**Agenda Item No. 8**

**COMMUNITY OUTCOMES MEETING**

**29 April 2025**

**SUBJECT: Business Crime**

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| **PURPOSE OF THE REPORT PRODUCED BY WEST YORKSHIRE POLICE**1. The attached report outlines work undertaken by West Yorkshire Police in respect of Business Crime.
2. This cover paper highlights the importance of the report topic in respect of the Police and Crime plan and also includes the delivery of the Mayor and her office. Together the West Yorkshire Police report and the cover paper provide readers with a comprehensive understanding of work underway in support of Business Crime.
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| **RECOMMENDATION**1. That the Mayor/DMPC uses the WYP report to scrutinise Force performance in respect of Business Crime.
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| **POLICE AND CRIME PLAN 24-28**1. The Police and Crime Plan was developed after extensive public and partner consultation culminating in the creation of ‘The Voice of West Yorkshire’.  The Voice of West Yorkshire represents the views of over 6,500 respondents and includes the views of children and young people.  It is part of a series of documents which includes a summary needs assessment.  You can review the documents here: [West Yorkshire Combined Authority](https://www.westyorks-ca.gov.uk/policing-and-crime/the-police-and-crime-plan/)
2. Priority 2 - Business Crime sits within Safer Places and Thriving Communities, the Mayor and DMPC will work with the business community to tackle assaults on shop workers and associated crimes.
3. Voice of West Yorkshire - business and retail crime was raised frequently when engaging with people who worked in business and retail along with hate related verbal or physical abuse. Those who worked for businesses also spoke about the impact of hate crime on their feelings of safety. Crimes Against Businesses don’t just affect the business, they affect individuals, often vulnerable employees.
4. A detailed Equality Impact Assessment which looked at how the themes and priories impacted communities was completed for the 2024-28 plan, you can read it here:

[eqia-stage-1-pc-plan-final-web-version.docx](https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.westyorks-ca.gov.uk%2Fmedia%2F4tijlbky%2Feqia-stage-1-pc-plan-final-web-version.docx&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK)[eqia-stage-2-pc-plan-final-web-version.docx](https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.westyorks-ca.gov.uk%2Fmedia%2Fd5hcfsqw%2Feqia-stage-2-pc-plan-final-web-version.docx&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK) |
| **KEY INFORMATION**1. Key work to date:
* The Mayor supports businesses across West Yorkshire e.g., via the Fair Work Charter. For more detail on the Mayor’s work to support West Yorkshire Businesses please visit: [West Yorkshire Combined Authority](https://www.westyorks-ca.gov.uk/growing-the-economy/business-and-skills/)
* The DMPC is part of the Association of Police and Crime Commissioner’s Business and Retail Crime Portfolio meeting.
* Social value refers to the broader, non-financial benefits an organisation creates beyond its core activities, encompassing the well-being of individuals and communities, social capital, and environmental impact. The Mayor/DMPC’s Commissioning Strategy supports local West Yorkshire sustainability, regeneration, and champions social value. The DMPC also oversees the social value aspects of the WYP estates and station build contracts in line with the Police and Crime Plan.
* On 28 September 2024 the DMPC attended and spoke at a Fraud Prevention Partnership Event with WYP. The latest edition of the ‘Little Book of Big Scams’ can be found here: [The Little Book of Big Scams – 5th Edition](https://www.westyorkshire.police.uk/sites/default/files/2024-09/west_yorkshire_police_lbobs_5th_edition_rgb_accessible.pdf)
1. Mayoral/DMPC Activity to date includes:
* The Mayor’s Safer Communities Fund supports the priorities and cross cutting themes in the Police and Crime Plan. You can find out about how the fund supported the delivery of the 2021-2024 plan on our website. Monitoring delivery against the new plan (Grant round 7 onwards) has started which now includes Crimes against businesses e.g., Violence and shoplifting specifically. In total, to date (GR1-7) the fund has supported 7 projects who have shared £183,211.40 in tackling Business Crime.
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| **PARTNERSHIP CONTRIBUTION – POLICING AND CRIME**The Mayor/DMPC will work with partners to continue to further embed early intervention and prevention projects to support safer communities.Recently the West Yorkshire Police Business Crime Group held a showcase event and the DMPC attended as a keynote speaker. The DMPC spoke about the inclusion of Business Crime in the new Police and Crime Plan and the new Serious Violence Strategy, including how this covers the impact of Violent Crime on businesses. Also covered was the impact that assaults on shop workers can have and welcoming the categorising of this crime so that we can understand this better in West Yorkshire. The WYP Business Crime Group have agreed to make this an annual event and this was welcomed by all present.**VIOLENCE REDUCTION PARTNERSHIP (VRP)**The role of the West Yorkshire VRP is to lead and coordinate a preventative, whole-system approach to violence reduction, with a particular focus on children and young people under the age of 25. The definition of serious violence agreed by the VRP and its core members allow for a focus on geographic areas of criminality and specific groups where serious violence, or its threat or impact, is evident; this is children, young adults, women and girls, public places, the nighttime economy, gangs, and organised crime groups.Latest SNA highlighted assaults on shop workers and the increase in theft of foodstuff in robbery (based on June 2024 data).Recent joint public engagement between the Policing and Crime Team and VRP highlighted that when being asked about the **Effect of Violence**60% of respondents felt violence affected their local area, leading to effects including:**Economic Impact**: Decreased foot traffic and business closures.**Feeling unsafe**: Making lifestyle changes, avoiding certain areas or not going out at night.**Environment**: Community spaces impacted by vandalism, graffiti and antisocial behaviour. A recent meeting in March 2025 between the VRP and Leeds BID looked at commonalities between our work, data/information sharing and links to the Adversity, Trauma and Resilience (ATR) programme (joint with the West Yorkshire Integrated Care Board). Through the ATR programme we are working in partnership with Lloyds Banking Group on a pilot initially aimed at branch employees to provide staff with an understanding of trauma, its impact and how it manifests in behaviour so that they can adopt a more trauma informed approach when both engaging with customers but also when supporting staff following incidents of abuse or violence in branch. Working with partners to support ongoing work in the NTE.More detail about the work of the Violence Reduction Partnership can be found here:[West Yorkshire Violence Reduction Partnership](https://www.westyorks-ca.gov.uk/policing-and-crime/west-yorkshire-violence-reduction-partnership/)[Strategic Needs Assessment/Response Strategy/Influential Factors](https://www.westyorks-ca.gov.uk/policing-and-crime/west-yorkshire-violence-reduction-partnership/needs-assessment-response-strategy/)[VRP Annual Report 2023-24](https://www.westyorks-ca.gov.uk/media/12890/vrp-annual-report-2023-24-final.pdf) |
| **EQUITY, DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSION** Some Individuals and communities may be more vulnerable to Business Crime based on their protected characteristics and or the communities where they live/work. |
| **POLICING AND CRIME CONTACT** Paige Cowling – paige.cowling@westyorks-ca.gov.uk  |
| **ATTACHMENT**[Chief Constable’s report – Business Crime](https://theauthorityv13-auth.azurewebsites.net/media/bhnhkmcw/com-business-crime-report-final.docx) |