CRIME & DISORDER COMMITTEE

AGENDA

7.30pm | Wednesday 2 July 2008 | Havering Town Hall Main Road, Romford

Members 6: Quorum 3

COUNCILLORS:

Lesley Kelly (Chairman) | David Grantham
Linda van den Hende (Vice-Chairman) | John Mylod
Jeff Brace | Frederick Thompson

For information about the meeting please contact:
Norman Bond (01708) 432439
E-mail: Norman.Bond@Havering.gov.uk
NOTES ABOUT THE MEETING

1. HEALTH AND SAFETY

The Council is committed to protecting the health and safety of everyone who attends meetings of its Committees.

At the beginning of the meeting, there will be an announcement about what you should do if there is an emergency during its course. **For your own safety and that of others at the meeting, please comply with any instructions given to you about evacuation of the building, or any other safety related matters.**

2. MOBILE COMMUNICATIONS DEVICES

Although mobile phones, pagers and other such devices are an essential part of many people’s lives, their use during a meeting can be disruptive and a nuisance. Everyone attending is asked therefore to ensure that any device is switched to silent operation or switched off completely.

3. CONDUCT AT THE MEETING

Although members of the public are welcome to attend meetings of the Committee, they have no right to speak at them. Seating for the public is, however, limited and the Council cannot guarantee that everyone who wants to be present in the meeting room can be accommodated. When it is known in advance that there is likely to be particular public interest in an item the Council will endeavour to provide an overspill room in which, by use of television links, members of the public will be able to see and hear most of the proceedings.

The Chairman of the meeting has discretion, however, to invite members of the public to ask questions or to respond to points raised by Members. Those who wish to do that may find it helpful to advise the Committee Officer before the meeting so that the Chairman is aware that someone wishes to ask a question.

PLEASE REMEMBER THAT THE CHAIRMAN MAY REQUIRE ANYONE WHO ACTS IN A DISRUPTIVE MANNER TO LEAVE THE MEETING AND THAT THE MEETING MAY BE ADJOURNED IF NECESSARY WHILE THAT IS ARRANGED.

If you need to leave the meeting before its end, please remember that others present have the right to listen to the proceedings without disruption. Please leave quietly and do not engage others in conversation until you have left the meeting room.
AGENDA ITEMS

1. CHAIRMAN’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman will announce details of the arrangements in case of fire or other events that might require the meeting room or building’s evacuation.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS (if any) - receive.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Members are invited to declare any interests in any of the items on the agenda at this point of the meeting. Members may still declare an interest in an item at any time prior to the consideration of the matter.

4. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 28 FEBRUARY 2008

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the Committee meeting held on 28 February 2008 and to authorise the Chairman to sign them.

5. CRIME AND DISORDER COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT

6. NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH TOPIC GROUP

7. ALCOHOL CONTROL ZONE TOPIC GROUP

8. NEW TOPIC GROUPS

9. FUTURE AGENDAS

Committee Members are invited to indicate to the Chairman items within this Committee’s terms of reference they would like to see discussed at a future meeting.

Note: it is not considered appropriate for issues relating to individuals to be discussed under this provision.
10. URGENT BUSINESS

To consider any other item in respect of which the Chairman is of the opinion, by reason of special circumstances which shall be specified in the minutes, that the item should be considered at the meeting as a matter of urgency.

Cheryl Coppell
Chief Executive
MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
CRIME & DISORDER COMMITTEE
Havering Town Hall, Romford

Thursday 28 February 2008 (7.30 pm - 9.15 pm)

Present: Councillors Lesley Kelly (Chairman), Jeff Brace, David Grantham, John Mylod, Frederick Thompson + Linda Hawthorn.

Apologies were received from Councillor Linda van den Hende + Substitute Member: Councillor Linda Hawthorn (for Linda van den Hende)

No Member declared an interest in the business considered.

The Chairman advised those present of action to be taken in the event of emergency evacuation of the Town Hall becoming necessary.

14 MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 11 NOVEMBER 2008

The Minutes were agreed as a correct record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman.

15 PRESENTATION BY THE POLICE BOROUGH COMMANDER

The Committee received a presentation from Superintendent Steve Wisbey, the Metropolitan Police, Havering Borough Commander.

The Commander expanded on the Police officer and resources figures within his presentation, and on the borough performance over the last 12 months. Significant reductions in crime had been achieved, detections rates had increased and the Havering Police expenditure had stayed within budgets. Havering was regarded as one of the best police boroughs in London.

Local and Service wide police policies were outlined to Members. The Commander emphasised his satisfaction with the excellent relationship the Havering police enjoyed with the Council and other community safety partners. The extended police family was explained and how working in partnership with schools, businesses and employers could provide opportunities to increase the police’s visible presence and add external expertise. The Commander suggested that the Council as a major local employer may wish to consider releasing staff a day a month to serve as special constables.

Police involvement with the ‘Every Child Matters’ agenda was explained to the Committee and how as part of the police response they attempt to identify young people who are either at risk of
offending or likely to become victims of crime. They will now be working much closer with social services and other groups to have an earlier intervention role.

The Committee heard that whilst Havering is the safest borough in London with the lowest crime rates overall, it has the highest fear of crime. Havering borough police is establishing a specialist team to work to reduce this perception and to get the message across to the community that Havering is a safe place to live.

The Commander referred to alcohol related crime and how it, together with Violent crime formed an ‘LAA 1’ stretch target and is part of the ‘LAA 2’ targets currently being agreed. As part of the enforcement of the Romford town centre’s alcohol control zone, a dedicated Licensing and Town Centre Team has been established. This team also works with local Trading Standards Officers who set up alcohol test purchase operations. These operations often find that supermarkets may be the source of the alcohol consumed by underage drinkers, but unfortunately supermarket management do not take responsibility for this placing the onus on busy cashiers.

The Borough Commander also referred to the Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006 that is now beginning to come into force and will provide new powers to the local authority and police to tackle alcohol related crime issues.

In response to Members questions the Borough Commander confirmed that:-

- the borough has a very low re-offending rate.
- the police try, where possible, to utilise a range of non-custodial sentencing / action.
- gun crime in Havering is the lowest in London.
- it is now police policy to prosecute through the courts all those found carrying knives.
- car crime has fallen in Havering and is currently the best in London.
- police have recently seen a greater number of thefts of vehicle number plates that are later used in thefts of petrol.
- people still leave valuable items such as laptop computers and satellite navigation devices lying visibly in parked vehicles overnight.
- cars are often stolen and quickly shipped abroad as parts or scrap. Police and Environmental Health officers are working together to identify any scrap metal yards involved in this trade.
- new devices to prevent house break-ins were now cheaply available. One in particular was very effective to deter attacks against UPVC doors by alerting the occupants by an alarm.
- Romford’s nightlife has a healthy aspect on the environment provided this can be properly regulated.
- the new Licensing Act has helped disperse last night drinking.
Currently of the 390 police officers in Havering, approximately 80 are CID, 70 are employed within Safer Neighbourhood Teams (SNT’s) and 180 (over 5 shift patterns) in response teams. The Borough also has 75 police cadets that have been used in crime prevention operations. It is hoped that overall police numbers could rise as the Thames Gateway development gets underway. Sickness and absence rates of Havering police officers and staff are low.

The SNT’s had proved a great success in Havering, and have helped reduce unreported crime, which the Borough Commander confirmed still remains an issue. Resources within the Police Service as a whole are provided where they are most needed and therefore Havering could be losing out. The SNT - Police Constable Support Officers (PCSO’s) are all street based, and have a role that is about visibility and reassurance.

Crime figures were provided and explained to the Committee. Members were cautioned not to give too much credence to some of the percentage numbers that appeared very high but were derived from very small starting figures, therefore the number of crimes involved in some of these categories was almost negligible. This was pertinent to the ‘hate’ crime categories.

A disappointing aspect within the borough was the high levels of false reporting of crime, especially for robbery. Police are investigating the reasons as to why false reporting is so high in Havering with perpetrators normally prosecuted.

The Borough Commander was congratulated by Committee Members on the very improving borough crime figures.

The Chairman thanked the Commander for his very enlightening presentation.

(A copy of the Borough Commanders presentation and distributed crime figure are appended to these minutes)

The Borough Commander was asked to remain to assist the Committee in its understanding and deliberations of the next item of business.
16 EXTENDING THE ALCOHOL CONTROL ZONE

The Committee noted the Council’s request and the recommendation contained in the officer’s report.

The Borough Commander explained the use of the existing legislation that provided for the establishment of the Romford Alcohol Control Zone and the roll-out of the new Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006.

Members acknowledged the success of the Romford Alcohol Control Zone and an expansion could offer benefits to other centres in the Borough.

It was resolved that:

1. A joint topic group be established by the Crime and Disorder Overview & Scrutiny Committee and the Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee.
2. Each Committee shall be asked to provide three Members to the topic group.
3. Additionally a Member of the Licensing Committee shall be asked to join the topic group.
4. The topic group shall draw on the assistance of the police and ambulance services, the Council’s Community Safety team and the Council’s Licensing lawyers.
5. Councillors Kelly, Mylod and Thompson shall serve as representatives of the Crime and Disorder Overview & Scrutiny Committee.
6. Councillor Pam Light also join the topic group, as the representative of the Licensing Committee.

13 URGENT BUSINESS

No items of urgent business were raised.
MEETING DATE ITEM
CRIME AND DISORDER COMMITTEE 2 July 2008 5

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

SUBJECT: COMMITTEE'S ANNUAL REPORT 2007/08

SUMMARY

This report is the annual report of the Committee, summarising the Committee's activities during the year ended May 2008.

It is planned for this report to stand as a public record of achievement for the year and enable Members and others to compare performance year on year.

There are no direct equalities or environmental implications attached to this covering report. Any financial implications & risks from reviews and work undertaken will be advised as part of the specific reviews.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the Committee note the 2007/08 Annual Report.
2. That the Committee agree the report be referred to full Council.

Staff Contact: Paramjit Kaur
Overview and Scrutiny Support Officer

Telephone: 01708 432436

Cheryl Coppell
Chief Executive

Background Papers - None
During the year under review, we have met as a Committee on 5 occasions and dealt with the following issues:

1. SCRUTINY TOPIC GROUPS

1.1 Neighbourhood Watch Scheme

1.1.1 The topic group is chaired by Councillor Lesley Kelly and comprises Councillors Jeff Brace, John Mylod, Frederick Thompson, Linda Ven Den Hende and David Grantham.

1.1.2 The group have met on five occasions and have also undertaken a visit to a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme at London Borough of Redbridge. The scope of the review is to scrutinise Havering Neighbourhood Watch Schemes and recommend improvements.

1.1.3 The group have concluded its review and have prepared a draft report which will be finalised at its next meeting early in the new municipal year.

1.2 Alcohol Control Zone

1.2.1 At its meeting on 5 December 2007, Council requested that the Committee investigate the practicalities of extending the Romford Town Centre Alcohol Control Zone to other centres within the Borough. This measure is under the auspices of the Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006. Hence a joint topic group was established by the Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee and the Crime & Disorder Committee.

1.2.2 The topic group was set up by the Committees in February 2008, is chaired by Councillor Lesley Kelly and comprises Councillors Frederick Thompson, John Mylod, Sandra Binion, Andy Mann and Pam Light.

1.2.3 The topic group have met on two occasions and have also toured the Hornchurch and Central Romford areas with the Police Borough Commander in order to view the Alcohol Control Zone in operation and to consider its possible extensions. The Group is due to meet to finalise its recommendations in the new municipal year.
2. OTHER MATTERS CONSIDERED

2.1. Safer Neighbourhood Teams – The Committee received in June 2007, a presentation from Inspector John Fish of Havering Police regarding the work and role of safer Neighbourhood Teams (SNTs). It was explained how the introduction of SNTs have enabled a reduction in crime levels in the borough. Members also learnt about the role of the SNT Police Community Support Officers.

2.2. Metropolitan Police Authority (MPA) – At its meeting in September 2007, the Committee received a presentation from the local MPA member on the work and responsibilities of the Authority. It was noted that the MPA successfully works with the Community Safety Partnership to provide a safer borough to the community. Issues around high levels of fear of crime in Havering were also discussed.

2.3 Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA) – At its meeting in November 2007, the Committee received a presentation from Chris Farrimond of SOCA on the agency’s role. It was noted that the SOCA Act 2005 brought together specialist staff from the National Crime Squad, National Criminal Intelligence Service, HM Revenue & Customs and various unique policing elements. The presentation outlined the strategies of SOCA and its targets on reducing levels of serious crimes.

2.4 Community Safety Team – At its meeting in November 2007, the Committee received a presentation from the Community Safety Manager on the role and responsibilities of the Community Safety Team. It was explained that the team develop, implement, monitor and evaluate local community safety initiatives and projects. The team also operate victim support for elderly and vulnerable residents and give advice on home security. The Committee also received a summary of the budgetary position for the Community Safety Team.

2.5 Police Borough Commander - At its meeting in February 2008, the Police Borough Commander gave a presentation on borough performance in the last 12 months. The Committee noted significant crime reduction levels and increased detection rates. Local and service wide Police policies were outlined and the Police’s involvement with ‘Every Child Matters’ was explained to Members.

Staff Contact: Paramjit Kaur
Overview and Scrutiny Officer

Telephone: 01708 432436

Background Papers – None.

The following comments have been submitted by members of staff:
Financial implications and risks:

There are no financial implications or risks arising directly from this report.

Human Resources implications and risks:

There are no human resources implications or risks arising directly from this report.

Legal implications and risks:

There are no legal implications or risks arising directly from this report.

Equalities and Social Inclusion Implications and Risks:

There are no equalities or social inclusion implications or risks arising directly from this report.
REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

SUBJECT: REPORT OF THE CRIME & DISORDER COMMITTEE - SCRUTINISING NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH SCHEME IN THE BOROUGH TOPIC GROUP

SUMMARY

This report contains the findings and recommendations that have emerged after the Topic Group scrutinised the topic selected by the Committee in September 2007.

The environmental, equalities & social inclusion, financial, legal and HR implications and risks are addressed within the topic group’s report.

RECOMMENDATION

That Members:

1. Note the report of the Crime & Disorder Committee Topic Group (attached);

2. Decide whether to refer the recommendations of the Topic Group to Cabinet.
At its meeting on 12 September 2007, the Crime & Disorder Committee established to review Neighbourhood Watch Scheme in the borough.

Attached is a copy of the Topic Group’s report. The report includes details of the research that it undertook in reaching the conclusions set out.

**Staff Contact:** Paramjit Kaur
Overview & Scrutiny Support

**Telephone:** 01708 432436

Cheryl Coppell
Chief Executive

**Background Papers** - None
REPORT OF THE
CRIME AND DISORDER OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH SCHEME TOPIC GROUP

1. BACKGROUND

1.1 At its meeting on 12 September 2007, the Crime and Disorder Committee selected as a topic for scrutinising “Neighbourhood Watch Schemes” and their implementation within Havering.

1.2 The group was chaired by Councillor Lesley Kelly and also comprised of Councillor Jeffrey Brace, Councillor David Grantham, Councillor John Mylod, Councillor Fredrick Thompson and Councillor Linda Van Den Hende.

1.3 The group met six times, together with officers from other boroughs and the Police.

2. THE SCOPE OF THE REVIEW

2.1 The group agreed a scope for the review as follows:

- To review Havering Neighbourhood Watch Schemes and recommending improvements i.e. through advance promotion of the schemes to people and communities.

2.2 The Group met with the following officer during the course of the review:

- David Goddard: Chair of Neighbourhood Watch Association (Havering)
- Jim Madden: Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator (Wandsworth)
- Inspector Bernie Tootill: Partnership Inspector (Met Police)
- Linda Eastty: Neighbourhood Watch Liaison Officer (Met Police)
- Lisa Cherry: Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator (Redbridge)
3. VISITS

3.1 On 13 March 2008 the Group visited London Borough of Redbridge and met with Lisa Cherry, the Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator for the borough. This was an invaluable opportunity to meet with another borough and a wide range of issues were discussed, including the differences between the schemes in Redbridge and Havering.

4. FINDINGS

4.1 The group learnt that communities play a key role in making the schemes effective, and that neighbourhood watch schemes can solve problems beyond crime related, such as anti-social behaviour or neighbourhood problems.

4.2 Neighbourhood Watch Schemes are based on encouraging people to look after their own community and to take ownership to make neighbourhoods a safer place.

4.3 There are currently 195 schemes running in Havering, however some are more efficient than others. Most of the watches start out well but it was felt that there was a lack of commitment from the community and supporting agencies.

4.4 Newsletters and leaflets are produced four times a year and are distributed in the communities to raise awareness and encourage people to participate in the schemes.

4.5 The police are available to support the watches, but they do not run them, this is a community scheme, and it is hoped that these watches will complement the work of the Safer Neighbourhood Teams.

4.6 Currently the Neighbourhood Watch signs are erected by the Neighbourhood Watch team itself. The signs are acquired from an independent company and the Neighbourhood Watch team utilises its own funds to procure them.

4.7 Throughout the review all officers from other boroughs and Havering stated that the signs being in place, actually reduce the fear of crime and acted as a deterrent.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 That the Safer Neighbourhood Teams are requested in liaison with the Community Safety Teams go into schools and speak with parents about volunteering for the Neighbourhood Watch Schemes in their area.
5.2 That the Safer Neighbourhood Teams of each ward are requested to produce newsletters quarterly for their areas giving updates on what is happening and crime trends.

5.3 Further training is offered to Safer Neighbourhood Teams on how to launch and promote Neighbourhood Watch in their wards and set targets to set up new watches each month.

5.4 That the Lead Member for Sustainable Communities - Public Safety liaise with the Metropolitan Police to explore the possibility and funding of a Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator.

5.5 That the Committee encourage all Members to be involved in their Ward Panel meetings and promote the Neighbourhood Watch Schemes in their wards.

6. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Topic Group wishes to place on record their thanks for the positive approach in relation to this review that was displayed by members of staff and by colleagues at Havering Metropolitan Police, Redbridge and Wandsworth.

Background Papers

Notes of Topic Group Meetings:

7 November 2007
6 December 2007
16 January 2008
28 January 2008
16 March 2008
The following comments are submitted by members of staff:

ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS AND IMPLICATIONS
There are none.

EQUALITIES AND SOCIAL INCLUSION RISKS AND IMPLICATION
There are none.

HUMAN RESOURCES RISKS AND IMPLICATIONS
There are none arising from this report.

LEGAL RISKS AND IMPLICATIONS
There are none.

FINANCIAL RISKS AND IMPLICATIONS
Any recommendations with financial implications would need to be addressed by the Medium Term Financial Strategy process.
REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

SUBJECT: REPORT OF THE CRIME & DISORDER - TOPIC GROUP 
SCRUTINISING ALCOHOL CONTROL ZONE IN HAVERING

SUMMARY

This report contains the findings and recommendations that have emerged after the Topic Group scrutinised the topic selected by the Committee in February 2008.

The environmental, equalities & social inclusion, financial, legal and HR implications and risks are addressed within the topic group’s report.

RECOMMENDATION

That Members:

1. Note the report of the Crime & Disorder Committee Topic Group (attached);

2. Decide whether to refer the recommendations of the Topic Group to Cabinet.
At its meeting on 28 February 2008, the Crime & Disorder Committee established a topic group to review potential Alcohol Control Zone areas in Havering.

Attached is a copy of the Topic Group’s report. The report includes details of the research that it undertook in reaching the conclusions set out.

**Staff Contact:** Paramjit Kaur  
Overview & Scrutiny Support

**Telephone:** 01708 432436

**Background Papers** - None
1.0 BACKGROUND

1.1 At its meeting on 5th December, Council approved a motion requesting the possible extension of the Romford Alcohol Control zone to other centres around the borough. The proposal was referred to the Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee and Crime & Disorder Committee. It was recommended that the Committees utilize the expertise of the Council’s Community Safety Teams and external bodies such as the Police and Ambulance Services to establish a topic group to examine the practicalities of extending the use of Alcohol Control Zones. As the review would consider areas within the remit of the Licensing Committee, it was suggested the Committee could also ask a member of the Licensing Committee to join the topic group.

1.2 At its meeting on 28 February, the Committee in conjunction with the Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee approved the establishment of a Topic Group to examine the extending Alcohol Control Zone in the borough and consider whether an extension of zones to other areas of the borough is required.

1.3 The following Members formed the Topic Group at its outset: Councillors Lesley Kelly (Chairman), Frederick Thompson, John Mylod, Sandra Binion, Andrew Mann and Pam Light. The Topic Group was supported by the Havering Police Borough Commander, Chief Superintendent Steve Wisbey.

1.4 The Topic Group met on three occasions and also toured the Hornchurch and Central Romford areas with the Police Borough Commander in order to view the Alcohol Control Zone in operation and to consider its possible extensions. The Topic Group has now formulated its findings and recommendations, which are detailed in this report.

2.0 THE SCOPE OF THE REVIEW

To review the Alcohol Control Zone in the borough and consider the possibility of extending this into other areas in the borough.
3.0 GOOD PRACTICE

3.1 The Topic Group has sought examples of good practice to include in the review. To this effect the group researched the extent of Alcohol Control Zone areas in neighbouring boroughs and also undertook a visit to the Central Romford area and to Hornchurch town centre.

4.0 FINDINGS

4.1 Currently there is only one alcohol control zone operating in Havering; in Romford town centre. This has been a success and has reduced demand on Police resources. The alcohol control zone area is enforced in the main by the Police Safer Neighbourhood Team.

4.2 It was noted that numbers of alcohol related crimes and anti-social behaviour were down overall in Havering, however, 16% of these crimes occurred in Romford Town Centre, followed by 8% in Gooshays and 5% in St Andrews (Hornchurch town centre) wards. Romford town centre was also reported to have the highest level of fear of crime specifically around the bus station and train station area where a large number of young people gathering often intimidated people. Members considered options that could reduce this problem.

4.3 A total number of 2295 disorder calls were received relating to Romford Town Ward last year. Emerson Park recorded the lowest figures with 322 calls.

4.4 Members noted that drink related problems normally initiate after 8pm and that Control Zones were not required to be in action before this time.

4.5 The group considered the position of alcohol control zones in other boroughs. London Borough of Barking & Dagenham have one zone operating in the borough for the past three years, compared to three zones operating in Brentwood District Council (Brentwood Town Centre, Shenfield and Doddinghurst).

4.6 It was noted that in addition to the alcohol control zone in operation, Police are also working on initiatives such as Operation Curb for youth crime and anti-social behaviour, Operation Blunt for knife crime and the work of the Safer Neighbourhood Teams to reduce alcohol related crimes.

4.7 The topic group, with the Borough Commander, undertook a visit to the Hornchurch and Romford areas to see the alcohol control zone in action and to see whether further extensions of the control zone were needed. The group also visited Romford Police station and observed the fully alarmed interview suite and consulting rooms and an electronic fingerprint machine to check offenders’ details. The topic group also attended a night shift briefing to PC’s on officer safety, vehicle crime, enforcing bail conditions, a missing person
and the terrorism threat. The town centre briefing related to two major operations; Operation Curb to tackle serious violence among young people and Operation Rainbow covering anti-terrorism searches. Police informed the group that Hornchurch town centre had relatively few serious crime incidents.

4.8 During the visit, Members also noted that there was a lack of Automatic Public Toilets (APT) available in the Romford town centre. Currently, there is one APT located in the South Street area of Romford town centre, however, Members felt that at least one more APT is also needed in the Market Place area of the town centre.

4.9 Policing in Romford town centre were based on the following objectives:
- Public reassurance
- Prevention of crime and disorder
- Identifying offenders
- Preventing anti-social behaviour
- And addressing terrorism issues

5.0 CONCLUSIONS

5.2 The Topic Group agrees that the alcohol control zone operation has proved to be effective in achieving controlled levels of drink related crimes. From their visit to Romford and Hornchurch town centres, Members were impressed with the way both areas were maintained and monitored by the Police and felt that Hornchurch in particular was a well controlled area.

6.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

Following its findings and conclusion the topic group recommends:

6.1 The Committee note that the Alcohol Control Zone does not need to be extended in the current zone or implemented in any new zones.

6.2 That a second review be carried out by the topic group in 12 months time to review the current figures on crime levels, provided by the Police.

6.3 That Streetcare consider the possibility of further Automatic Public toilet facilities to be provided in the Market Place of Romford town centre.

6.4 That the Youth Outreach Team approach youths under 16 years, who congregate around the streets and bus stops, particularly near the train station in Romford town centre.
7.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Topic Group wishes to place on record their thanks for the very positive approach displayed by officers that we have met during this review.

This report is presented by the Alcohol Control Zone Topic Group of the Crime & Disorder Committee.

The following comments are submitted by members of staff:

Financial Implications and risks:
Any recommendations with financial implications would need to be addressed by the Medium Term Financial Strategy process.

Legal Implications and risks:
There are none.

Human Resources Implications and risks:
There are none arising from this report.

Environmental risks and implications:
There are none.

Equalities and Social inclusion risks and implications:
There are none.