

CABINET

19 December 2012

Title: Overview of performance of the Estates Policing Team	
Report of the Cabinet Member for Crime, Justice and Communities and Cabinet Member for Housing	
Open Report	For Information
Wards Affected: All wards	Key Decision: No
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Accountable Divisional Director: Glynis Rogers, Divisional Director of Adult & Community Services	
Accountable Director: Anne Bristow, Corporate Director of Adult & Community Services	
Summary: <p>Earlier this year, the Council agreed to fund the Metropolitan Police to provide enhanced policing to the Borough's Council estates. This was funded from both the Housing Revenue Account and from grant income from the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC). This report outlines the work that the Team has done to date to improve the safety of the Borough's estates and to achieve agreed strategic objectives, which were to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reduce crime through partnership problem solving and by using enforcement powers.• Reduce disorder and anti-social behaviour.• Provide reassurance and reduce fear of crime on estates by maximising presence. <p>The report is provided to Cabinet for information and to inform future decisions that may be taken regarding the future of this service.</p>	
Recommendation(s) <p>The Cabinet is recommended to note the contents of the report.</p>	
Reason(s) <p>The Council's tenants have committed substantial investment into the Estates Policing Team to enhance the service provided to targeted areas of the Borough. It is important, therefore, that performance information is provided in a timely and proactive manner to inform decisions about the future of the service.</p>	

1. Background

- 1.1 The Estates Police Team was established on 16 April 2012. They are a team of 20 Metropolitan Police Officers, and are funded 50% by Council Tenants through rent and 50% through the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime. They are tasked specifically with patrolling the Council's Housing Estates and to provide an enhancement to the cadet service.
- 1.2 They form a bespoke team whose role is to respond to issues raised through the Council by Members, officers or residents or through intelligence given directly to the Police through various routes. They work alongside ward-based Safer Neighbourhood Teams and the Safer Parks Team to solve problems and long-standing issues. They aim to develop relationships with those who live and work on the estates but are also tasked to have a strong focus on enforcement. They work in the long-term to change behaviours and improve the lives of our residents.
- 1.3 Whilst the focus of the team is on crime and disorder in the estates listed below, it was always the expectation that their activity would disrupt criminal behaviour and therefore lead to a positive impact on crime and disorder across the borough:
- Gascoigne
 - Thames View
 - Goresbrook
 - Heath
 - Scrattons
 - Leys
 - Marks Gate
 - Millard Terrace
 - Ibscott Close
 - Harts Lane
 - Althorne Way
 - Chadwell Heath
 - Becontree
 - Abbey

Whilst the team has a key focus on the estates listed they also patrol and respond to calls across all areas of council housing in the borough.

- 1.4 The Estates Policing Team's Service Level Agreement sets out the team's three objectives, and the indicators by which they are monitored.
- a) To reduce crime through the use of partnership problem solving and enforcement powers.
 - To be monitored by a range of measures covering reported offences, particularly those deemed most serious or of concern to residents.
 - b) To reduce disorder and anti-social behaviour, through the use of partnership problem solving, and police and local authority enforcement powers.

- To be monitored by a range of operational measures including issuing of fixed penalty notices, calls to disorder incidents, arrests, alcohol seizures, etc.
- c) To provide reassurance and reduce fear of crime in relation to the estates by maximizing the presence of officers on the estates - to spend 80% of time on estates.
- To be monitored by measures that indicate the visibility of police on the estates, including patrolling hours, abstraction rates and attendance at community meetings.

1.5 Prior to the establishment of the Estates Policing Team, the Council has also joint-funded a similar initiative on the Gascoigne Estate, which saw improved resident satisfaction and reductions in crime and anti-social behaviour. There is also a similar initiative involving the borough's parks that is demonstrating increased resident satisfaction and a positive impact on the park environment.

2. Performance of the Team 8 July – 4 November 2012

2.1 Since 8 July 2012 the Council has worked with the Estates Team to produce monthly Tasking Returns, which provide useful data. For this reason, some data is not available from the contract's beginning.

2.2 From the monthly tasking returns, the following data has been collated to provide a picture of the activity of the team so far, focusing principally on the measures that come under objectives **b)** and **c)**, covering their patrol activity and interventions. Members will note, in particular:

- the team has spent over 7,967 hours patrolling the estates providing reassurance and reducing the fear of crime on estates (Objective **c)**); and
- the team have made 199 arrests and 907 stop and searches which has reduced crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour (Objectives **a)** and **b)**).

Performance measure	Result
Sergeant patrolling hours	936.5
PC patrolling hours	7967.5
Special Constable patrolling hours	493
Arrests	199
Fixed Penalty Notices	21
Penalty Notices for Disorder	9
Stop & Search	907
Stop & Account	160
Crimints ⁺	183
Alcohol Seizures	25
Cannabis Warnings	37
Vehicles seized [*]	2

+ 'Criminal Intelligence' record on the Police National Computer

* Vehicle seizures are recorded from 15 October 2012 onwards

- 2.3 The Team has only been operational for six months and the full suite of performance measures will be collated and reported on at the end of the year, particularly regarding the impact that the Team has had on crime and disorder levels.

The intention of this report is, however, to provide Members with an interim position on the Team's progress.

- 2.4 The Estates Team has been welcomed by residents, with a number of positive comments received. In one case at Scrattons Farm Estate where a dangerous dog was seized and an arrest was made, the residents praised the team with one resident saying, *"I'm so glad that patrols have been increased on the Estate, without you being there I don't know what would have happened, it makes me feel safe."*

In another case the Estates Team successfully caught a suspect in the act of committing a burglary. The victim said, *"It's great the Estates Team are dedicated to patrols and responding to things like this."*

Young people on the Thames View Estate have also recently commented on the patrols made by officers on the team which they felt reassured the local community.

- 2.5 The Team have been charged with setting up an estates-based Cadet Team, this work is well developed with 120 people now signed up to the Corps, 20 of which have been recruited from Council estates.
- 2.6 Members will note the volume of proactive activity that these figures describe. With a team of this nature, it is to be expected that their early impact will show an increase in reported crime as residents' confidence to report improves and the team themselves proactively identify crime and disorder problems. As the two year contract progresses, we will be in a position to undertake more in-depth analysis of crime trends, when we should expect to see that their sustained work on these issues will lead to an overall reduction in estate-based crime and anti-social behaviour.

- 2.7 Crime Performance across the Borough

The Estates Team will have an impact on specific crime performance indicators. The table below shows the current crime performance across the Borough in this financial year so far.

Indicator (Accumulative)	Apr- 12	May- 12	Jun- 12	Jul-12	Aug- 12	Sept- 12	Sep-11 Accumulative with % Change Comparison
Total Notifiable Offences	1,363	2,861	4,268	5,712	7,110	8,412	9,769 (-14%)
Calls to the Police reporting ASB	695	1,396	2,097	2,847	3,678	4,326	5560 (- 22.1%)
Personal Robbery	64	115	162	211	284	326	485 (-33%)
Residential Burglary	156	287	406	534	652	786	699 (+12%)
Serious Acquisitive Crime	396	775	1,125	1,494	1,859	2,199	2,703 (-19%)
Serious Youth Violence	19	27	42	47	63	74	140 (-47.1%)
Theft of Motor Vehicles	69	138	197	277	334	393	664 (-40.8%)
Violence Against the Person	249	571	851	1,144	1,411	1,692	1,871 (-10%)

Members will note that, with the exception of residential burglary, crime across the Borough is decreasing and in particular street-based crime, robbery, serious youth violence, violence against the person and theft of motor vehicles.

2.8 Housing Issues

The Estates Policing Team have developed close links with the Housing management team, and regular liaison meetings take place to share information and intelligence to assist tasking and inform future action.

The work of the team has directly tackled crime and ASB on the Council's estates including the closure of a number of cannabis farms as well as tackling wider drug issues, burglary on estates and dangerous and intimidating behaviour. All of these issues directly affect resident's quality of life.

In addition the team has taken an active role in engaging with communities and regularly attend the Barking and Dagenham Housing Forums as well as the Tenants Conference, where they directly report on activity on estates. In addition the team has participated in community events including local action days on estates.

Work is currently underway with the Police to track those arrested and charged by the Estates Policing Team. This is to enable tenancy action to be taken against any tenants convicted of an offence that relates to their tenancy, e.g. cannabis farms. In addition, other interventions have been identified where tenancy action is not an option.

3. Consultation

- 3.1 The Metropolitan Police were consulted on the contents of this report to confirm matters of accuracy.

4. Financial Implications

Implications completed by: Martin Sharp – Principal Accountant – Housing Finance

- 4.1 As part of the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Rent and Budget Setting report to Cabinet in February 2012 the 2012-13 HRA Budget included a £500,000 on-going contribution towards the cost of the Metropolitan Police providing an enhanced policing to the Borough's Council estates.

Members agreed that this cost should be recovered via the rent charged to all HRA tenants and not via a specific service charge to those tenants receiving the service.

5. Legal Implications

Implications completed by: Alison Stuart

- 5.1 The report is for noting and no legal implications arise at present.

6. Other Implications

- 6.1 **Risk Management** - The Council's Risk Register contains entries relating to community tensions, emergency planning and reputational risk. The Estates Policing Team contributes to the mitigation for all these risks.

- 6.2 **Contractual Issues** - The team is covered by a contract with the Metropolitan Police for the Council's contribution, which has been the subject of separate reports. As an information report, this paper proposes no changes.

- 6.3 **Staffing Issues** - There are no Council staffing issues; the team is employed by the Metropolitan Police Service.

- 6.4 **Customer Impact** - The engagement of the team with the public is evident from the performance information provided above. In particular, the proactive patrolling, guided by information on where there are public concerns about Estate-based anti-social behaviour or criminal activity, is a visible response to customer feedback. One of the team's measures, to be followed up by a survey over the longer term is the reduction in the fear of crime. For future monitoring reports, there will also be an account of the breakdown of those stopped and searched by major equalities categories, in line with standard monitoring of these processes. Whilst the focus of the team is on the housing estates listed in the report, crime does not confine itself

to specific geographic areas, and the team's customer impact goes wider through the disruption of criminal activity.

- 6.5 **Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults** - The Metropolitan Police's standard management procedures apply to the team, and they work fully within the Metropolitan Police Service policies for responding to children and vulnerable adults at risk. The provision of additional 'eyes and ears' on the Council's estates, connected to the wider Metropolitan Police and partnership structures for managing safeguarding, is expected to improve the flow of information and the co-ordination of interventions. The Team have worked with Council colleagues to identify vulnerable residents and directly intervene with them to support them in terms of personal safety and perceptions. Much work has been done by the team in terms of burglary artifice, particularly with older residents. In terms of safeguarding children the Team are working to develop relationships with local young people so that they can both proactively challenge and enforce whilst also providing a reassuring presence. The Team are charged with developing an estates-based Police Cadet service and this work is underway.
- 6.6 **Health Issues** - Feeling safe, at home and in the immediate neighbourhood, is considered an important contributor to mental health and emotional well-being, and supports people to feel confident about being active out in the community and making use of local facilities to maintain health and wellbeing. This team proactively contribute to residents' perception of their area as a safe place to be.
- 6.7 **Crime and Disorder Issues** - The team's focus is on the prevention of crime and disorder and its detection; some of the impact of the service is indicated in this report and the fuller report, which is anticipated to be based on the first year's data, will provide the account of their performance in reducing crime and disorder on the Borough's estates. Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act requires that the Council has full regard to crime and disorder reduction and prevention in its policy and decision making processes. This team, funded through the HRA makes a positive contribution to safety.
- 6.8 **Property / Asset Issues** - The team contribute to the protection of the Council's estate-based assets and property and will respond to vandalism reports and contribute to preventive activity.

Background Papers Used in the Preparation of the Report:

- Service Level Agreement between the Council and the Metropolitan Police for delivery of the Estates Policing Team.

List of Appendices:

None