

Overview & Scrutiny Committee Key Issues

July 2009

Councillor Nilgun Canver

Cabinet Member for Enforcement and Safer Communities

Enforcement

Street Enforcement

The Environmental Crime Group will re-launch as a Street Enforcement Service in September. The service will provide named officers per ward across the borough and these will be a focus for delivering local action plans that address community priorities for improving the urban environment. These action plans and our local activity will be more clearly reported and communicated. Key to the success will be ensuring services across Frontline Services and Urban Environment play their role in delivering solutions and building strong local networks for information sharing and planning. The service will be uniformed and structured into two roughly equal teams aligned to the Children's Network Areas

Pest Control - Rats

In 2008/09 Pest Control carried out 441 initial treatments for rats, and the evidence is that there is an increase in demand for the service but strongly linked to measures to extend affordable pest control in the last two years. We have added one new post to the team and specifically to ensure we maintain a quick response to public health pests, and specifically rats. We are now looking at ways to reduce rat activity and will be seeking to strengthen our mapping of problems and joint working.

Litter and Dumping

Litter and dumped rubbish concerns are reflected strongly as community concerns in Haringey's Place Survey. Our dumping action plan activity has helped to deliver two consecutive years of significantly reduced reported dumping and increased enforcement activity. Alongside ongoing targeted enforcement activity there will be a developing program of education and service development. We have also begun a campaign aimed at tackling littering. A Better Haringey poster campaign is in place and will be backed up by a suite of enforcement measures including weekly and highly visible patrols over the summer; focussed action and litter hotspots; and actions to require commercial businesses and land owner to control litter caused by them or on their land.

The European Services Directive

The European Services Directive aims to break down barriers for cross border trade in services such as accountants, builders, food services and leisure services. To be compliant Haringey will need to ensure that interaction with the service sector complies with the Services Directive by 28th December 2009. To do this, we need to ensure that licence applications can be completed and paid for online and that local charges and rules are not discriminatory. We will also want to ensure that new businesses trading are complaint and safe to use.

Houses in Multiple Occupation

Our work on developing a corporate strategy for dealing with HMOs is progressing. Two pilot areas are operating in Myddleton Road and Green Lanes. The main areas of work are –

- A detailed data mapping and analysis of problems associated with a selected number of roads in the Ladder. This has identified a route for targeting problem properties and those with suspect planning status. It will later inform whether we pursue any schemes for introducing discretionary licensing.
- Arrangements for application and review of Certificates of Lawfulness that will ensure fraudulent applications do not succeed.
- Planning policy review for HMOs and conversion policy
- Lobbying for changes in the powers for planning enforcement.

Gambling Licensing

This year we will be reviewing our gambling policy which will be due for renewal in 2010. The Gambling Commission have revised the guidance and so we are obliged to ensure that our own policy reflects the changes they have made. We will be required to adopt a risk based inspection programme and will be looking to reflect concerns over the impact of clustering and how the industry support steps to help problem gamblers.

Local Air Quality Management

Local authorities have statutory duties for local air quality management (LAQM) under the Environment Act 1995. Every 3 years we review our strategy which is next due in April 2010. Review of our strategy and the tools we use is scheduled for this year and will strongly link to our Greenest Borough Strategy priorities for protecting our natural resources and reducing pollutants linked to climate change.

Housing

The Council has identified the fifty worst eyesores which are privately owned residential properties and that are vacant, as a direct result of the Street Survey that was carried out in 2007. We are taking enforcement action on the top twenty eyesores through Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) action. Once we have dealt with the top 20 we will move on to the remaining worst eyesores on the list. The list of the top fifty is updated regularly.

Progress on CPO's:

- One property has been approved by Government Office for London (GOL)
- 15 have been approved by Cabinet
- 2 have been occupied as a result of the threat of CPO action.
- 2 properties are with the Secretary of State, one has been confirmed, therefore Legal are taking steps to make the Vesting Declaration and take

over the house. The other property has been put forward for a date for Public Local Inquiry.

- Legal are about to send a further 3 cases to the Secretary of State for confirmation.
- I am taking possession of the third property which has been subject to an Enforced Sale due to debt owed to the Council next Thursday (16th July). This is done using bailiffs and I then arrange to change the locks and board the property to keep it secure whilst the Council are responsible for it.

Progress on Enforced Sales

- Two properties have been sold.
- A further 34 properties have been targeted for enforced sales.

Community Safety

Emergency Planning

The need to focus on swine flu has inevitably reduced the ability to deliver across all areas of emergency planning. The Risk and Emergency Planning Steering Group is working well to spread the load and ensure Council-wide involvement. The team is prioritising elements of their overall work plan that benefit the flu response.

Drug and Alcohol Team (DAAT)

The full implementation of the Haringey Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy rests on matched investment from Haringey PCT and this has not been confirmed. Senior lobbying is underway to secure resources

DAAT and Community Safety Team (CST)

The need to better co-ordinate services to the 18-24 year old age group -especially during a recession - has been recognised and discussed at the PMG and Safer Communities Partnership. A problem-solving exercise and closer working between Safer Communities and Economic Regeneration is underway.

CST/ Youth Offending Service (YOS)

Youth affiliations (gangs), violence and youth-on-youth robberies are considered to be a challenge. Priority work and mediation with key individuals is underway. Funding is being prioritised and there is strong and improved partnership working. There is improved evidence gathering and joint early intervention operation between the YOS, ASBAT (Anti Social Behaviour and Action Team) and Youth Services.

Domestic & Gender Based Violence

At the re-launch of the Hearthstone, our DV advice and support centre, I have raised our concerns with the Crime Reduction Minister, Alan Campbell MP mainly around lack of central funding for:

- Counselling for DV survivors
- DV perpetrator programmes particularly for programmes outside of the Criminal Justice System
- DV survivors with “No recourse to public funds”

I will be writing to him officially soon to get government’s support and funds to address above issues.

Planning Policy

- Delivery of (Local Development Framework (LDF) New Plan for Haringey 2011-26 (Core Strategy) Public consultation now ended. Analyses will be shared with the key stake holders in the Autumn. Jan 2010 Cabinet.
- Completion of the North London Waste (NLW) Plan Preferred Options for Identified Sites. Existing waste management and transfer sites are already protected for the plan, but a new set of sites up 4.2 hectares needed across NWL to allow the industry capacity to move away from “landfill”. Haringey has identified Friern Barnet ex Sewage Works as possible site. NWL councillors are finding it difficult to decide on these extra sites – Sept Cabinet
- Need to respond in July to the Mayor’s Proposals for changes to the London Plan. Key changes are – S106 tariff for Crossrail; new emphasis on protection of “strong local neighbourhoods”, including in Central London area; more strict protection of key industrial sites; 50% affordable housing on all sites removed in favour of negotiated targets with Boroughs.
- Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs)/Conversions, internal working party continues to meet and review research. New protocols are now in place to better scrutinise supporting evidence for certificates of lawful use; a new system for seeking information from neighbours will be in place July – Sept 09 – and a new policy for conversions and the use of homes as HMOs will be designed for the new LDF Development Management Policies.