



CRIME AND DISORDER OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Subject Heading:

Night Time Economy (NTE) problem profile 2018

SLT Lead:

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Policy context:

Our vision is focused around the borough's communities, places, opportunities and connections. The Council has a statutory duty under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to produce an annual analysis of crime and disorder in the area, which will then be used to create a strategy to reduce these. This is relevant to our vision by ensuring the safety of our communities, and creating safer places; thereby improving opportunities for individuals and businesses

Financial summary:

There are no direct risks regarding Council finances. Havering receives an annual grant from the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime which currently funds the Street Triage project until March 2019. The Taxi Marshall scheme is funded from TFL LIP funding until March 2019. All other projects are delivered through existing resources.

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

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

SUMMARY

The night time economy problem profile sets out the London Borough of Havering profile on non-domestic abuse violence with injury crimes, using data from a number of different partners such as Metropolitan Police, London Ambulance and other sources. Following the annual strategic assessment in January 2018, further analysis was conducted to review crime in relation to the night time economy, especially within Romford town centre, to inform the work programme of the HCSP.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That members note the content of the report.

REPORT DETAIL

The HCSP annual strategic assessment identified Romford Town ward as the ward with the highest volume in Havering for criminal offences. Locations within this ward were analysed to identify hotspots and specific problem areas to help direct resources/action in the most effective ways. This problem profile used CRIS reports recorded by the Police in calendar year 2017, as well as other datasets such as Transport for London, London Ambulance Service, British Transport Police and CCTV recorded by Havering CCTV team. As a caveat not all reports have all fields completed and thus, the analysis is carried out using the data available. The problem profile considered three types of crimes occurring within Romford Town; Violence with Injury, Theft and Handling and Drug Offences (the top three offences in Romford Town). For the purpose of this report, when the report discusses the 'night time economy' period, for the peak activity in the week, this will be in relation to:

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- Friday - 2100hrs and 0000hrs
- Saturday - 0000hrs and 0459hrs
- Saturday - 2100hrs to 0000hrs
- Sunday - 0000hrs and 0459hrs

Romford Town centre at night currently welcomes around 11,000 visitors on a Friday and Saturday night. It is not surprising with the numbers of people visiting the town centre of a night and the mixture of alcohol, that Romford still remains a hotspot for crime.

Romford's night time economy is however changing. The new ice rink (with an 800 capacity for ice hockey games) and the opening of new restaurants in the Brewery in July 2018 (with a capacity of around 600) means that the night time economy is diversifying and growing, bringing with it new challenges around accessibility, keeping visitors safe, maintaining cleanliness regimes, ensuring that it is well-managed and offers a range of activities to suit residents and attract visitors to the borough. This report will also highlight the projects that are currently being delivered in the town centre to assist in achieving this.

Key findings of the problem profile

Romford Town had the highest rate of Violence with Injury (non DA) and the 8th highest volume in all London wards in 2017. The top three offences in 2017 committed in Romford Town Centre during NTE hours were Violence against the Person, Theft and Handling and Drug offences.

Analysis of partnership data, from 2016 to 2017, found that British Transport Police, Transport for London and London Ambulance alcohol callouts during night time hours all saw an increase in number of incidents.

From Local Authority data, 88% of CCTV incidents were recorded in Romford, 29% of those were during night time economy hours. The profile highlighted the top ten CCTV cameras that were most prevalent to capture incidents. Each coincided with the hotspot areas identified in police reports.

In Romford Town Centre, 44% of victims of violence with injury during night time hours are aged between 18 and 24. 62% of incidents were male v male, whilst the second highest group were females v females. 55% of suspects lived in Havering. Nearly 20% of victims recorded by police were aged between 11-17, particularly around the Gooshay's area.

69% of drugs were initially found by police, 20% by door staff and 10% by CCTV. Those aged 18 to 24 accounted for the highest suspects age group (51%), shortly followed by 25 and 31 (27%)

Over 80% of suspects were male and 50% of suspects self-classified their ethnicity as 'White- British'

32% of suspects for drug related issues resided in Havering. It is known that gang activity often corresponds with drug related activity. Analysis carried out by the Gangs Analyst identified a number of London boroughs in which gangs had connections in Havering. These main boroughs were Barking and Dagenham, Newham, Haringey, Greenwich and Redbridge. All boroughs appear as the suspect's residency for drugs in Romford town centre.

Key interventions

There are a number of key projects / programmes running in Romford Town Centre to tackle violence and crime in the night time economy.

1. Safe & Sound is a network of local businesses in Romford Town Centre which aims to work collaboratively to manage the night time economy and reduce crime and disorder in Romford town centre. The Community Safety and Development Team co-ordinates the Safe and Sound scheme in Romford for both the day and night time economy. This involves organising and administering meetings, chairing meetings, ensuring that information sharing protocols are fit for purpose, ensuring that all adhere to the information commissioner's policies, distribution of intelligence, introducing publicity campaigns, the introduction of projects such as Facewatch and Pubwatch online, Best Bar None and Purple Flag.
2. Banned from one, Banned from all is a civil banning scheme led by Safe and Sound to ban problematic individuals from all licensed premises in RTC. The Community Safety Team administers the banned from one banned from all scheme. Anyone that is arrested in the town centre will be presented to a committee of representatives from the night time/day time economy which will decide whether they should be served with a ban from their premises. Bans can be up to 2 years.
3. Street Pastors is a volunteer and community organisation utilised for high visibility patrols and engagement of young people to signpost to diversionary activities. Street Pastors operate in Romford Town centre on a Friday night from 10:00pm through to 4:00am. Teams of 3 pastors will make their way across the town centre assisting people in a number of ways – speaking to people, listening to people, offering flip flops or water, assisting people home, ringing parents, collecting any bottles or glasses left around the town centre. The team has a paid co-ordinator for the day to day running of the project. The Community Safety Team is a member of the Street Pastors Management Group.
4. Eds Place / Eds Out are a safe haven providing a venue for people going out in the evening from 10pm-3am. The project is operated by volunteers from local churches who work in the town centre on a Friday night from 10:00pm through to 4:00am. They operate out of a gazebo in Romford Town Centre. They act as a Safe Haven offering free soft drinks to people and a place for people to sober up and talk to people.
5. Marshalled Taxi Rank is a safety initiative providing a secure staffed taxi rank, supplied by Transport for London's public carriage office. Two taxi marshals operate on Eastern Road on Friday and Saturday nights from 10:30pm to 3:30 am. The taxi marshal scheme is funded on an annual basis. Applications are submitted to TFL via the Local Implementation Plan. Funding currently ends in March 2019 however we are working with colleagues in Regeneration to secure continued funding. The marshal's role is to help maintain an orderly queue. People looking for a cab will join the queue and marshals will direct them into the first available taxi. The aim is to allow people to catch licensed vehicles in a controlled and safe environment. The taxi marshal role is non-confrontational, however if disorder occurs they will be supported by the police.

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6. Street Triage provides an initial response and first aid in Romford town centre from 10.30 pm to 4.30am on a Friday and Saturday night to reduce alcohol related violence within the Romford Ring Road and reduce ambulance call outs for non-emergencies. The Street Triage currently operates out of the medical room in Fiction and Cameo which is provided free of charge by the club. The scheme runs from 10.30pm through to 4.30am. The project was introduced to the town centre by Community Safety and is funded through MOPAC. The street triage employs two first aid trained staff and a security guard. The team visits all pubs and clubs of an evening and are the first responders on scene to provide an initial assessment to establish whether an ambulance is needed.
7. Town Link Radio is a radio system used by businesses, CCTV, Police and project workers within RTC to communicate incidents and alert members of staff when required for assistance. The town link radio system is owned and run by DCRS with day to day management from the Community Safety Team. The radio system in Romford is linked to CCTV allowing users to have direct access.
8. ScanNet is a scanning device used to record the identity of customers using a passport or driving licence before being allowed entry to a licenced venue within the night time economy.
9. Task and Targeting Group meets on a monthly basis and is a multi-agency approach to tackling the homeless issues. Members include Salvation Army, Immigration Services, Police, Safer Transport Team, Housing/Homelessness, Family Mosaic, Department of Work and Pensions, Westminster Drugs Project, and Hope for Havering. The group is chaired by Community Safety. The group was developed as a response to complaints being made by the business community in Romford Town Centre about the number of beggars and street drinkers. The purpose of the Task and Targeting meeting is to address and prevent street activity including rough sleeping, street drinking and begging.
The aims and objectives of the group are:
 - To reduce the volume of rough sleeping in the borough of Havering
 - To reduce the volume of ASB and crime linked to rough sleepers in Havering
 - To develop a pathway from street to community to enable homeless individuals to improve their health, their safety and have the opportunity to re-integrate back into the wider community.
10. Public Space Protection Order was introduced by the London Borough of Havering in September 2017. At the time of the introduction of the scheme Romford town centre was experiencing increasing levels of street drinking
11. Drugs dog operations have been delivered within the town centre as part of proactive operations and to show a zero tolerance for drug use by the partners.

IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

Financial implications and risks:

There are no direct risks regarding Council finances. Havering receives an annual grant from the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime which currently funds the Street Triage project until March 2019. The Taxi Marshall scheme is funded from TFL LIP funding until March 2019. Work will be required going forward to ensure

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future grant funding is received to continue these services in future years. All other projects are delivered through existing resources.

Legal implications and risks:

This report is in line with the Crime & Disorder Act 1998, Police and Justice Act 2006 and the various Crime and Disorder Regulations. The Council and other statutory partners including Health have a responsibility under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to address crime and disorder within the borough, with a statutory obligation to conduct an annual strategic assessment and produce a Community Safety Plan.

This Committee has a power to review and scrutinise crime and disorder matters and to make reports or recommendations to the Local Authority about the discharge of crime and disorder functions.

Human Resources implications and risks:

There are no HR implications arising directly from this report

Equalities implications and risks:

A full EIA was completed as part of the Havering Community Safety Partnership Community Safety Plan, the introduction of the PSPO and the commissioning of the Street Triage project.