

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
CRIME & DISORDER SUB- COMMITTEE
Town Hall, Main Road, Romford
3 February 2015 (7.30 - 9.20 pm)**

Present:

Councillors David Durant (Chairman), John Wood (Vice-Chair), John Glanville, Dilip Patel and Linda Van den Hende

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Garry Pain

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

28 MINUTES OF THE MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 20 November 2014 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

29 REPORT FROM THE BOROUGH COMMANDER, METROPOLITAN POLICE.

Inspector Cheryl Burden attended the meeting on behalf of the Metropolitan Police. She had reported on Havering Police's progress in meeting the MOPAC 7 targets:

MOPAC 7	Target	Status
Burglary	2320	On target
Criminal Damage	1471	Off target
Robbery	399	On target
Theft From Motor Vehicle	1288	On target
Theft of Motor Vehicle	764	On target
Theft person	250	Off target
Violence with Injury (VWI)	1158	Off target
TOTAL MOPAC	7650	On target

Inspector Burden had explained that the police were confident that they could achieve the target for Criminal Damage. The situation with Theft person and VWI was different. Just after the targets were set the We 'R' Festival commenced operations in the borough. This Festival had resulted in a significant number of Theft Persons each year. Often a person reported the theft two or three days after the event which made it difficult to quantify. Once a crime was lodged it could not be removed from the statistics.

The definitions for VWI had changed this year and every force in the Metropolitan Police was faced with the same problem of exceeding the target.

Over the three week period covering Christmas and New Year the crime figures were as follows:

Year	21 Dec	28 Dec	4 Jan	Total
Burglary				
2013/14	67	49	37	153
2014/15	62	26	41	129
Criminal Damage				
2013/14	24	27	22	73
2014/15	26	32	37	95
Robbery				
2013/14	2	4	3	9
2014/15	12	3	4	19
Motor Vehicle				
2013/14	53	27	22	102
2014/15	45	31	25	101
Theft Person				
2013/14	4	6	8	18
2014/15	4	10	6	20
Violence with Injury				
2013/14	26	28	34	88
2014/15	28	36	32	96

The Sub-Committee were informed that the figures were quite positive and were pleased to advise that Romford Town Centre had been seeing fewer weekly average offences compared to the 12 weeks prior to 13/10/2014.

The Sub-Committee thanked Inspector Burden for her presentation.

30 **PRESENTATION ON THE STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT**

The Sub-Committee had received an update on the progress made in the last 12 months:

- **Acquisitive Crime: Burglary and Vehicle Crime Priority**
 - Largest burglary reduction in over a decade and best performance since 2006 (-20%);
 - Largest vehicle crime reduction in over a decade and best performance since 2006 (-27%).
- **Violence Against Women & Girls Priority**
 - Increasing number of victims being identified, aided in part by improved recording standards;

- This is helped identify an increasing number of repeat victims for interventions;
- Development of VAWG Strategy and strategic board to deliver on this agenda.

- Romford Town Centre Priority
 - Rates of crime have fallen below that of comparable centres, including Bromley, Kingston and Sutton;
 - Romford has the fastest declining rate of violence within the night-time economy of all regional town centres.

- Serious Group Violence (SGV) emerging Priority
 - Havering identified as one of the 10 new areas to receive support from the Home Office Ending Gangs & Youth Violence Team;
 - Acquired funding from MOPAC to support the prevention and early intervention;
 - Expanded the work of the SGV Panel and devised a SGV strategy.

- Cross-Cutting Theme: Community Engagement & Public Confidence
 - First borough to develop the Safer Neighbourhood Board;
 - Continue to raise awareness and protect victims through initiatives such as Safe Zones;
 - Increasing proportion of survey respondents reported contact with police and community safety through organised events.

- Cross-Cutting Theme: Integrated Offender Management
 - Increased the number of offenders being managed across Havering through the IOM, SGV and DIP panels.

The Sub-Committee was advised that a number of pressures had been identified:

- Total population expected to increase by 1,900 each year, with projected increase to 281,100 by 2033;
- Need for an additional 795 homes each year to accommodate this;
- Those aged 15 and under projected to grow +21.1% by 2026, compared to 12% increase regionally;
- Rising property prices and rental values and changes to housing benefit will continue to inward migration (Havering is the 3rd most affordable borough);
- Unemployment remains above the national average;
- Increasing proportion of children living in poverty (23% in 2014, an increase from 19% in 2009);
- Latest ONS data also shows Havering to have the 12th highest

proportion of lone parent households claiming out of work benefits in London;

- Increasingly diverse population, faster BME growth amongst the youth population;
- Continued budget cuts affecting services, changing socio-economic demographics producing additional cost pressures;
- Policing levels and community safety funding from MOPAC both significantly below regional average.

Officers advised the Sub-Committee that since the last assessment the borough had seen:

- Increasing:
 - Domestic Abuse +1,047
 - Violent Crime +510
 - Sexual Offences +87
 - Shoplifting +67
 - Arson/Deliberate Fires +42
 - Criminal Damage, Hate Crime & Serious Youth Violence
- Reducing:
 - Burglary -519
 - Vehicle Crime -496
 - Robbery -72
 - Theft Person (exc. We R Festival) -38

Furthermore since the last assessment there had been a number of key changes:

- Victims:
 - Increased level of recorded violence affecting those under 18;
 - One of the highest levels of repeat victimisation rates for domestic abuse in London;
 - Repeat victimisation rate for ASB higher than London average;
 - Increased proportion of residents worried about ASB, particularly drug misuse and dealing.
- Offenders:
 - Less young people accused (charged) of crime, contrasting increase in young victims;
 - Reduction in proportion of offenders citing finances, drugs and accommodation as criminogenic needs, increased citing emotional wellbeing;
 - Information on those at-risk of gang or serious group violence related activity improved;
 - Havering one of the few boroughs to record an increase in serious youth violence (+24%);
 - Reoffending rates increased, but remains lower than regional averages.

- Locations:
 - More deprived wards have experienced more notable increases in violence and domestic abuse (North East / South West of Havering).

The Sub-Committee was advised that the Havering Community Safety Partnership had **agreed** to adopt the following priority areas for 2014/15:

1. Protecting vulnerable individuals/victims;
2. Supporting the most prolific and/or high harm offenders;
3. Creating safer locations; and
4. Community engagement and public confidence.

The Sub-Committee has **noted** the report.

31 PREVENT PLAN

Officers informed the Sub-Committee that the Counter-Terrorism and Security Bill, which was currently before Parliament, sought to place a duty on specified authorities (identified in full in Schedule 3 to the Bill and set out in the guidance) to 'have due regard, in the exercise of its functions, to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism'. Preventing people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism also required challenge to extremist ideas where they were used to legitimise terrorism and were shared by terrorist groups. In carrying out this duty, the specified authorities must have regard to guidance issued by the Secretary of State.

The Sub-Committee were advised that the *Prevent* strategy, published by the government in 2011, was part of our overall counter-terrorism strategy, CONTEST. The aim of the *Prevent* strategy was to reduce the threat to the UK from terrorism by stopping people *becoming* terrorists or *supporting* terrorism. In the Act this has simply been expressed as "*prevent people from being drawn into terrorism*".

The *Prevent* strategy had three specific strategic objectives:

- Respond to the ideological challenge of terrorism and the threat we face from those who promote it;
- Prevent people from being drawn into terrorism and ensure that they were given appropriate advice and support; and
- Work with sectors and institutions where there were risks of radicalisation that we need to address.

There were three themes throughout the sector-specific guidance: effective leadership, working in partnership and appropriate capabilities.

1. Leadership:
For all specified authorities, it was expected that those in leadership positions:

- Establish or use existing mechanisms for understanding the risk of radicalisation;
- Ensure staff understand the risk and build the capabilities to deal with it;
- Communicate and promote the importance of the duty; and
- Ensure staff implement the duty effectively.

2. Working in partnership:

Prevent work depended on effective partnership. To demonstrate effective compliance with the duty, specified authorities must demonstrate evidence of productive co-operation, in particular with local *Prevent* co-ordinators, the police and local authorities, and co-ordination through existing multi-agency forums, for example Community Safety Partnerships.

3. Capabilities:

Frontline staff who engaged with the public should understand what radicalisation means and why people might be vulnerable to it. They needed to be aware of what we mean by the term “extremism” and the relationship between extremism and terrorism.

Staff needed to know what measures were available to prevent people from becoming drawn into terrorism and how to challenge the extremist ideology that could be associated with it. They needed to understand how to obtain support for people who might be being exploited by radicalising influences.

All specified authorities subject to the duty would need to ensure they provided appropriate training for staff involved in the implementation of this duty. Such training was now widely available.

The Metropolitan Police, in consultation with partners had prepared an action plan designed to ensure key personnel were trained.

The response to the consultation submitted by London Councils was supported by the Sub-Committee.

The sub-committee **agreed** that any response to the consultation should be co-ordinated by officers. Any member wishing to contribute to the response should contact officers by the end of the week.

32 **TOPIC GROUP - HOW WE ENGAGE WITH CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE TO PREVENT THEM FROM ENGAGING IN CRIME.**

Officers provided an update on the work of the Topic Group and the Sub-Committee agreed that as a next step arrangements should be made to meet the Youth Council, Young Addaction and the Amy Winehouse Trust.

Chairman

