665	425	-36%	3.14
Vale	559	667	444	-33%	3.62
South & Vale	1146	1332	869	-35%	3.36
Thames Valley	14805	15776	17139	9%	7.47

*Domestic qualifier - Those incidents where the domestic flag has been set to 'Y'.

Level of domestic abuse reported to the police					
1 April – 30 September	Finally Recorded				Crimes per 1,000 population household
	2012	2013	2014	% change	2014/15
Recorded domestic abuse incidents - *national definition					
South	189	181	123	-32%	0.91
Vale	149	179	104	-42%	0.85
South & Vale	338	360	227	-37%	0.88
Thames Valley	4884	4949	3986	-19%	1.74
Non- recordable domestic abuse - national definition					
South	532	593	284	-52%	2.10
Vale	509	609	306	-50%	2.49
South & Vale	1041	1202	590	-51%	2.28
Thames Valley	13428	14182	7032	-50%	3.06

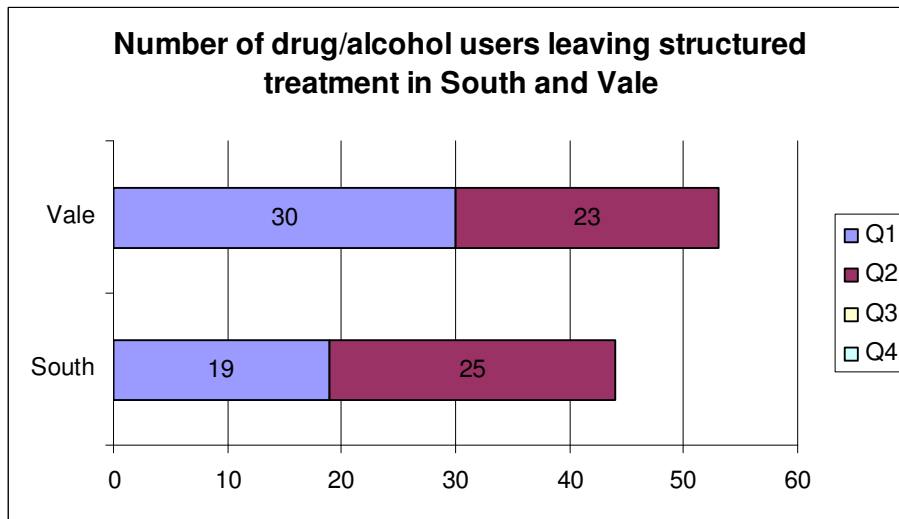
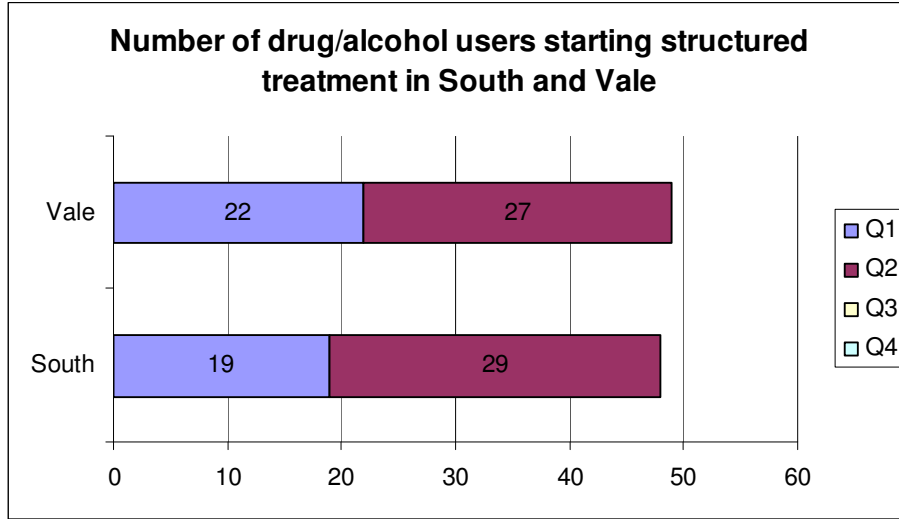
*National Definition – Those incidents that meet the national definition for domestics, so where there is a valid relationship between the victim and the offender and where they are both aged 16 and over.

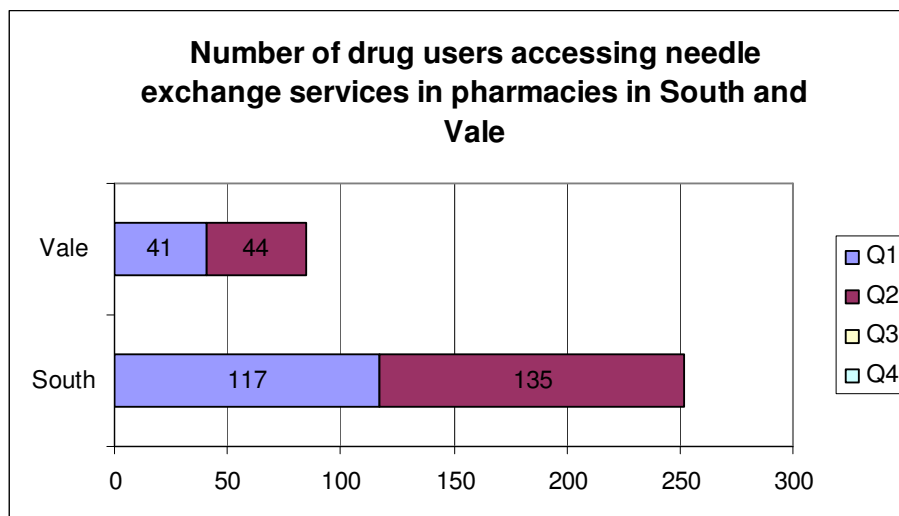
High risk domestic abuse cases referred to IDVA by South and Vale helpline service	2013/14	2014/15				
	Total	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total
Referrals	Not previously collated	0	6			

To communicate and engage with the public in order to cut crime and the fear of crime and build trust and confidence with our communities

Public perception of the fear of crime (measured by residents survey)		
	2012	2014
South	No data collected.	Safe in day – 99% Safe after dark – 84%
Vale	Safe in day – 96% Safe after dark – 93%	Safe in day – 99% Safe after dark – 90%

Tackling drugs and alcohol





CSP OBJECTIVE - TO CUT CRIMES THAT ARE OF MOST CONCERN TO THE PUBLIC AND TO PROTECT THE MOST VULNERABLE MEMBERS OF OUR COMMUNITIES

Reducing anti social behaviour

Action: Support and deliver diversionary activities for young people in hot spot areas (Lead agency = CSP team)

- NOMAD Out and About – providing support to disadvantaged young people and families in Henley and surrounding district. CSP funding provided for outreach work with young people who are known to be involved or at risk of involvement in anti-social behaviour. Project running for 12 months from November 2013, report due in Q3.
- DAMASCUS South Abingdon aim to build sustainable community cohesion in South Abingdon by supporting communities to connect with disengaged young people. These sessions will be street based and will include workshops focusing on bullying, sexual health, protective behaviours and drugs and alcohol for young people. They will also support a small community action team consisting of volunteers (adults) and young people to run community events. Project running for 7 months from 1 August 2014 to 31 March 2015 – report attached.
- DIDCOT Train deliver detached schools work at Didcot Girls School and St Birinus School. TRAIN provide practical and emotional support to at risk groups within schools and provide individual support through one to one sessions on safe sexual health, substance misuse and risky behaviours. Project running for 12 months from 1 April 2014, report due in Q3.

Action: Help to reduce ASB by monitoring the top ten repeat victims and top ten medium and high risk ASB cases through JATAC (Lead agency = TVP)

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Average time taken to close top ten ASB repeat cases	<i>No cases closed as data could not be collated from TVP computer system</i>			
Average time taken to close top ten ASB medium/high risk cases				

In light of the new ASB legislation that came into force in October we are proposing to amend this action to monitor the outcomes relating to the Community Trigger requests received by the CSP.

Tackling local priority crime

REDUCING DOMESTIC BURGLARIES AND VIOLENCE

Action: Help vulnerable victims of domestic burglary in hot spot areas by running projects to design out crime (Lead agency = CSP team/CRA)

Project	Summary of work	Update	Residents satisfaction	No of domestic burglaries in relevant hot spot areas	
				Pre	Post
Henley gating Project (funding approved by CSP - £4,000)	Installation of alley gates to restrict access to the back of residential properties in order to prevent repeat burglaries	Gates installed 10 October 2014		Will be available in Quarter 3.	

Action: Support the development of Neighbourhood Watch Schemes (Lead agency = TVP/Soha/Sovereign Vale)

The crime reduction/communications work that the LPA conducts is part of the wider strategy which is partly the responsibility of the Headquarters Communications Team. The data for this performance indicator is a small part of the work carried out by staff locally and at HQ. It is not felt that this information, in isolation, informs the CSP of the true nature of the work carried out.

Number of new neighbourhood watch (NHW) schemes and 'days of action' (non rural)						
	2013/14	2014/15				
	Total	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total
Number of new NHW schemes	n/a	4	Data not available			
Number of days of action	n/a	3				

Action: Continue to support crime reduction initiatives by funding a Crime Reduction Advisor (Lead agency = CRA)

Outcomes of specific CRA led <i>non rural</i> initiatives			
Project	Funding	Update	
Smartwater project	(funding approved by CSP - £1,790)	8 of 10 roads in Henley Town Centre have been smartwatered. Soha have purchased kits for their most vulnerable residents. Approximately 80 houses have taken up the offer in Whitchurch on Thames, this is ongoing with the Parish Council helping to push the initiative, so that they achieve 80% for the whole village. Faringdon now have a second smart water village with Hinton Waldrist joining Littleworth. A day of action took place in Sparsholt and Westcot, 15 smart water kits were sold and 23 people were signed up to Thames Valley Alert. Westcot is expected to become an official smart water village soon.	

Number of surveys completed (non rural)						
Surveys	2013/14	2014/15				
	Total	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total
Total number of surveys	176	21	Data no longer available due to CRA moving to new role			
Referrals to Mears	84	7				
Referrals to other RSLs	39	10				

PROMOTING A SAFER NIGHT TIME ECONOMY

Actions:

- Investigate introducing the purple flag scheme in South and Vale through Nightsafe (Lead agency = CSP team) – decision taken by Nightsafe not to pursue this scheme due to high costs and time intensive.
- Explore running a Community Alcohol Project in the Vale through Nightsafe (Lead agency = CSP team)
- Continue promoting Nightsafe and working with licensed premises in our market towns to reduce alcohol related crime and disorder (Lead agency = district council licensing)
- Support local street pastor schemes and run a South and Vale networking event (Lead agency = CSP team)

Project	Summary	Update	Outcomes
Accreditation scheme	<p>Purple Flag accreditation scheme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For town and city centres “after dark” recognising excellence in the management of town and city centres at night. <p>Best Bar None national award scheme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supported by the Home Office and aimed at promoting responsible management and operation of alcohol licensed premises. 	<p>Due to the cost of accreditation schemes (approx £5 -10k) Nightsafe are considering an in house version.</p> <p>In house versions have been sought from Milton Keynes and Newbury for consideration by members with a view to extending the Nightsafe charter.</p>	<p>Nightsafe have agreed not to pursue the purple flag accreditation scheme.</p>
Community Alcohol Project	<p>Bring together local retailers, trading standards, police, health, education and other local stakeholders to tackle the problem of underage drinking and associated anti-social behaviour</p>	<p>CSP approval to pilot in Wantage and Grove</p> <p>Consultation planned prior to launch. The Sports for Streets Initiative will consult with young people. Bid to be discussed in the budget meeting.</p> <p>Launch of CAP expected February 2015</p>	<p>Two meetings held; good representation from multi agencies.</p>
Nightsafe	<p>Nightsafe is a multi-agency programme of communication, education and partnership working to reduce late night violence and associated crime and disorder</p>	<p>Annual action plan approved and reviewed quarterly to ensure actions are on track</p> <p>Information exchanged and opportunities identified for partnership working to deliver projects more effectively.</p>	<p>Presentation provided to the group by BBN.</p> <p>Alcohol Awareness Week 17 – 21 November – Fake ID test purchase operation being considered.</p>
Street pastors	<p>Support local street pastor schemes</p>	<p>£1000 grant approved for Abingdon Street Pastors</p>	<p>Case study: “A young man came us to us asking for Phil (one of the street pastors) who he has had conversations with over the past three years He wanted to share his news of his new job as he knew Phil would be proud of him”.</p>

Tackling rural crime

Action: Look to secure funding for further ANPR cameras across the districts (Lead agency = TVP)

	Update	Amount secured
Quarter 1	The South and Vale LPA did some extensive research in connection with where ANPR cameras could be situated. The Comprehensive Spending Review meant that TVP needed to consider many aspects of its expenditure and even with the possibility of match funding it was not a viable prospect to be able provide ANPR cameras across the force area when the cost of each camera (including installation) can cost up to £20,000. There may be some limited funding for cameras in the future but this will be on a greatly reduced scale and will be completely dependent on match funding.	n/a
Quarter 2	A capital amount for the provision of ANPR has been allocated by Thames Valley Police with the caveat that any bids should be match funded by local authority partners. A review of our ANPR capability is taking place and information will be submitted to the CSP in due course.	n/a

Action: Support the development of Countrywatch Schemes (Lead agency = TVP)

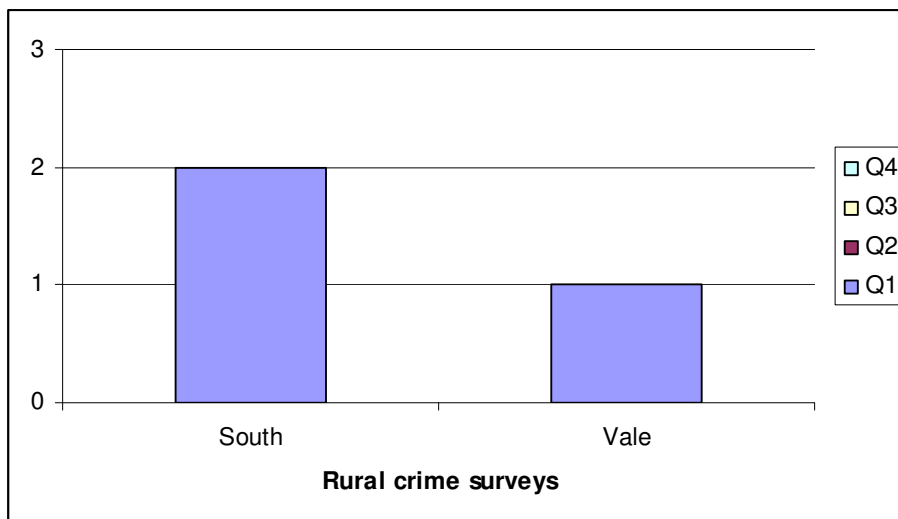
Number of new members signed up to Countryside Watch						
	2013/14	2014/15				
	Total	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total
Number of new members	n/a	73 (from 2479 to 2552)	Refer to NHW action above (Page 13)			

Action: Continue to support rural crime reduction initiatives by funding a Crime Reduction Advisor (Lead agency = CRA)

Outcomes of specific CRA led <i>rural</i> initiatives		
Project	Funding	Update
CREMARKING- overt property marking	TVP	A Cremarking day was carried out in Henley where various premises were visited, property marked, people signed up to TVP alerts and Countrywatch Signs handed out. A second such day is planned for the 27/10/14. Cre-marking kits have been distributed to farmers in Thame and Wallingford.
Guardcam and memocam project	CSP/TVP	Footage was captured by a memocam at a repeat victims address which put together with a sighting resulted in the arrest and charge of a prolific rural crime offender.
Rural mapping document	TVP	A rural mapping document has been created to enable easier access to landowner and gamekeeper details for each area. The document is an interactive map on a Powerpoint presentation making it easier to look for the stakeholders in a given area.

Outcomes of specific CRA led rural initiatives

Project	Funding	Update
Hare Coursing trigger document	TVP	A hare coursing trigger plan document has been created in Wantage. This is an interactive document making it easier to direct resources to key points at our areas most affected by hare coursing.
Rural Crime conference	TVP	NHT teams invited rural community stakeholders to the annual rural crime conference which was held in Wantage on 20 October.



Rural crime surveys - Data no longer available due to CRA moving to new role

Reducing domestic abuse and child sexual exploitation (CSE)

Action: Contribute to the OSCP work to develop effective and co-ordinated domestic abuse services across Oxfordshire and the Thames Valley, ensuring that residents in South and Vale are fairly represented (Lead agency = district council/OCC)

- Update will be provided in either a written or verbal format (Liz Hayden)

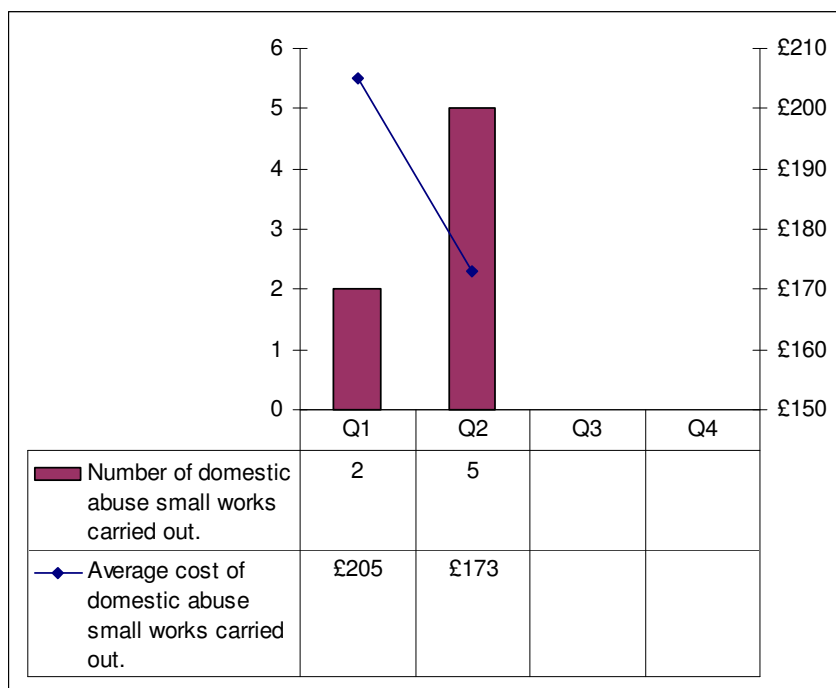
Action: Fund and promote a dedicated domestic abuse outreach service in South and Vale (Lead agency = CSP team)

Outreach cases	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15				Total
	Total	Total	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	
South new clients	17	31	6	5			
Vale new clients	21	18	3	5			
Total new clients	38	49	9	10			
No of referrals to IDVA			0	0			
South cases closed	20	27	6	2			
Vale cases closed	13	15	5	5			
Total cases closed	33	42	11	7			
Average waiting time***	19 Days	29 Days	40 Days	75 Days			

Service user feedback				
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
No. surveys	4	1		

completed				
% satisfied	100	100		

Action: Fund small works sanctuary scheme to support victims and children affected by domestic abuse (Lead agency = CSP team/CRA)



Action: Set up task and finish groups in hot spot areas to deliver local solutions to support vulnerable young people (Lead agency = CSP team)

Project	Funding	Update	Outcomes
Child Sexual Exploitation 'Risky Behaviour' Intervention	£7.5k ring fenced in CSP budget	Inspired Young Peoples Project is the service provider for this initiative. They are delivering workshops for young people in King Alfred's School and Faringdon Community College. In addition, ten to 12 young people identified by the schools will be taking part in a multi-agency workshop at Rewley Road Fire Station on 17 and 21 November.	To be provided at the end of project.

Action: Support the work of the police schools liaison officer to promote protective behaviours amongst young people (Lead agency = TVP)

Number of young people attending Life Matters event	Feedback from event
Will be available in Quarter 4	

Action: Explore opportunities for CSP funded projects to help address risky behaviours and promote positive attitudes amongst young people regarding relationships (Lead agency = CSP team)

The number of SLAs including the requirement:

Quarter 1:

- Didcot Train
- A2Dominion

Quarter 2:

- NOMAD
- Abingdon DAMASCUS
- Inspired Young Peoples Project

Action: Understand how the CSP can best support the Oxfordshire perpetrators programme to help prevent domestic abuse (Lead agency = CSP team)

Liz Jones to give a presentation at CSP meeting on 30 October 2014.

CSP OBJECTIVE - TO PROTECT THE VISIBLE PRESENCE OF THE POLICE AND PARTNERS TO CUT CRIME AND THE FEAR OF CRIME AND TO REASSURE COMMUNITIES

Supporting the South and Vale multi agency ASB team

	Update
Action: Raise awareness amongst partner agencies of new ASB legislation via CSP/JATAC (Lead agency = CSP team/TVP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ASB Co-ordinator introduced the ASB legislation at the August JATAC meeting. • Meeting held with key partners to discuss who will lead on each of the tools and how information will be shared.
Action: Agree processes for implementing partnership aspects of new ASB legislation (Lead agency = CSP team/TVP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community trigger process and protocol was approved at July CSP meeting and at August JATAC. • Agreed that members will share usage of ASB tools at the JATAC meetings starting in November.
Action: Inform residents and other interested parties about the new ASB legislation (Lead agency = CSP team/TVP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The CSP team and the District Councils communications team arranged a multi agency workshop to identify a shared communications strategy around the community trigger. • Press release issued on 20 October, flyers and posters circulated to leads. Reporting web page is now live.

CSP OBJECTIVE - TO COMMUNICATE AND ENGAGE WITH THE PUBLIC IN ORDER TO CUT CRIME AND THE FEAR OF CRIME AND BUILD TRUST AND CONFIDENCE WITH OUR COMMUNITIES

Action: Bring together communication lead officers from all partner agencies to share community safety related communication plans and identify common community safety messages/campaigns for South and Vale (Lead agency = CSP team)

	Joint community safety publicity campaigns run	Outcomes
Q2	<p>The CSP team and the District Councils communications team held a multi agency workshop to identify a shared communications strategy around the community trigger. At this event, we had planned to also discuss additional joint community safety campaigns. However, not all agencies were able to attend so the community safety team leader will contact the agency communication leads to seek input via email.</p> <p>Hare coursing campaign</p>	<p>n/a</p> <p>TVP ran a campaign via community alerts to raise awareness about the impact of hare coursing and how to report it. The district councils included an article in their newsletter to staff, councillors and town and parish councils.</p>

Action: Give hard to reach groups a voice by:

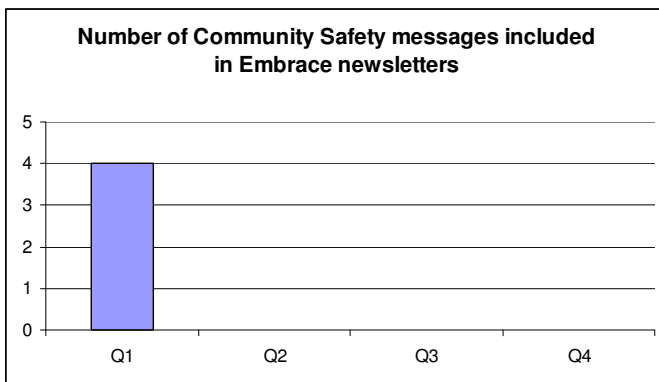
a) helping to develop the membership of the police Independent Advisory Group (Lead agency = TVP)

The IAG has taken on the form of a virtual group and specific issues are discussed as and when the need arises. However attempts are being made to try to bring the members together in order that its raison d'être can be re-established and future progress ensured.

b) engaging with Neighbourhood Action Groups through quarterly meetings (Lead agency = TVP/CSP team)

NAG chairs meeting hosted by TVP on 16 October and attended by CSP representative.

c) promoting community safety initiatives through the Embrace newsletter (Lead agency = CSP team/district councils)



Due to staff sickness absence, the Embrace newsletter was not issued in quarter two and is currently on hold.

CSP OBJECTIVE - WORK WITH CRIMINAL JUSTICE PARTNERS TO REDUCE CRIME AND SUPPORT VICTIMS AND WITNESSES

Integrated Offender Management

Action: Support and develop projects that utilise the services of the Thames Valley Probation Community Payback Scheme in South and Vale (Lead agency = Probation/CSP team)

	Community payback project	Outcomes
Q1	Initial projects for Henley explored (tidy up of waste and overgrown shrubbery in Greys Road and Henley Hockey Club).	Greys Road passed to Henley Town Council as they have a contract with Thames Valley Probation. The land near Henley Hockey Club belongs to Tesco's and the Probation team will not carry out work on their land.
Q2	Cumnor – cutting back overgrown shrubbery on footpaths Projects in Shrivenham explored (litter picking and removal of overgrown pathways on Wilts and Berks Canal)	Completed. Positive feedback received from Parish.

Action: Inform the CSP of the outcomes of the Probation reorganisation and identify opportunities for joint working (Lead agency = Probation)

Report will be provided in either a written or verbal format (Greg Yard)

Support for victims and witnesses

Action: Fund small repairs to enable vulnerable people to feel and stay safe in their own homes (Lead agency = CSP team)

Properties secured	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15				Total
	Total	Total	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	
Total number of properties secured	107	113	25	10			
Number domestic abuse repairs	15	35	2	5			
Number customer surveys completed	Not collated		0	0			
% satisfied with service			0	0			

Action: Support victims of and witnesses to hate crime in South and Vale by promoting the different reporting options available (Lead agency = CSP team)

Number of Hate Crime reports to SHUK by strand	2014/15				
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total
Disability	0	Currently liaising with Stop Hate UK to			
Gender Identity					
Race					
Religion					

		obtain this data.				
Sexual Orientation						
Number of Hate Crime reports to SHUK by location	2013/14	2014/15				
	Total	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total
South	6	0	Currently liaising with Stop Hate UK to obtain this data			
Vale	7	0				

Tackling drugs and alcohol

Action: Support the delivery of the countywide alcohol and drug strategy to help ensure that drug and alcohol prevention and treatment services are accessible to people who live and work in South and Vale (Lead agency = Public Health)

Quarter	Update on the delivery of the alcohol and drug strategy in South and Vale
1	This work is ongoing and there will be a workshop for stakeholders on the 23 September to comment on vision and priorities of the new strategy (currently being drafted). The workshop will also aim to develop a draft action plan and establish working groups around different themes.
2	CSP represented at the stakeholder workshop. Outcomes of workshop and final strategy to be circulated by Public Health. NOMAD funded by the CSP are supporting and working with young people and their families in Henley providing information/education around the impact and risks of substance misuse. NOMAD will provide diversionary programmes to encourage positive life choices and workshops for targeted group work. They will also develop a family support group. Project running from September 2014 for 12 months.

To protect the public from harm arising from serious organised crime

Action: Support a multi-agency approach to tackling serious organised crime (Lead agency = TVP)

Disruptions re. groups being investigated			
Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Henley - arrests	South and Vale currently have just one organised crime group. OP Stirling is focussed on Redbridge hollow. Multi-agency disruption is ongoing and having some real success.		
Wantage - arrests			
Redbridge - work progressing but no arrests as yet			

South and Vale Community Safety Partnership

Rolling annual plan 2014 -15



INTRODUCTION

South and Vale Community Safety Partnership

Under the umbrella of the South and Vale Community Safety Partnership (CSP), a wide variety of local agencies are working to maintain low levels of crime and anti-social behaviour in South Oxfordshire and the Vale of White Horse. From anti-social behaviour and enviro-crime action to crime prevention and police enforcement, drug treatment services and alcohol safety campaigns, we are focused on ensuring that residents feel and stay safe.

The South and Vale CSP was created in accordance with the requirements of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, which established the principles of partnership working. The partnership involves officers representing:

- South Oxfordshire District Council
- Vale of White Horse District Council
- NHS Oxfordshire
- Oxfordshire County Council (OCC)
- Thames Valley Police (TVP)
- Thames Valley Probation Service
- Sovereign Vale Housing Association
- Oxfordshire Fire & Rescue Service
- Soha Housing Limited
- Public Health

We have two 'operational', multi-agency sub groups which help to deliver the CSP objectives across both districts:

South and Vale Nightsafe – Nightsafe is a multi-agency programme of communication, education and partnership working to reduce incidents of alcohol related crime. The Nightsafe scheme runs in Wantage, Abingdon, Henley, and Didcot. Nightsafe is also being rolled out in Thame with 10 premises signed up, bringing the total number of premises signed up to the scheme in South and Vale to 56.

South and Vale Joint Agency Tasking and Co-ordination - JATAC brings together a wide range of agencies working in South and Vale to tackle community safety problems that can't be resolved locally due to their complexity and scale.

Working with the Thames Valley Police and Crime Commissioner

Our CSP supports the work of the Thames Valley Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) and we have a dual responsibility to take into account each others priorities when setting our own. The CSP receives funding from the PCC to support its projects.

The partnership's annual rolling plan

Following the successful delivery of its 2013/14 plan, the CSP has refreshed its objectives for 2014/15. We are focussing our work on the strategic objectives in the PCC's Police and Crime Plan 2013-17:

1. to cut crimes that are of most concern to the public and to protect the most vulnerable members of our communities
2. to protect the visible presence of the police and partners to cut crime and the fear of crime and to reassure communities

3. to protect the public from harm arising from serious organised crime and terrorism
4. to communicate and engage with the public in order to cut crime and the fear of crime and build trust and confidence with our communities
5. to work with criminal justice partners to reduce crime and support victims and witnesses
6. to ensure policing, community safety and criminal justice services are delivered efficiently and effectively

We have developed these objectives to provide a local perspective by reviewing the following sources of information:

- Oxfordshire Strategic Intelligence Assessment 2014
- Thames Valley Police Local Delivery Plan 2014-15
- The district councils' residents surveys
- Thames Valley Police neighbourhood crime data 2014-15

We have agreed a number of practical actions to address the objectives, along with specific measures to help us understand the difference they are making to local residents and communities.

There are also a number of broader community safety indicators in the Plan to show us the overall direction of travel in terms of reducing crime and the fear of crime in South and Vale.

As well as working together to deliver this Plan, the CSP will also review its performance on a quarterly basis, agree any remedial action necessary and also provide an annual report to the district councils' scrutiny committees.

SOUTH AND VALE CSP ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2013/14

In South Oxfordshire and the Vale of White Horse, there was a 0.2 per cent reduction in crime between 2012/13 and 2013/14.

Superintendent Andy Boyd (South and Vale Local Police Area Commander) commented that “whilst this is a modest decrease, it should be viewed in the context of our success in reducing crime by over 38% in the last ten years. There were, last year, over a 1000 less victims of crime than there were two years ago”.

2013/14 has been another busy year for the South and Vale CSP, which has been successfully operating as a single Partnership since April 2011. By joining together two district CSPs into one, we have been able to pool resources and expertise and reduce the number of meetings that officers have to co-ordinate and attend.

Here are some examples of the activities that the CSP supported in the last financial year:

- We funded the South and Vale dedicated outreach service for victims of domestic abuse which supported 49 vulnerable residents in 2013/14.
- We co-ordinated a local, multi-agency response to reports of anti social behaviour received by the police, district councils and housing associations. This helped to ensure that victims received the right level of support from the right agencies at the right time. For example, we funded and managed the installation of Guardcams to help prevent anti social behaviour and provide victims with reassurance

Project in focus – DAMASCUS outreach project for young people in Abingdon

We funded DAMASCUS, a youth project, to provide detached outreach work in South Abingdon. They worked with a core group of 13-17 year olds who could be potential mentors to their peers and ran a number of activity sessions (for example, football practice sessions and a Christmas lunch) to engage with young people and the wider community.

“Our on the streets engagement has been extremely successful – we have identified and had positive engagement with various ‘disengaged’ groups from South Abingdon” (*Dr Rita Atkinson MBE, Trustee Abingdon DAMASCUS Youth Project*)

“It’s been great having them come and meet us on the street – they are all pretty sound and I’m looking forward to doing the young leadership stuff” (*a teenager involved in the project*)

“it’s been great seeing them on the streets – always friendly and say hello – I am keen to get involved with the community events and get to know the kids” (*a community resident*).

- Didcot TRAIN received funding from the CSP to provide outreach support and activities for vulnerable young people in the town – hundreds of young people benefited from their work in 2013/14.
- We funded a small repairs scheme for elderly and vulnerable residents to prevent repeat incidents of domestic burglary or domestic abuse. Over 110 repairs were carried out between April 2013 and March 2014, ranging from fitting reinforced doors to protect domestic abuse victims to installing security lights and door chains.
- Through JATAC, the CSP funded rural crime packs to help the police provide a rapid response to rural crime. The packs include things like dog chip scanners, fuel dipping kits

and contacts for fly-tipping enforcement. We also funded a Crime Reduction Advisor who supported victims of crime in rural areas, and gave advice at a rural crime conference hosted by the CSP in November.

- Run as a joint initiative through Nightsafe, a test purchase operation focusing on off licences was carried out across both districts over the summer. 68 premises were tested and 79 per cent passed. Premises that passed the first test purchase operation were visited by the district council licensing team and signed up to the Nightsafe scheme. For the 14 that failed, they received follow up visits from the community safety team and police licensing officers and were given training, advice about refusing sales and licensee support packs.

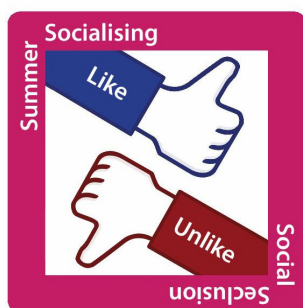
Project in focus - Nightsafe alcohol safety campaign 2013

During the summer, Nightsafe ran a successful campaign to highlight the consequences of excessive drinking, reminding pub goers of the risks if they behave in an anti-social manner.

The 'Summer Socialising, Social Seclusion' campaign saw beer mats and posters distributed to pubs throughout South Oxfordshire and the Vale of White Horse.

The beer mats acted as a reminder to drinkers that behaving anti-socially could result in them being banned from local pubs and town centres, potentially running the risk of them spending a summer alone while others enjoy themselves.

The campaign received positive press coverage and feedback from local pubwatch groups.



- To help prevent burglaries in a 'hot spot' area of Henley, the CSP funded 100 Smartwater kits through JATAC. Our Crime Reduction Advisor and Neighbourhood Police Teams gave them to vulnerable and elderly residents to protect their belongings and Soha provided a further 86 kits for their tenants. In addition, we also funded two smartwater signs that have been put up in the area to deter burglars.

Our plans for 2014/15

TO CUT CRIMES THAT ARE OF MOST CONCERN TO THE PUBLIC AND TO PROTECT THE MOST VULNERABLE MEMBERS OF OUR COMMUNITIES

Reducing anti social behaviour

Direction of travel indicators:

- number of ASB incidents reported to the police and district councils
- levels of criminal damage reported to the police

Ref.	CSP action	Action specific measures	Lead agency
1	Support and deliver diversionary activities for young people in hot spot areas	Number of young people engaged in CSP funded activities and outcomes	CSP team
2	Help to reduce ASB by monitoring the top ten repeat victims through JATAC	Average time taken to close top ten ASB repeat cases	TVP
3	Help to reduce ASB by monitoring the top ten medium and high risk ASB cases through JATAC	Average time taken to close top ten ASB medium/high risk cases	TVP

Tackling local priority crime

Direction of travel indicators:

- levels of domestic burglary reported to the police
- levels of night time economy related violent assault reported to the police
- levels of burglary non dwelling reported to the police

Ref.	CSP action	Action specific measures	Lead agency
Reducing domestic burglaries and violence			
4	Help vulnerable victims of domestic burglary in hot spot areas by running projects to design out crime	Residents' satisfaction with projects Number of domestic burglaries in relevant hot spot areas (pre and post project)	CSP team, CRA
5	Support the development of Neighbourhood Watch Schemes	Number of new Neighbourhood Watch schemes Number of 'Days of Action'	TVP, Soha and Sovereign Vale
6	Continue to support crime reduction initiatives by funding a Crime Reduction Advisor (CRA)	Outcomes of specific CRA led domestic burglary initiatives Number of surveys completed (non rural)	CRA

Promoting a safer night time economy			
7	Investigate introducing the purple flag scheme in South and Vale through Nightsafe	Project specific measures to be confirmed	CSP team
8	Explore running a Community Alcohol Project in the Vale through Nightsafe	Project specific measures to be confirmed	CSP team
9	Continue promoting Nightsafe and working with licensed premises in our market towns to reduce alcohol related crime and disorder	Number of Nightsafe initiatives identified through Pubwatch engagement and outcomes	District council licensing teams
10	Support local street pastor schemes and run a South and Vale networking event	Attendee feedback from event	CSP team
Tackling rural crime			
11	Look to secure funding for further ANPR cameras across the districts	Funding secured	TVP
12	Support the development of Countrywatch Schemes	Number of new Countrywatch schemes	TVP
13	Continue to support rural crime reduction initiatives by funding a Crime Reduction Advisor (CRA)	Outcomes of specific CRA led rural crime initiatives Number of surveys completed (rural)	CRA

Reducing domestic abuse and child sexual exploitation (CSE)

Direction of travel indicators:

- levels of domestic abuse reported to the police
- number of high risk cases referred to IDVA for support

Ref.	CSP action	Action specific measures	Lead agency
14	Contribute to the OSCP work to develop effective and co-ordinated domestic abuse services across Oxfordshire and the Thames Valley, ensuring that residents in South and Vale are fairly represented	Report to the CSP on how South & Vale have contributed to the development of the county domestic abuse review and the Thames Valley domestic abuse Concordat	DC and OCC
15	Fund and promote a dedicated domestic abuse outreach service in South and Vale	Number of cases referred to the service, by location and referral agency Number of referrals to IDVA from the service Number of cases closed by the service Average waiting time for service users Service user feedback	CSP team

16	Fund small works sanctuary scheme to support victims and children affected by domestic abuse	Number of domestic abuse small works carried out Average cost of domestic abuse small works carried out	CSP team and CRA
17	Help to reduce domestic abuse by monitoring the top repeat domestic abuse cases through JATAC	Number of positive interventions brought about through JATAC	TVP
18	Set up task and finish groups in hot spot areas to deliver local solutions to support vulnerable young people	Project specific outcomes	CSP team
19	Support the work of the police schools liaison officer to promote protective behaviours amongst young people	Number of young people attending 'Life Matters' event Attendee feedback from event	TVP
20	Explore opportunities for CSP funded projects to help address risky behaviours and promote positive attitudes amongst young people regarding relationships	Number of SLAs which include requirement Project specific outcomes	CSP team
21	Understand how the CSP can best support the Oxfordshire perpetrators programme to help prevent domestic abuse	Increased understanding amongst CSP partner agencies about how they can link into any perpetrator programmes in South and Vale	CSP team

TO PROTECT THE VISIBLE PRESENCE OF THE POLICE AND PARTNERS TO CUT CRIME AND THE FEAR OF CRIME AND TO REASSURE COMMUNITIES

Supporting the South and Vale multi agency ASB team

Ref.	CSP action	Action specific measures	Lead agency
22	Raise awareness amongst partner agencies of new ASB legislation via CSP/JATAC	Effective implementation of new legislation – thresholds set, processes agreed.	ASB Team (TVP & CSP team), Soha and Sovereign Vale
23	Agree processes for implementing partnership aspects of new ASB legislation		
24	Inform residents and other interested parties about the new ASB legislation		

TO COMMUNICATE AND ENGAGE WITH THE PUBLIC IN ORDER TO CUT CRIME AND THE FEAR OF CRIME AND BUILD TRUST AND CONFIDENCE WITH OUR COMMUNITIES

Direction of travel indicator:

- public perception of the fear of crime measured by district councils' residents surveys

Ref.	CSP action	Action specific measures	Lead agency
25	Bring together communication lead officers from all partner agencies to share community safety related communication plans and identify common community safety messages/campaigns for South and Vale	Number of joint community safety publicity campaigns run Campaign specific outcomes	To be confirmed
26	Give hard to reach groups a voice by a) helping to develop the membership of the police Independent Advisory Group b) engaging with Neighbourhood Action Groups through quarterly meetings c) promoting community safety initiatives through the Embrace newsletter	Number of new members joining the IAG Number of community safety messages included in Embrace newsletters	a) TVP b) TVP, CSP team c) District councils, CSP team

WORK WITH CRIMINAL JUSTICE PARTNERS TO REDUCE CRIME AND SUPPORT VICTIMS AND WITNESSES

Integrated Offender Management

Ref.	CSP action	Action specific measures	Lead agency
27	Support and develop projects that utilise the services of the Thames Valley Probation Community Payback Scheme in South and Vale	Number of Community Payback projects and outcomes	Probation and CSP team
28	Inform the CSP of the outcomes of the Probation reorganisation and identify opportunities for joint working	To be confirmed	Probation

Support for victims and witnesses

Ref.	CSP action	Action specific measures	Lead agency
29	Fund small repairs to enable vulnerable people to feel and stay safe in their own homes	Number of properties secured by the small repairs scheme Service user feedback	CSP team
30	Support victims of and witnesses to hate crime in South and Vale by promoting the different reporting options available	Levels of hate crime recorded by the police Number of hate incidents reported to SHUK by hate strand, incident type and location	CSP team

Tackling drugs and alcohol

Direction of travel indicators:

- Number of drug and alcohol users starting/leaving structured treatment in South and Vale, with the number and percentage who have successfully completed the treatment
- Number of drug users accessing needle exchange services in pharmacies in South and Vale

Ref.	CSP action	Action specific measures	Lead agency
31	Support the delivery of the countywide alcohol and drug strategy to help ensure that drug and alcohol prevention and treatment services are accessible to people who live and work in South and Vale	Report to the CSP on how South & Vale have supported the delivery of the alcohol and drug strategy	Public Health

To protect the public from harm arising from serious organised crime

Ref.	CSP action	Action specific measures	Lead agency
32	Support a multi-agency approach to tackling serious organised crime	Number of disruption activities undertaken for relevant projects	TVP

CONTACT US

For more information, please contact a member of the South and Vale Community Safety Team:

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Alternative formats of this publication are available upon request. These include large print, Braille, audio cassette or CD, and email. Please contact us on  01491 823000.

Annex C:

South & Vale CSP 2013/14 quarter four spend

South & Vale CSP Community Safety Fund 2013/14	£	£	£	£
	Total	Capital	Revenue	Actual Spend
Income 2013/14	187204		187204	
Carry forward from 2012/13	55300		55300	
Carry forward - LAA reward revenue	35525		35525	
Carry forward - LAA reward capital	24000	24000		
Carry forward - LAA1 reward OCC revenue	30000		30000	
Total income	332029	24000	308029	
Expenditure				
Shared Community Safety Partnership Officer	18000		18000	13099
Shared Community Safety Projects Officer	36000		36000	36000
Shared Community Safety ASB Co-ordinator	18000		18000	32206
Shared ASB assistant (TVP)	14028		14028	14028
Shared Crime Reduction Adviser (TVP)	35343		35343	35343
Domestic Abuse co-ordinator (OCC)	15000		15000	15000
JATAC	5000		5000	3189
Nightsafe	5000		5000	2726
Project funding	185658	24000	174357	77846
Total expenditure 2013/14	332029	24000	308029	229436
Income	332029	24000	308029	
Actual Expenditure	229436	8500	220936	
Carry Forward 2014/15	102593	15500	87093	

Projects included:

- Didcot TRAIN youth outreach - £6,500
- DAMASCUS youth outreach (South Abingdon) - £9,071
- Target hardening service (South and Vale districts) - £8,924
- Stop Hate UK victim/witness reporting service (South and Vale districts) - £2,605
- Domestic abuse outreach service (South and Vale districts) - £34,773
- Nomad youth outreach (Henley) - £6,018
- Redbridge ASB project - £6,667

South & Vale CSP 2014/15 quarter two spend

South & Vale CSP						
CSP 2014/15	£	£	£	£	£	£
	Capital	Revenue	Total	Actual Spend	Committed Expenditure	Uncommitted Expenditure
Income 2014/15		117111	117111			
Income expected 2014/15*		10610	10610			
Income from District Councils for staff costs		16000	16000			
Estimated carry forward from 2013/14	15500	87093	102593			
Total income	15500	230814	246314			
Expenditure						
Projects 2014/15						
Community Safety Projects Officer		36500	36500	21031	36500	0
Community Safety ASB Co-ordinator		31000	31000	16393	31000	0
Shared ASB Assistant (TVP)		14528	14528	0	14528	0
Shared Crime Reduction Adviser (TVP)		35843	35843	0	14934	20909
JATAC		5000	5000	3394	3394	1606
Nightsafe		5000	5000	352	352	4648
Mears	10000	0	10000	5820	5820	4180
Project funding (capital)	5500	0	5500	3809	3809	1691
Project funding (revenue)	0	102943	102943	72994	72994	29949
Total expenditure 2014/15	15500	230814	246314	123794	183331	62983
* includes CSE funding £7.5k, £3k Vale Housing DC, £110 West Ox						

Project funded so far in 2014/15 include:

- Domestic abuse outreach service (South and Vale districts) - £34,773
- Abingdon Street Pastors - £,1000

- Burglary prevention gating project (Henley) - £3,810
- Stop Hate UK victim/witness reporting service (South and Vale districts) - £4,085

Scrutiny committee



Report of head of economy, leisure and property

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To: Scrutiny committee

DATE: 15 January 2015



The Abbey project

Recommendation

1. The committee is invited to:
 - comment upon the three scenarios that have been identified for the site through consultation with 30 different community groups and 60 young people at Fitzharrys and Larkmead Schools
 - make recommendations to the cabinet members for parks and for economy, leisure and property for them to take into account during the public consultation
 - consider the best ways of reaching all members of the community to ensure that the voting process is as democratic as possible.

Purpose of report

1. Abbey Meadow is a strategically important riverside site that, with some investment, could become significantly more attractive and improve Abingdon's offer as a visitor destination. Officers carried out research and consultation to identify "A vision for Abbey Meadow and Abbey Gardens that will build on the area's strengths as public open space and as a leisure and recreation destination."
2. Officers have reviewed existing consultation evidence and have consulted a wide range of community organisations in Abingdon to identify ways to improve Abbey Meadow and Abbey Gardens.

- The purpose of this report is to present the research and consultation work that has been carried out on the Abbey project to date, and present three scenarios that have been identified through reviewing existing consultation evidence and through community consultations.

Strategic objectives

- This project will contribute towards the corporate objectives of “building the local economy” and “continue to invest to improve the viability and attractiveness of our towns”, in this case Abingdon.

Background

- Abbey Meadow is the Vale’s busiest park and is one of Abingdon’s most visited attractions. It is particularly busy in the spring and summer months. The site comprises a play park, pitch and putt, tennis court, outdoor swimming pool and a riverside. In 2013, there were 11,420 swimmers at the outdoor pool, and typically visitor numbers range from 6,000 to 12,000 p.a. The total net cost to the public sector to run the pool was £54,000 in 2013 and there were just over 11,000 swimmers, which equates to a net cost to the public sector (after swimmer’s entry charges) of £4.80 per swim.
- The Vale Council maintains Abbey Gardens and Abbey Meadow and spends just under £60,000 every year on routine grounds maintenance for Abbey Gardens and Abbey Meadow.
- The number of people using the facilities is declining over time:

NUMBERS ATTENDING		2011	2012	2013	2014
PITCH AND PUTT		435	284	351	293
CRAZY GOLF	Adults	396	235	236	201
CRAZY GOLF	Juniors	802	598	733	454
TENNIS COURT	(one hour)	2	11	11	3
TENNIS COURT	(half hour)	78	53	59	61
Total users		1736	1181	1390	1012

- The Vale Council employs a seasonal attendant at a cost of around £7,000 p.a. and the total income received in 2014/15 was just short of £2,000. Income has been reducing generally overtime as the quality of the facilities has deteriorated.

9. Abbey Gardens are designated as a scheduled ancient monument as the Abingdon Abbey, which dates back to the seventh century, once stood on the site. The layout of the outer wall to the abbey is marked on the ground with stone blocks, and interpretation boards in the gardens give an impression of how the site would have looked when the abbey was there.
10. The gardens comprise two main areas; the formal garden area with flower beds, herbaceous borders, seating and an Italian walkway; and open parkland with a number of mature trees, an ornamental lake and a folly that stands near a statue of Queen Victoria. The lake is a haven for wildlife and is home to the nationally scarce water vole. The Abbey Gardens offers visitors a quiet retreat where they can relax, enjoy the flower displays, explore the archaeology or take part in informal recreational activities. In July 2013, Abbey Gardens was judged one of the best parks in the country and it was awarded Green Flag status for the fifth year in a row. The Green Flag is a national award that recognises parks that are well maintained and managed with excellent facilities. The gardens first scooped the Green Flag Award in 2009 following a five-year restoration project to transform the site to the way it looked in its Victorian heyday.

Development constraints

11. A number of development constraints associated with the sites have been identified and are included at appendix 1 attached to this report.

Review of the existing consultation evidence

12. Officers reviewed consultation evidence that was carried out in Abingdon in recent years, including: annual surveys of the users of Abbey Meadow and Abbey Gardens; The Choose Abingdon consultation work carried out over 2009 to 2012; residents consultation work in support of the South Abingdon community-led plan; and visitor surveys carried out by Hidden Britain in 2012. A summary of the existing consultation evidence is provided in appendix 2 attached to this report. In short, previous consultations support investment in Abbey Meadow to make it an even better place for visitors and residents. In particular, teenagers have been identified as a particular user group that would benefit from more activities and free access to sport and leisure facilities; it would be desirable to have additional seating by the river; make better use of the riverside location and the views; upgraded playgrounds and equipment, an adventure playground for children aged 10+; open-air gym; picnic areas; and upgrades to paths to allow circular walks to be made.
13. At an internal officer meeting on 2 October, officers suggested that access and signage were key considerations and that additional play equipment should be focussed on those not presently catered for (i.e. children aged 10+) and highlighted that it should be a priority to get Blue Flag status for Abbey Meadow. Parents have fed back to officers a request that the splash area is fenced for health and safety reasons.

Consultation – October 2014 - February 2015

14. The Vale Council has committed itself to creating a vision for the future of Abbey Garden and Meadow in Abingdon. We think it is important the vision reflects the views and aspirations of people living in the town and the rest of the district. The

project has the opportunity to bring about significant improvements to the site and have a positive impact on the attractiveness of the town as a whole. However, there are some significant risks, as the site is prone to flooding, subject to restrictive covenants, there are heritage considerations and it is in a conservation area.

15. If public consultation on the project is poorly managed, then there is a risk of raising public expectations which cannot be met. The worst case scenario is a high-profile consultation that results in a 'wish list' of desired improvements to the site that are not viable.

16. To mitigate this risk, officers devised a two-phased consultation.

Phase one: Informed discussion with key stakeholders to generate initial objectives/ scenarios for the site that take into consideration practical and financial constraints.

17. In October, officers met with groups thought to have a significant stake in the future of the site on a 1-2-1 basis. We wanted to give them early warning of the project, set expectations and get an early steer from them as to what they would like to see happen with the site. Groups engaged were Friends of Abingdon Outdoor Pool, Abbey Brass, Abingdon Town Council, Abingdon Hydro and Friends of Abingdon.

18. Officers also spoke to 60 young people from Larkmead and Fitzharris schools to find out what they would like to see happen to Abbey Gardens and Abbey Meadow. Their preferences were to have a riverside café / restaurant (with Wi-Fi) instead of the outdoor pool, adventure playground with challenging equipment such as zip-wires, multi purpose outdoor games area, and more seating preferably with shelters.

19. These early conversations allowed officers, with support from Hidden Britain (tourism consultants and experts in community engagement), to devise a workshop for community groups and councillors which was held on 4 November. The workshop was attended by approximately 60 people, representing 30 different community groups. A list of those attending the workshop is attached as appendix 3 to this report. We asked participants for their views on overall objectives for the site, the visitors it should attract, facilities that should be retained and specific improvements that could be made.

20. Data gathered from 1-2-1 meetings, activities with young people and the stakeholder workshop shows that groups have different uses for, and views on the site. Hidden Britain reported on the outcomes of these consultations and advised there were three broad-brush scenarios that could be developed, which set out distinct objectives that appeal to most groups. These are:

- a focus on structured sport and recreation (i.e. invest to keep the pool open)
- a focus on tourism and leisure (i.e. develop a café / restaurant on the riverside at the pool site to make it a more informal open access, all year round venue)
- a focus on green open space (i.e. low key development that is open access and makes the most of the natural riverside landscape).

21. To make the three scenarios distinctive, there needs to be some mutually exclusive facilities. For example, the first scenario proposes to invest significant

sums to allow the outdoor pool to continue to operate. The second scenario proposes to use the site currently occupied by the outdoor pool to facilitate the development of a riverside café / restaurant; and the third scenario would close the outdoor pool and return much of the land at Abbey Meadow to public open space with low key developments such as outdoor performance space, walking trails, adventure playground.

22. The scenarios afford the council some degree of confidence that it can deliver on at least some of the improvements stakeholders have put forward.

Phase two: District-wide public consultation to identify which of the three scenarios proposed by stakeholder groups is the most popular.

23. Since the scenarios have only been developed with input from key stakeholder groups to date, it is important that the Vale Council consults the wider public on their views.

24. On the advice of the corporate consultation officer, the leader of the council, portfolio holder for economy, leisure and property, and portfolio holder for parks considered a number of options for the consultation.

25. It was decided that there should be a widely publicised, high profile vote on the three scenarios in February 2015. The vote will give people the opportunity to get behind one of three possible visions for the site.

26. Officers will also provide people with limited opportunity to comment on some of the specific improvements that could be made for each scenario.

27. Officers do not think it is appropriate to leave development options for the site wide open, as doing so would effectively override the contributions of stakeholder groups to date and risks resulting in a wish list of improvements that the Vale Council cannot deliver within the available budget.

Abingdon Area Committee

28. At the request of the Abingdon Area Committee, officers provided an update on the project at the committee meeting on 14 November 2014 and asked the committee for its comments and recommendations to inform the consultation process.

29. In the table below, we highlight the concerns raised by the committee, and how officers will address these concerns:

Concerns raised at Abingdon Area Committee:	How officers are addressing these concerns:
Concern that the process was rushed – it needs to be more detailed and take longer	Officers reviewed existing consultation evidence that had been undertaken in Abingdon over the last five years, and programmed realistic consultation timescales including minimum six weeks for public consultation

<p>The three proposed scenarios are divisive and confusing</p>	<p>The scenarios represent three possible visions for the site that reflect the views expressed by almost 100 consultees that were identified for their high use of the site, including 60 young people. The consultation officer and project manager worked with experts in community engagement and tourism consultants - Hidden Britain - to develop the three scenarios based on the consultation process and ensuring that it reflected best practice in consultation. Due to budgetary and development constraints, the three visions are mutually exclusive in terms of: outdoor pool, riverside café or restaurant and performance space. The wider public consultation will ask the public to choose between these three visions (or scenarios), but there will be some flexibility in terms of the facilities that can be delivered on each. In this way, officers will be able to identify which other facilities are most highly rated.</p>
<p>Can different ideas be used from the different scenarios? A more 'mix and match' approach or using transferable voting for different options</p>	<p>During public consultation, officers will allow flexibility in terms of allowing Vale residents to identify their priorities for a wide range of facilities.</p>
<p>How can you stop people from voting more than once?</p>	<p>Residents will be asked for their name, address, email and postcode so that officers can verify that respondents have had only one vote each.</p>
<p>Consultation is best carried out in summer, when most people would be using the current facilities, especially those considered 'hard to reach' and at different times of day;</p> <p>Use market stalls to consult</p>	<p>In the consultation carried out to date, officers reached out to different user groups to make sure that they had a say. During the wider public consultation, officers will take space in the community shop, spend a day in the Market Place in Abingdon encouraging people to vote, and work with councillors to encourage participation locally.</p>
<p>Concern that district councillors were not consulted</p>	<p>The project was promoted in Infocus and district councillors were consulted via the Abingdon Area Committee and scrutiny committee. The public consultation will be widely promoted.</p>
<p>Project name: Confusion as to the name of the project in referring to Abbey grounds, gardens and meadow</p>	<p>The project is referred to as the Abbey Project, covering Abbey Meadow and Abbey Gardens. This will be clear in the consultation leaflet.</p>

<p>Facilities:</p> <p>Concerns about fencing in the splash park;</p> <p>Poor golf and tennis facilities;</p> <p>Improving toilet facilities should be a top priority;</p> <p>Facilities should not be assessed for their commercial viability as they are community assets;</p> <p>Lack of signage and information about existing facilities;</p> <p>Key-holders of the tennis courts have not been included in the data for usage</p>	<p>Noted. Comments passed onto parks service manager and portfolio holder.</p> <p>Noted. Comments passed onto parks service manager and portfolio holder.</p> <p>Cabinet member for technical services considers that the toilets are a priority.</p> <p>Usage is important.</p> <p>Noted.</p> <p>We have requested this data from the service manager.</p>
<p>In terms of risks, need to specify timescale and budget for improvements</p>	<p>This will be made clear in the public consultation leaflet.</p>
<p>Need a 'Big Idea' and a much bigger budget – could invite West Waddy ADP architects to offer proposals for this 'Big Idea'</p>	<p>Noted. Officers are working with West Waddy ADP architects on this project to generate designs that reflect the consultation</p>
<p>Lack of maintenance budget</p>	<p>Noted. Comments passed onto parks service manager and portfolio holder.</p>

Next steps

30. Following the consultation outlined above, these steps are being undertaken:

- work with quantity surveyors and other experts (both within and external to the Vale Council) to put indicative costs to the three scenarios to inform the public consultation
 - consultation with statutory bodies e.g. planning, Environment Agency, English Heritage, HLF, Sport England etc in order to ensure all scenarios are feasible and possible before releasing to public consultation
 - produce indicative drawings and artist impressions for the three scenarios
- the cabinet member for economy, leisure and property will make an individual cabinet member decision to approve the approach and timing for the public consultation
- public consultation – open to all Vale residents - on the three scenarios in February 2015.

31. The public consultation will comprise:

- online consultation
- physical voting through a period of display in the Abingdon community shop during one week in February
- paper versions of the consultation will be available and disseminated - how do councillors think we can encourage as many residents as possible to participate in the consultation?

32. Following the consultation phase, officers will take a report to cabinet in summer 2015 to discuss the vision for the site with the greatest public support, agree next steps and any funding requirements.

Financial implications

33. Cabinet members asked officers to submit a discretionary capital growth bid of £500,000 to allow the capital improvements to be made. This is the working budget that the quantity surveyor and architect are working to. There may be revenue budget consequences, depending on the option that is chosen. For instance, we may be able to reduce our revenue costs by some £7,000 if we no longer need a leisure operative in Abbey Meadow collecting fees for the crazy golf and tennis during the summer holidays.

34. The revenue budget implications will be known in full after the public consultation is complete, and detailed costs have been received. At this time officers will need to review the budget position and either submit revenue growth bids or offer up savings.

Legal implications

35. As mentioned below in appendix 1, there are some legal issues that need to be taken into account when deciding which scenario is most suitable, and also which may need to be addressed before a plan is recommended:

- The Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) will need to give its approval to any scheme, although its main focus will be on Abbey Gardens and the area around the existing recreational area. These were the main areas that received grant funding and consequently HLF needs to give its consent to any alterations to existing layouts. The recreational area is of lesser importance as HLF provided little direct funding for any improvements to this area and, therefore, any constraints on development of Abbey Meadow would be unlikely.
- There is a covenant affecting Abbey Meadow (again as mentioned in appendix 1), the benefit of which is held by the Master and Governors of the Hospital of Christ of Abingdon ("the Charity"). This prevents the erection of any building or other structure on Abbey Meadow, other than such buildings or structures as may be ancillary to the intended use of the land as a public open space for recreational purposes. As none of the schemes contemplate any building other than for ancillary purposes, this covenant should not be breached. However, it is recommended that any development plans should be communicated to the charity to ensure that no problems arise at a later date.
- There is a water pipe owned by Thames Water on the Abbey Meadow site, which runs around the edges of the site from the river. There are the usual

covenants not to build over this pipe or plant any trees within a certain distance of the pipe. There should not be an issue as long as the location of this pipe is taken into account in any development. Thames Water will have a plan of the location, which can be used for consultation on any development of the waterside area

- The existing car parking area must continue to be used as a car park.

36. In conclusion, as long as the above matters are taken into account in terms of the extent of the proposed development, and consultations with the appropriate bodies are done at an early stage, the legal risks of development at Abbey Meadow as outlined in this report should be minimal.

Risks

37. The main risk is not being able to deliver on public expectations raised during the consultation due to time and budget constraints. We have designed the consultation and we have engaged professionals (quantity surveyor and architect) to minimise these risks.

Conclusion

38. The committee is invited to:

- comment upon the three scenarios that have been identified for the site through consultation with 30 different community groups and 60 young people at Fitzharrys and Larkmead Schools
- make recommendations to the cabinet members for parks and for economy, leisure and property for them to take into account during the public consultation
- consider the best ways of reaching all members of the community to ensure that the voting process is as democratic as possible.

Appendix 1

Development constraints

39. A number of development constraints associated with the sites have been identified and are included at Appendix 2, including the following:

- **conservation area:** Abbey Meadow and Abbey Gardens are in a conservation area, which protects the special architectural and historic interests of the area
- **heritage assets:** most of Abbey Garden has scheduled ancient monument status as Abingdon Abbey once stood on the site
- **floodzone** – the development site floods regularly and is categorised as either floodzone 2 or 3, and this will impact on the type and location of development.
- **landfilled gravel extraction site** - Abbey Meadow previously formed part of a gravel extraction site, which has been landfilled, but parts of the site suffer from subsidence. The areas that are worst affected include the tennis courts and pitch and putt. This does not preclude any new development, but further ground investigations at the specific locations for any new development will need to be undertaken to determine what, if any, mitigation measures are needed.
- **restrictive covenants** – Abbey Meadow is subject to a restrictive covenant that prevents the erection of any building or structure other than such buildings that are ancillary to the intended use of the land as public open space for recreational purposes.
- **Thames Water** owns a water pipe on the Abbey Meadow site, which runs around the edges of the site from the river. There are covenants not to build over this or plant any trees within a certain distance of the pipe. There should not be an issue as long as the location of this pipe is taken into account in any development. Thames Water will have a plan of the location which can be used for consultation on any development of the waterside area
- **grant funding conditions** – the Vale Council received funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) in 2002, and the areas funded by the grant were extensive, including Abbey Gardens and the children’s play area. We would need to consult HLF on proposed changes, and it is unlikely to give its consent to any material alterations to the areas that were improved in 2002.
- **ecology** - ecological issues may arise depending on the proximity to the river
- **moorings** - a moorings policy is currently being reviewed by the Vale Council, which will consider the type of enforcement actions to take. This is likely to include charging for overnight moorings, which are free at present, in order to pay for enforcement.
- **funding** – officers have submitted a discretionary capital growth bid to improve the area. It may also be possible to use private sector capital, and to apply for grants from other bodies, depending on what is proposed.
- **Sport England** – will need to be consulted about the loss of any sporting facility.

Appendix 2 – Feedback from previous Abingdon-based consultations

Feedback from users of Abingdon Abbey Meadow and Abbey Gardens

The parks team gather feedback from the visitors to the park each year. Generally satisfaction with Abbey Gardens is very high, with visitors providing very positive feedback that they are beautiful, quiet gardens with space to picnic and relax. Feedback from Abbey Meadow is less favourable, and in recent years comments have provided quite a high level of dissatisfaction with public toilets, the tennis courts and crazy golf which are now in a poor state of repair.

Choose Abingdon Partnership public consultation 2009-2012

Choose Abingdon Partnership (CHAP) undertook large-scale public consultation exercises to identify Abingdon's strengths and weaknesses and to identify project ideas that would help enhance town centre vitality and improve linkages between the town and the river.

Specifically, CHAP Strategy and Action Plan for 2012 onwards identified the following priorities:

- Lack of 'family' things to do within Abingdon
- Lack of music & entertainment
- Lack of a single major visitor attraction
- Low footfall in town centre
- Poor evening 'offer'
- Poor access and signage from the centre of town

CHAP Strategy and Action Plan for 2012 onwards identified the following projects:

- Hydro scheme with visitor centre (the hydro scheme is likely to proceed, but plans for the visitor centre have been put on hold)
- Need to assess and improve leisure offer at Abbey Meadow
- Larger redevelopment of Abbey Meadow as leisure offering
- Assess and improve leisure offer far side of river
- Summer Festival (one or two week package and main event)
- Riverside Tourist Information point for summer season
- Signage and interpretation linking river to town

The need to assess and improve the leisure offer at Abbey Meadow was given a very high weighting in the CHAP Strategy.

“The Abingdon Visitor Survey, 2012” by Hidden Britain

Hidden Britain undertook over 200 face to face visitors in Abingdon at a range of different locations within the town and at the riverside between May and July 2012. They found that over half of visitors were aged over 56 years. This highlights a need to attract younger visitors to the town.

The report highlights Abingdon's USP as its setting on the river and its historic character are key features within its visitor economy, offer and experience and should be placed front and centre within any promotional or developmental strategy taken forward. However there is the need to implement a clear and consistent strategy and

implementation model to direct visitor and tourism development. New developments, infrastructure and facilities should be prioritised to complement and improve the Abingdon visitor offer.

There were some basic areas where Abingdon did not do so well with the following requiring specific attention:

- Toilets in very poor condition and seasonal opening
- High relative proportion of vacant shops in key areas
- Signage pointing in wrong direction, and better signage between the river and town
- Questionable location of map boards.
- Literature available on the town was confused and duplicated itself
- Lack of Sunday or evening opening for many of the retail outlets

The public toilets issue should be addressed as a key priority, these facilities are key to the visitor experience, and a poor experience is likely to be a memorable one even if the rest of the visit has been positive. In essence the details do matter “Sense of destination – the extent to which it has met a visitor’s needs and made a strong and positive impression – is therefore vital to secure repeat trade and sustainable economic development.” In tandem with toilets is the upkeep of the public realm. Abingdon scored very highly for the physical appearance of the town, its buildings, green space and street furniture, and this should be maintained going forward as it again it is an important detail that impacts on the visitor experience.

Abingdon is a little lower than anticipated on what could be termed visitor attractions and activities with only 17 business or organisations providing these services. Given the nature of the destination, encouragement or development of sites and activities of visitor interest would be advantageous in the future. However Abingdon does perform very well once we add in the interpretive activities that make the most of its natural and historical features (the 20 promoted routes and the various events in particular). But this can always be expanded and built upon and work should be undertaken to ensure these activities are well publicised and the content not lost (or in the case of the promoted routes made available clearly to visitors either online in centrally organised place or visibly in situ).

A number of ‘themes’ emerged from the research in terms of comments supplied by visitors as to what improvements they would like to see in Abingdon. These included:-

1. Retail offer – improve the range and quality of shopping
2. Improving signage – particularly pedestrian signage and improvements between the town and the river
3. Traffic and transport was a key problem for many people, almost exclusively relating to the congestion and traffic flow caused by the one-way system.
4. Improvements to the river were mentioned many times, with specific requests for more improved facilities by the river (food, toilets and seating) as well as improvements to the riverside path and better signage and promotion of the lock and riverside walks.

The South Abingdon Consultation for their Community-Led Plan

South Abingdon residents developed a questionnaire, in the context of their Community-led plan which was not taken forward to completion, but several hundred responses were received when the questionnaire was issued in 2011/12. These responses that related to the Abbey Meadow / Abbey Gardens area were summarised by the shared corporate projects officer as:-

- More activities for teenagers to do
- Seating by the river
- Improving the views
- Better playgrounds and equipment, and specifically a 5-12 year old adventure playground
- An open-air gym
- Picnic areas
- Circular walks
- Basketball Court and keep-fit classes or facilities
- More seating by the river
- Develop riverside park (make better use of space & area: nature walks, play park & keep fit circuit.)

Internal workshop with Vale Council staff

An internal workshop was held on 2 October 2014, and officers from most of the service areas attended. Some of the ideas and suggestions for improvements to Abbey Gardens and Abbey Meadow include:-

- better facilities for older children and teenagers
- Improved seating, picnic areas and bins
- Café / restaurant
- BBQ pits
- Improved signage between the river and the town
- Bandstand or amphitheatre – better events space
- Circular walking routes
- Poetry trail
- Longer summer season for pool and water feature
- Arts centre

Appendix 3

Community Groups attending the 4 Nov event

Abbey Brass
Abbey Close resident
ABC Tots
Abingdon artists
Abingdon Artists & Ox Art Groups
Abingdon Carbon Cutters
Abingdon Flower Club
Abingdon Hydro
Abingdon Museum
Abingdon Naturalist Society
Abingdon Town Band
Abingdon Town Council
Air Cadets
Bid Team
Carbon Cutters
Choose Abingdon Partnership
Christ's Hospital of Abingdon
Drama Group
Friends of Abingdon
Friends of Abingdon Outdoor Pool
NCT Abingdon
Oxfordshire Arts
Pasiol Play
Preston Road Community Centre
Silver Band
South Abingdon Resident Plan
St Helens Baby & toddler group
VWHDC
Womens Institute

Scrutiny Committee



Report of Head of Corporate Strategy

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To: Scrutiny Committee

DATE: 15 January 2015



Councillor Development Programme 2015

Recommendation

- (a) To review the councillor induction and development programme content, methodology and timeframes.

Purpose of Report

1. This report outlines the draft councillor development programme to be delivered following the elections in May 2015. Scrutiny Committee is invited to comment on the draft proposals.

Strategic Objectives

2. A development programme is fundamental to helping councillors to be effective in their various roles; it therefore underpins all of the council's strategic objectives. The programme will be delivered following the elections in May 2015 and on-going support will be available for councillors subsequently elected in by-elections.

Background

3. There is currently no co-ordinated induction for newly elected councillors or systematic training programme for new and existing councillors. Not all councillors have a clear understanding of their various roles, the required skills and abilities and the expectations on them. Consequently councillors can lack confidence and feel frustrated by their inability to play a meaningful role in the business of the council. To help address this situation it will be beneficial to provide councillors with improved access to training and development opportunities.
4. A project board was initiated to manage the programme development, including running pilot sessions, across both councils and a joint programme has now been drafted. Appendix one shows how the various skills/knowledge requirements identified by councillors will be covered as part of the programme. Appendix two shows outline timescales for delivery of the various workshop sessions; however most actual dates are yet to be agreed. It is anticipated that the LGA sessions will run three times at each council (subject to the full growth bid being approved). Internal sessions will run a minimum of once at each council, and where possible these sessions will be open to councillors from both councils to maximise opportunities to attend.
5. Officers have consulted councillors at various stages in the project, and there are Councillor Champions from all groups at both councils to ensure they form an integral part of the programme. These champions have been involved in reviewing all aspects of the programme including the new Councillor Roles and Responsibilities document, the pilot workshops, the content of the programme and the welcome pack.
6. Two workshops entitled 'Understanding your needs' were held with councillors from both councils scrutiny committees. The workshops helped to define their roles and responsibilities as district councillors in relation to:
 - working in wards
 - casework referrals
 - managing and participating in meetings (scrutiny/committee meetings etc.)
 - working with council officers and protocols.

The workshops were helpful in identifying the skills required to fulfil a councillors roles, and provided an insight into how best to structure the programme.

7. At the request of the Vale Scrutiny Committee officers have piloted some elements of the draft programme. This included the sessions which, it is suggested, will be delivered by the Local Government Association (LGA) on 'Effective influencing, mediation and facilitation' and 'Effective meetings' accompanied by the LGA workbook – chairing skills.
8. Attached is a draft programme, which Scrutiny Committee is invited to comment on. It sets out what activities are currently proposed, the timescales for delivery and the intended audience. In summary the programme includes:

- a welcome pack, which will contain essential 'day one' information and forms, which councillors need to complete as soon as possible after their election
- 'Getting to Know You' forums at each council
- a series of three workshops delivered by the LGA
- provision of workbooks and e-learning on a number of other topics that are of interest to councillors
- a series of workshops on quasi- judicial functions e.g. licensing and planning
- sessions on IT/data and other general statutory requirements that councillors need to be aware of
- training specifically tailored to councillors who will sit on various scrutiny and regulatory committees.

Financial Implications

9. The costs of delivering the proposed programme, including external trainers, printing, venue hire and refreshments for the 'Getting to Know You' forum are estimated at £18,500 per council. A growth bid has been submitted as part of the 2015/16 budget setting process.

Legal Implications

10. The proposed development programme is focussed to ensure that councillors are equipped with the knowledge and skills they need to be able to carry out their respective roles in line with the Councillor Code of Conduct and to make decisions in line with relevant legislation, and according to the principles of good decision making.

Risks

11. Potential risks to achieving the objectives of this project are:
- lack of buy in/ engagement from councillors
 - the growth bid is not successful so the programme is either scaled back to such an extent that the objectives are not met or in the worst case, the programme is not delivered.

Conclusion

12. The programme attached has been developed in collaboration with councillors from both councils. Elements were piloted and subsequently revised in light of the feedback from those sessions. Officers request that committee review the programme and make any comments prior to development of the final programme for delivery in 2015.

Appendix One - Proposed Councillor Induction and Development Programme 2015

Providing skills and knowledge to help you effectively fulfil your roles as councillors

Timeframe (after May 2015 election)	Activity Skills and Knowledge	Delivery	Audience
Four weeks commencing 8 May	Councillor helpline	Telephone helpline for advice	Newly elected and re-elected Cllrs
8 May 11 May 2015 (Vale) 12 May 2015 (South)	Welcome to the council	Welcome pack Information folder Getting to Know You Forum Face to face meetings with Service teams IT surgeries IT Fact Card Meet your council officer buddy Presentations	Newly elected and re-elected Cllrs
8 May 11 May 2015 12 May 2015	Understanding the council roles and responsibilities Responsibilities of each service	Welcome pack Information folder Getting to Know You Forum Face to face meetings with Service teams IT surgeries IT Fact Card Meet your council officer buddy Presentations	Newly elected and re-elected Cllrs
8 May Week commencing 18 May	Councillor general knowledge – What you can and can't do and what can get you into difficulty To include: Code of Conduct, constitution, motions, councillor call for action, questions at committee meetings, anti fraud and corruption policies, whistle blowing policy, safeguarding children, young people and vulnerable adults, equality, health and safety and the use of social media and consequences, council meeting protocol	Welcome pack Information folder Internal Workshops: Health and Safety Equality and diversity Safeguarding children and vulnerable adults Anti fraud and corruption Use of social media and consequences Talking to the press Scrutiny Briefing	Newly elected and re-elected Cllrs
Week commencing 18/26 May (Week 2/3) 28 May 6:00pm-8:00pm 29 May 6:00pm-8:00pm	Planning committees Role of planning committees in the wider context i.e. how planning is responding to the government agenda	Internal Workshop <i>Planning committee date for information:</i> 3 June — South 10 June – Vale two hour workshop two hour workshop	Re elected Cllrs and members of the planning committee and subs

Timeframe (after May 2015 election)	Activity Skills and Knowledge	Delivery	Audience
Week 2/3 (Week commencing 18 May)	Licensing committees	Workshop	Re-elected Cllrs and members of the licensing committee and subs
Week 2 onwards (Week commencing 18 May)	Working in wards and handling casework	Mentoring Guidelines - groups to identify mentors for newly elected councillors when required LGA Workbooks / case studies available online for distance learning where appropriate	Newly elected and re-elected Cllrs
11 May 2015 12 May 2015 Week 4+ (Week commencing 8 June)	Collaborative working, developing constructive working relationships with each other and council officers	'Getting to Know You' Forum Face to face meetings with Service teams Presentations. Mentoring guidelines Workbooks / case studies available online for distance learning where appropriate from the LGA	Newly elected and re-elected Cllrs
Weeks 3 -4 Week commencing 1 June	Role of scrutiny - ability to ask questions, probe and challenge Essential for all councillors on scrutiny committees and their substitutes	Workshop <i>Scrutiny Dates for information only:</i> 23 June – South 25 June – Vale	Newly elected and re-elected Cllrs and members of the scrutiny committee and subs
Weeks 4-5 (Week commencing 8 June)	The Planning Process – overview of planning applications, enforcement and building control	Internal workshop	Newly elected and re-elected Cllrs and members of the planning committee and subs
Week 4 onwards (Week commencing 8 June)	Community engagement and the role of a councillor in the community including partnership working with police, health, parish, county etc.	Mentoring guidelines Workbooks / case studies, available online for distance learning where appropriate from the LGA	Newly elected and re-elected Cllrs
Weeks 6 -8 (Week commencing 15 June)	Chairing skills – including external meetings Essential for those taking up the position of chair and their substitutes	Workshop work book top tips for chairing meetings	Newly elected and re-elected Cllrs and members of the planning, licensing, audit and governance and scrutiny committees and subs Meeting chairs and subs
Weeks 6-8 (Week commencing 15 June)	Meetings: Preparation and planning Participating Role of chair	Workshop Workbook – chairing Skills Resources: top tips for chairing meetings	Newly elected and re-elected Cllrs and members of the planning, licensing, audit and governance and scrutiny committees and subs Meeting chairs and subs
Weeks 6-8 (Week commencing 15 June)	Making the most of IT: Data Protection Act Freedom of Information	Internal Workshop Data protection Freedom of information Resources IT key facts card	Newly elected and re-elected Cllrs

Timeframe (after May 2015 election)	Activity Skills and Knowledge	Delivery	Audience
20/30 June Date TBC One session	Role of audit and governance committee	Internal Workshop - internal/external audit functions <i>Committee dates for information: 6 July – South 7 July – Vale</i>	Newly elected and re-elected Cllrs and members of the audit and governance committee and subs
July 2015	Planning enforcement	Internal work shop	Newly elected and re-elected Cllrs
July 2015	Planning Policy	Internal work shop	Newly elected and re-elected Cllrs
July 2015	Planning Misc: Cil/Sec106 Local plan timetable Building control Ecology/landscape Conservation and design	Internal work shop	Newly elected and re-elected Cllrs
5-6 months September	Personal Impact - getting your message across effectively: Influencing, listening and communication skills, leadership, and mediation, handling awkward situations and residents Incorporating meetings and ward scenarios to help get the key messages across	Workshop	Newly elected and re-elected Cllrs
6 months+ September/October	Finance Budget setting, budget management, treasury management, benefits, council tax, internal audit, external audit How money is spent across the region, comparisons with other councils	Presentation	Newly elected and re-elected Cllrs
Week commencing 21 September two sessions	Role of audit and governance committee	Internal Workshop - Statement of accounts <i>Committee dates for information: 29 September – South 29 September – Vale</i>	Newly elected and re-elected Cllrs and members of the audit and governance committee and subs
Week commencing 17 August (S only) Week commencing 19 October (V only)	Awarding grants - your role in the decision making including community involvement and area committees	Internal workshop <i>For information: CGS dates: 8/15 September – South Area Committee dates: 2/3/9/10 November - Vale</i>	Newly elected and re-elected Cllrs and members of the audit and governance committee and subs
25 Jan 2016 – South 26 Jan 2016 - Vale two sessions	Role of audit and governance committee	Internal Workshop - Treasury Management <i>Committee dates for information: 25 Jan 2016 – South 26 Jan 2016 – Vale</i>	Newly elected and re-elected Cllrs and members of the audit and governance committee and subs
Week commencing 14 March 2016 one session	Risk management and business continuity	Internal Workshop <i>Committee dates for information: 24 March 2016 – South 22 March 2016 – Vale</i>	Newly elected and re-elected Cllrs and members of the audit and governance committee and subs
Week commencing 14 March 2016 one session	Money laundering	Internal workshop	Newly elected and re-elected Cllrs and members of the audit and governance committee and subs

Appendix Two – Outline workshop timetable

Date	Topic	Internal/external provider
11 May	Getting to Know You Forum (Vale)	Internal
12 May	Getting to Know You Forum (South)	Internal
w/c 18 May	What Can Get you Into Trouble, inc. various statutory responsibilities, social media etc	Internal
28 May	Planning Committee (South)	Internal
29 May	Planning Committee (Vale)	Internal
w/c 1 June	Role of Scrutiny Committee	External/LGA
w/c 8 June	Planning process	Internal
w/c 15 June	Meeting skills inc. basic chairing and external meetings	External/LGA
w/c 15 June	Making the most of IT, inc. Freedom of Information and Data Protection	Internal
w/c 18 June	Licensing Committees	Internal
June - date tbc	Role of Audit & Corporate Governance Committee	Internal
July - date tbc	Planning – enforcement, policy, local plan etc	Internal
August – date tbc	Grant awarding	Internal
September – dates tbc	Personal impact	External/LGA
September/October – date tbc	Finance	Internal
September – date tbc	Audit and Corporate Governance/ statement of accounts	Internal
October – dates tbc	Grant awarding	Internal
25 January	Audit and Corporate Governance/Treasury Management (South)	Internal
26 January	Audit and Corporate Governance/Treasury Management (Vale)	Internal
w/c 14 March	Audit and Corporate Governance/Risk Management and business continuity	Internal
w/c 14 March	Audit and Corporate Governance/Money laundering	Internal

SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME



containing scrutiny work to be undertaken 5 JANUARY 2015 - 31
DECEMBER 2016

The scrutiny work programme belongs to the council's Scrutiny Committee and sets out a schedule of scrutiny work due to be carried out over during period shown above. It is a rolling plan, subject to change at each Scrutiny Committee meeting; however, the scrutiny work programme and changes to it are subject to the council's approval.

Representations can be made on any of the following issues before an item is considered by the Scrutiny Committee. Representations must be made to the relevant contact officer shown below by 10am on the day the Committee is due to meet. The meeting dates are shown below.

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Item title	Meeting date	Lead officer	Cabinet member	Why is it here?	Scope	Notes
Councillor Development Programme	Scrutiny Committee 15 Jan 2015	Sally Truman, Policy and Community Engagement Manager Sally.truman@southandvale.gov.uk	Matthew Barber, Cabinet member for corporate strategy	To review the pilot programme and make recommendations to the project board		
Community Safety Partnership, Review & Future	Scrutiny Committee 15 Jan 2015	Liz Hayden liz.hayden@southandvale.gov.uk	Matthew Barber, Cabinet member for Corporate Strategy			
Abbey Meadows and Gardens	Scrutiny Committee 15 Jan 2015	Trudy Godfrey trudy.godfrey@southandvale.gov.uk	Elaine Ware, Cabinet member for economy leisure and property			

Agenda Item 10

Item title	Meeting date	Lead officer	Cabinet member	Why is it here?	Scope	Notes
CIL charging schedule	Scrutiny Committee 11 Feb 2015	Adrian Duffield, Head of Planning adrian.duffield@southandvale.gov.uk	Mike Murray, Cabinet member for the Corporate Plan			
Review the council tax reduction scheme	Scrutiny Committee 11 Feb 2015	Paul Howden Paul.howden@southandvale.gov.uk	Matthew Barber, Cabinet member for finance	ensure the admin cost is less than the savings; county council and police meeting share of costs; review complaints		
Review of final draft budget	Scrutiny Committee 11 Feb 2015	William Jacobs, Head of Finance william.jacobs@southandvale.gov.uk	Matthew Barber, Cabinet member for finance			
New Homelessness Strategy	Scrutiny Committee 26 Mar 2015	Phil Ealey, Housing Needs Manager phil.ealey@southandvale.gov.uk	Roger Cox, Cabinet member for health and housing	At request of Scrutiny Committee	Council's response to homeless people to whom it has a legal duty	
Performance of Housing Associations	Scrutiny Committee 26 Mar 2015	Debbie Taylor, Head of Housing debbie.taylor@southandvale.gov.uk	Roger Cox, Cabinet member for housing	To scrutinise the work of major HAs within the Vale		

Item title	Meeting date	Lead officer	Cabinet member	Why is it here?	Scope	Notes
Brief for the review of the leisure strategy	Scrutiny Committee 26 Mar 2015	Sophie Horsley sophie.horsley@southandvale.gov.uk	Mike Murray, Cabinet member for planning policy			After its last consideration of this item the committee requested to: "add this item to the scrutiny work programme for a further review after the local plan is approved."
Temporary Accommodation Strategy	Scrutiny Committee 26 Mar 2015	Debbie Taylor, Head of Housing debbie.taylor@southandvale.gov.uk	Roger Cox, Cabinet member for housing			
Corporate Services Contract - inter council governance arrangements	Scrutiny Committee 26 Mar 2015	Steve Bishop, Strategic Director Steve.bishop@southandvale.gov.uk	Matthew Barber, Leader of the Council	to consider the inter-council governance arrangements prior to the strategic director exercising delegated authority to approve and sign the inter-council agreement		

Item title	Meeting date	Lead officer	Cabinet member	Why is it here?	Scope	Notes
Equalities Review	Scrutiny Committee 25 Jun 2015	Sally Truman, Policy and Community Engagement Manager sally.truman@southandvale.gov.uk	Matthew Barber, Cabinet member for corporate strategy			
Annual Review of Horticulture Contract: Sodexo	Scrutiny Committee 25 Jun 2015	Ian Matten ian.matten@southandvale.gov.uk	Cabinet member for parks			
Annual Review of Waste Contract: Biffa	Scrutiny Committee 25 Jun 2015	Ian Matten ian.matten@southandvale.gov.uk	Cabinet member for waste			
Review of The Beacon Wantage	Scrutiny Committee 30 Jul 2015	Jo Paterson Jo.paterson@southandvale.gov.uk	Cabinet member for property, leisure and economy	To review the success of The Beacon, one year on from rebranding. To assess performance against KPIs		
Annual Review of the Leisure Contract: GLL	Scrutiny Committee 30 Jul 2016	Chris Tyson, Head of Leisure Economy and Property chris.tyson@southandvale.gov.uk	Cabinet member for leisure	Include minutes from previous outdoor pool review		

Item title	Meeting date	Lead officer	Cabinet member	Why is it here?	Scope	Notes
Financial outturn 2014/15	Scrutiny Committee 24 Sep 2015	William Jacobs, Head of Finance William.jacobs@southandvale.gov.uk	Cabinet member for finance	Annual report to Scrutiny on the financial outturn or the previous year.	To make recommendations to Cabinet.	
Financial Services Contract: Capita	Scrutiny Committee 24 Sep 2015	William Jacobs, Head of Finance William.jacobs@southandvale.gov.uk	Cabinet member for finance.	The committee undertakes an annual monitoring of the financial services contract.	To review the contractor's performance and to make any recommendations to the Cabinet member.	
Corporate Services Contract: Tender Evaluation Results	Scrutiny Committee 24 Sep 2015	Steve Bishop, Strategic Director steve.bishop@southandvale.gov.uk	Leader of the Council	to consider the tender evaluation results and the draft recommendations about any awarding the contract (including outsourcing decisions) prior to cabinet		

Item title	Meeting date	Lead officer	Cabinet member	Why is it here?	Scope	Notes
Corporate Services Contract: Tender Evaluation Results	Scrutiny Committee 24 Sep 2015	Steve Bishop, Strategic Director steve.bishop@southhandvale.gov.uk	Leader of the Council	to consider the tender evaluation results and the draft recommendations about any awarding the contract (including outsourcing decisions) prior to cabinet		
WiFi in Vale Towns	Scrutiny Committee					Requested by Scrutiny committee.