

Portfolio Holder Decision

Approval for Countywide Your Say on Community Say Survey

Portfolio Holder	Portfolio Holder for Fire & Rescue and Community Safety
Date of decision	17 April 2024
	Signed 

1. Decision taken

- 1.1 The Portfolio Holder for Fire & Rescue and Community Safety approves the commencement of the Your Say on Community Safety survey to be carried out in late spring / summer 2024.

2. Reasons for decisions

- 2.1 Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) are required under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to carry out a Strategic Assessment and use this to set priorities and prepare a partnership plan. In Warwickshire, these assessments are undertaken on a four-year cycle with annual reviews. Full assessments will be undertaken in 2024, to enable new priorities to be proposed to each CSP Board in early 2025.
- 2.2 Strategic Assessments should take into consideration information relating to crime and disorder given to the responsible authorities by persons living and working in the area.
- 2.3 The Strategic Assessments for each of the four CSPs in Warwickshire will be led by the Community Safety Analysts. These posts are funded by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and based within the Council's Business Intelligence team. The County Council is a responsible authority on the CSPs.
- 2.4 Undertaking a countywide Your Say on Community Safety Survey would support CSPs to meet their statutory duty to take into consideration information provided by those living and working in the area. In broader terms, it would also provide a wealth of information to enable partners, including the Council's Community Safety team, to target projects and initiatives and understand the influences on residents'

feelings of safety.

3. Background information

- 3.1 The last countywide Your Say on Community Safety Survey took place in 2020. An online survey and face-to-face engagement were planned when this was launched in February 2020, but the face-to-face elements had to be abandoned due to the Covid pandemic.
- 3.2 If approved, the 2024 survey will include both online and face-to-face engagement. The online survey will be hosted on the Ask Warwickshire platform and ask a range of questions designed to understand residents' feelings of safety, the impact of crime and anti-social behaviour on this and what partner agencies may be able to do to support people to be and feel safer.
- 3.3 Face-to-face engagement will also be undertaken utilising a shorter question set at events already taking place. These will include engagement events funded through the Safer Streets project that are being held during the survey period, with other opportunities to be explored with partners and other Council service areas.
- 3.4 Both elements are designed to seek the views of residents on community safety issues to complement the Strategic Assessment. This not a formal consultation exercise, but a form of engagement to gather ideas and data to better inform the CSP moving forward.
- 3.5 The Community Safety and Business Intelligence teams are conscious of the need to avoid overloading residents with requests to complete surveys. Consequently, discussions will take place with partners (including Warwickshire Police and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner) to explore options for aligning any upcoming survey activity.
- 3.6 The teams are also conscious of the potential sensitivity associated with elements of this subject area. The question set will be finalised in consultation with Community Safety partners, including Marketing and Communications, and wording considered carefully to manage expectations.
- 3.7 Postcode information will need to be collected in the survey to enable respondents to be grouped by different geographies within Warwickshire as part of the analysis. The Information Management team have been consulted and an explanation of why this information is required and how it will be used will be included in the survey, along with the relevant Privacy Notices.
- 3.8 If approved, the aim is to launch the survey in May following the Local and Police and Crime Commissioner elections. Analysis will be undertaken by the Business Intelligence team in late summer, to enable the findings to be included in the Strategic Assessment development process in the autumn.

4. Financial Implications

- 4.1 There are no additional financial implications for the authority arising directly from this report. The engagement will be undertaken within existing staff resources as part of day-to-day business and utilise engagement events already taking place. Any recommendations for change that emerge from the Strategic Assessment work will be factored into future budget planning exercises.

5. Environmental Implications

- 5.1 There are no additional environmental implications for the authority arising directly from this report.

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Urgent matter?	No
Confidential or exempt?	No
Is the decision contrary to the budget and policy framework?	No

List of background papers

None

Members and officers consulted and informed

Portfolio Holder – Councillor Andy Crump

Corporate Board – Mark Ryder, Executive Director for Communities

Legal –Nichola Vine, Head of Legal and Governance

Finance – Virginia Rennie, Director of Finance

Equality – Delroy Madden, Team Manager - Equality, Diversity, Inclusion and Wellbeing

Democratic Services – Amy Bridgewater-Carnall, Senior Democratic Services Officer, Nic Conway, Trainee Democratic Services Officer

Councillors – Chair & Spokes of Communities OSC

Local Member(s): None this is a County wide report