

2021-2024

**PPP STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT**

**March 2023**

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# Foreword

The Public Protection Partnership (PPP) is a shared service delivering Environmental Health, Licensing and Trading Standards functions on behalf of two authorities (Partners), Bracknell Forest Council and West Berkshire Council. It also delivers a range of commissioned services to other organisations including Wokingham Borough Council.

The Partnership delivers services encompassing a wide range of areas of responsibility from environmental protection to fair trading, food safety to animal health, housing standards to taxi licensing, and much more.

Our vision is protect and support residents and legitimate businesses through the successful use of information and intelligence, delivering safe and healthy neighbourhoods.

The nature of the shared service means that we have greater resilience and robustness to cope with unforeseen challenges such as disease outbreaks, large scale investigations etc. Our team of dedicated officers, external partners and elected Members work closely together in order to provide good quality services and value for money for our residents, businesses and the authorities we serve.

This iteration of the Service Plan follows three challenging years for the service. Two were dominated by the operational response to Covid19 and saw the service operate on a seven day basis for twenty-two months which was closely followed by the team’s delivery of the Homes for Ukraine Scheme and more latterly the response to the cost of living challenges.

Looking ahead the service now faces immediate and longer term challenges including a significant loss of income especially in the licensing sector and difficulties associated with the recruitment of qualified and experienced officers. The Service will be looking to overcome these challenges through workforce planning and actively engaging our training and development plan.

I am confident that, as my year of chairing the Joint Public Protection Committee comes to an end, our residents and legitimate businesses will continue to enjoy high levels of protection through effective communication and use of the Service’s expertise, resources and critical mass and we will continue to preserve the health, wellbeing and safety of the communities we serve.

**Councillor Thomas Marino**

**2022-23 Chairman of the JPPC**

# Introduction

The Public Protection Partnership’s (PPP) Strategic Assessment seeks to bring together national, regional and local information to identify priority areas which will have the greatest positive impact on the communities it serves.

By identifying key local threats, emerging issues and priority areas this document will help the Joint Public Protection Committee fulfil its obligations to set the priorities for the Service.

The 2023 refresh builds on the 2021-23 document (updated in May 2022) and its predecessor produced in June 2019. It also seeks to build upon the work of environmental health, licensing and trading standards.

The PPP faces significant challenges in demands for the service and also matters that arise that were unforeseen such as the Homes for Ukraine or Cost of Living Hub. The service has proved itself as agile and able to adapt at short notice. This is helped by the structure which means that we have the tools in place to adapt such as the intelligence, customer service, policy and communication functions.

The focus in June 2021 included an emphasis on Covid response and recovery. Since then there have been a number of changes and factors that have affected the priorities of the service and these include:

• Wokingham Borough Council leaving the Public Protection Partnership (PPP) and forming a new shared service for trading standards, case management etc.

• The Homes for Ukraine Scheme which has seen us involved in over 300 accommodation checks in Bracknell and West Berkshire as well as welfare checks in West Berkshire and hosting the Ukraine Hub.

• The challenges to residents and business faced by high energy costs and increased cost of living related issues. We have also hosted the Cost of Living Hub for West Berkshire.

In addition there have been a number of legislative changes; local and national policy changes and funding opportunities.

This document is divided into three key areas:



Themes are designed to be top level, broad subject headers which match up with the most important and relevant areas of the two partner Council’s Strategies.

Priorities are the more specific areas of work that have been shown to be most important to the areas of Bracknell Forest and West Berkshire.

Projects are the way the service will deliver the priorities, bringing together the expertise of the staff to solve problems which affect the communities we serve.

# Executive Summary

The partnership is responsible for ensuring an appropriate level of service across a very broad range of topics, including the compliance with, and enforcement of hundreds of pieces of legislation. This combines with a significant amount of preventative and educational work designed to minimise the impact of crime, poor health and a polluted environment.

# Key Findings from 2022-23

The work handled by the partnership falls into three broad categories:

**Reactive** - responding to and investigating complaints and requests for service.

**Projects** - defined pieces of work that are linked to the Themes and Priorities.

**Planned Work Activity** – routine audits, inspections, investigations.

## Reactive

The Partnership is often called upon to play a direct role in the Local Authorities’ responses to emerging issues. In 2022 the Service has supported Bracknell and West Berkshire Councils deliver on the implementation of the Homes for Ukraine Scheme and the response to the Cost of Living challenges facing many in our communities.

In West Berkshire the PPP started managing the Ukraine Support Hub which came together at the end of March 2022. The team provided a number of roles including DBS checks, updating data, organising accommodation checks, being a single point of contact for all queries, confirming residency, community engagement and welfare.

In both Bracknell Forest and West Berkshire PPP Officers undertook accommodation checks to confirm that the accommodation was suitable to house the number of guests being accommodated.

Another key event of 2022 was the decision by Wokingham Borough Council to bring back in-house its environmental health and licensing functions from the 1st April 2022. On the same day Wokingham entered into an arrangement for the delivery of a number of functions including trading standards, case management, financial investigations, intelligence and air quality. This arrangement is set to run until January 2027.

The service has proved itself as agile and able to adapt at short notice. This is helped by the structure which means that we have the tools in place to adapt such as the intelligence, customer service, policy and communication functions.

Food Enquiries

* **593** service requests were recorded relating to food in 2022/23, this is a decrease when compared to the previous year’s total of 1092 (45%) but that included the requests for the then three partner authorities.

Planning

* The volume of planning enquiries has also decreased from 869 to 478 (45%) but again does not constitute a like for like comparison as the 2021/22 data covers three authorities.

Noise Nuisance

* The partnership saw a 35% decrease from the previous year, with **1071** service requests received relating to domestic and commercial noise. This again reflects a reduction t=from three to two authorities and could also relate to a decreased level of home working as people returned to workplaces.

Animal Health and Welfare

* 49 service requests were recorded relating to animal health in 2022/23

Envirocrime

* **466** service requests were recorded relating to envirocrime and fly tipping which was a 15% increase based on the **404** in 2021/22

Doorstep Crime and Scams

* The partnership recorded **159** reports of doorstep crime and scams which was a slight (7.5%) decrease on the 171 recorded the previous year.

Pest Control

* The partnership saw a decrease (39%) from 564 service requests in 2021/22 to **340** in 2022/23 but the 2021/22 figures related to the then three partner authorities.

Housing

* The number of housing requests also decreased from 1017 service requests in 2021/22 to **635,** a decrease of 37% but once again reflects the change from three to two partner authorities.

Bonfires

* Service requests relating to bonfires decreased from 333in 2021/22 to 152 in 2022/23 but also represents a change from three to two partner authorities

## Projects

The Partnership engaged in a number of projects over 2022/23 including:

Support with Confidence Scheme

* The scheme provides a list of approved care and/or support services that have been vetted on the grounds of quality, safety and training.
* The Scheme has 59 Current members across the partnership

Air quality

* Education campaign and competition ran in schools to educate children on vehicle idling and NO2 emissions from exhausts.
* Introduced PM2.5 monitoring in Wokingham

Community Larder

* Introduction of the first community larder in Thatcham: a location to access food that is surplus, engage with communities and access additional services.

Water Safety Partnership

* The team worked with colleagues from Thames Valley Police and the Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service to support Water Safety Partnership events at a number of venues across both districts during the spring and summer of 2022.
* Ongoing support provided to the partnership in terms of communication, hosting resources on the PPP website and attendance at meetings.

Smokefree Sidelines

* Involved the team working with the Football Association as well as colleagues in Oxforshire and Buckinghamshire in supporting youth grassroots football clubs with going smokefree at the side-lines during matches.

Electric Blanket Testing

* A week of electric blanket safety awareness including testing between the 31 October and 04 November 2022 alongside colleagues at the Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service. This was conducted in Bracknell, West Berkshire and Wokingham.

Vaping

* Following the concerning increase in vaping amongst teenagers, the team have pulled together a project involving communications, presentations and enforcement for products that are unsafe and illegal to be sold from shops across the areas.

## Planned Work Activity

Local authorities are required, through a variety of legislative mechanisms, to undertake a range of activities. Some examples have been listed below to help understand the context:

* Feed, Food Standards and Hygiene Inspections
* Taxi and Private Hire Drivers
* Over Weight and Over Laden Vehicle Inspections
* Private Sector Housing Inspections (using the Housing Health and Safety Rating System)
* Private Water Supplies Inspections
* Petroleum Inspections
* Explosives Inspections

A number of the programmed inspections were heavily disrupted due to the impact of the coronavirus business closure restrictions and public health measures. During 2022/23 a lot of work was centred on recovery plans post the pandemic. Much of this work has now been completed.

Delays in implementing the new ICloud IT system has meant that much of the work in early 2023 has been focussed on uploading the backlog of data onto the new system. Work continues to rectify areas of data transfer which are causing difficulties with system functionality but large parts of the system are now fully functional. Optimising the use of the on-line portal (which was one of the key features of the system) is a significant part of our identified transformation programme.

# Themes

It is important for the Partnership to ensure that it remains relevant and in step with current issues affecting the communities it serves. There is an extensive amount of information available from relevant organisations and partners from different professions that should be considered in the work plan. They often point to emerging problems that should be evaluated by the partnership, not necessarily to solve in the short term but as a helpful signpost to gaps in our understanding that require further research. Information collected through this process will help ensure future work plans are based on the best available evidence.

The overarching themes for the PPP are set out in detail in schedule 5 to the Inter Authority Agreement, these are;-

* Community Protection;
* Protecting and Improving Health;
* Protecting the Environment;
* Supporting Prosperity and Economic Growth;
* Effective and Improving Service Delivery;
* Partnership Working.

# Priorities

Cross Cutting Priorities

* eCrime;
* Climate Change and Environmental Protection;
* Protecting Vulnerable Adults and Children;
* Safeguarding (including Modern Slavery);
* Safer Streets;
* Protecting and Improving Health. (added in March 2023)

Other Priorities

* Health and Safety Enforcement;
* Improving Air Quality;
* Alcohol and Tobacco Harm Reduction;
* Animal Welfare;
* Nutrition and Childhood Obesity;
* Tackling Fraud;
* Environmental Protection;
* Food Safety and Standards;
* Housing Standards in the Private Rental Sector;
* Impact of Nuisance on Residents and Communities;
* Unsafe Consumer Goods;
* Licensing; (added in March 2023)
* Cost of Living; (added in March 2023)
* Service Improvement. (added in March 2023)

## Cross Cutting Priorities

### eCrime

The partnership will continue to look for opportunities to tackle consumer and business detriment caused by eCrime across all its themes, priorities and projects.

Between January 2018 and March 2021, where a purchase medium was reported: a third of all Trading Standards service requests to the partnership related to online purchases. Online transactions surpassed traditional purchase methods of trader premises by 7%.

The coronavirus pandemic and resulting public health measures restricting the opening of all but essential trade premises resulted in a further substantial shift to e- commerce. In comparing figures between 2019 and 2020 an increase can be seen of 93.2% in the volume of complaints solely relating to transactions completed via websites, apps, unsolicited email or internet auctions

The PPP Work plan of 2017 identified that growth of online trading showed no sign of levelling off, and both the 2017 and 2019 Work plan identified that PPP must ensure all teams have access to the skills necessary to operate within that environment. Online trading continues to grow exponentially and it is social media platforms are increasingly used as a method of trading in wider fields including illegal tobacco and flytipping.

As such staff must continue to be developed to deal with the ongoing challenges of online trading, complex social media platforms and all the associated intelligence gathering required to successfully disrupt and prosecute such matters.

### Climate Change and Environmental Protection

Climate Change is one of the major issues of our time. Both Councils have clear and expansive climate change plans with targets around air quality, housing, environmental protection and carbon reduction.

The Public Protection Partnership has a significant role to play in relation to the local plans to tackle climate change. These include traditional areas such as air quality and environmental protection but also extend to other areas around the enforcement of climate change legislation relating to matters such as energy performance of buildings and goods and single use plastics to the links with the housing functions to cold homes, energy efficiency and environmental high standards in private rented accommodation. There are also links to green energy claims and fraud as well as the food agenda around local food and farming standards claims. Finally there are the links to licensing and the possibilities relating to the taxi and private hire fleets.

### Protecting Vulnerable Adults and Children

Protecting vulnerable adults and children remains a key priority for the PPP.

A significant number of front line officers operate in the community and play an essential role in the identification and protection of individuals at risk of abuse or neglect.

Increased social isolation and the current cost of living situation may give rise to opportunistic criminals taking advantage of the most vulnerable members of our community. New research has found that the rising cost of living has become a key factor in the increase in scams, counterfeit goods and unsafe products and food fraud.

It could also lead to a fall in living standards which could in turn impact on people’s physical and mental health and could exacerbate conditions like damp and mould in homes.

Other areas that the service will be looking at in the coming period will include the adherence of licensed gambling establishments to licence conditions.

The PPP will continue to support officers and managers to develop their skills in communication, their knowledge of safeguarding and partnership working, and educate them in the key identifiers for vulnerability.

### **Safeguarding (including modern slavery)**

Safeguarding is an essential and crucial aspect of local authority work.

All members of our community have a right to live in safety, free from abuse and neglect. The PPP provide their services within the community and representatives must recognise the categories of abuse, and understand their duty to safeguard vulnerable individuals using the appropriate referral routes. To this end the service has mandatory safeguarding training for all officers, and increased the resilience and resource in supporting Fraud Victim Support who work closely with other parts of the service, relevant agencies and local safeguarding teams.

Modern slavery is the illegal exploitation of people for personal or commercial gain. It covers a wide range of abuse and exploitation including sexual exploitation, domestic servitude, forced labour, criminal exploitation and organ harvesting.[[1]](#footnote-1)

It is recognised that the hidden nature of modern slavery makes producing an accurate prevalence measure difficult. Increased awareness and reporting since the introduction of the modern slavery legislation in UK in 2015 are likely to have contributed to the increases seen in victim numbers.[[2]](#footnote-2)

The PPP may encounter modern slavery as part of any of workstream and staff must remain vigilant to the indicators of modern slavery, and remain abreast of those networks and referral pathways to support, report and feed in intelligence relating to modern servitude. Particular areas for heightened vigilance include the work that the PPP undertakes relating to rogue traders, poor housing conditions, visits to domestic premises, and trader and site premise inspections.

In addition to safeguarding training requirements for taxi, private hire and home to school transport drivers PPP are considering the role of safeguarding training as part of the safer streets agenda including offering safeguarding training to persons working in some retail and hospitality settings.

A whole team workshop will be taking place in July 2023 which is themed around the topic of safeguarding to broaden awareness across the Service.

### Safer Streets

The Partnership can play a key role in tackling neighbourhood crime and anti- social behaviour. There are clear links to the licensing objectives as well as the role of trading standards and the community team. Working in partnership with other agencies, and through the use of targeted crime prevention measures and problem solving approaches the PPP can contribute to making the streets of West Berkshire and Bracknell Forest safer.

Through the promotion of safeguarding, raising public awareness and encouraging reporting through education work with the general public, the licensed trade, taxis and private hire vehicles and retailers.

* Promote retailer schemes such as Pubwatch and Shopsafe
* Extension of Community Alcohol Partnership arrangements which play a key role in seeking to reduce alcohol harm in local communities from drinking by young people.
* Enforcement of age restriction legislation for alcohol
* Develop existing PPP alcohol programme in secondary schools to increase emphasis on ASB and personal risk.
* Tackle low level environmental crime that’s leads to a feeling of lawlessness
* Work with staff in higher risk settings to develop an understanding of risk and safeguarding.

### Protecting and Improving Health

The Partnership can play a key role in supporting residents to live as well as possible for as long as possible and promoting the health and wellbeing of our residents through proactive projects and reactive work.

* Maximise participation in targeted healthy eating schemes / programmes targeted at our children and young people.
* Work with local health groups, schools and early years education providers.
* Monitor data from Public Health England on infectious disease risk profiles.
* Active media campaigns on food related matters including hygiene, safety, allergens, health claims etc.
* Contribute to the development and delivery of health and well-being strategies in our partner authorities and consider data included in Joint Strategic Needs Assessments and understand local Indices of Multiple Deprivation.
* Work to support the wider tobacco and alcohol reduction across key stages in children’s educational development.
* Maximise participation in targeted health projects designed to reduce consumption and smoking rates.
* Routine targeted test purchase campaigns

## Other Priorities

### Health and Safety Enforcement

* Investigation of workplace accidents.
* Information campaigns for employers and employees to reflect trends e.g. falls from height.
* Partnership working with HSE to conduct intelligence led audits.
* Publication of legal actions.
* Continue to carry out Health and Safety enforcement visits to support migration schemes.
* Inspection of high risk premises e.g. petroleum and explosives storage.

### Improving Air Quality[[3]](#footnote-3)

* Provide air quality monitoring for Wokingham and produce an annual status report within the terms of the new Inter-Authority Agreement.
* Continue the work developed during the Defra grant funded project around air quality around schools to discourage idling of vehicles including engagement with Schools and the wider population.
* Work with school transport teams to look at options to incentivise low and no emission vehicles.
* The Environmental Targets (Fine Particulate Matter) (England) Regulations 2023 were published 31/01/2023 and state that PM2.5 interim target of 12 microgrammes/m3 to be met by end 2027 and long term target of 10 microgrammes/m3 by 2040. This will require additional monitoring in addition to the NO monitoring already carried out.
* Actively engage in the planning and transport policy process including EV.
* Deliver annual status reports.

### Alcohol and Tobacco Harm Reduction

* Change scope of this work to include alcohol, tobacco and vaping;
* Continue to deliver a comprehensive education and enforcement programme around the issue of vaping and the sales of vaping products to under 18s and the sale of illegal vaping products (Operation Tanoak).
* Increase intelligence around illegal vaping product sales.
* Agree a new Tobacco Control Alliance Plan for Berkshire West.
* Continue to work with Bracknell Forest Public Health Team around the extension of existing extremes into Bracknell Forest.

### Animal Welfare

* Increase significantly the activity around illegal (unlicensed) animal breeding and retailing including further development of problem profiles and, licensing and wider enforcement action.
* New rules around records for animal transportation are set to be brought in.
* Work with animal owners, farmers and licenced establishments to maintain standards.
* Publicise welfare related cases.
* Develop staff to undertake complex welfare investigations.

### Tackling Fraud

* Work with Thames Valley Police to deliver a new operating model for tackling fraud in line with TVP and PPP priorities. This will include victim support and enforcement / intervention and working with the new TVP fraud unit. Joint Operations will be stepped up.
* Continue to seek grant funding to support Level 2 / Level 3 fraud and unfair trading legislation.
* Carry out operations to identify and tackle intellectual property crimes.
* Look at options to share resource to tackle money laundering with other local authorities to increase capacity and resilience.
* Support victims through scam friend’s initiatives including call blockers / doorbell cameras etc.
* Active media campaigns to raise awareness.

### Environmental Protection

* Continue to work with CSAS accredited organisations to develop environmental protections and enforcement whilst developing the CSAS scheme to provide for additional powers.
* Extend existing enforcement of fly-tipping and waste carriage in Bracknell Forest to include other areas of environmental crime such as fly-posting.
* Deliver our advice and enforcement role on the ‘Deposit return Scheme for Bottles’ should the draft legislation be implemented. This will fall to PPP and the Shared Trading Standards Service.
* The ‘single use plastic’ ban is expected to be extended in October 2023. PPP will have advice and enforcement responsibility at local level.
* Implement a new enforcement regime around ‘minimum energy efficiency standards’.

### Food Safety and Standards

* Complete the final year of the food safety inspection ‘Covid Recovery Plan’ as set out by the Food Standards Agency.
* Implement the new food standards risk based inspection regime.
* Deliver an intelligence led food sampling and analysis programme in co-ordination with the Food Standards Agency, Trading Standards South East and the Public Analyst with focus on health claims, food fraud and allergens.

### Housing Standards in the Private Rental Sector

* Look at extending the work we do around ‘empty homes’ in Bracknell Forest and West Berkshire with a view to bringing more homes back into use.
* Consider the outcomes and implications arising from West Berkshire Homes Conditions Survey due in early 2023/24 and work with the Housing Service and Energy Team to look at options for improvements and change.
* Continue to support the Homes for Ukraine and other migration schemes with accommodation suitability and safety checks as required.
* Implement the new MoU with Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service around common and shared enforcement. This will include joint visits as required.
* Continue to deliver our new protocols around tackling damp and mould in the home and respond to any government requirements for information.
* Develop further our protocols with Social Landlords.
* Significant numbers of Houses of Multiple Occupancy’s (HMOs) to be re-licensed in 2023/24. Programme of enforcement to identify and tackle the issues around unlicensed HMO’s.

### Impact of Nuisance on Residents and Communities

* In addition to domestic and commercial noise complaints there has been a significant return of events. We will work with event organisers to ensure that licensing objective obligations and that environmental protection laws are complied with.
* The trend towards people working from home is likely to continue and this will have an impact on the number and type of noise complaints we receive.

### Unsafe Consumer Goods

* Continued implementation of advice an enforcement regime relating to the sale of illegal vaping products.
* Further enforcement work around the sale of counterfeit goods to ensure that unsafe counterfeit goods to do nota make it onto the local market.
* Advice and Enforcement programme relating to the sale and supply of botox and filler treatments.

### Licensing

* Complete the implementation of the proposed Taxi and Private Hire Licensing Polices.
* Conduct a comprehensive review of fees and charges and the resource needed to deliver an effective and comprehensive licensing service in the context of falling income and the implementation of the new service portal.
* Develop the work we are doing with TVP and other partners to deliver safer streets and reduce the incidence of violence against women, girls and others.
* Identify and take appropriate action against illegal animal breeders and sellers.
* Undertake a review of DBS taxi plus/knowledge tests.
* Implementation of Martyn’s Law.
* Undertake work around the DfT guidance consultation.

### Cost of Living

* Support wider Council initiatives to reduce the impacts of cost of living rises including such areas as scams, cold and damp homes and risks associated with illegal money lending.

### Service Improvement

* Deliver the workforce strategy to ensure with we have a sustainable and responsive intelligence led service that meets the needs of residents, businesses and the wider Council Plan agendas.
* Look at options to develop our community based service model using learning from recent activity around Covid, Homes for Ukraine and Cost of Living.
* Embed the new single system and look for opportunities to improve customer service and drive service efficiencies.
* Deliver against the service standards set in the new Inter-Authority Agreement with Wokingham.

# Projects

Each Project will link to one or more Priorities, which in turn links to a Theme.

These are designed by the Joint Management Team, in consultation with key technical staff, to provide everyone involved with a clear steer on how to deliver the priorities. This will improve the allocation of resources, ensure consistency and develop the strength of governance across the partnership.

# Partnership Contracts and Service Level Agreements

The Partnership has built up a number of areas of expertise that have become possible to sell to others. This inevitably has a bearing on how decisions are made and paying customers must receive the level of service promised to them. In determining priorities the partnership will honour its commitments and make the necessary resources available to meet contractual obligations, these are:

* Case Management – Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue
* Case Management – Oxfordshire Trading Standards
* Case Management – Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue
* Public Health – Youth Tobacco Strategy – Reading Borough Council
* Financial Investigation – Reading Borough Council
* Financial Investigation – Wokingham Borough Council
* Support with Confidence – West Berkshire and Wokingham
* London Road Waste Site – Bracknell Forest Borough Council
* Animal Feed Enforcement – Oxfordshire and other SE authorities
* Animal Health and Welfare – Slough Borough Council
* Level 2 and 3 Investigations – National Trading Standards Board

In addition the Service has also entered into an agreement with Wokingham to deliver a number of functions including trading standards, case management, financial investigations, intelligence and air quality. This arrangement is set to run until January 2027

# Examination of political, economic, social, technological, environmental, legal, organisational and media (PESTELOM) factors

|  |
| --- |
| Political |
| **Local**   * Elections will mean change of Licensing Chairs in West Berkshire and Bracknell Forest and new Membership of Committees across both authorities. * New Members on JPPC |
| **National**   * The exit from the EU requires us to keep these areas under review:   + Intelligence: reduced checks at port may affect the flow and accessibility of intelligence   + Product Safety: from July 2021 full declarations from EU goods may cause increases in notifications to authorities with EU imports. In addition distributors may find themselves acting now as importer/exporters.   + Food Safety: Ensuring businesses meet new labelling requirements, potential compositional issues, lowering of standards and novel foods. |
| Economic |
| **Local**   * Return of night time economy, necessity to support businesses subject to business closures * Reduced number of licensing applications from taxi trade, temporary events and licensed premises due to restrictions and closure |
| **National**   * Economic recovery will feature as a significant national priority in the coming period. * Impact of increased cost of living. |
| Social |
| **Local**   * Consider the impacts arising from the new ways that many are now working e.g. working from home |
| **National**   * Contribute to the national agenda to support society and residents and businesses through the recovery stage of the pandemic and cost of living crisis. |
| Technological |
| **Local**   * Moved to cloud based single system in December 2022 * Develop PPP ICT strategy in-line with two authority shared service arrangement * Develop the approach that has started through Coronavirus restrictions to extend the use of technology to reduce travel and drive efficiency. |
| **National**   * Promote the use of the national intelligence database |
| Environmental |
| **Local**   * All Council Environment Strategies[[4]](#footnote-4) highlights objectives to reduce improve air quality * Flooding risk in PPP areas |
| **National**   * Climate change – flooding and impact on agriculture * Certification scheme, labelling requirements and restrictions on sale of domestic solid fuels[[5]](#footnote-5) |
| Legal |
| **Local**   * Implementation of changes to CPIA with respect to investigations * Ensure staff are properly trained to deliver effective investigations within the CPIA / PACE / RIPA framework |
| **National**   * New Legislative Bills:   + Environment Bill: proposes to provide for more effective litter enforcement and strength local powers in relation to improving air quality and enforcement.   + Online Safety Bill: proposes the appointment of an online safety regulator. Government has ambitions to tackle a greater number of online scam cases which will have an impact on Trading Standards work.   + Animal Welfare Plan and Legislation: Action Plan for Animal Welfare and legislation to be created. The proposal will improve standards in zoo and tackle puppy smuggling.   + Draft Victims Bill: will enshrine the 12 key rights in the Victim’s Code into law.   + Obesity: measures will be brought in to support the health and wellbeing of the nation, including to tackle obesity.   + Building Safety Bill: introduces new duties on responsible parties, and a new framework to provide national oversight of construction products.   + Martyn’s Law |
| Organisational |
| **Local**   * Exit of Wokingham from Partnership * Formation of the new two authority shared service arrangement * Extend and develop where appropriate other cross-border working arrangements where it conducive to sustained or improved core service delivery * Delivery of grow our own workforce strategy. |
| **National**   * Worked with TSSE / CTSI on Level 6 Apprenticeship development for Trading Standards |
| Media |
| **Local**   * Updated Communications Strategy * Encourage reporting on priority areas |
| **National**   * Contribute to national identified projects and media requests |

1. Definition provided by Thames Valley Police [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Office for National Statistics: Modern slavery in the UK, March 2020 [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment, HM Government [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. West Berkshire Council Environment Strategy 2020-2030; Wokingham Borough Council Sustainable Environment Strategy 2010-2020; Bracknell Forest Council Climate Change Strategy 2020-2024 [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. The Air Quality (Domestic Solid Fuels Standards) (England) Regulations 2020 came into force in England on 1 May 2021. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)