

REPORT TO: Housing and Safer Policy and Performance Board

DATE: 10th June 2025

REPORTING OFFICER: Executive Director - Environment and Regeneration

PORTFOLIO: Community Safety

SUBJECT: Community Safety & Protection Division

WARD(S) Borough wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To update Members of the Board on key matters pertaining to the Community Safety and Protection Division.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That the report be noted.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 The Board has received intermittent reports on the Community Safety & Protection division since its inception in February 2023. The division is now firmly embedded with responsibility for: -

- Enforcement and CCTV, tackling environmental crime and anti-social behaviour;
- Domestic abuse, providing services for victims and working with those that harm to change behaviours and delivering the Councils statutory and strategic requirements;
- Emergency planning, delivering the Council's statutory requirements on civil contingency for understanding risk and preparedness working with the COMAH sites;
- Asylum seeker and refugees, working with the regional migration partnership on government programmes and working with local organisations to co-ordinate local approaches responding to cohort needs; and
- Responsibility for delivering the statutory partnerships for Community Safety and Domestic Abuse.

- 3.2 There are some key matters for the board to be aware of that will progress during the Municipal year.

3.3 Enforcement & CCTV

The function has experienced a significant gap in having an Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) Officer in post, this is now resolved with a new Officer commencing in post in April.

The Community Safety Partnership, Safer Halton has a statutory duty to provide Anti-Social Behaviour case reviews. This provides an opportunity for residents to request a review of the response to their complaints regarding ASB. A member of the community safety partnership, Safer Halton will consider if the request meets the threshold and if so, review the approaches and responses from relevant agencies. The threshold for review is:

- A complainant has reported the same problem 3 or more times in the past 6 months to the Council, Police, or their Landlord, and inappropriate action has been taken in line with the relevant agencies policy and procedure.
- Different complainants have made reports about the same problem 5 times in the past 6 months to the Council, Police, or their Landlord, and inappropriate action has been taken in line with the relevant agencies policy and procedure.

3.4 No action examples: -

- The reported problems have not been acknowledged – i.e. no one contacted the customer to advise what action would be taken.
- The reported problems have not been appropriately investigated in accordance with the relevant agencies policy and procedure.
- The customers' vulnerability and/or the potential for harm have not been considered and this has affected potential service delivery.
- No action has been taken because information has not been shared between partners, and this has affected potential service delivery.

There are examples where a review may not be the appropriate mechanism such as when an investigation is ongoing or if a service has been received but the complainant is unhappy, a complaint would be the route to pursue. It can also not be utilised to consider a Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) decision.

3.5 The Council's website provides details on the process [ASB information](#)

3.6 The community safety partnerships (CSP) across Cheshire actively work together and have developed an approach where appeals for ASB case reviews will be completed by a peer CSP. When outcomes of ASB case reviews are notified, the complainant has 28 days to notify of an appeal. This will be allocated to a fellow Cheshire CSP to independently review the case and report the outcome to the requested CSP who informs the complainant of the

outcome of the appeal. This approach will be ratified at the June meeting of Safer Halton Partnership.

3.7 Halton has received three ASB case reviews since the changes from Community Trigger in 2023, one has progressed to appeal, one an informal review and one has not met the threshold.

3.8 The Council will be reviewing Halton's framework for ASB and use of tools and powers with multi-agency partners to strengthen approaches.

3.9 The Government announced a plan for change and neighbourhood policing policy providing additional investment into neighbourhood policing; an element of which is to tackle anti-social behaviour. In Cheshire this work is being co-ordinated by the Police & Crime Commissioners Office working with CSP Leads. The work is mobilising and titled 'keeping towns safer' and further updates will be provided as part of ASB reporting.

3.10 This function also provides the CCTV public surveillance operation for the Borough. This consists of over 150 cameras positioned in public spaces, town centres and along highway network and operates a 24/7 control room. The infrastructure has been in situ for a lengthy period of time and technology in this arena has moved on significantly. The infrastructure requires renewal to ensure a future proofed service. An audit and forward plan are being progressed, and options will be presented to Executive Board for consideration.

3.11 **Emergency Planning**

The Council has a range of statutory duties which are set out in the Civil Contingencies Act 2004 to ensure risks in the Borough are understood and mitigation and contingency arrangements are robust.

3.12 Amongst other duties the service facilitates the Councils contingency arrangements through business continuity planning; this year the approach has been reviewed to strengthen the framework to ensure a robust approach. This has required a lengthy timescale to support a review of business continuity plans across all Council functions and is a significant piece of work.

3.13 Protection of Premises or Protect or Martyn's Law as it is known received royal assent on 3rd April 2025. The act requires persons with control of certain premises or events to take steps to reduce the vulnerability of the premises or event to, and the risk of physical harm to individuals arising from, acts of terrorism; to confer related functions on the Security Industry Authority; to limit the disclosure of information about licensed premises that is likely to be useful to a person committing or preparing an act of terrorism; and for connected purposes.

3.14 This impacts on Council venues and buildings; and understanding and interpreting the requirements is being considered. Community Safety & Protection have mobilised a cross organisation working group to: -

- Ensure oversight of the Protect statutory duties.
- Assess the impact of the legislation and articulate the resource requirements.
- Work collaboratively on a situational risk assessment and action plan.
- Determine future arrangements on HBC lead roles to ensure delivery and compliance.

3.15 **Devolution Arrangements**

The Board will be aware of devolution arrangements progressing in Cheshire and Warrington which is currently in the consultation phase. The timeline is to work towards the implementation of a Mayor and Combined Authority by May 2026.

3.16 Halton's Policing, Police & Crime Commissioner and Resilience Forum are Cheshire organisations with delivery across Cheshire East, Cheshire West & Chester, Halton and Warrington.

3.17 Both policing and resilience have the potential to be part of devolution arrangements as they are included in the current consultation. The Police and Crime Commissioners Office are leading an exploratory piece of work to consider a pan-Cheshire community safety partnership in a devolved administration. How this impacts in Halton is to be determined and understood hence, the board will be updated further during the municipal year on how the arrangements progress and the impacts in Halton.

4.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 The Community Safety & Protection division accords with the statutory functions and requirements across a range of legislation:

- Crime & Disorder Act 1988
- Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime & Policing Act 2014
- Counter Terrorism & Securities Act 2015
- CCTV Arrangements 2012 & 2013
- Domestic Abuse Act 2021
- Environmental Protection Act 1990
- Civil Contingencies Act 2004

5.0 **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 None to report.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S

6.1 Improving Health, Promoting Wellbeing and Supporting Greater Independence

The divisions delivery impacts a cleaner, greener, safer borough which directly influences and facilitates the environment in which residents feel able to be independent.

6.2 Building a Strong, Sustainable Local Economy

The division contribute to Halton's environment and attractiveness for investment in the borough.

6.3 Supporting Children, Young People and Families

The divisions services have targeted approaches with vulnerable cohorts, i.e. young people involved in ASB; children who have experienced domestic abuse having a direct impact on this priority.

6.4 Tackling Inequality and Helping Those Who Are Most In Need

The divisions delivery in supporting domestic abuse survivors and families and work in tackling crime and disorder which disproportionately effects deprived communities provides targeted approaches to those most in need.

6.5 Working Towards a Greener Future

The Divisions enforcement and licensing responsibilities directly impact this priority tackling environmental crime.

6.6 Valuing and Appreciating Halton and Our Community

Amongst the divisions objectives are priorities to tackle crime and disorder and support residents who are victims. This is significant investment into Halton's community to support and improved outcomes.

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

7.1 There are no risks associated with this report.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

8.1 None to report.

9.0 CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS

9.1 None to report.

10.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

'None under the meaning of the Act.'