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| <b>DECISION-MAKER:</b>   | OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE                                   |
| <b>SUBJECT:</b>          | DRAFT DOMESTIC ABUSE AND VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS STRATEGY 2023-2028 |
| <b>DATE OF DECISION:</b> | 13 <sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2022  |
| <b>REPORT OF:</b>        | COUNCILLOR MATHEW RENYARD<br>CABINET MEMBER FOR SAFER COMMUNITIES            |

| <b><u>CONTACT DETAILS</u></b> |               |  |                    |
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| <b>STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY</b>   |
| None  |
| <b>BRIEF SUMMARY</b>  |
| <p>The Southampton Domestic Abuse Strategic Partnership Board (“the Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board”), has commissioned the development of a new multi-agency five-year strategy (2023 – 2028). This strategy aims to tackle the continuum of Violence against Women and Girls (“VAWG”) – including domestic abuse – in Southampton. The consultation draft strategy is currently dated 2022-2027: the final strategy date will be updated to 2023-2028 once approved, as the strategy timeline means that this new strategy is now expected to be in force from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2023.</p> <p>The establishment of a Domestic Abuse Partnership Board is a statutory requirement of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021. The core members of the Board are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hampshire and Isle of Wight Constabulary.</li> <li>• Local service providers.</li> <li>• NHS Hampshire, Southampton and Isle of Wight Integrated Care Board.</li> <li>• Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.</li> <li>• Probation Service.</li> <li>• Solent NHS Trust.</li> <li>• Southern Health NHS Foundation Trust.</li> <li>• Southampton City Council.</li> <li>• Southampton Local Safeguarding Boards (represented jointly).</li> <li>• University Hospital Southampton NHS Foundation Trust.</li> </ul> <p>This paper outlines the design of the strategy and the current consultation process. A multi-agency consultation launched on 20<sup>th</sup> July 2022 for 12 weeks. The consultation</p> |

closes on 12<sup>th</sup> October 2022 and is due to be brought to Cabinet for adoption in December 2022.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

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|  | (i)  | That the Committee considers and notes the contents of this report and provides feedback on the strategy to officers where changes or further information are advised.                                |
|  | (ii) | That the Committee recommends that the new strategy is approved by Cabinet (subject to any suggested Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee or consultation-related amendments) in December 2022. |

**REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS**

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| 1. | The Cabinet Member for Safer Communities and the Chair of the DA Local Partnership Board requested that the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee (OSMC) receives an update on the draft strategy and the consultation, in order for the OSMC to be able to provide feedback and input into the draft strategy. Given the significant nature of the strategy, which affects the whole city and all residents, OSMC input is key and is sought before proceeding to Cabinet for adoption. |
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**ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED**

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| 2. | Not having a city-wide strategy to tackle Domestic Abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls in Southampton risks the safety of those affected in the city. Legal duties set out in the 2021 Domestic Abuse Act, under which local authorities are required to develop and publish a Domestic Abuse Strategy for their local area, only relates to Part 4 ('Provision of Support in Safe Accommodation') – this Part 4 strategy has been in force since December 2021. |
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**DETAIL (Including consultation carried out)**

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| 3. | Southampton's Domestic and Sexual Abuse Strategy expired in 2020. The delay in creating a replacement strategy was initially due to onset of the Covid-19 pandemic. Subsequent delays were due to the necessity to undertake a needs assessment to ensure compliance with the new Domestic Abuse Act duties, establish a new board and publish a Safe Accommodation Strategy, a mandatory requirement of the Act. The Domestic Abuse Coordinator has worked with partner representatives of the DA Local Partnership Board and the Policy and Strategy Team, under the guidance of the Chair and Board, to develop a new strategy that addresses the broader continuum of gendered violence against women and girls. The strategy is named and structured to reflect this widening of scope whilst also recognising that there are specific interventions and support services for people who are subjected to domestic abuse. |
| 4. | The strategy will expand upon the objectives of the council's Strategy for the Provision of Support in Safe Accommodation (Appendix 1) which was adopted by Cabinet in December 2021 and published in January 2022. The proposed DA and VAWG strategy will bring the resources and expertise of agencies across the city to bear on barriers and gaps in local service provision.  |

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| 5. | The strategy has been developed following a review of evidence of local needs and service performance, with input provided by one-to-one discussions with key internal staff and with strategic partners within health, police, probation, and commissioners. Development has also involved consultation with public health experts, the expertise of practitioners and with reference to the experiences of survivors.                         |
| 6. | The aim of the strategy is to prevent VAWG and to find better ways to support victims/survivors (adults and children). To achieve this, the work of the strategy is split into four priority areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prioritising prevention;</li> <li>• Support for survivors;</li> <li>• Building an accountable community and changing perpetrator behaviour;</li> <li>• A stronger coordinated response.</li> </ul> |
| 7. | The consultation process is designed to be inclusive and has been launched by all partners on their own platforms, supported by the council's Data, Intelligence and Insight Team.  |
| 8. | This is a multi-channel consultation incorporating online platforms, community events, and focus groups for stakeholders, partners and residents.   |

## **RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

### **Capital/Revenue**

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| 9.  | The strategy aims to coordinate action that is already being delivered by the council and its partners. Any additional activity identified as part of action plans will be considered for feasibility by partners within normal yearly budgeting activity. |
| 10. | Where proposed actions required to achieve outcomes fall within Part 4 duties, these have been costed against available New Burden's funding.  |

### **Property/Other**

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| 11. | None |
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## **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

### **Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:**

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| 12. | The council, as a relevant local authority within the meaning of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021, is obliged under section 57 of the Act to prepare and publish a strategy in relation to the provision of accommodation-based support to victims of domestic violence (Strategy for Provision of Support in Safe Accommodation 2021- 2024 – see Supporting Documentation). The wider Domestic Abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls strategy outlined in this report expands upon the council's Strategy for Provision of Support in Safe Accommodation to set out wider strategies for tackling domestic abuse and violence against women and girls in the city. |
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### **Other Legal Implications:**

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| 13. | The consultation and design of the proposed strategy, as well as the ESIA (see Appendix 1), has been undertaken having regard to the requirement of the Equality Act 2010, in particular s.149 of the Public Sector Equality Duty |
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|                                      | ("PSED"). All actions delivered under the strategy and associated Action Plans will be implemented having regard to this duty.  |
| 14.                                  | This strategy has also been undertaken having regard to the council's section 17 Crime and Disorder Act 1998 duty which obliges the council to exercise its functions with 'due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on the need to do all it reasonably can to prevent crime and disorder in its area'.                          |
| <b>RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS</b>  |   |
| 15.                                  | The DA Local Partnership Board will have quarterly reviews of the strategy and will monitor a range of indicators that will be available on a "DA data dashboard". This dashboard is currently under development by a specially appointed domestic abuse data analyst within the council's Data, Intelligence and Insight Team.                             |
| 16.                                  | Issues relating to Data Protection and risks around the sharing of survivor and perpetrator data (as well as measures that would be taken to mitigate the risk) will be outlined in a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) once conversations around data sharing have happened with partners and more information on what this would involve is known. |
| <b>POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS</b> |   |
| 17.                                  | None  |

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| <b>KEY DECISION?</b>               | Yes  |
| <b>WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:</b> | All  |
| <u>SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION</u>    |  |
| <b>Appendices</b>                  |  |
| 1.                                 | DA/VAWG Strategy ESIA  |
| 2.                                 | Draft Domestic Abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls (DA/VAWG) Strategy 2023 – 2028 |

#### Documents In Members' Rooms

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| 1. | <a href="#">Consultation on a Draft Southampton Domestic Abuse and Violence against Women and Girls Strategy 2022-2027</a>          |
| 2. | <a href="https://southampton.gov.uk">Strategy for the Provision of Support in Safe Accommodation 2021-2024 (southampton.gov.uk)</a> |

#### Equality Impact Assessment

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| Do the implications/subject of the report require an Equality and Safety Impact Assessment (ESIA) to be carried out? | Yes |
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#### Data Protection Impact Assessment

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| Do the implications/subject of the report require a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) to be carried out? | No |
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#### Other Background Documents

Other Background documents available for inspection at:

| <b>Title of Background Paper(s)</b> | <b>Relevant Paragraph of the Access to Information Procedure Rules / Schedule 12A allowing document to be Exempt/Confidential (if applicable)</b> |
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| 1.                                  | None  |