



Haringey Council

Agenda item:

[No.]

Cabinet Meeting

On 18th March 2008

Report Title: **Cabinet Response to the Scrutiny Review of Resourcing of Safer and Stronger Communities LAA Targets**

Forward Plan reference number (if applicable): **[add reference]**

Report of: **Assistant Chief Executive, Policy, Performance, Partnerships and Communication**

Wards affected: **All**

Report for: **Non-Key Decision**

1. Purpose

To agree the Cabinet's response, as proposed in this report, to the recommendations made by the Overview & Scrutiny Committee as a result of its Scrutiny Review of Resourcing of Safer and Stronger Communities LAA Targets

2. Introduction by Cabinet Member

I welcome this Review and its recommendations which highlight the heavy reliance on external funds for this important area of work. This Review has confirmed the need to jointly, with our partners, address the need to mainstream the work of the Safer Communities Service.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 To welcome the recommendations made in the report of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee (O&SC) into its review of Resourcing of Safer and Stronger Communities LAA Targets.
- 3.2 To address the recommendations and provide an action plan (attached as Appendix 1) for their achievement where appropriate.

Report Authorised by: **Sharon Kemp, Assistant Chief Executive, Police Performance, Partnerships and Communication.**

Contact Officer: **Jean Croot, Head of Safer Communities, ☎ 020 8489 6934**

4. Chief Financial Officer Comments

4.1 The Area Based Grant (ABG), receivable from 1 April 2008, will not be hypothecated and, as such, can be spent on whatever the Council so chooses. An initial allocation of Haringey's 2008-09 Area Based Grant has been agreed and it is essential that decisions on Safer and Stronger Communities spending are made mindful of the agreed ABG allocations.

5. Head of Legal Services Comments

5.1 The Head of Legal Service has read this report and reiterates the quote at paragraph 9 below.

6. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

6.1 This report has been created in response to the report of the Scrutiny Review of Resourcing of Safer and Stronger Communities LAA Targets, which was presented at the Cabinet meeting of 19th February 2008 and is publicly available via the Council Website.

7. Strategic Implications

7.1 The terms of reference for the review were as follows: "To consider the future resourcing of actions to achieve strategic targets within the Safer Communities block of the Local Area Agreement for Haringey 2007 – 2010 and to make recommendations thereon to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee."

7.2 The recommendations made in the original Scrutiny Review report, and the Cabinet's responses to them, will affect all Council departments. The whole Council plus its key statutory partners have a role to play in achieving the Safer Communities' targets.

8. Financial Implications

8.1 Currently in Haringey there are eight external sources of funding utilised to achieve the safer communities targets totalling £6,207,750. The core funding allocated to this area of work by Haringey Council is £1,053,400. From April 2008 the introduction of the Area Based Grant integrates a number of the external funding sources which have traditionally been received by the Safer Communities Business Unit. In managing the allocation of the Area Based Grant funding for key activities within the Safer Communities Business has been prioritised. Recommendations 1 – 3 cover this issue.

9. Legal Implications

Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 clearly states

"(1) Without prejudice to any other obligation imposed on it, it shall be the duty of each authority to which this section applies to exercise its various functions with due regard

to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent, crime and disorder in its area.

(2) This section applies to a local authority, a joint authority, a police authority, a National Park authority and the Broads Authority.”

9.1 Recommendations 4 – 8 cover this requirement.

10. Equalities Implications

10.1 There are no specific equalities implications arising from this report. Community safety concerns are expressed by all community groups.

11. Consultation

11.1 Various agencies and people were consulted in the development of the Review Report.

12. Background

12.1 This report has been produced in response to the recommendations arising from the Scrutiny Review of Resourcing of Safer and Stronger Communities LAA Targets, presented to Cabinet on 19th February 2008.

12.2 The action plan at Appendix 1 gives details of both the eight recommendations and the responses and actions to be taken. Some of the actions require the input and support of other departments and functions within the Council.

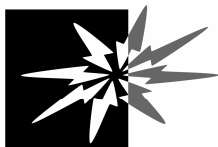
13. Conclusion

13.1 The initiatives set out in the Appendix to this report are considered appropriate measures for addressing the recommendations made in the Scrutiny Review report, given the practical circumstances within the Council now and in the foreseeable future.

13.2 This action plan will be reviewed and revised at a suitable point in the future.

14. Use of Appendices

14.1 There is a single Appendix: the action plan arising from the eight recommendations.



Appendix One

Action Plan to Address the Recommendations Arising from the Scrutiny Review of Resourcing of Safer and Stronger Communities LAA Targets

	Recommendation	Action/Response	By Whom	By When
1	That the Haringey Strategic Partnership adopt a strategic approach, rather than one based on precedent, to allocating grant funding to the specific blocks within the new LAA with specific criterion being set that relate directly to the Haringey Community Strategy and the key priorities within it.	The Haringey Strategic Partnership is developing a new performance system to be introduced in April 2008. This new performance system will enable the development of a strategic approach to funding directly related to the achievement of the LAA targets and the objectives within the Community Strategy	Assistant Chief Executive – Policy, Performance and Partnership	On-going
2	That all potential sources of funding to secure the continuation of posts within the Community Safety Business Unit that cover either statutory responsibilities or are of key strategic importance be investigated fully.	All options and opportunities to identify sufficient funding for the continuation of posts within the Community Safety Business Unit that cover statutory work or are of strategic importance are being explored rigorously and this will continue as required.	Head of Safer Communities	March 2008
3	That that all funding currently used by the Children’s and Young People’s Service to fund crime prevention work with 8 to 13 year old children and young people continue to be used specifically for these purposes.	The Children and Young People’s Service and the Community Safety Business Unit will continue to work together to specifically fund crime prevention work with 8 to 13 year olds and young people.	Head of Safer Communities/ YOS Strategic Manager/ Director C&YPS/ Deputy Director Children & Families	March 2008 On-going
4	That each business unit of the Council include community safety activities within their annual service plans. (Leader/ Assistant Chief Executive – Policy, Performance and Partnership)	Discussions will take place with the Policy & Performance Service to identify a means of achieving this as part of the ongoing business plan development process.	Head of Policy & Performance/Head of Safer Communities	March 2009

5	That authors be required to draft a specific comment on all committee reports on the potential impact of proposals on crime and disorder in order to ensure that the issue is taken into account in all of the Council's policies, strategies, plans and budgets, as required by Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.	This recommendation will be investigated further through the analysis of effective good practice from other local authorities, and the new guidance from the Home Office (Good Practice Guidance on Partnerships) which covers Section 17 issues.	Assistant Chief Executive – Policy, Performance and Partnership	May 2008
6	That crime and disorder issues are included in performance appraisals for all senior management posts within the Council. (Cabinet Member for Enforcement and Safer Communities/Assistant Chief Executive - People and Organisational Development Service)	Discussions will take place with Head of Human Resources to investigate how this can be achieved and timescales for implementation.	Head of Human Resources/ Head of Safer Communities	By March 2008
7	That the Haringey Safer Communities Partnership give specific consideration to the issue how partners can work more effectively together and mainstreaming responsibilities as part of the process for developing the new Community Safety strategy.	A core group of the key statutory agencies are investigating mainstreaming of responsibilities and work more effectively together as part of the preparation of the new Community Safety Strategy.	Head of Safer Communities	By May 2008
8	That the establishment of a Business Improvement District for Wood Green be reconsidered by the Haringey Strategic Partnership.	Discussions will take place with the Assistant Director of Regeneration to review the possibility of the establishment of a Business Improvement District for Wood Green, and a paper put before the Enterprise Board if considered to be appropriate.	Assistant Chief Executive: Policy, Performance & Partnership/ Assistant Director Regeneration	By April 2008