

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY SCRUTINY PANEL HELD ON TUESDAY, 4TH OCTOBER, 2016, 6.30 - 9.00 pm

PRESENT:

**Councillors: Makbule Gunes (Chair), Clive Carter, Bob Hare,
Stephen Mann and Anne Stennett**

**Co-opted Member; Ian Sygrave (Haringey Association of Neighbourhood
Watches)**

96. FILMING AT MEETINGS

The Chair referred Members present to agenda item 1 in respect of filming at the meeting and Members noted the information contained therein.

97. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Barbara Blake.

98. ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS

None.

99. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

100. DEPUTATIONS/PETITIONS/PRESENTATIONS/QUESTIONS

None.

101. MINUTES

AGREED:

That the minutes of the meeting of 30 June 2016 be approved.

102. CABINET MEMBER QUESTIONS; CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITIES

Councillor Eugene Ayisi outlined the key areas within his portfolio as follows. He commented that many of the diverse areas covered within his portfolio were losing funding so partnership working was becoming ever more crucial:

- Work in respect of Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) was focussed on developing a community response. He noted that 80% of social care cases covered by the Children and Young People's Service had an element of it within

them. Whilst issues relating VAWG were not race specific, some communities needed to develop a better understanding of the issues relating to it. Haringey currently had the 5th highest rate within London. Action was being taken to increase levels of reporting though and, as a result of this, it was likely that Haringey's position would go up but this would nevertheless be a positive outcome. A strategy had been developed and consultation was taking place on it. A week of activities to highlight VAWG was planned for November and discussions on the arrangements for this were in progress;

- There had been issues relating to anti social behaviour and crime in the Turnpike Lane area and a plan of action to address them was currently being developed;
- Action to facilitate earlier intervention to prevent young people coming into contact with the youth justice system was a priority and work with schools would play a key role within this. The outcome of Charlie Taylor review into the Youth Justice System was likely to have a significant effect. Demands on services that worked with young people were high but resources were limited;
- Increasing confidence in the Police was another priority. Levels within Haringey had not been good and that was especially true within the black community. This was reflected nationally with concerns regarding stop and search and the Black Live Matters campaign; and
- The Bridge Renewal Trust were likely to play an important role in developing the voluntary sector in Haringey and would hopefully assist in filling some of the voids that currently existed. There were often several organisations doing similar things and the Trust could also assist with bringing some of them together.

The Cabinet Member answered questions from the Panel, with assistance from Helen Millichap, the Police Borough Commander, who was also in attendance.

In respect of Stop and Search, Ms Millichap reported that searches had previously been high. The legislation that had been used by Police at the time meant that people could be stopped without separate grounds for suspicion. However, its use was felt to be damaging and there was evidence of searches being used disproportionately against members of some communities. Officers were now using alternative legislation that only allowed them to stop people if there was specific reason to be suspicious, especially in respect of possession of weapons or drugs. The focus was most strongly on weapons and she believed that this was where it should be used predominantly. They were aware that, if communities perceived stop search to be unfair or unjustified, it could lead to confrontations and a loss of confidence in the Police. They therefore needed to show that they were establishing robust grounds, for example with drugs searches, in order to maintain confidence. There was an independent monitoring group to look at Stop and Search and notes needed to be taken by officers undertaking a search, providing reasons.

In answer to another question, she reported that body cameras were being rolled out and all Police officers should have them by the end of the year. The majority of officers wanted the cameras and they would be used to record searches.

In respect of issues relating to Turnpike Lane and the recent public meeting regarding this, the Cabinet Member stated that the role of ward Councillors was important. There was a need to work with partners to resolve the issue without merely displacing it. There was also an issue in respect of how matters were communicated effectively to the local community. Eubert Malcolm, Head of Community Safety and Regulatory Services, reported that an action plan was being produced and a follow up public meeting would be held in six months time as it was important that residents were updated. Work would be done to determine whether some anti social behaviour and crime could be designed out. Ward Councillors would also be involved in discussions. Displacement was a concern and the intention was to come up with a long term plan.

Ms Millichap stated that the Police would follow up on the issues that had been raised. Extra Police resources would be deployed in the area but a step change was needed. She was pleased at the good turnout at the public meeting as it showed that local people cared about the area.

Ms Millichap stated that increasing confidence was a particular priority for the Police as it was low within Haringey and, to this end, a Confidence and Engagement Board had been set up. This would look at where confidence was low and co-ordinate work with partners to improve it. Local residents would also need to be involved. Communication, including social media, was an important issue as it was essential that the Police were able to provide a clear message.

Mr Sygrave commented that Haringey Association of Neighbourhood Watches covered over 300 individual watches with around 19000 members. There was also a Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator as well as a named a dedicated Police officer in each Safer Neighbourhood Team to work with her. There was scope for more Watches to be set up. There were also residents associations including a very good one that covered the Harringay Ladder. There was therefore a lot of engagement that could be done at a local level. Smaller and more specific meetings could better facilitate intelligence gathering. There was a lot of confidence building to be done and it was of concern that it had been allowed to get so low.

The Panel noted that funding for community safety initiatives came from a range of sources, including £650,000 from the Mayor's Officer for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) and £1.2 million core funding from the Council.

In answer to a question, Ms Millichap stated that a range of different knives had been used for criminal purposes. My Malcolm reported that underage test purchases were undertaken in respect of knives.

In answer to another question, the Cabinet Member stated that consultation would be undertaken in respect of the draft Violence Against Women and Girls strategy and this would involve visiting wards within the borough to discuss relevant issues. An action plan would be drafted in due course. He highlighted the fact that there was a specific need to involve the community in increasing the level of reporting.

103. CRIME PERFORMANCE STATISTICS (HARINGEY)

Helen Millichap, the new Police Borough Commander for Haringey, introduced herself to the Panel and outlined her priorities. In developing these, she had collected the views of a range of people and their views had closely reflected her own. There were four main areas that needed prioritising;

- Putting victims first. The care provided to them needed to be excellent and that was especially true of vulnerable people and children, including those affected by domestic violence;
- Building strong communities. This involved engaging and responding effectively to community concerns. An example of this was that the issues in respect of Ducketts Common. However, it was acknowledged that there were some legacy issues, not all of which were the responsibility of the borough;
- Dealing with offenders promptly and bringing them to justice; and
- Building strong partnerships. This was aimed at helping to stop crime starting in the first place. If crime was reduced, it would be possible for the Police to do more in the community. In addition, she wanted to develop better coordination of work across community safety and to also include safeguarding and the Local Safeguarding Children's Board (LSCB).

She felt that the Police currently provided a good offer in schools but she wanted to work more closely with primary schools so that Police officers become a normal presence. She wished to ensure that there was a standardised service for all schools, with a named officer for each.

The Panel received an overview of current performance issues in respect of crime and community safety;

- There had been an increase in hate crime and this reflected the experience elsewhere in London, although the increase in Haringey had been higher than the percentage increase for London. It was possible that this was due to increased levels of confidence leading to higher levels of reporting;
- Violence Against Women and Girls had gone up by 18% compared with a London level of 4%. 75% of incidents took place in the east of the borough. Non domestic violence with injury had gone up by 7.2%, which was broadly similar to the rate across London. There was a link to the night time economy, including retail;
- Knife enabled crime had gone up by 15.2% compared to 4.3% across London. The figures included instances where victims thought the perpetrator might have a knife as well as instances where one was actually seen. The majority of knife injury victims were young but some adults had also been affected. There had been an increase of 15% in the number of victims, compared to 4.2% percent for London. The increase equated to an additional 12 victims. The hot spots for knife crime had shifted following targeted action in key locations;
- There had been an increase of 5% in victims of serious youth violence. 83 of these were gang related. There had been cross border gang issues but these now appeared to be diminishing in number following targeted partnership work. Statistics for gun related incidents included instances where firearms might not be seen. Haringey's figures were the second highest in London, with only Newham being higher. In terms of drug offences, the majority of them took place in the

Turnpike Lane/Ducketts Common area. 92% were for possession, which was mainly for cannabis; and

- Burglary figures had shown a reduction of 8.5%. It was possible that this was at least partly due to the use of Metrace across the borough, which enabled items to be traced. In respect of confidence, Haringey had some of the lowest figures in London. There tended to be a time lag between improvements in crime figures being reflected in better confidence statistics.

In answer to a question, Ms Millichap stated that there was normally a correlation between crime and levels of confidence. However, confidence figures could be influenced by national issues. Recent figures had shown an increase of 4% in confidence levels. Effective communication and visible policing had been shown to have a positive effect on figures.

She stated that it was not clear yet what would replace the MOPAC 7 pan London priorities for the Police. Although a draft new framework had been circulated, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner had recently announced his departure and it was therefore possible that this would just be interim. It involved a focus on neighbourhood policing, Violence Against Women and Girls, gangs and knife crime. It was unlikely that the issues covered in the MOPAC 7 would be included in the new priorities. It was important that there was more reporting of domestic violence and abuse. New measures of good outcomes were needed however as charging was not necessarily the only issue.

The Panel noted that the increase in hate crime was higher in Haringey than the average for London. Ms Millichap reported that reporting levels for hate crime had been low so an increase was not necessarily all bad. It was possible that some of the increase had been a part of the post Brexit fallout. There had, however, been a longer and slower increase in reporting levels. It was possible that there were emerging vulnerable communities. Action was required to ensure that and all was being done to address the issue ensure and that, in particular, appropriate referrals were taking place. It could be difficult to differentiate between crime motivated and crime aggravated by hate. Detective Chief Inspector Paul Trevers reported that he hoped that there would be an increase in reporting in the forthcoming weeks as it would shortly be Hate Crime Awareness Week, which aimed to raise the profile of the issue.

Charlotte Pomery, Assistant Director for Commissioning, reported that increasing reporting of hate crime was very important and third party reporting was being encouraged. An on line tool was being developed to assist with reporting. Whilst the increase was of concern, at least part of it was likely to be due to an increase in reporting.

In answer to a question, Ms Millichap reported that the membership of the Confidence and Engagement Board had yet to be finalised but meeting would probably be theme based, with a range of partners invited to contribute. One particular issue was likely to be the effective use of digital media.

In respect of firearms, she reported that the borough was able to bring in resources from outside. For example, Operation Viper was undertaking specific work in relation

to firearms and was operating on areas near to the borough. Proactive and preventative work was undertaken locally in respect of more day-to-day knife and firearms issues. However, this stopped short of armed foot patrols.

Mr Trevers reported that the borough's gangs unit worked alongside the Integrated Offender Management team. The aim was to prevent and intervene. There were currently a number of young men who had been involved with gangs and were engaging positively. It was important to try to prevent young people becoming involved in the first place though and the engagement work that was done with schools was therefore very important. Enforcement action was undertaken and often arose from intelligence.

The Panel thanked Ms Millichap, Mr Trevers and officers for their contribution.

104. FINANCIAL MONITORING

Steve McDonnell, the Assistant Director for Commercial and Operations, reported that there was currently an overspend of just over £1 million relating to services within Priority 3 of the Corporate Plan. This was due to a number of factors;

- Action to deliver new ways of parking enforcement was not on track. Discussions were currently taking place regarding the feasibility of a shared service for traffic management;
- Savings from the use of LED street lighting had not been fully achieved. This had been due to the fact that the level of them had been overstated and, in addition, energy prices had gone up;
- There had been a projected £72,000 overspend in the Neighbourhood Action Team but the position had recently improved;
- There was a significant overspend in Asset Management. Planned savings from selling corporate property had not been achieved and would need to be re-profiled. A delivery vehicle was being developed to take this forward;
- Other areas, such as Business Support, had underspent.

In answer to a question, Mr McDonnell reported that consideration was being given to improving the efficiency of parking enforcement. This had involved looking at the practice adopted by other London boroughs. In addition, consideration was also being given to having a shared service. He noted that there were still areas within the borough where there was unrestricted parking. It was likely that the use of Civil Enforcement Officers (CEOs) would increase.

In terms of the overspend in respect of street lighting, he stated that the energy savings from introducing LED lighting had been overestimated as well the speed in which it could be installed. The savings had therefore been £60-70k rather than the £200k that had been anticipated. In addition, energy prices had also gone up. However, the business case for their use remained strong although it needed to be re-profiled. In terms of asset management and corporate landlord buildings, savings from this would be achieved at some point and the development vehicle would assist in the process. The Panel noted that income from Penalty Charge Notices (PCNs) was required to be re-invested in the service.

105. IMPLEMENTATION OF 20 MPH SPEED LIMIT

Frederico Fernandes, the Interim Parking Schemes Manager, reported that a borough wide consultation had been undertaken regarding the introduction of a 20 mph speed limit. The feedback was that residential roads, roads near schools and town centres should be included. The scheme went live in February this year. A survey of traffic speeds was taken just before implementation. Various activities were undertaken to promote the scheme. Enforcement had taken place on roads where problems had occurred. There had been 2 arrests and 227 engagements so far. In addition, Community Road Watch had been introduced as a joint initiative between Transport for London and the Police. There were now 38 volunteers providing enforcement in a number of different streets. A further survey of traffic speeds was currently being undertaken.

In answer to a question, the Panel noted that there was also a 20 mph speed limit in operation in Islington. "Hard" measures such as speed humps, could be introduced to help reduce traffic speeds if necessary. There was a modest budget for publicity.

AGREED:

That traffic speed data arising from the current survey on the impact of the introduction be shared with the Panel.

106. WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE

In respect of review projects for the year, it was noted that the intention that they would take place in the order specified in the work plan, as agreed by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The Panel was nevertheless able to change the order if it so wished, subject to the concurrence of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

CHAIR: Councillor Makbule Gunes

Signed by Chair

Date

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