1. Introduction and background

1.1 Barking Town Centre and particularly Station Parade and the railway station have historically been the Borough’s hotspot for crime and disorder due to the number of people using this area. Barking Station sees 3,448,000 passengers each year.

1.2 Work to combat antisocial behaviour has taken place in this location in the past but complaints about street drinking, begging and other antisocial behaviour have increased in this location again in the last 6 months. The ASB Team supported by the police obtained 7 Antisocial Behaviour Injunctions against offenders who were causing problems in this area in July 2013 which expired between September 2014 and February 2015. Since the expiry of these orders issues relating to street drinking and begging have increased. The ASB Team had no complaints about ASB around the Town Centre between July 2013 and February 2015, but has received 7 complaints since February 2015. Since February 2015 to the end of September 2015 there have been 63 CAD calls relating to antisocial behaviour in Barking train station. The police team responsible for the Town Centre state that on average they are doing approximately 15 alcohol seizures a day currently but these are predominately from a group who would be classed as persistent street drinkers.
1.3 The police have put in place a dedicated team of officers to deal with the non-residential elements of Abbey Ward (Abbey Commercial Team) who came into post in July 2015. Abbey Commercial Team have contacted partners and put in place an action plan to deal with the antisocial behaviour around the station. The most common complaints about antisocial behaviour in this location are about street drinking and begging. The plan involves the following elements:

- Providing a visible presence within core hours
- Identification and enforcement against key offenders
- Environment and cleansing
- Engagement with the public and businesses

2. Providing a Presence

2.1 The Station is patrolled by officers from different teams within the Metropolitan Police Service as well as officers from British Transport Police. Abbey Commercial Team has agreed with all the teams that patrol this area a joint patrolling plan, so that there is a presence here every day. This has been in operation since September 2015 and includes the Council’s CCTV Control Room.

3. Offender Identification and Enforcement

3.1 It was agreed that Metropolitan Police and British Transport Police would use their data and officers’ knowledge to identify the top 10 key offenders of offences which are most often reported by the public and businesses. Once the key offenders had been identified it was agreed that this information would be shared with the Anti-social Behaviour Team who would look at enforcement action to manage the behaviour of these individuals.

3.2 Twelve individuals have been identified as those most involved in the issues of street drinking, begging and violence in this location. All the individuals are known to drug or alcohol services and many receive services in Barking from a commissioned Council Service. All those who persistently beg outside the station are included on this list.

3.3 The Anti Social Behaviour Team have engaged with services designed to support these individuals and assured themselves that they have all been offered support and that this will continue even while enforcement action is taken. Evidence of their antisocial and criminal behaviour has been compiled and the Anti Social Behaviour Team are about to make a joint application against all 12. If granted this order will prohibit them from entering areas of the Town Centre, including the area outside the station, with the power of arrest. These orders are being made with notice to the individuals and are expected to be concluded by the end of November 2015.

3.4 Once there is a structure in place to manage the key offenders we will then explore the use of a Public Spaces Protection Order to deal with any on-going issues around street drinking and begging in this location. This will require a public consultation which we will commence around December 2015. Breach a PSPO is dealt with by way of a fine and can be enforced by police officers and civil enforcement staff.
4. **The Environment**

4.1 Comments have been made by the public to Council and Police Officers and on social media about the area outside the station being cluttered, not clean enough and that the benches and other environmental factors make it more desirable to people wishing to drink alcohol here and leads onto begging. Some of the benches have already been removed which makes it possible to clean the area with a mechanical sweeper and other changes to the environment are being worked through. Officers from Cleansing, Street Enforcement and Regeneration have been engaged with during the formation of the action plan to deal with the crime and disorder.

5. **Engaging with the Public**

5.1 Abbey Commercial Team is working with businesses to develop a Business Watch and is continuing to engage with the public.

5.2 BTP have just completed a customer survey with station users and this will be done again following the other work to ensure that the work done is having a positive impact on the public.

5.3 Public engagement will also be undertaken in December 2015 to consult on the introduction of the Public Space Protection Order (PSPO).

6. **Next Steps**

6.1 A further report will be brought to the Safer and Stronger Community Select Committee following the public consultation undertaken in relation to the PSPO and the BTP customer survey to update on action and the survey outcomes.