



CRIME & DISORDER COMMITTEE AGENDA

7.30 pm

**Tuesday
21 May 2013**

**Town Hall, Main Road,
Romford**

Members 9: Quorum 3

COUNCILLORS:

Osman Dervish (Chairman)
John Wood (Vice-Chair)
Becky Bennett
Denis Breading
David Durant

Roger Evans
Georgina Galpin
Frederick Osborne
Linda Van den Hende

**For information about the meeting please contact:
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What is Overview & Scrutiny?

Each local authority is required by law to establish an overview and scrutiny function to support and scrutinise the Council's executive arrangements. Each overview and scrutiny committee has its own remit as set out in the terms of reference but they each meet to consider issues of local importance.

They have a number of key roles:

1. Providing a critical friend challenge to policy and decision makers;
2. Driving improvement in public services;
3. Holding key local partners to account; and
4. Enabling the voice and concerns of the public.

The Crime and Disorder Committee considers issues by receiving information from, and questioning, Cabinet Members, officers and external partners, particularly the Responsible Authorities, i.e. Metropolitan Police, Metropolitan Police Authority, Fire and Rescue Authorities, and Primary Care Trusts, to develop an understanding of proposals, policy and practices. They can then develop recommendations that they believe will improve performance, or as a response to public consultations.

Committees will often establish Topic Groups to examine specific areas in much greater detail. These groups typically consist of between 3-6 Members and the review period can last for anything from a few weeks to a year or more to allow the Members to comprehensively examine an issue through interviewing expert witnesses, conducting research and site visits. Once the topic group has finished its work it will send a report to the Committee that created it and it will often suggest recommendations to the executive.

Terms of Reference

The areas scrutinised by the Committee are in exercise of the functions conferred by the Police and Justice Act 2006, Section 19-22 and Schedules 8 & 9.

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 DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

Members are invited to disclose any pecuniary interest in any of the items on the agenda at this point of the meeting.

Members may still disclose any pecuniary interest in an item at any time prior to the consideration of the matter.

4 MINUTES OF THE MEETING (Pages 1 - 6)

To approve as correct the minutes of the meetings held on 17 April 2013 and authorise the Chairman to sign them.

5 WORK PLAN 2013/14 (Pages 7 - 10)

Report attached.

6 ANNUAL REPORT 2012/13

Report to follow.

7 HAVERING COMMUNITY SAFETY PLAN -REPORT ON MOPAC FUNDING 2013/14

An oral report will be given at the meeting.

8 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 specific in the minutes that the item should be considered at the meeting as a matter of urgency.

Ian Burns
Acting Assistant
Chief Executive

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**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
CRIME & DISORDER COMMITTEE
Committee Room 3A - Town Hall
17 April 2013 (7.30 - 9.12 pm)**

Present:

Councillors Osman Dervish (Chairman), John Wood (Vice-Chairman), Wendy Brice-Thompson (in place of Frederick Osborne), David Durant, Roger Evans, Georgina Galpin, Pat Murray (in place of Denis Breading) and Frederick Thompson (in place of Becky Bennett)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Rebecca Bennett, Denis Breading, Frederick Osborne and Linda Van den Hende.

Through the Chairman, announcements were made regarding emergency evacuation arrangements.

26 MINUTES OF THE MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 5 February 2013 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

27 REPORT FROM POLICE ON BURGLARY

The new Borough Commander, Metropolitan Police, Chief Superintendent, Jason Gwillim provided the Committee with an update on burglary within the borough. From the information available to him at the time of the meeting it appeared there had been a 1.3% increase in burglaries, from April 2012 to March 2013, compared to the same period last year. The good news, however, was that 12.1% were detected. Whilst this was still too low, it represented one of the highest detection rates in the Metropolitan Police area.

The borough suffers incursions from burglars who reside outside the borough and in recent times anecdotal evidence had shown that we had seen an influx of organised burglars from Eastern Europe. However, of those who were apprehended 54% were from Havering or neighbouring boroughs.

Locally the Police were looking for the best way to concentrate their resources to get the most favourable result. Current practice when a property is burgled involves 'cocooning' the surrounding area by calling at all properties to speak to the occupiers. If no one is there a pack is left. Chief Superintendent Gwillim felt that more could be done to be more proactive and ensure all neighbours were actually spoken to.

Local burglars who were known to the Police were visited by Police to try and deter them from re-offending and this will happen on a more regular basis.

Another problem faced by the Police was the lack of information on burglars being released from prison. When offenders were released the Police were notified of the details only about half the time. If release dates were altered the information was not always passed to the local Police in a timely manner. This is common in many boroughs.

Next month a meeting with other boroughs had been arranged at a senior level within the Metropolitan Police to tackle the problem of cross borough burglaries and lack of information from the Prison Service on offender release dates.

The Committee were advised that the Police are looking to improve their information on, and liaison with, "second hand" markets. A recent visit to a local second hand market resulted in 12 people being arrested for handling stolen goods.

It was likely the Metropolitan Police's target for 2013/14 would be a 6% reduction in burglaries.

The Committee asked about the most common motivations of the burglars to commit crime. JS suggested that some of the problem was drug related and the intervention of organised criminals and organised gangs. Some discussion was had by Members on the biggest motivation was to fund a regular life style.

Officers from the Community Safety Team would be attending the Burglary Master class being organised by the Metropolitan Police. The three location sub-groups of the Havering Community Safety Partnership ensure all partners work together to tackle the problem of burglary.

The Committee **noted** the report and thanked Chief Superintendent Gwillim for his presentation.

28 **CHRISTMAS CRIME UPDATE**

Chief Superintendent Gwillim provided the Committee with a breakdown of crimes committed during the period 10 December to 31 December 2012. Compared to last year the number of crimes had increased but the numbers remained comparatively small. Knife crime and robberies were, although incidents of rape, racist and religious crime and homophobic crimes were down. The Committee asked Chief Superintendent Gwillim for a deeper analysis of the figures, including a breakdown of what percentage of the crimes occurred in Romford Town Centre.

One of the issues which the Committee asked to be made aware of was the re-location of former gang members into the borough. Havering was now in a similar position to Barking and Dagenham two to three years ago and we need to be working now to ensure the problem, if any does not get out of hand.

The Committee thanked the Chief Superintendent for his presentation.

29 **METROPOLITAN POLICE ESTATES STRATEGY**

The Committee were advised that MOPAC had approved the Police and Crime Plan. Included in the Plan was the Metropolitan Police Estates Strategy. The Chief Superintendent advised the Committee that he was pleased that as a result of the consultation process Hornchurch Station had been saved as a contact point, especially given the emerging Night Time Economy in Hornchurch.

Under the strategy all contact points across London must be open every Wednesday and Thursday evening between 19:00 and 20:00 and every Saturday afternoon between 13:00 and 14:00. The local Borough Commander did have discretion to extend the opening hours if resources were available.

The Committee had concerns that with only Romford being open 24/7 waiting times could increase to an unacceptable level. Chief Superintendent Gwillim acknowledged the problem and stated he was looking at a more flexible way of working to ensure queues did not become unmanageable.

Questions were also asked about the buildings used by the Safer Neighbourhood Teams as deployment bases. The Committee were advised that there was no change at this time as the tenure of each building needed to be resolved. The money from the disposal of any property would go to MOPAC, not be retained locally.

Councillor Evans, who chaired the MOPAC consultation meeting, thanked everyone for their attendance and Chief Superintendent Gwillim thanked Councillor Evans for the way he chaired the meeting which enabled it to be so successful.

The Committee **noted** the report.

30 **LIFE PROJECT**

Chris Drew, Borough Commander, London Fire Brigade provided the Committee with details of the Local Intervention Fire Education (LIFE) programme. LIFE was an intensive five day course facilitated by Fire and Rescue Services and fire-fighters at operational fire stations. The local courses were run by Havering fire-fighters at Dagenham Fire Station. The programme offered young people between the ages of 13 -17 the opportunity to learn new skills as well as building on existing ones and is aimed at reducing anti-social behaviour.

Last year 69 people took the programme and this year it was hoped 78 people would pass through the programme. Funds were available this year from the Local Area Agreement performance reward grant, but as this was a

one-off pot of funding, no further money is available locally for 2014/15 to enhance the LFB's provision. Locally the Fire Brigade are looking to attract match funding to enable the programme to continue. It was especially important for Havering as next year the programme would be run in the borough whilst Dagenham Station was modernised.

This year 16 new fire cadets were being trained in the borough.

Several members of the Committee have attended the programme and all were impressed with the change in the participants from day one to day five. All participants in the programme are kept in touch with by the Central LIFE team.

The Committee thanked Chris for his report and noted what a worthwhile project this is.

31 UPDATE ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE TOPIC GROUP

The Committee received a report on the work of the Domestic Violence Topic Group. The report included a series of recommendations which could be made to the appropriate lead members. Having considered the report the Committee approved its content and

Recommended:

1. The Lead Member with responsibility for Housing and Public Protection review how the Homelessness Team deal with victims of Domestic Violence.
2. The Lead Members for Housing and Public Protection and Children and Learning explore ways of improving the communication between Housing and Pupil Services to ensure victims of Domestic Violence were not disadvantaged by decisions taken in isolation. i.e. Housing should check with Pupil Services whether a suitable school place was available within a reasonable distance before making an offer of accommodation.
3. The lead Member for Children and Learning explore with officers the best way to communicate with young people to ensure the message about domestic violence was understood.

32 ROMFORD TOWN CENTRE

On being advised that the new Director of Public Health wished to visit Romford Town Centre to observe the night time economy the Committee indicated that they would also like to take the opportunity to revisit and see what had changed since their last visit.

Chairman

CRIME & DISORDER COMMITTEE

Subject Heading:

Proposed Work Programme for the Crime and Disorder Committee for the 2013/14 Municipal Year

Report Author and contact details:

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SUMMARY

At this stage of the municipal year the Committee is required, so far as is practicable, to agree its work programme for the forthcoming year. This applies to both the work plan for the Committee as a whole and to the subject of any topic group run under the Committee's auspices.

This report provides Members with a suggested programme for scrutiny of the crime and disorder portfolio, during 2013/14.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Members are asked to consider the proposed work programme for the committee for the 2013/14 municipal year.

The Committee is also requested to consider what should be the subject of its next topic group review, if any.

REPORT DETAIL

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The Crime and Disorder Committee meets every six weeks to scrutinise issues relating to crime and disorder in the borough. To provide some structure to the Committee's reviews, officers have prepared a suggested work programme, in discussion with the Chair of the Committee, for Members to consider.

2. PROPOSED WORK PROGRAMME

- 2.1 The below schedule sets out some topics which the Committee may wish to consider as part of its scrutiny functions this year (this does not include the Joint Overview and Scrutiny meeting to consider the Council's budget).

Meeting 1 (16 July 13)	Meeting 2 (17 October 13)	Meeting 3 (21 November 13)	Meeting 4 (4 February 14)	Meeting 5 (10 April 14)
Report from CCG re Mental Health issues in prisoners and ex-offenders	Update report on MOPAC funded projects	Burglary	Update report on MOPAC funded projects	Annual Report
Review of National Policy changes on Anti Social Behaviour	Reducing Reoffending Presentation from London Probation Trust	Review of the locality groups model	Review of Youth Offending Services	Work with Public Health
Draft Alcohol and Drugs Strategy	Review of draft Anti Social Behaviour and Hate crime policy	Review of progress on Troubled Families	TBC	Review of services for victims of Domestic Violence.

- 2.2 Members will note that some of the work plan has been left blank at this stage. This is to reflect the fact that Members may well wish to select further issues for scrutiny. In addition, previous experience has shown that it is beneficial to leave some excess capacity for scrutiny in order to allow the Committee to respond fully to any consultations or other urgent issues that may arise during the year.
- 2.3 Additionally, the Committee has the power to select an issue for more in depth scrutiny as part of a topic group review. Council has recommended that, in view of limited resources, only one such topic group is run at any one time. The Committee is therefore requested to consider what should be the subject of its next topic group review, if any.

IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

Financial implications and risks: None – it is anticipated that the work of the Committee can be supported from existing resources.

Legal implications and risks: None

Human Resources implications and risks: None

Equalities implications and risks: There will be some equalities implications arising from the topics recommended for review by the committee. These will be highlighted to Members in their respective reports.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None.

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