



Havering

L O N D O N B O R O U G H

CRIME & DISORDER SUB- COMMITTEE AGENDA

7.00 pm

**Tuesday
10 September 2019**

**Committee Room 3A,
Town Hall, Main Road,
Romford**

Members 6: Quorum 3

COUNCILLORS:

Bob Perry (Chairman)
John Tyler
Tele Lawal

David Durant
Matt Sutton (Vice-Chair)
Sally Miller

**For information about the meeting please contact:
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Protocol for members of the public wishing to report on meetings of the London Borough of Havering

Members of the public are entitled to report on meetings of Council, Committees and Cabinet, except in circumstances where the public have been excluded as permitted by law.

Reporting means:-

- filming, photographing or making an audio recording of the proceedings of the meeting;
- using any other means for enabling persons not present to see or hear proceedings at a meeting as it takes place or later; or
- reporting or providing commentary on proceedings at a meeting, orally or in writing, so that the report or commentary is available as the meeting takes place or later if the person is not present.

Anyone present at a meeting as it takes place is not permitted to carry out an oral commentary or report. This is to prevent the business of the meeting being disrupted.

Anyone attending a meeting is asked to advise Democratic Services staff on 01708 433076 that they wish to report on the meeting and how they wish to do so. This is to enable employees to guide anyone choosing to report on proceedings to an appropriate place from which to be able to report effectively.

Members of the public are asked to remain seated throughout the meeting as standing up and walking around could distract from the business in hand.

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 sub-committee has its own remit as set out in the terms of reference but they each meet to consider issues of local importance.

The sub-committees 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.
4. Enabling the voice and concerns to the public.

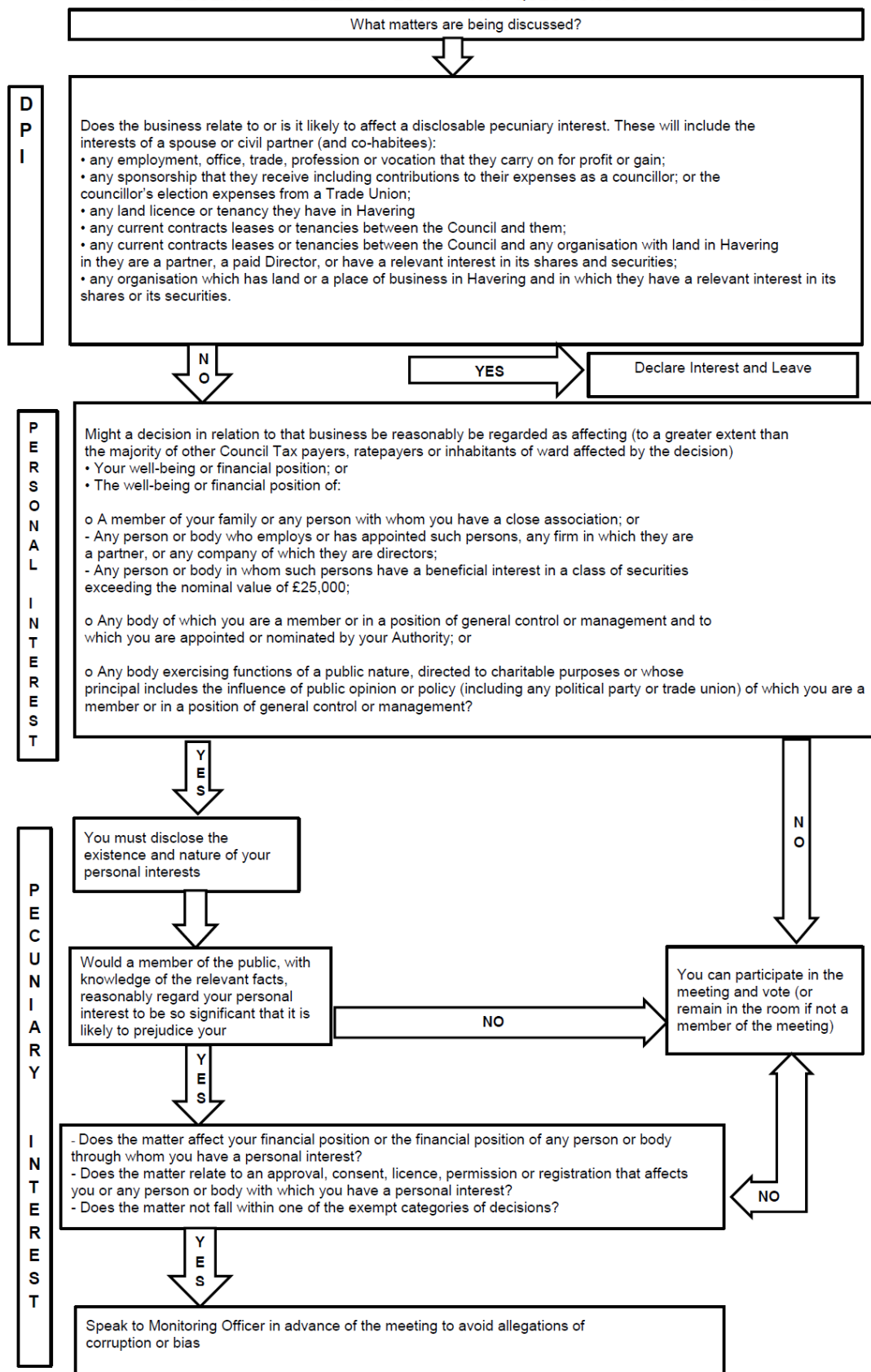
The sub-committees consider issues by receiving information from, and questioning, Cabinet Members, officers and external partners to develop an understanding of proposals, policy and practices. They can then develop recommendations that they believe will improve performance, or as a response to public consultations. These are considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Board and if approved, submitted for a response to Council, Cabinet and other relevant bodies.

Sub-Committees will often establish Topic Groups to examine specific areas in much greater detail. These groups consist of a number of 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 or undertaking site visits. Once the topic group has finished its work it will send a report to the Sub-Committee that created it and will often suggest recommendations for the Overview and Scrutiny Board pass to the Council's 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.

DECLARING INTERESTS FLOWCHART – QUESTIONS TO ASK YOURSELF



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 INTEREST

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

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

4 MINUTES OF THE MEETING (Pages 1 - 4)

To approve as correct the minutes of the meetings held 17 July 2019 and authorise the Chairman to sign them.

5 PERFORMANCE INDICATORS - QUARTER 1 (2019-20) (Pages 5 - 8)

6 UPDATE REPORT ON LB HAVERING APPLICATION FOR UNLAWFUL ENCAMPMENT INJUNCTION (Pages 9 - 14)

7 USE OF TASER DEVICE ON THE EAST AREA BCU (Pages 15 - 20)

Andrew Beesley
Head of Democratic Services

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**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
CRIME & DISORDER SUB- COMMITTEE
Town Hall, Main Road, Romford
17 July 2019 (7.00 - 8.45 pm)**

Present:

Councillors Bob Perry (Chairman), John Tyler, Tele Lawal, David Durant and Sally Miller

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Matt Sutton

18 MINUTES OF THE MEETING

The minutes of the meeting of the Sub-Committee held on 18 February 2019 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

19 PERFORMANCE REPORT

The Sub-Committee received information on performance against indicators during Quarter Four (January – March 2019).

The Sub-Committee received, and noted, the number of shifts where minimum strength was met, the number of working days lost to aid abstractions from ring fenced roles and data on neighbourhood officers abstracted by rank and officers abstracted by aid, court and training, as detailed in the report.

During discussion, Members requested a report on the Introduction of Tasers in Romford Town Centre, to be presented to the next meeting.

The Sub-Committee considered what performance information they would require for future meetings and agreed that response times, burglary, non DA violence with injury, domestic abuse and anti-social behaviour would be monitored.

The Sub-Committee noted the contents of the report.

20 MOPAC PARTNERSHIP PLUS SCHEME FOR S.92 POLICE OFFICERS

The Sub-Committee received a report that set out the proposal from the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) on the Partnership Plus scheme for S.92 Police Officers for Havering for a decision by Cabinet.

The new Partnership Plus Scheme was launched in February 2019 to support safer neighbourhoods within London Boroughs. The report detailed that the MOPAC Partnership Plus Scheme for the London Boroughs must be discussed and considered with the Borough Commander.

The report informed the Sub-Committee that the new scheme would allow the Council to purchase police officers at a reduced rate of £57,000 per police constable, £70,500 per sergeant and £86,000 per inspector. This represented a discount of over 21% of the full cost of a police constable.

The minimum term for Partnership Plus Scheme agreement was three years, albeit either party may terminate the agreement with six months' notice for any reason within the term.

The process for securing these posts was similar to the previous arrangements with a receipt of a Letter of Intent from the London Borough, confirmation of availability of the additional officers and Deputy Assistant Commissioner's approval.

There was the opportunity to explore additional funding to support the scheme locally engaging with other partners including the Business Improvement Districts within Havering.

The Sub-Committee noted that a Local Authority could raise additional revenue through either Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 or a Late Night Levy that may be used to fund the purchase of additional officers through the Partnership Plus Scheme.

The report indicated that officers purchased under the Partnership Plus Scheme would be additional to the BCU Establishment. Partnership Plus officers would be available for approximately 10 High Demand Days annually for which a discount had been applied to the annual rates.

The report outlined the one Council approach to enforcement in order to ensure consistency and the effective use of resources to tackle crime and disorder issues in Havering. Should the Council commit to the arrangements for the additional police officers, the intention would be to co-locate them within the Enforcement Group.

The Sub-Committee was informed that the proposed council funded Police Partnership Plus S92 officers would be deployed to police and support both the Safer Havering Partnership priorities and Havering Tactical Enforcement Group (TEG) tasking priorities.

The Sub-Committee noted the report.

21 ANNUAL REPORT

The Sub-Committee noted the Annual Report 2018/19 which was presented at Council on the 10 July 2019.

22 FORWARD PLAN

Following discussion, the Sub-Committee agreed for the following items be placed on its work plan for the next meeting:

1. Quarter One Performance Indicators Update
2. Presentation on the use of Taser by MPS
3. Travellers Injunction Update since 2016

23 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

The Committee resolved to exclude the public from the meeting during discussion of the following item on the grounds that it was likely that, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, if members of the public were present during those items there would be disclosure to them of exempt information within the meaning of paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

There were no members of the public or press present for the duration of the meeting.

24 HOW THE MPS ARE TACKLING DRUGS IN HAVERING

The Sub-Committee received an overview of how the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) were tackling drugs in Havering. The report outlined that criminal drug use could be found at the root of many of the social problems, often manifesting in problematic behaviour on streets and behind closed doors.

The Sub-Committee noted that crime and disorder ranged from low level drugs related ASB and litter, to high level dealing, supply, OCN and violent crime.

The report indicated that tackling drugs issues required a wide range of tactics and interventions – across East Area's policing strands, other Met departments and in partnership with local authorities and other agencies – particularly around the regulation of all drug classifications and support work for those who were drug dependent.

The MPS had recently re-launched its drugs strategy, focusing on drug-related violence (DRV) and the East Area Basic Command Unit (BCU) was committed to the policy. It was noted that this would demonstrate a long

term commitment to reducing demand, harm and supply within the operating parameters of the BCU.

Higher level OCN targeting and DRV would be the responsibility of the Met Specialist Crime and the NCA.

The report explained that Police data analysis showed that possession offences accounted for around 93% of drug offences in Havering, with Romford Town Centre consistently holding the highest volume. Rainham and Wennington had seen a spike in May 2019.

The Sub-Committee was informed that within the BCU (and Havering), any focused drugs work would predominantly be undertaken by the local SNT and CID. However Emergency Response and Safeguarding teams would be heavily involved through their ongoing demand. It was noted that within the Safeguarding Team, it had been identified that drug and alcohol dependency was a key driver for Domestic Abuse and other related issues.

The Sub-Committee was informed that whilst all strands of the MPS would deal with drug-related crime, the focus should always be on prevention. This would be achieved through continued partnerships under IOM (inc DIP) and across the London Borough of Havering and other agencies which educate, along with intervening and supporting those with a drug dependency. This was a joint problem to continue to tackle and reduce.

The report informed that the Police would continue to support existing strategies connected with YOS, IOM, MARAC and MASH functions, many of which would feature drug and alcohol dependencies which drove criminal behaviour.

RESOLVED:

That the contents of the report be noted.

Chairman

CRIME AND DISORDER OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Subject Heading:	Crime and Disorder Overview and Scrutiny Committee Performance Indicators - Quarter 1 (2019/2020)
SLT Lead:	Sue Harper Interim Director of Neighbourhoods
Report Author and contact details:	Diane Egan Community Safety Manager Diane.egan@haverling.gov.uk 01708 432927
Policy context:	The report sets out Quarter 1 performance for indicators relevant to the Committee.
Financial summary:	There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. However adverse performance against some performance indicators may have financial implications for the Council.

The subject matter of this report deals with the following Council Objectives

Communities making Havering	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Places making Havering	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Opportunities making Havering	<input type="checkbox"/>
Connections making Havering	<input type="checkbox"/>

SUMMARY

The report provides information on performance against the indicators previously requested by the Crime and Disorder Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee during Quarter 1 (April to June 2019).

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Crime and Disorder Overview and Scrutiny Committee note the contents of the report; consider the performance information required going forward; and request information as set out in the report.

REPORT DETAIL

1. Response time to Immediate (I) and Significant (S) Grade Incidents

The Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) has a target to reach 90% of “Immediate” (I) graded calls within 15 minutes of the call being made. The MPS target for “Significant” (S) grade calls is to reach 90% within one hour of the call being made.

Data from police is no longer available as a percentage figure for each month; however is now provided as a rolling average for I and S grades of calls met within target times, and also domestic abuse (DA) calls in each of these gradings. The rolling average is provided from 4th September 2017, when revisions to the tri-borough model came into effect.

I and S Call performance for **Havering**

	I calls	DA I calls	S Calls	DA S calls
Rolling 12 month average	82.7%	84.6%	80.5%	80.0%
Current week (01/07/19)	76.6%	73.9%	67.9%	68.6%

I-grades:

For the week commencing 1st July 2019 Havering has seen an improvement in the number of I calls reaching the target time compared to quarter 4 with a rate of 82.7% (compared to 82.1% for the week commencing 1st April 2019). This is slightly below the overall BCU average of 85.11%).

For the same period, Havering DA I grade calls have seen an increase in the number of calls reaching targets with a rate of 84.6% compared to the 82.8% reported for the week commencing 1st April 2019. This is above the overall BCU average of 83.9%).

S-grades:

The 12 month rolling averages to 1st July 2019 are as follows: Locally, 80.5% of S grades are met within an hour (compared to 80.8% for the week commencing 1st April 2019). This is above the BCU average of 75.72%.

Domestic Abuse S grades show the figure of 80.0% locally (compared to 78.5% for the week commencing 1st April 2019.). This is above the BCU average of 76.52%.

2. Violence

The table below compares the level of domestic abuse and level on non-domestic abuse violence with injury experienced within Havering in quarter 1 of 2019-20 compared to the same time period in 2018-19.

Violence data for Q1 2019-20 compared to Q1 2018-19			
	2018-19	2019-20	% Breakdown
Domestic Abuse	168	164	-2%
Non Domestic Abuse VWI	528	448	-15%
Total	696	612	-12%

Domestic Abuse has reduced by 2% and Non Domestic Violence with Injury has reduced by 15%.

The Council approved the Violence against Women and Girls Strategy and the Serious Group Violence and Knife Crime Strategy in quarter 1 of 2019-20

3. Burglary

The table below compares the level of burglary experienced within Havering in quarter 1 of 2019-20 compared to the same time period in 2018-19.

There has been an increase in burglary business and community of 120% during this period. This could be attributed to improve reporting of incidents to the police.

Havering has experienced an increase of 4% in residential burglary during this period.

Burglary data for Q1 2019-20 compared to Q1 2018-19			
	2018-19	2019-20	% Breakdown
Burglary - Business and Community	93	205	120%
Burglary - Residential	296	307	4%
Total	389	512	32%

The Council continues to support the police in providing crime prevention advice to residents and businesses in Havering through the use of e-newsletters, twitter, Facebook and Living in Havering.

The Majority of residential burglaries continue to be through unlocked doors and windows.

4. ASB

Anti-Social Behaviour reported to the police continues to fall within Havering. The table below shows a reduction of 9% in quarter 1 2019-20 when compared to quarter 1 2018 -19.

ASB Call data for Q1 2019-20 compared to Q1 2018-19			
	2018-19	2019-20	% Breakdown
Total	1490	1356	-9%

The Council continues to work closely with the police to tackle ASB through the Monthly Tasking Enforcement group and provide support to frequent callers and victims of ASB via the monthly Community MARAC.

IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

Financial implications and risks:

There are no financial implications arising directly from this report which is for information only. However adverse performance against some performance indicators may have financial implications for future MOPAC grant funding the Council.

Legal implications and risks:

Whilst reporting on performance is not a statutory requirement, it is considered best practice to review the Council's progress against the Corporate Plan and Service Plans on a regular basis.

Human Resources implications and risks:

There are no specific Human Resource implications or risks arising directly from this report.

Equalities implications and risks:

This report relates to information requested by the committee rather than policy. There are no direct equalities implications or risks associated with this report.

CRIME AND DISORDER SUB-COMMITTEE

Subject Heading:	Update report on LB Havering application for unlawful encampment injunction
SLT Lead:	Dipti Patel, Assistant Director, Environment
Report Author and contact details:	Robert Harper, Interim Enforcement Group Manager Robert.harper@haverling.gov.uk

The subject matter of this report deals with the following Council Objectives

Communities making Havering	[]
Places making Havering	[]
Opportunities making Havering	[]
Connections making Havering	[]

SUMMARY

Residents, business owners and landowners have experienced an increasing number of unauthorised encampments across Havering in recent years.

The Borough has suffered significant and prolonged issues as a direct result of each unauthorised encampment, including fly tipping, anti-social behaviour, criminal damage and violent behaviour, and compounded by the environmental impact and health risks arising from the majority of such illegal incursions.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Sub-Committee receive and note the contents of the report.

REPORT DETAIL

1. Environmental / Economic Impact

- 1.1 Significant expense has been incurred by the council and private land owners in relation to legal and clear up costs.
- 1.2 Responding to these incidents is necessary to generate cumulative opportunity and costs in terms of officer time, and the cost to the council of removal of fly tipped material from illegal encampments which can amount to tens of thousands of pounds.
- 1.3 Additional costs are often associated with the removal of abandoned caravans, where laden with hazardous and bulky waste such as oil and gas canisters, and tyres.
- 1.4 Furthermore costs are regularly incurred on installation of target hardening measures to prevent unlawful incursions such as wooden posts and concrete barriers.

1.5 Unauthorised Encampment Protocol

Council Planning Enforcement Officers are primarily responsible for dealing with reported incursions in line with the Unauthorised Encampment Protocol. Firstly, determining land ownership, and undertaking an initial assessment to confirm whether there is an unauthorised encampment and if so, subsequently arranging a welfare assessment to identify any welfare issues that need to be addressed, before taking enforcement action.

2. Enforcement Powers

- 2.1 Private land owners are able to take action under Common Law to remove trespassers from their land in which private bailiffs are instructed. On Council owned land enforcement action can be undertaken through the service of **Section 77 Notices under the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994** (CJPOA) which empowers local authorities to direct individuals to remove their vehicles and belongings and to leave highway land, or any land occupied without the consent of the landowner, whether owned by the local authority itself or by any other public or private landowner.
- 2.2 A Notice is served under this enactment by local authority officers – usually in the company of police officers – requiring the trespassers to vacate the land by a certain date. If not complied with, as is often the case, the council

has to make application to the Magistrates Court for an order under **Section 78 of the CJPOA**.

- 2.3 Whether individuals leave land following service of a notice under section 77 CJPOA or prior to enforcement of an order under section 78 CJPOA, if they proceed to illegally occupy another site within the borough this process has to be recommenced, a time-consuming process entailing further costs.

3. Police powers

- 3.1 Police have additional powers under **section 61 of the CJPOA** to direct unauthorised campers to leave a site without reference to the courts, if the landowner or his agent has asked them to leave by a particular date and time and they have failed to do so.
- 3.2 However, to invoke this power one of the three following conditions has to be met :
- the unauthorised campers have caused damage to land or property thereon;
 - they have used threatening, abusive or insulting words or behaviour to the occupier, a member of his family or his employee or agent;
 - there are six or more vehicles on the land.

4. Unauthorised Encampment injunctions

- 4.1 In line with neighbouring authorities in Barking and Dagenham and Redbridge the Council has issued a Part 8 Claim form for an injunction, an application notice for an interim injunction and a without notice application for alternative service of the evidence.
- 4.2 The without notice application for alternative service has been granted by Mr Justice Phillips in the Queens Bench Division, High Court of Justice.
- 4.3 The interim injunction application is listed before a judge on 10th September, 2019.

Full details of the unlawful encampment injunction are published on the Council website: www.haverling.gov.uk/encampmentinjunction.

- a. 260 vulnerable sites, including parks and open spaces have been identified across Havering, requiring deployment of almost 600 injunction notices to ensure that this preventative measure can be made legally enforceable for at least 3 years at the date of next hearing (which is yet to be determined by the Court).
- b. Officers from across the Environment Directorate have been working additional hours to complete this considerable logistical undertaking to ensure service of all notices to enable application for an interim injunction to be obtained at the High Court on 10th September.

- c. Application has also been made for injunctions against 105 named individuals. Legal Services have instructed bailiffs for the service of these notices.

5. Update to the Crime and Disorder Committee on application to the High Court on 10th September

- 5.1 Rob Harper, Interim Enforcement Group Manager for Neighbourhoods will present a verbal update to the Crime and Disorder Committee meeting on 10th September to confirm the outcome of the Council's application for an interim unauthorised encampment injunction at the High Court on the same day.

IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

Financial implications and risks:

A broad estimate of costs of the injunction could be up to £200, 000 or more if the proceedings are contested. This will include legal fees, process server costs and officer investigation time etc.

If an injunction order is granted by the Court the Council will not incur costs to place further bollards in public car parks etc. and clearing of sites for fly-tipping and waste. For example the clear up costs from 2016 to date has been confirmed by the cleansing team as £162, 467.30.

Legal implications and risks:

As set out in the body of the report, the Council has dealt with unauthorised encampments by following the legal process under Section 77 and Section 78 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994. However these powers have proved ineffective as the travellers once served will move from site to site. In any event the powers do not prevent the associated problems with these encampments such as the fly tipping, criminal damage and anti social behaviour. Therefore a Borough Wide Injunction is now necessary. Neighbouring Boroughs such as London Borough Redbridge have also obtained the same order therefore there is a risk further unauthorised encampments will continue should there be no order in place.

If the Order is granted the Council will request for a Power of Arrest to be attached so that any breach will be contempt of court and any named or unnamed individuals may be liable to be sent to prison. The Council's enforcement team will need to liaise with the Metropolitan Police to agree the arrangements for enforcement of any Order granted.

The application has been carefully prepared to consider The Human Rights Act 1998 and the Equality Act 2010 however the Court will balance this against the significant impact of the encampments and associated problems in the Borough before making a decision. An EQIA has been completed prior to issue of the proceedings.

If the application for the injunction is defended there is a possibility each individual or a group will collectively arrange legal representation. In this instance the case will be carefully reviewed at each stage of the proceedings.

Human Resources implications and risks:

Under 300 sites have been served across the whole borough in order to ensure the service requirement for the injunction has been completed. Officers across different departments have arranged a co-ordinated approach and an external process server has been briefed should assistance be required. The costs of this has been considered and agreed by the service.

Equalities implications and risks:

The Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 requires the Council, when exercising its functions, to have due regard to:

- (i) The need to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Equality Act 2010;
- (ii) The need to advance equality of opportunity between persons who share protected characteristics and those who do not, and;
- (iii) Foster good relations between those who have protected characteristics and those who do not.

Note: 'Protected characteristics' are age, sex, race, disability, sexual orientation, marriage and civil partnerships, religion or belief, pregnancy and maternity and gender reassignment.

The Council is committed to all of the above in the provision, procurement and commissioning of its services, and the employment of its workforce. In addition, the Council is also committed to improving the quality of life and wellbeing for all Havering residents in respect of socio-economics and health determinants.

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CRIME AND DISORDER SUB-COMMITTEE

10 September 2019

Subject Heading:

Use of Taser device on the East Area
BCU

Daniel James, East Area BCU

SUMMARY

The Sub-Committee requested, at their meeting on the 17 July 2019, that a report on the use of taser devices be presented at the next meeting.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Sub-Committee are requested to note the report attached.

IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

Financial implications and risks: None of this covering report.

Legal implications and risks: None of this covering report.

Human Resources implications and risks: None of this covering report.

Equalities implications and risks: None of this covering report.

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Use of Taser device on the East Area BCU

1.1 Introduction

Nationally the Home Office approves TASER for use by Authorised Firearms Officers (AFOs) and 'Specially Trained Officers' (STO's). Both AFOs and STO's for the purposes of this document are described as TASER Officers



- 1.2 TASER is a Conducted Energy Device and is classified as a Section 5 weapon under the Firearms Act 1968 and by NPCC as 'work related equipment'. It is not Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
- 1.3 Within the MPS, only officers who have been confirmed in the rank of Constable will be considered for training as a TASER officer
- 1.4 Officers who carry a TASER within the MPS MUST be up to date with the most current release of Officer Safety Training, Emergency Life Support and hold a minimum score of 5.4 on the job related fitness test (bleep test)
- 1.5 In order to be able to carry a TASER, officers must attend and pass an initial nationally accredited TASER course. There is a national standard and those officers who do not yet meet the standard will not be authorised to carry a TASER

- 1.6 All officers MUST attend annual refresher training – if an officer does not attend training, their authorisation to carry is withdrawn
- 1.7 Emergency Response & Patrol Teams (ERPT's) across the BCU carry TASER in uniform – it is an overt device and is clearly visible. This is to clearly identify them as less lethal weapons. These officers are first responders to 999 calls
- 1.8 An officer can draw a TASER and "tactically engage" a subject without discharging the device. Often, the threat of discharge is enough to subdue a subject
- 1.9 If a TASER is discharged, immediate medical aid is given to the subject if required. Officers are required to inform the control room and line manager of the discharge. A "use of force" online form is completed and sent to a central unit – every discharge or tactical engagement is recorded
- 1.10 Emergency Response and Patrol Team officers now wear Body Worn Video devices which are required to be activated when attending incidents – all tactical engagement and discharges will be recorded
- 1.11 The data gathered between April 2017 – June 2019 show that 5% of all "use of force" recording involved the use of TASER – 95% of "use of force" incidents did not involve TASER at any point. This is 1% higher than the Met average of 4%
- 1.12 Pan-London resources also carry Taser and may be deployed to the BCU i.e. Territorial Support Group (TSG), Specialist Firearms Command and Traffic units etc. We are not always made aware of deployments
- 1.13 Data, terms of reference and additional information below

Operating requirements

Tasers are primarily designed to be used in probe mode. To be effective:

- the Taser power source must have sufficient charge
- the wires connecting the probes to the device must remain intact
- two probes, two electrodes or a combination of one probe and one electrode are required to make contact with the subject's body or clothing or:
 - a top and bottom probe from differing cartridges are required to make contact with the subject's body or clothing (X2 only).

Range

The maximum range of the device is determined by the length of the wires that carry the current and attach the probes to the weapon. For each device it is currently as follows:

- X26 – 21 feet or 6.4 metres
- X2 – 25 feet or 7.6 metres.

The effective range at which it is likely that the two barbs will attach themselves to the subject may be a lesser distance.

Stun modes

The X26 device may be used to achieve incapacitation in 'angled drive stun' mode with a cartridge fitted. Where justifiable, 'drive stun' without a cartridge (or an expended cartridge attached) could be used – but this will not achieve muscular incapacitation.

The X2 may be used to achieve incapacitation in 'three point contact' mode (one probe and two contacts). Where justifiable, 'direct contact' ('drive stun') mode may be used – but this will not achieve muscular incapacitation. With the X2, 'direct contact' can be achieved with the cartridges on, off or expended.

Effects

The usual reaction of a person exposed to Taser discharge in probe mode is loss of some voluntary muscle control accompanied by involuntary muscle contractions. During the discharge the subject may:

- not be able to control their posture – consider risk of injury from uncontrolled fall
- experience their legs going rigid, which could be mistaken for kicking out (especially if they are in prone position)
- convulse, curl up in a ball, spasm, or stiffen (plank)
- experience intense pain
- call out or make involuntary vocal noises
- not be able to respond to verbal commands during the discharge
- be confused or disorientated after the cycle
- feel exhausted after cycle
- 'freeze' on the spot.

Loss of posture and resulting falls could result in head injury, either from the subject's head hitting the ground or from collision with nearby rigid objects (e.g. tables, chairs or walls). This may result in the subject falling to the ground, causing various secondary injuries, or being exposed to other risks.

When used in 'probe mode', the device relies on physiological effects other than pain alone to achieve its objective.

Provided both probes attach to the subject's skin or clothing correctly with sufficient spread, the effects are likely to be instantaneous. The muscle incapacitating effect is only likely to last while the electrical charge is being delivered. The subject may recover immediately afterwards and could continue with their previous behaviour – an incapacitated subject must therefore be controlled quickly and effectively.

The cycle can be repeated or extended if the desired incapacitation does not appear to take effect and the further use of force is justified and proportionate in the circumstances. Officers should review other options as there may be technical or physiological reasons why the device is not working as expected on a particular individual.