

<b>LEADER OF THE COUNCIL</b>	<b>DATE</b> 11 September 2023
<b>TITLE</b> Consultation on the incoming Serious Violence Duty	<b>WARD (S)</b> All Wards
<b>CHIEF OFFICER</b> Director of Housing and Safer Communities	<b>CABINET MEMBER</b> Community Safety and Enforcement
<b>DECISION CLASSIFICATION</b> Non-key decision	<b>IS THE FINAL DECISION ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS IN THIS REPORT TO BE MADE AT THIS MEETING?</b> Yes

**1. Decision required**

This report makes the following recommendations to the decision-maker:

- 1.1 Approve commencement of a statutory consultation in respects to the Serious Violence Duty, which is encompassed in the Police Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 and is part of the Governments broad approach to prevent and reduce serious violence.
- 1.2 To delegate responsibility to the Director of Housing & Safer Communities to conduct the consultation exercise, review its results and then bring forward a report setting out the proposed Strategy to Cabinet.

Signed.....Date:

Councillor Anthony Okereke, Leader of the Council

**2. Links to Our Greenwich missions**

2.1 This report relates to the Council’s agreed missions as follows:

- People will not experience discrimination
- Everyone in Greenwich is safer, and feels safer
- Neighbourhoods are vibrant, safe and attractive with community services that meet the needs of local residents
- Our Council is better at listening to communities, and communities feel they are heard

- We develop networks with communities, key partners and businesses to meet need and address challenges together
- We design our services around the needs of our residents

2.2 This decision report supports the delivery of the Council’s missions, by developing a strategic needs assessment accompanied by publication of an annual strategy to prevent and reduce serious violence on a local basis.

2.3 The Serious Violence Duty also requires the council to consult with stakeholders such as Education, Health, Childrens Social Care, Adult Social Care, Probation, Prison and Youth Custody as part of the Safer Greenwich Partnership, however more essentially local communities. Thorough consultation in this area is imperative to support the implementation and delivery of the overall strategy.

### 3. **Purpose of Report and Executive Summary**

3.1 This report seeks agreement to go out for consultation in respect of the Serious Crime Duty as set out in the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 ( “PCSCA”). The Act requires the Council and other authorities to work together and plan to prevent and reduce serious violence, including identifying the kinds of serious violence that occur in the area, the causes of that violence (so far as it is possible to do so), and to prepare and implement a strategy for preventing, and reducing serious violence in the area. The Duty also requires the Council to consult with specified agencies in the preparation of their strategy.

3.2 By consulting and identifying the early indicators and risk factors of serious violence, the Council and key agencies can develop appropriate strategies, implement the right interventions and divert individuals away from violent crime.

3.3 Tackling serious violent crime is a duty under the PCSCA and one of the councils’ key priorities.

### 4. **Introduction and Background**

Consulting with communities and key agencies increases the scope of information available to the council to better inform decision making in implementing and developing the proposed Serious Violence Strategy.

- 4.1 The Royal Borough of Greenwich is committed to preventing and reducing serious violence in the borough. It is a priority area for the Safer Greenwich Partnership which is being delivered under the Violence and Vulnerability action plan and the new Home Office Serious Violence duty.
- 4.2 The Royal Borough of Greenwich has one of the highest rates of violent crimes in London. In the last 5 years, 35 homicides were recorded in the borough, of which 19 involved a knife or sharp implement.
- 4.3 The Government requires local authorities to work together to share information, analyse the situation locally and produce solutions, inclusive of an annual strategy to prevent and reduce serious violence on a local basis. The strategy aims to demonstrate the cause of serious violence in Royal Greenwich and details of existing and proposed actions to prevent and reduce serious violence and its drivers that have been identified. The duty will require local authorities to consult with key stakeholders and communities to satisfy the requirements.
- 4.4 Under the duty Safer Greenwich Partnership will be required to produce an evidence based Strategic Needs Assessment (SNA) to identify current and long-term issues in relation to serious violence and will need to understand emerging trends. The SNA will require data from a wide range of partners and organisations.

#### Proposed Consultation Approach

- 4.5 The proposed consultation will take place over a period of 4 weeks during September 2023.
- 4.6 The primary method of consultation will involve use of an online survey, public surveying and focus groups within communities, to assess the impact Serious violence has on communities. Demographic questions, although optional, will be used to monitor intersectional engagement with diverse and marginalised communities and to support completion of the Equality Impact Assessment which will accompany the final decision report. An example of questions for residents/ communities to consult on can be found in appendix two.
- 4.7 Direct consultation will be undertaken with statutory consultees (Key Stakeholders within the Safer Greenwich Partnership) and other specific stakeholders (The Safer Neighbourhood Board, local Independent Advisory Group, etc) who do or may represent the interests of those living, working, or visiting the Royal Borough. During the consultation process, additional

virtual briefings and consultation events will be considered for target audiences for example elected members representing their local constituents and communities. A template has been developed incorporating aims and objectives for all Key stakeholders in which they will complete and consult on (see appendix one).

- 4.8 Working with the Royal Borough Media Team, there will be appropriate publicity of the consultation process, including via the Council's website and other social media channels. Local press will also be considered where practicable and achievable against current timelines.

#### Post Consultation

- 4.9 Consultation results will be reported to cabinet. Subject to a decision by Cabinet the results will be used as evidence to support the development and implementation of the strategy.

#### 5. **Available Options**

- 5.1 Option 1: Reject recommendation as proposed.
- 5.2 Option 2: Agree recommendations as proposed

#### 6. **Preferred Option**

- 6.1 Option 2 – Agree Recommendations

#### 7. **Reasons for Recommendations**

- 7.1 Consultation is a requirement of Chapter 1 of Part 2 of the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 ( "PCSCA") and will assist in identifying the early indicators and risk factors of serious violence which will in turn help key agencies to implement the right interventions and divert individuals away from violent crime.
- 7.2 Consulting with communities and key agencies increases the scope of information available to the council to better inform decision making in implementing and developing the proposed Serious Violence Strategy. communities voice.

#### 8. **Consultation Results**

- 8.1 The objective of this report is to gain permission to go out for consultation.

9. **Cross-Cutting Issues and Implications**

<b>Issue</b>	<b>Implications</b>	<b>Sign-off</b>
<b>Legal</b> including Human Rights Act	<p>Part 3 of the Councils Constitution provides that the Leader has delegated authority to initiate consultation on new draft corporate policies and strategies and amendments to existing ones.</p> <p>Effective consultation requires the Council to ensure that :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Consultation must take place when a decision is still at a formative stage.</li> <li>- The persons being consulted must be given sufficient information about the proposal and sufficient time to respond to allow them to make an intelligent response to the consultation.</li> <li>- The decision maker must conscientiously take the consultation into account when taking the decision. The statutory framework for the Consultation is set out in the report.</li> </ul>	<p><i>Azuka Onuorah</i>  <i>Head of Legal Services</i>            29 August 2023</p>
<b>Finance</b> and other resources	<p>The Leader of the Council is being asked to approve the commencement of a statutory consultation exercise into the Council’s new duty to prevent and reduce serious violence.</p> <p>The financial implications of such an exercise are minimal and can be contained within existing resources.</p> <p>The report author has indicated that this will be a non-key decision.</p>	<p><i>Michael Bate</i>  <i>Assistant Director of Corporate Finance</i>            6 September 2023</p>

<b>Equalities</b>	There are no equality implications specifically associated with the recommendations outlined in this report. An Equalities Impact Assessment will however be conducted prior to any final implementation decisions taken, and this will include feedback from the statutory consultation process planned. Regular monitoring and mitigation of any disproportionality, as far is practicable, will be a key priority.	<i>Charlene Noel Acting Head of Safer Spaces and Integrated Enforcement 23/08/2023</i>
<b>Climate change</b>	This report does not contribute to the Greenwich Carbon Neutral Plan agreed by Cabinet on 18 November 2020.	<i>Charlene Noel Acting Head of Safer Spaces and Integrated Enforcement 23/08/2023</i>
<b>Risk management</b>	This proposal should not generate any significant risks. It is hoped the Serious Violence Duty, if finally implemented, will help reduce community safety risk.	<i>Charlene Noel Acting Head of Safer Spaces and Integrated Enforcement 23/08/2023</i>
<b>Community safety</b>	The decisions recommended in this paper support our obligations under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and the Police Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022.	<i>Charlene Noel Acting Head of Safer Spaces and Integrated Enforcement 23/08/2023</i>

## 11. **Report Appendices**

### 11.1 Appendix one ( Serious Violence Duty Key Stakeholder Template)

11.2 Appendix two ( Serious Violence Duty Consultation Questions Residents/Communities)

12. **Background Papers**

None

Report Author: Charlene Noel Acting Head of Service Safer Spaces and Integrated Enforcement

Tel No. 020 8921 6803

Email. Charlene.noel@royalgreenwich.gov.uk

Reporting to: Leanna Minahan Assistant Director of Community Safety and Environmental Health

Tel No. 020 8921 3265

Email. Leanna.minahan@royalgreenwich.gov.uk

Chief Officer: Jamie Carswell Director of Housing and Safer Communities

Tel No. 020 8921 8291

Email. Jamie.carswell@royalgreenwich.gov.uk