



CRIME AND DISORDER COMMITTEE

ANNUAL REPORT, 2010/11

During the year under review, we have met as a Committee on 4 occasions (including 1 special meeting) and dealt with the following issues.

1. TOPIC GROUPS

1. After its initial meeting the Youth Crime Topic Group, the membership of which are Councillors Rebecca Bennett, Georgina Galpin, Linda Van den Hende, Melvin Wallace and John Wood, agreed that it would concentrate on anti-social behaviour in young people and the work of the Council and its partners in preventing young people progressing from ASB to youth crime. It has met on three occasions receiving reports from the Community Safety Service, Youth Offending Service and the Integrated Youth Service.
2. The Topic Group has also received written reports from the London Fire Brigade and Metropolitan Police concerning their work with young offenders, and agreed arrangements to progress its work into the new Council year.

2. INTRODUCTION TO OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY AND THE SPECIFIC POWERS RELATING TO CRIME AND DISORDER

1. **At its meeting in July 2010, the Committee received an introduction to Overview and Scrutiny, including the work and function of topic groups, the requisition process and the Committee's role in budget scrutiny.**
2. **The Community Safety Manager delivered a presentation which explained the make up of the Havering Community Safety Partnership, whose work the Community could scrutinise. In agreeing the work plan for the year the Committee decided to invite each of the 'responsible authorities' to meetings to explain their role in the Community Safety Partnership.**

3. DISPOSAL OF FORMER POLICE STATIONS

1. The Committee were advised of proposals for the disposal of the former Collier Row, Rainham, Upminster and Harold Hill Police Stations. The Borough Commander had explained that all assets were owned by the

Metropolitan Police Authority and they had carried out an assessment which had indicated that these former police stations were under-used; they had, therefore, engaged a consultant to carry out consultations on the proposed disposal.

2. Concern was expressed at the disposal of the stations at Collier Row and Harold Hill. The Borough Commander explained the rationale behind the decision not to have a front counter service at the Safer Neighbourhood offices. If a counter service was provided this would need to be manned thereby reducing the number of officers on the street. The way the Safer Neighbourhood Teams worked ensured the public had easy access to the police.

4. POLICING IN THE 21ST CENTURY

1. The Committee received a report from the Community Safety Manager, Metropolitan Police Authority and the Borough Commander on the Home Office consultation. Having considered the reports the Committee agreed that the council's response should be included as part of the joint response submitted on behalf of the Havering Community Safety Partnership.

5. INTEGRATED OFFENDER MANAGEMENT

1. The Committee received a report from the Assistant Chief Officer, London Probation Service on the work of the Barking/Dagenham and Havering Local Delivery Unit and more specifically his work as Chairman of the Integrated Offender Management Group of the Havering Community Safety Partnership.
2. The Committee noted that 1% of the two boroughs' population was being dealt with by the Probation Service. Under the terms of the Community Payback Scheme over 78,000 hours of unpaid work had been carried out by people on probation in the last 12 months.

6. LICENSING ISSUES

1. The Committee received a report from the Licensing and Health & Safety Manager on the work of the Licensing Team and how it impacted on crime & disorder in the borough. The report also sought the Committee's views on the proposed changes to the Statement of Licensing Policy. Key issues for the Committee were:
 - The introduction of times when regulated activities would normally be permitted:
 - Until 11.30 pm in residential areas,
 - Until 00.30 am in mixed use areas, and
 - No limit in leisure areas.

- The introduction of a saturation policy for St Andrews ward because of the effect of the number of licensed premises in that ward on crime and disorder
 - The introduction of a saturation policy for Romford, within the ring road, because of the affect of the number of late night venues on crime and disorder.
2. The Committee also considered the consultation document 'Rebalancing the Licensing Act,' issued by the Home Office. It was intended that these proposals would be introduced by the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill. The key points in the consultation paper were:
- The presumption to grant licenses would be removed and replaced with local authorities and the police being able to respond to residents' concerns.
 - The cost of licensing would be reflected in fees and an additional charge to be levied for late night premises to help pay for policing.
 - More sanctions against premises selling alcohol to children, and
 - Banning the sale of alcohol below cost.

7. METROPOLITAN POLICE

1. On the 12 October 2010, the Borough Commander, Chief Superintendent Mike Smith delivered a presentation on policing in the borough. He talked about the challenges being faced by the police as a result of budget reductions in April and during the year and the discussions regarding the most efficient use of resources being held centrally. One of the options being discussed was brigading i.e. sharing resources across borough boundaries.

8. SAFER AND STRONGER COMMUNITIES FUND SPEND 2010-11

1. Throughout the year the Committee have scrutinised the way in which the Havering Community Safety Partnership had allocated the money designated for the Safer and Stronger Communities Fund. It looked at how the fund was allocated across the five themes identified as priorities by the Community Safety Partnership and how the limited amount of capital expenditure had been allocated to develop projects which fell within one of the following areas:
- Designing out crime
 - Addressing environmental crime
 - The purchase of technical equipment to address one of the priority themes identified in the Community Safety Plan.

9. COMMUNITY SAFETY EXTERNAL GRANT FUNDING 2009-10

The Committee reviewed the amount of external funding raised by the

Community Safety Section to help deliver key programmes in 2009-10. It was reported that approximately £320,000 of external funding had been raised. An update on the key projects was provided which included:

- The Vigilance Programme
- Counter Terrorism
- Beacon
- Nightlife awards
- Community Network TV
- Action Havering Campaign, and
- Romfest.

10. LONDON FIRE AND EMERGENCY PLANNING AUTHORITY

1. On 11th January 2011, Trevor Meers, Borough Commander delivered a presentation on the work of the London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority in the borough. The Committee was informed that the borough was served by four fire stations following the opening of the new fire station in Harold Hill last year.
2. The Committee noted the different projects delivered under the auspices of the Community Safety Partnership especially the Life and Drive Safe, Stay Alive programmes. The Borough Commander advised the Committee of the latest financial position which was a 25% cut in the formula grant which represented 50% of the Brigade's funding. Additional cuts would occur in the 3rd and 4th years. Redundancy amongst front line staff was not, however, anticipated.
3. The Committee were advised that new Life Saving Equipment had been rolled out to Havering's fire stations. This would be carried on all fire engines and staff was fully trained in its use and were required to regularly re-qualify. The equipment was for use where the fire service were the first emergency service to arrive on the scene and could also be administered to fire fighters who may need emergency treatment themselves. It was not intended as a replacement to the provision by the London Ambulance Service, but as a supplement to their provision.

11. MET VOLUNTEER PROGRAMME

1. The Communications and Volunteer Programme Manager, Metropolitan Police attended the Committee to discuss the role played by volunteers in the Metropolitan Police. In 2010 volunteers had gifted 8,000 hours to Havering Police. They had assisted in CID operations, at community events, putting packs together, role plays and within office based roles throughout the borough.

12. YOUTH OFFENDING SERVICE

1. The Committee received a report from the Havering YOS Service Manager outlining the work of the Youth Offending Service. The service was a multi-agency service which had the twin aims of:
 - Preventing offending (or re-offending) by children and young people
 - The welfare of the child or young person.
2. The report detailed the work of the two teams which comprise the youth Offending Team, i.e.
 - The Youth Inclusion and Support Panel Team
 - Youth Offending Team.

Concern was expressed at funding issues in the future. The ring fencing for Youth Offending had been removed and the Comprehensive Spending Review forecast reduced funding.

13. ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

1. The Committee received a report and presentation on the Partnerships approach to tackling Anti-Social Behaviour. Hot spots in the borough included Collier Row, Harold Hill, Romford Town Centre, Durham Avenue, Hornchurch Town Centre, Elm Park Town Centre and Rainham Town Centre. In response to identified hotspots Problem Oriented Partnerships (POPS) were established to tackle specific issues. Membership of the POPS varied according to the issues to be tackled.
2. The Right Honourable Baroness Newlove, Champion for Active Safer Communities had chosen one of the partnership projects in Briar Road for funding and had visited the project on at least two occasions.

14. SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD TEAMS – CONSULTATION

1. The Metropolitan Police had launched a consultation on the future of the Safer Neighbourhood Teams. The Committee discussed the issue at length and agreed that the Chairman should submit a response on behalf of the Committee and urged all members to submit their own individual responses.
2. The Committee expressed their strong support for the retention of the electoral ward basis of the safer neighbourhood teams. They were however convinced of the need for operational flexibility in deployment, although they would wish to see the retention of a minimum presence in each ward. The Committee also sympathised with the need to better employ sergeants by enabling them to manage two teams, making better use of this valuable resource.

15. METROPOLITAN POLICE AUTHORITY (MPA)

1. Natasha Plummer, Engagement and Partnerships Manager delivered a presentation on the role of the Metropolitan Police Authority and their expectations for the future.
2. Under existing arrangements the Mayor of London delegates the Chair of the MPA to the Deputy Mayor for Policing. Under the new proposed arrangements The Mayor will become Police and Crime Commissioner and be supported by the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime.
3. The GLA currently approved the MPA budget as precepting authority and appointed 12 GLA members to serve on the MPA. The MPA were responsible for scrutinising the Metropolitan Police Service, and responsible for the budget (£3.6m in 2010/11). It set the strategic direction for the Metropolitan Police and made senior appointments. It was also the responsible body on all Community Safety Partnerships.
4. After 1 October, London was expected to precede the rest of the UK the Mayor would assume his role as Police and Crime Commissioner. The functions of his office will be:
 - Power to hire and fire the Commissioner of Police,
 - Hold the policing budget,
 - Duty to consult commissioners (& victims) and to publish annual police and crime plan,
 - Power to make crime and disorder grants, and
 - Will no longer be a responsible authority, but will have a new power to 'call-in' poor performing Community Safety Partnerships (including ASB powers).
5. Under the new proposals the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime would be scrutinised by the GLA Police and Crime Panel. This Panel would also have responsibility for reviewing the draft police and crime plan and scrutinising the exercise of the functions of the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime. As yet no details were available as to the make up of the Police and Crime Panel.

16. HAVERING COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP (HCSP) BUDGET 2011/12

1. As a result of the proposed transfer of responsibility for Policing to the Mayor's Office funding for all Community Safety Partnerships across London had been devolved to the Greater London Authority. The HCSP had submitted a spending plan to the Greater London Authority. The only criteria the Mayor had placed on the use of the funds was that they were utilised for 'community safety and crime reduction purposes only.

2. The spending plan had been approved and the HCSP would receive £220,194, which represented a 20% reduction from the level of funding available last year.

17. REVIEW OF RACE CRIMES AND INCIDENTS

1. The Committee were informed that the HCSP when agreeing its Control Strategy for 2011/12, had decided not to include racial violence. The reasons for this decision were:
 - The general trend for all incidents was downward;
 - That considerable activity and money had been allocated to this area in 2010-11;
 - That victims of this crime are dealt with by a specific police unit and well served;
 - That the proposed system to support repeat and vulnerable victims would identify and support victims of hate incidents
 - That for all the reasons mentioned a stand-alone group for this aspect may duplicate efforts and not add value.
2. Havering had maintained the long term contract with Stop Hate (UK) who provided third party reporting and monitoring. This contract was delivered in partnership with Barking and Dagenham.

18. NIGHT TIME ECONOMY

1. The Borough Commander advised the Committee of the various initiatives being delivered by the partners to improve the Night Time Economy in Romford Town Centre. He believed Romford was unique in that the partners delivered all three initiatives as a single package. This combination of initiatives was the reason crime in Romford Town Centre was on the decline.
2. The Committee was informed that 60% of the offenders in Romford Town Centre were from outside the borough but 60% of the victims were borough residents.