



CABINET – 14th JUNE 2023

Subject Heading:

***Recommendations from People
Overview & Scrutiny Sub-Committee
relating to Town Centre Police
Provisions***

Cabinet Member:

Councillor Barry Mugglestone, Cabinet
Member for Environment

SLT Lead:

Imran Kazalbash, Assistant Director of
Public Realm

Report Author and contact details:

*Luke Phimister, Committee Officer, 01708
434619*

Policy context:

*This Report relates to the Place Priority:
Havering is a safe place and committed to
equality for all.*

Financial summary:

There are no financial implications

Is this a Key Decision?

No

When should this matter be reviewed?

Autumn 2023

Reviewing OSC:

People OSSC

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

People - Things that matter for residents

Place - A great place to live, work and enjoy X

Resources - A well run Council that delivers for People and Place.

SUMMARY

At a special meeting of the People Overview & Scrutiny Sub-Committee (OSSC) on 16th March 2023, colleagues from the Police gave an update on the borough-wide situation following a number of stabbing incidents. This resulted in several recommendations to Cabinet as detailed below.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Overview and Scrutiny Board recommends that Cabinet should:

- 1) Commend the Police's work regarding the recent stabbing incidents in Romford
- 2) Request the People Overview and Scrutiny Committee to review Town Centre provisions in consultation with the Police and relevant Council Officers, considering specifically toilet facilities for officer use and available private spaces for taking statements and speaking to residents away from public areas.
- 3) Request that the People Overview and Scrutiny Committee bring back a Report to Cabinet after they have completed their review with any recommendations they consider appropriate.

REPORT DETAIL

- 1.1) During the special People OSSC meeting, Police Officers and colleagues explained to Councillors the work the Metropolitan Police has undertaken following a number of stabbings, mainly in Romford Town Centre.
- 1.2) The OSSC Councillors discussed how the Council can help the Town Centre Police teams with the work they undertake.
- 1.3) It was explained that Police Officers have raised concerns around the lack of toilet facilities for them within Town Centres and a desire to have private areas which would allow officers to take statements and converse with residents away from other members of the public

REASONS AND OPTIONS

Reasons for the decision:

The recommendations would, not only show the Council's support for the Borough's Police Force, but would allow the Council to work alongside Police colleagues to further support them in their work

Other options considered:

Option 1: To not support the proposals at this time

The members of the People OSSC understand that there is no legal obligation for the Council to provide this level of support to the Police but feel that the Council should do all it can to make the Borough's Town Centres as safe as possible. This option was not therefore supported.

Option 2: Ensure the Police have spaces within future regeneration plans

The People OSSC considered recommending that Cabinet ensure that the Police have dedicated spaces as part of future regeneration plans within Town Centres. This option was decided against as members felt that the Police should be consulted with in the first instance to ensure that any provisions are fit for purpose. Members also decided against this as it could potentially restrict certain regeneration plans when a Police provision may not be needed. This option was therefore not supported.

IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

Financial implications and risks

The review of town centre provisions will be carried out by existing resources and will therefore be funded by existing budgets. Any costs associated with the findings/commendations of the review will be identified in subsequent reports if and when necessary with the required funding incorporated as part of budget setting processes.

Legal implications and risks

None identified.

Human Resources implications and risks

None identified.

Equalities implications and risks

None identified as defined by the protected characteristics within the Equalities Act 2010

Health and Wellbeing implications and Risks

The introduction of any new toilet and/or interview facilities could positively impact the mental and physical health and wellbeing of Town Centre Police Officers. Crime and fear of crime negatively impacts the health and wellbeing of residents and the MPS are a crucial element in efforts to protect residents from harm.

Environmental and Climate Change Implications and Risks

No implications identified.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None