

## Consultation Report

# *Improving Community Safety in North Lanarkshire: A Strategy to Improve Lives 2020-2025*

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# Contents

1. Introduction.....	Page 3
2. Stakeholder Event.....	Pages 4-7
3. Early Engagement Survey.....	Pages 7-8
4. Community Matters Consultation.....	Pages 8-9
5. Food for Thought Session – North Lanarkshire.....	Pages 9-10
Federation	
6. Online Survey – Feedback on the Draft Strategy.....	Pages 10-20
7. Changes Made – You Said and We Did.....	Pages 20-22
8. Next Steps.....	Page 22
9. Appendix – Summary of Survey Questions.....	Page 23

## 1. Introduction

- 1.1 Community safety is an important priority for the Council and its partners. Community safety has changed over the years and has become increasingly broad and far reaching. Initially focussed on the prevention and reduction of crime and antisocial behaviour, community safety now encompasses all aspects that help people to be and feel safe in their communities, extending to important issues such as gender based violence, community justice, counter-terrorism, home and fire safety amongst others.
- 1.2 The draft Community Safety strategy for North Lanarkshire sets community safety within the broader context of enabling communities to be resilient and safe, through effective engagement and empowerment, recognising that wider social, economic and physical factors all impact on community safety.
- 1.3 The draft strategy was developed in response to a shared aspiration to improve community safety within North Lanarkshire building on the strong track record of partnership working to tackle important community safety issues such as antisocial behaviour, serious crime and disorder, road safety, home and fire safety and gender based violence amongst others.
- 1.4 As set out in the Antisocial Behaviour etc. (Scotland) Act 2004 there is a requirement for an Antisocial Behaviour Strategy. Due to the inter-connected nature of the various community safety strands and the successful partnership arrangements a broader strategy was developed which sought to pull together all the various community safety strands including a strategy for addressing antisocial behaviour. The driver for this being the benefits of considering these strands in a holistic way to better understand local needs and utilise and target resources more effectively as a partnership.
- 1.5 To enable the development of the strategy a strategic Community Safety Group was established which comprised a range of partners including a range of services from North Lanarkshire Council, specifically Housing Services, the Community Safety Hub, Education, Justice Services, Road Safety, Health and Social Care North Lanarkshire, NHS Lanarkshire, Scottish Fire and Rescue, and Police Scotland. This group was tasked with developing the new Community Safety Strategy.
- 1.6 This report provides an overview of the consultation and involvement activities that took place over the course of the development of the draft strategy.

## 2. Stakeholder Event

- 2.1 As part of the development of the draft strategy a large stakeholder event was held in January this year in which 64 participants attended from a broad range of areas.
- 2.2 The event provided an opportunity for delegates to hear more about important community safety issues and what's being done in North Lanarkshire, to help enable communities to be inclusive, empowered, resilient and safe.
- 2.3 Participants included a broad range of key stakeholders, specifically Scottish Fire and Rescue; Police Scotland; Registered Social Landlords; Community Councils; North Lanarkshire Federation; Tenants and Residents Associations; NHS Lanarkshire; VANL; North Lanarkshire Youth Forum; students from local high schools and key council services such as housing services; environmental services; education; justice services; community learning and development; roads and transport; legal services and health and social care.
- 2.4 All delegates that attended the event rated the event as good or excellent and 100% of delegates also stated that the event identified the key issues relating to community safety. The event consisted of seven themed workshops, of which delegates were able to attend four workshops of their choice. The workshops focused on the following key community safety areas:
- Tackling antisocial behavior
  - Reducing crime and offending
  - Improving fire safety
  - Improving road safety
  - Tackling gender based violence
  - Reducing unintentional harm
  - Effective engagement with communities
- 2.5 In addition to the feedback from the workshops (each workshop was scribed to record comments and feedback received from participants) priority postcards and comments boxes were provided to help capture further feedback to help ensure the draft strategy was reflective of the community safety issues most important to individuals and communities in North Lanarkshire. The key issues highlighted by participants have been categorized according to theme and were as follows:
- 2.5.1 General
- There is a need for similar style engagement events specifically for young people
  - There is a need to establish improved links with younger age groups to ensure a balanced representation of the population in North Lanarkshire

- Overall the event was worthwhile and productive, bringing a wide range of partners together to identify the key priorities and issues for North Lanarkshire's communities and individuals

### 2.5.2 Antisocial Behaviour

- Positive feedback on the out-of-hours services with particular reference to the high visibility hotspot patrols.
- Some lack of awareness of the range of antisocial behaviour services available amongst participants
- It was felt there were opportunities to engage with communities (both for reassurance and with those involved in antisocial behaviour)
- Discussion of the analysis of the statistics proved revelatory amongst some participants, specifically the data on young people accounting for less than 2% of contacts, which differed from the perception of antisocial contacts for a number of participants
- The provision of public space CCTV was highlighted as making a significant positive contribution to public safety
- It was suggested that there's further scope for 'Breaking the Cycle' programme of work to be aligned with other work streams to share information and evidence and inform services

### 2.5.3 Unintentional Injury

#### *Cycling*

- Poor lighting throughout North Lanarkshire on cycle paths
- Cycling on pavements presents a hazard to pedestrians
- Need to ensure cycling proficiency at schools are fully inclusive
- Suggested that further education is required from retailers for purchasing of bikes

#### *Walking*

- Lighting on streets require improvement, some participants reported that newly installed lights are resulting in pavements not being completely lit
- Dangers of phones – people not listening or distracted when walking/crossing roads – awareness raising required

#### *Cars*

##### *School parking*

- Parking at schools reported as a particular issue
- Speed limits around schools required
- Drop off zones at new campuses reported by participants to be too small
- Suggested potential role for students to monitor parking at schools
- Suggested to encourage flexible start times from employers to stagger drop off times

### *In Car Safety*

- Use of mobile phones/drinking, eating and smoking while driving reported to be an issue of concern
- Proper use of car seats also an in car safety issue and need for awareness raising

### *Roads*

- Road Markings at roundabouts reported to be incorrect in some instances or not clear
- Lighting on streets can exacerbate road safety issues
- Reported that people aren't always aware of how to report issues
- Participants reported that parking on pavements or corners of roads were a problem preventing others walking on pavements and presenting a hazard for people with disabilities, people who use wheelchairs and for parents and carers with pushchairs/prams

### *In the Home*

- Medicine safety reported to be a key issue
- Trips and falls on carpets reported to be an issue and area of concern
- Suggested actions include increasing awareness of causes of falls and trips and promoting awareness of 'Making Life Easier'
- Extending dementia design to improve safety within the home, examples of different coloured doors for dementia making a difference within communities
- Education of causes of trips and falls suggested as an action
- Broad range of preventative interventions in place currently includes health visitors pathway, occupational therapist home safety checks, district nurses routine home risk assessments of homes routinely

### *Out with the Home*

- Multi use games areas, quality of roads and pavements, increased use of motorcycles and quad bikes in public areas, and bad weather pavement/road conditions all reported as community safety issues out with the home
- Solutions suggested included promoting community responsibility for bad weather conditions to encourage communities to become more resilient and provide funding to enable communities to respond, to raise awareness of issues associated with quad bikes and exploration of participatory budgeting to find solutions

## 2.5.4 Gender Based Violence

- Data collection was highlighted as an issue with varying data collated across services and not being fully reflective of the extent of gender based violence issues in some instances
- Training was highlighted as important to improve understanding that gender based violence doesn't only involve physical violence
- Environmental Services was identified as a target group for training as was also school staff for a better understanding of female genital mutilation
- It was suggested that community groups should be further involved in raising awareness of gender based violence

#### 2.5.5 Road Safety

- Noted increase in the number of complaints received on road safety issues at schools and suggested that there should be an awareness campaign that focusses on the effects and consequences of poor and selfish parent parking at school gates
- Suggested mandatory buy-in by education at corporate level to manage and actively participate in road safety and sustainable travel behaviour change initiatives provided for free to all school and supported by the Road Safety Team
- Suggested there is a need for more effective media campaigning, better utilising social media.

#### 2.5.6 Fire Safety

- Many participants unaware of the proactive engagement activities that the Fire Service undertakes across North Lanarkshire
- There is a need to increase awareness of the Home Fire Safety Visit referral pathway for the general public and services alike in addition to the other information awareness activities that can be provided to address issues effectively

### 3. Early Engagement Survey

3.1 An online early engagement survey was launched to help identify the top community safety priorities in North Lanarkshire. The survey was open for a six week period from Dec 2019 until Jan 2020 which asked participants to identify their top three community safety priorities. 205 responses were received with a number of common themes emerging as top priorities, these included:

- Road Safety
- Antisocial behaviour
- Crime and disorder
- Fire Safety

- Community engagement and involvement

3.2 These priorities informed the key strategic priority areas and underpinning key themes within the draft strategy, which were extended to include broader areas such as gender based violence and home safety in response to the stakeholder event feedback and desk top based research.

## 4. Community Matters Consultation

4.1 A range of consultation and involvement activities have been carried out as part of the Community Matters engagement processes. These activities have identified a number of key priorities for consideration which link to the community safety agenda:

- Develop locality planning to ensure a clearer focus on those most in need and implement actions to close the gap between our most disadvantaged and affluent communities
- Fully engage with our communities to help us understand their needs and aspirations through the development and delivery of Community Matters and Participatory Budgeting
- Prioritise and invest in early interventions and preventative approaches to improve the safety of our communities and prevent and reduce further offending by addressing its underlying causes
- Support the role of the third sector as a key partner and conduit for increasing capacity and supporting the delivery of key actions with local communities

4.2 Identified as part of a self-assessment process North Lanarkshire's Partnership Board identified the following key priority areas which are also aligned to the community safety activities:

- Explore and develop innovative new ways to engage hard to reach groups
- Review locality groups and structures to ensure no duplication of activity and ensure effective partnership working
- Shared resource/use of resources
- Outcomes that are relevant to communities

4.3 In relation to the local action teams there were a number of key areas identified as working well currently. These included:

- A willingness to work in partnership
- Information sharing
- Defined priority areas
- Focussed work with young people
- The range of community safety activity and initiatives
- Proactive engagement around particular concerns and priorities



- Identification of gaps in service and initiation of corresponding improvements

4.4 There were a number of areas identified for improvement. These included:

- A need to develop action plans and reporting for priority areas
- A need to develop a clear mechanism for communities to directly input to inform the work of the LAT
- Better resourcing of community participation/capacity building
- Targeted priority/locality action plans
- Many groups and processes focussed on similar priorities, better coordination of activities required
- Better use of data and community matters information to inform actions and priorities

## 5. Food for Thought Session – North Lanarkshire Federation

5.1 A consultation and involvement session was held with North Lanarkshire’s Federation of tenants and residents on the draft strategy. The format of the session consisted of a presentation followed by a workshop discussion on the key priorities. Feedback from this activity is categorised by the themes where comments were provided:

5.1.1 Antisocial Behaviour

- Recent change in service provision presents issues for home owners
- Better linkage required with the Tenant Participation Strategy, changes within the antisocial behaviour service and the new Community Safety Strategy – all inter-connected and related areas
- Need for further information and potential discussion on the changes to the antisocial behaviour service

5.1.2 Unintentional Injury and Fire Safety

- Further opportunity to raise awareness on fire safety and prevalence/high risk factors

5.1.3 Gender Based Violence

- Increased rate of gender based violence evidence throughout COVID-19 pandemic, need to think of wider solutions as potential to increase with continuation of pandemic and restrictions increasing vulnerability of women and children

5.1.4 General

- Funding – increase in number of strategies with no additional resource
- Broad high level strategy, need to make clear who leads on each action

- Key safes – should emergency services have access to codes?

## 6. Online Survey (Draft Strategy)

- 6.1 A second online survey was launched on the Council’s website on 20 August 2020 and remained open for response until the 8 October 2020. The survey contained thirteen questions, which sought views on the draft strategy, *Improving Community Safety in North Lanarkshire: A Strategy to Improve Lives 2020-2025*. A copy of the survey questionnaire is attached as Appendix 1.
- 6.2 The survey was promoted using Council social media, face book and twitter and a you.gov delivery email was issued to individuals registered with the Council’s NL Connect platform. The CONSUL platform was also utilised to increase awareness of the survey alongside a range of other virtual meetings with community groups within North Lanarkshire and wider council distribution networks to increase awareness and feedback from wider stakeholders.

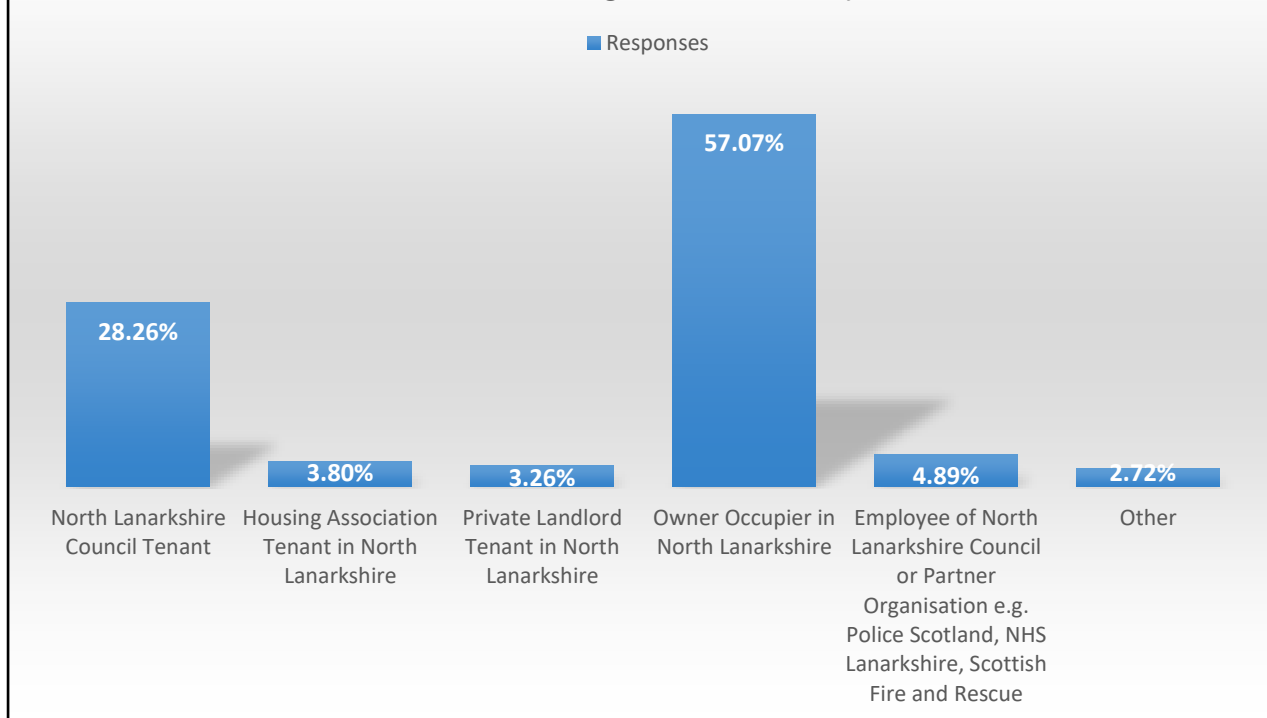
### Respondent Profile

- 6.3 184 survey responses were received in total. The majority of respondents were owner occupiers, which accounted for 57% of respondents, followed by North Lanarkshire Council tenants which accounted for 28% of respondents. The fewest respondents were in the ‘other’ category and private sector tenants, accounting for 2.7% and 3.3% respectively.

**Figure 1: Respondent Profile**

Please tell us in what capacity you are completing this survey?		
Answer Choices	Responses	
North Lanarkshire Council Tenant	28.26%	52
Housing Association Tenant in North Lanarkshire	3.80%	7
Private Landlord Tenant in North Lanarkshire	3.26%	6
Owner Occupier in North Lanarkshire	57.07%	105
Employee of North Lanarkshire Council or Partner Organisation e.g. Police Scotland, NHS Lanarkshire, Scottish Fire and Rescue	4.89%	9
Other	2.72%	5
Other (please specify)		0
	<b>Answered</b>	<b>184</b>
	<b>Skipped</b>	<b>0</b>

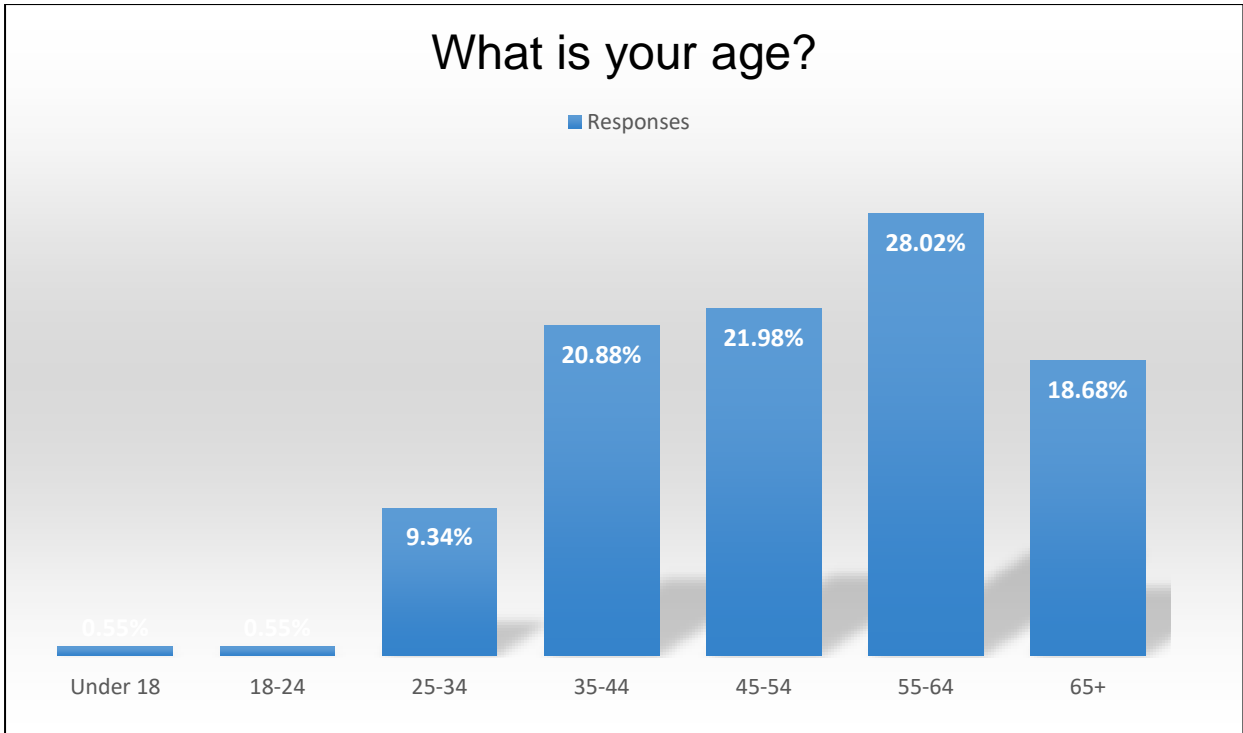
## Please tell us in what capacity you are completing this survey?



6.4 The most common age group of respondents was the 55-64 age group, which accounted for 28.0% of respondents, followed by the 45-54 age group which accounted for 21.9% of respondents. The fewest respondents were in the 18-24 category and the under 18 age group which accounted for 0.5% of respondents respectively.

**Figure 2: Respondents by Age Group**

What is your age?		
Answer Choices	Responses	
Under 18	0.55%	1
18-24	0.55%	1
25-34	9.34%	17
35-44	20.88%	38
45-54	21.98%	40
55-64	28.02%	51
65+	18.68%	34
	<b>Answered</b>	<b>182</b>
	<b>Skipped</b>	<b>2</b>

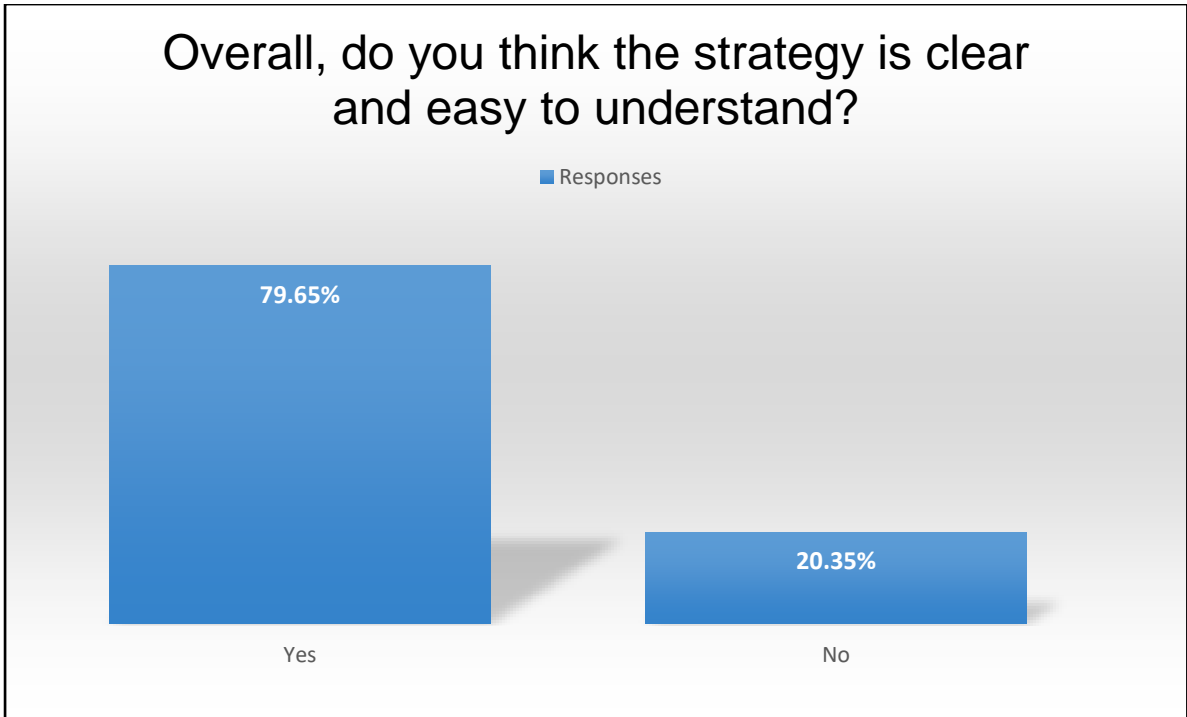


### Clarity and Comprehension of Strategy

6.5 The majority of respondents thought the draft strategy was clear and easy to understand (79.6%).

**Figure 3: Clarity and Comprehension of the Draft Strategy**

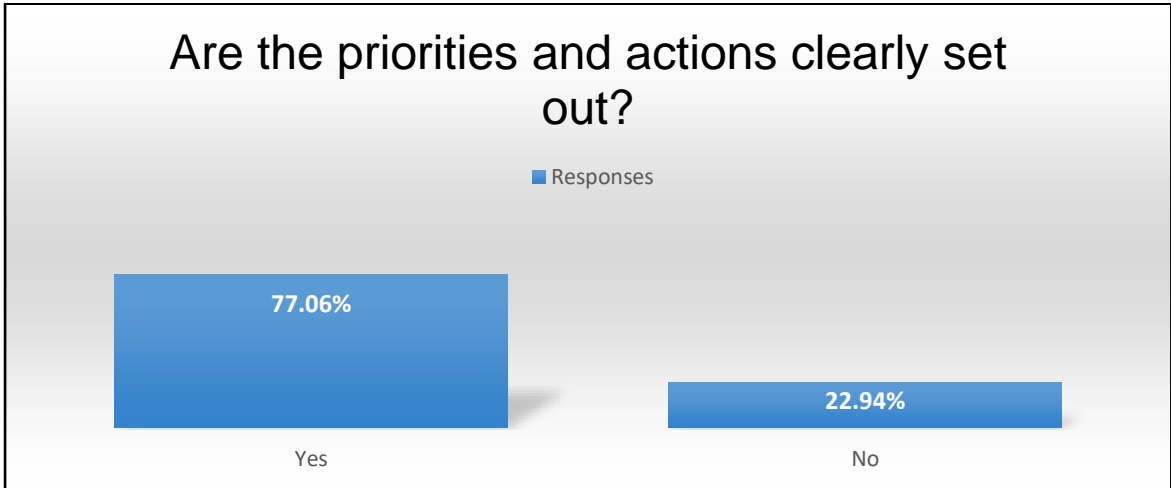
Overall, do you think the strategy is clear and easy to understand?		
Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	79.65%	137
No	20.35%	35
	<b>Answered</b>	<b>172</b>
	<b>Skipped</b>	<b>12</b>



6.6 The majority of respondents thought that the priorities and actions were clearly set out (77.0%).

**Figure 4: Clarity of Priorities and Actions**

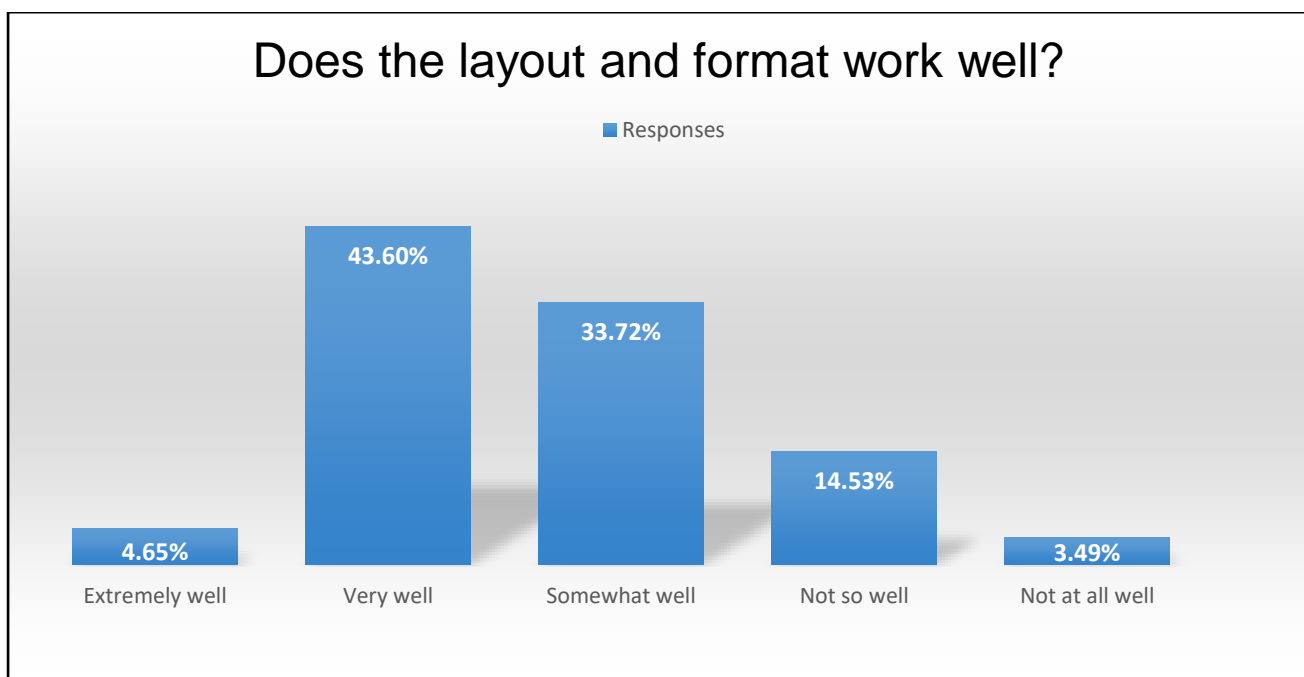
Are the priorities and actions clearly set out?		
Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	77.06%	131
No	22.94%	39
	<b>Answered</b>	<b>170</b>
	<b>Skipped</b>	<b>14</b>



6.7 The majority of respondents thought that the strategy layout and format worked well with 81.9% reporting that they thought the layout and format worked well. Of this 4.6% thought it worked extremely well, 43.6% thought it worked very well and 33.7% thought it worked somewhat well. 18.0% of respondents report they thought the layout and format did not work well. Of this 14.5% thought not so well, and 3.5% thought the layout did not work well at all.

**Figure 5: Effectiveness of Layout and Format**

Does the layout and format work well?		
Answer Choices	Responses	
Extremely well	4.65%	8
Very well	43.60%	75
Somewhat well	33.72%	58
Not so well	14.53%	25
Not at all well	3.49%	6
	<b>Answered</b>	<b>172</b>
	<b>Skipped</b>	<b>12</b>

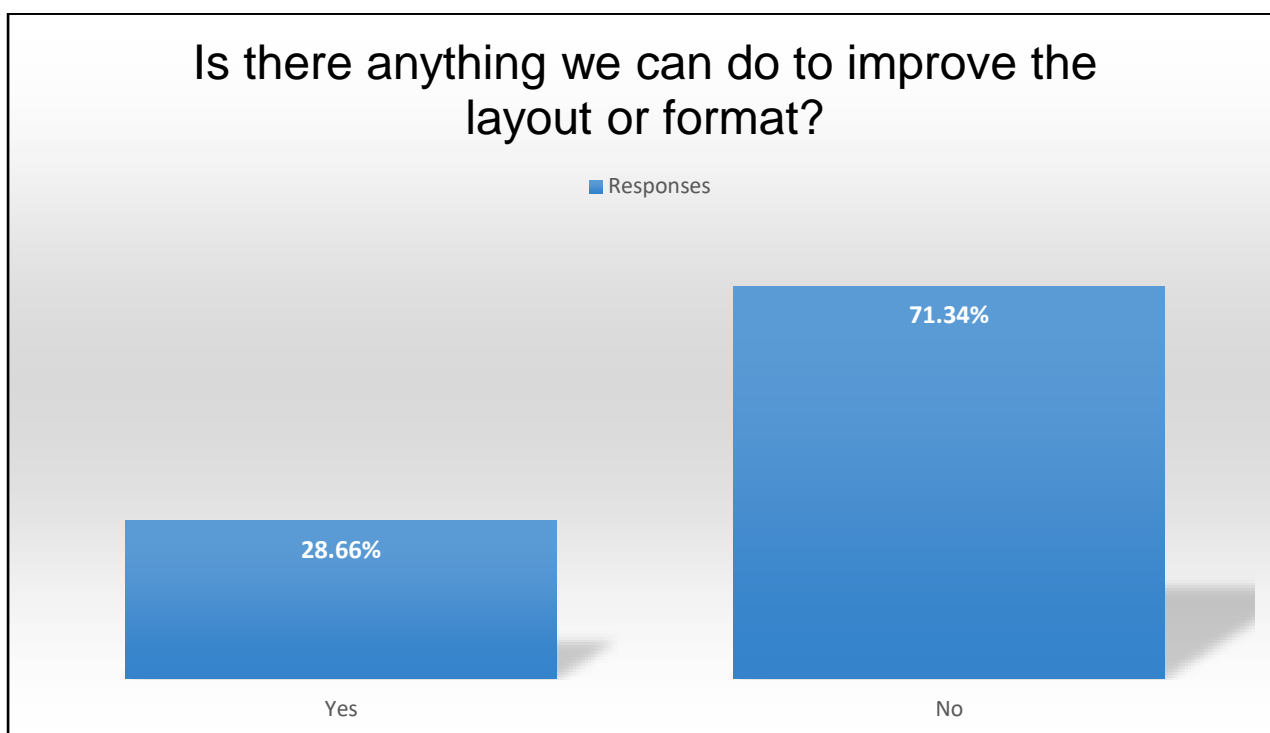


6.8 Respondents were asked if there was anything that could be done to improve the layout or format of the strategy, reflecting on the previous question. The majority of respondents (71.3%) felt there was nothing that could be done to improve the layout

or format of the strategy. 28% (47) of respondents who answered this question said there were things that we could do to improve the layout or format. Of the 47 respondents who said this 34 provided comments/suggestions.

**Figure 6: Suggestions to Improve the Layout or Format**

Is there anything we can do to improve the layout or format?		
Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	28.66%	47
No	71.34%	117
If yes, please tell us what we could do?		34
	<b>Answered</b>	<b>164</b>
	<b>Skipped</b>	<b>20</b>



6.9 Overall themes for suggestions made included:

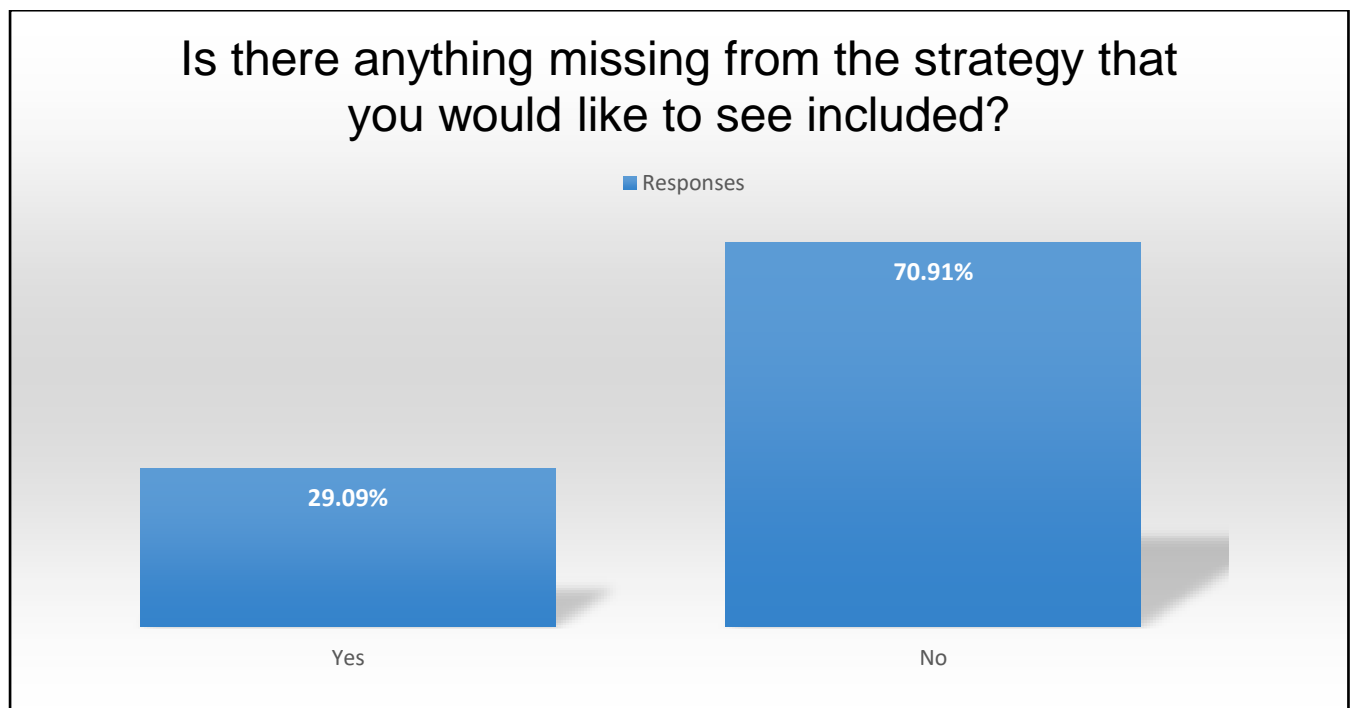
- Reduce the length of the strategy
- Provide an easy to read summary
- Provide it in more accessible formats
- Provide more background information and data which informed priorities and actions
- Make easier to read, check for use of plain English
- Use more graphics and photos

## Other Areas for Inclusion in the Strategy

6.10 Respondents were asked if there was anything missing from the strategy that they would like to see included. 70.9% of respondents said that there wasn't anything additional they would like to see included. 29.1% (48) of respondents said there was. 36 of the 48 respondents provided comments/suggestions.

**Figure 7: Content/Aspects Missing from the Strategy for Potential Inclusion**

Is there anything missing from the strategy that you would like to see included?		
Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	29.09%	48
No	70.91%	117
If yes, please tell us what is missing?		36
	<b>Answered</b>	<b>165</b>
	<b>Skipped</b>	<b>19</b>



6.11 Overall themes for suggestions made included:

- Greater emphasis on the impact of the environment: in respect of impact on both physical and mental health; inclusion of more greenspace actions; quality of environment, addressing fly tipping, improving quality of outdoor space
- Wider correlation between unemployment and antisocial behaviour, explain how these wider elements are addressed
- Further inclusion of specific road safety measures required in particular areas



- Inclusion of action plan
- Include information on re-design of council’s antisocial behaviour service
- Involve communities and individuals more in identifying the actions and progressing them
- Raise awareness of antisocial behaviour service
- Include data on complaints made to police and prosecution for comparison purposes

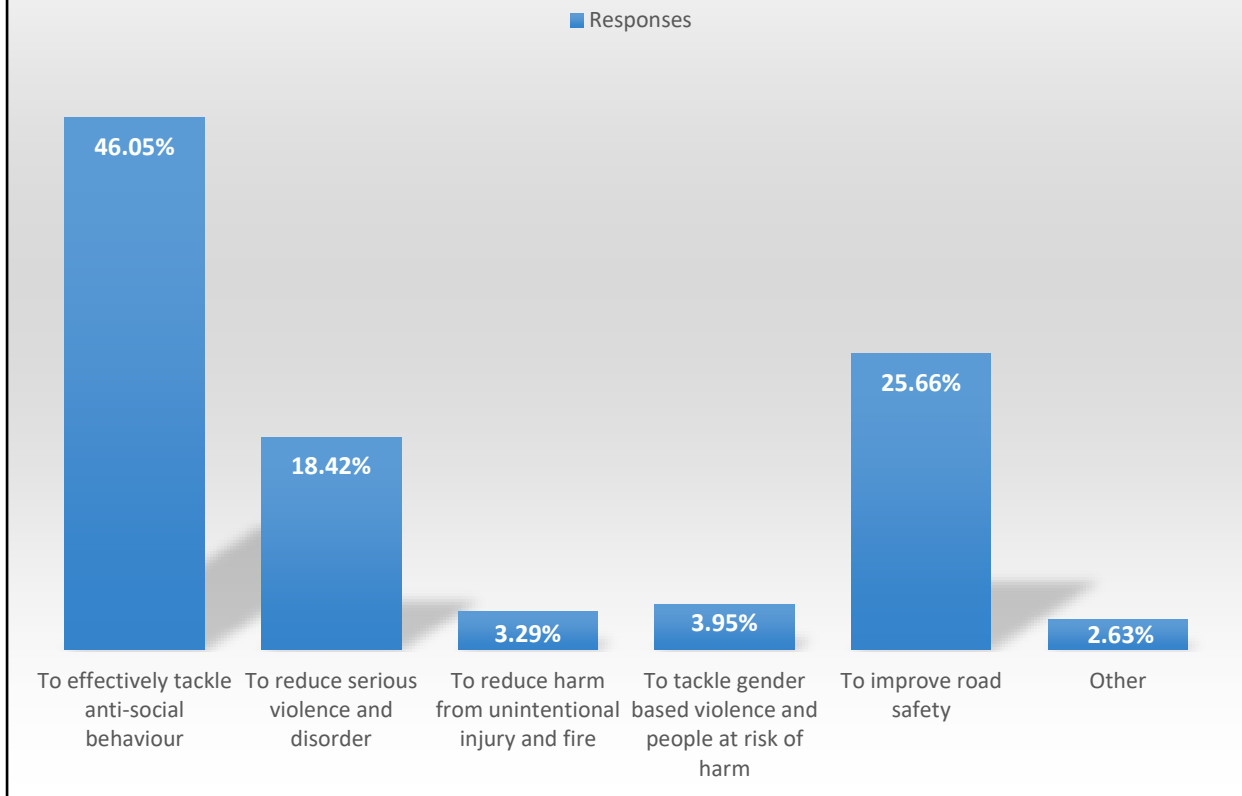
### Most Important Community Safety Priorities

6.12 Respondents were asked about their most important community safety priority. Effectively tackling antisocial behaviour was the most important priority reported by respondents, with 46.1% of respondents reporting this to be their top priority. This was followed by improving road safety and reducing serious violence and disorder (accounting for 25.7% and 18.4% respectively).

**Figure 8: Most Important Community Safety Priorities**

Thinking about the five community safety priorities and your own personal circumstances, which community safety priority is the most important to you?		
Answer Choices	Responses	
To effectively tackle anti-social behaviour	46.05%	70
To reduce serious violence and disorder	18.42%	28
To reduce harm from unintentional injury and fire	3.29%	5
To tackle gender based violence and people at risk of harm	3.95%	6
To improve road safety	25.66%	39
Other	2.63%	4
Other (please specify)		7
	<b>Answered</b>	<b>152</b>
	<b>Skipped</b>	<b>32</b>

## Thinking about the five community safety priorities and your own personal circumstances, which community safety priority is the most important to you?

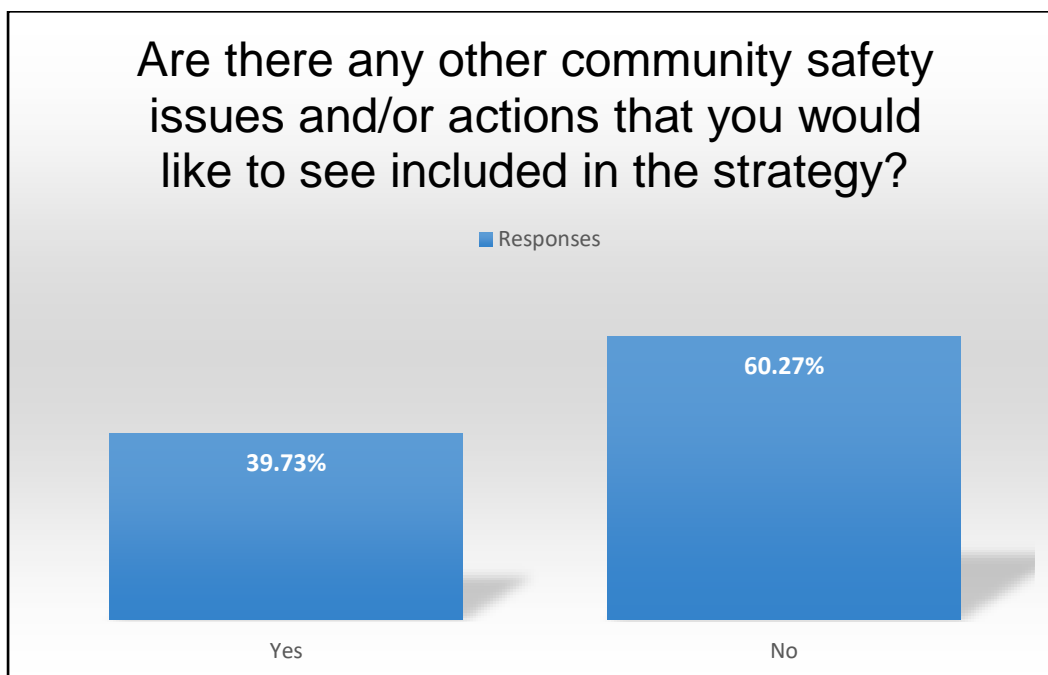


### Other Community Safety Issues and/or Actions

6.13 Respondents were asked if there were any other community safety issues or actions that they would like to see included in the strategy. 60.2% of respondents said no and 39.7% (58) of respondents who answered this question said yes. Of this 48 respondents provided comments/suggestions.

**Figure 9: Other Community Safety Issues and Actions**

Are there any other community safety issues and/or actions that you would like to see included in the strategy?		
Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	39.73%	58
No	60.27%	88
If yes, what other community safety issues and/or actions would you like to see included?		48
	<b>Answered</b>	<b>146</b>
	<b>Skipped</b>	<b>38</b>



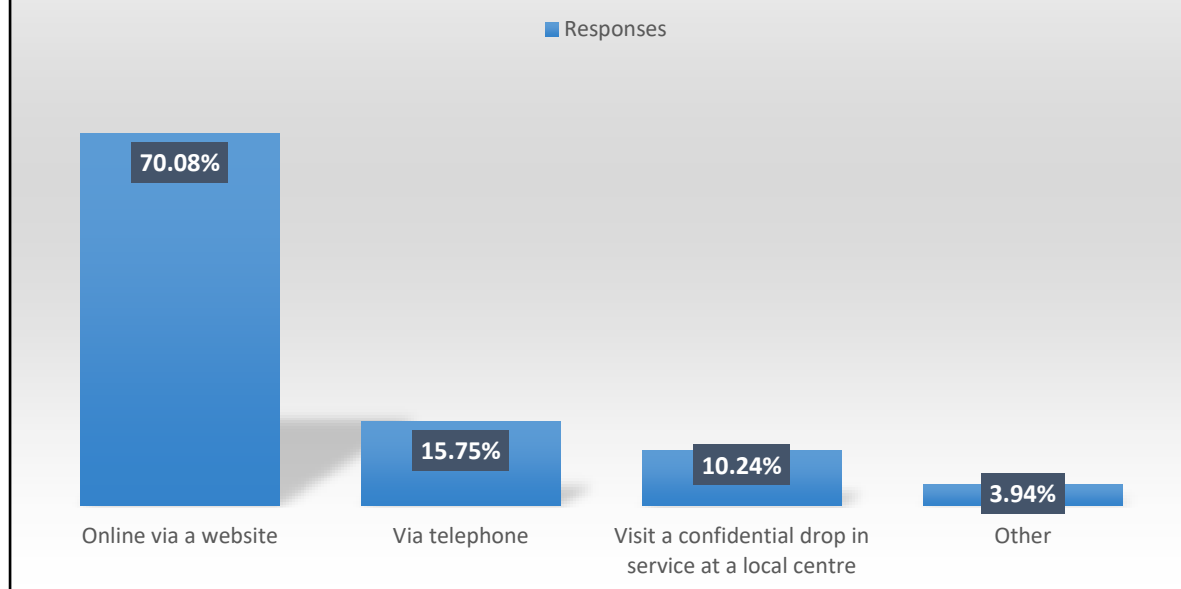
### Preferred Method for Accessing or Receiving Services

6.14 Respondents were also asked a general question on preferred methods for accessing and or receiving services. The majority of participants said online via a website was their preferred method (70.1%). Additional comments in respect of this question emphasised the need for information to be clearly signposted, easy to access and that different approaches are required to meet a range of needs.

**Figure 10: Preference on Access or Receipt of Services**

If you required information, advice, support or help with a community safety issue or concern, how would you best like to access or receive that service (please tick one)?		
Answer Choices	Responses	
Online via a website	70.08%	89
Via telephone	15.75%	20
Visit a confidential drop in service at a local centre	10.24%	13
Other	3.94%	5
Other (please specify)		11
	<b>Answered</b>	<b>127</b>
	<b>Skipped</b>	<b>57</b>

If you required information, advice, support or help with a community safety issue or concern, how would you best like to access or receive that service (please tick one)?



6.15 67.7% of respondents said they were interested in being involved in future community safety events and being kept updated about the strategy. Of this 71.3% said they would like to be kept updated by email. 18.1% said social media was their preferred method of contact, 17.0% said the council website. 8.5% said letter, and the least preferred contact method was telephone 4.7%.

## 7. Changes Made – You Said We Did

7.1 There were a number of common key themes which emerged through the consultation process. These can be broadly categorised according to the following key areas:

- **Involvement and engagement:** particularly in relation to young people and other people who are not involved in community planning structures, those specifically whose voices are more seldom heard, but also generally in relation to the wider communities and individuals in identifying the priorities going forward.
- **Content:** emphasis on improving awareness of particular areas, specifically the Antisocial behaviour service; the impact of the wider environment and correlation between community safety aspects and mental and physical health and other inter-connected wider strands, such as tackling

unemployment to improve community safety. Some respondents felt that more localised priorities and actions may also be of benefit.

- **Accessibility of the strategy:** accessibility was highlighted as important, specifically in relation to providing the strategy in a range of accessible and alternative formats and ensuring it's easy to read and appropriate in scale and scope.
- **Structure:** a number of respondents thought a shorter strategy may be more helpful, and for others the inclusion of an action plan and other data sources was viewed as advantageous.

## 7.2 Reflecting on the suggestions and comments made the following changes have being implemented:

### Accessibility

- Clearer reference has been made in the strategy that it is available in accessible and alternative formats on request
- We will provide copies of the strategy in alternative formats (e.g. other languages) in key cultural places throughout North Lanarkshire
- We will provide an easy to read summary strategy and publish this on the Council's website

### Content

- We will publish an annual detailed action plan as a separate document on the Council's website (consideration was given to inclusion within the strategy document, but given that this is a high level document and the number of comments received in relation to improving accessibility and streamlining the document, separate publication was determined most appropriate)
- We will publish within the annual progress review any new additional relevant data and evidence that helps inform our understanding of community safety issues in North Lanarkshire
- We will explore the production of localised reports linked to the new Community Boards to aid a better understanding amongst communities of the key community safety issues affecting them

### Engagement and Involvement

- We will explore new ways in which to involve local people and communities in identifying community safety issues and actions to improve community safety, working with the Community Boards and community planning structures in place
- Specifically, we will look at how we involve young people more and other people who are currently not involved/well represented in the existing

community planning arrangements to improve involvement in influencing decisions, policy and plans

## **8. Next Steps**

- 8.1 The draft strategy has been updated to reflect the feedback and comments received through the consultation process with a view to presenting the final strategy for approval to the Community Empowerment Committee in February 2021.
- 8.2 Progress in relation to the outcomes and priorities will be monitored and reviewed on an annual basis by the Community Safety Partnership with progress reported formally to the Community Empowerment Committee and to wider stakeholders through the Council's website.
- 8.3 Other steps as outlined in section 7.2 in relation to future work will be progressed in line with the strategy.

## Appendix – Summary of Survey Questions

1. Please tell us in what capacity you are completing this survey?
2. What postcode is your home located?
3. What is your age?
4. Overall, do you think the strategy is clear and easy to understand?
5. Are the priorities and actions clearly set out?
6. Does the layout and format work well?
7. Is there anything we can do to improve the layout or format?
8. Is there anything missing from the strategy that you would like to see included?
9. Thinking about the five community safety priorities and your own personal circumstances, which community safety priority is the most important to you?
10. Are there any other community safety issues and/or actions that you would like to see included in the strategy?
11. Do you have any other general comments that you would like to make in relation to the strategy?
12. If you required information, advice, support or help with a community safety issue or concern, how would you best like to access or receive that service?
13. Are you interested in being involved in future community safety events and being kept updated about the strategy?
14. If yes, how would you like to be kept updated?