

EXTERNAL SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - THE ROLE OF THE “CRIME AND DISORDER SCRUTINY COMMITTEE” IN RELATION TO THE SAFER HILLINGDON PARTNERSHIP’S PERFORMANCE AND PLANS

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REASON FOR ITEM

To enable the Committee to comment on the Safer Hillingdon Partnership’s performance to date in the year 2014/15 and consider future priority areas for action.

OPTIONS OPEN TO THE COMMITTEE

The Committee is asked to note the contents of the report and ask questions of the chief officers of the Safer Hillingdon Partnership in order to clarify matters of concern in the borough.

INFORMATION

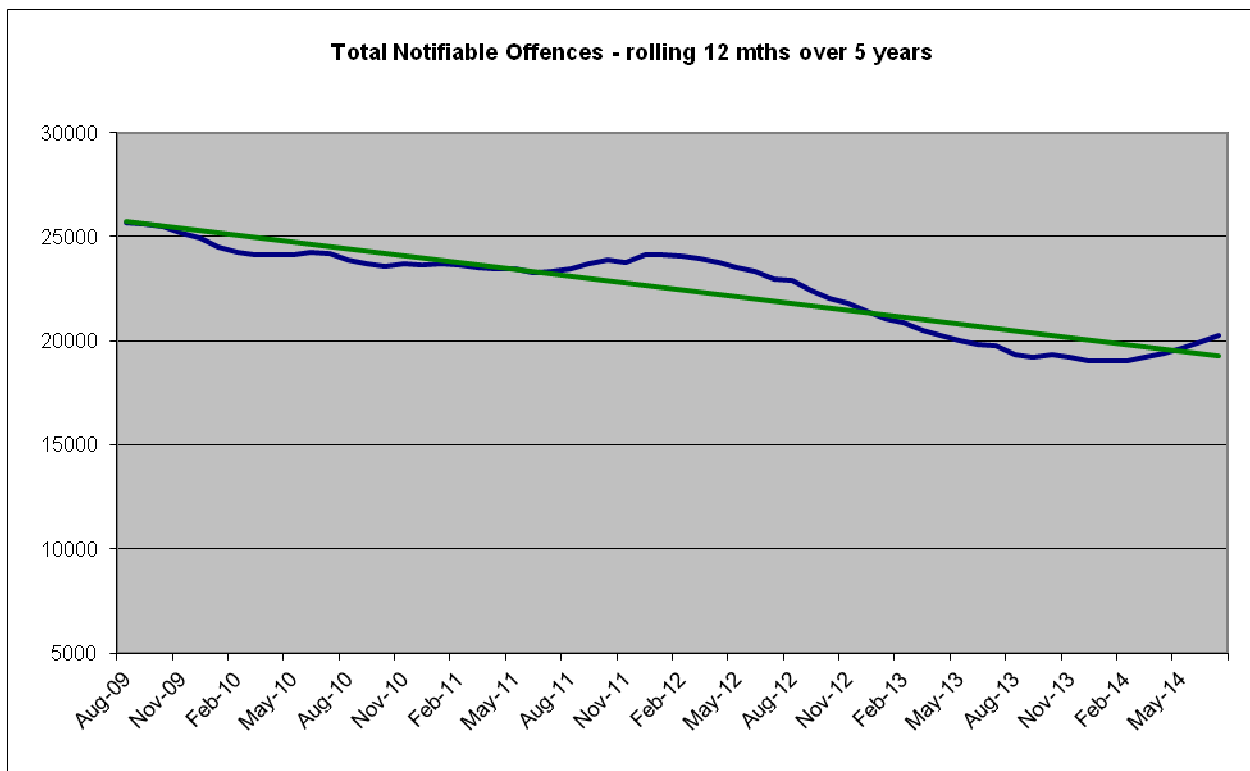
Introduction

The Safer Hillingdon Partnership Plan (2014/15) identifies 4 priority areas for action. Within each key priority are a number of objectives.

Safer Hillingdon Partnership priorities	Safer Hillingdon Partnership objectives
Deal effectively with ASB	Deal effectively with ASB reported to the council, police and other agencies.
Reduce offending and victimisation	Deal effectively with criminal justice clients with alcohol misuse problems. Deal effectively with criminal justice clients with drug misuse problems. Deliver new, effective partnerships to work with Integrated Offender Management cohort. Deliver support services to victims of domestic violence. Deliver support to residents who are hoarders. Improve training, guidance & information about improving home safety. Improve resilience of Year 6 pupils when they transfer to senior school. Reduce risk factors associated with youth offending. Reduce violent crime.

Safer Hillingdon Partnership priorities	Safer Hillingdon Partnership objectives
Reduce crime and disorder in vulnerable locations	Conduct Home Fire Safety Visits in priority postcodes. Reduce the number of fires. Deliver a project to reduce raves. Deliver crime reduction projects to vulnerable locations in Hayes town. Reduce the number of burglaries in the borough.
Improve resident confidence	Support the work of the new Safer Neighbourhood Board. Support residents to work together to reduce crime and disorder.

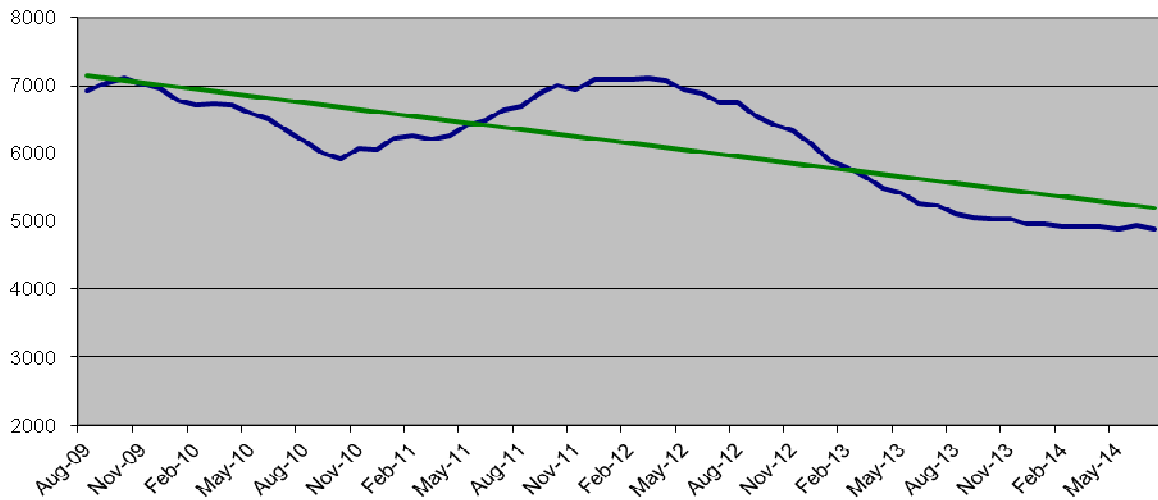
Crime performance to 31 July 2014 ¹



Total notifiable offences have decreased by 21% when we compare the number of reports in the 12 months prior to July 2009 (25,621 offences) to the same period in 2014/15 (20,229 offences).

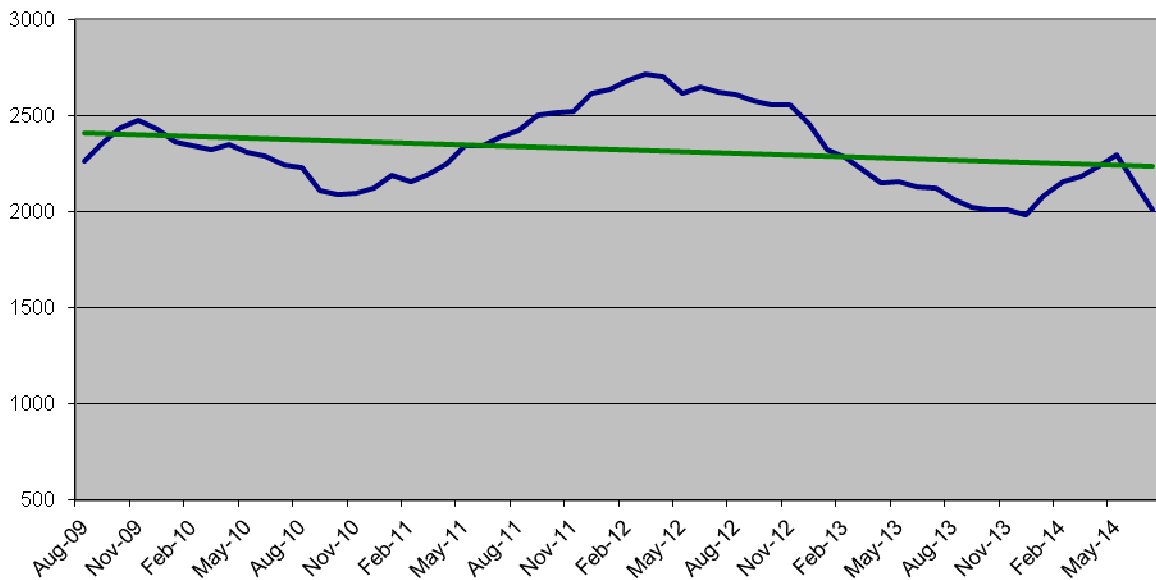
¹ The blue (wavy) line in all the graphs shows the number of offences in the 12 months prior to the point on the graph. The green (straight) line is the trend over the full period of the graph.

Serious Acquisitive Crime - rolling 12 mths over 5 years



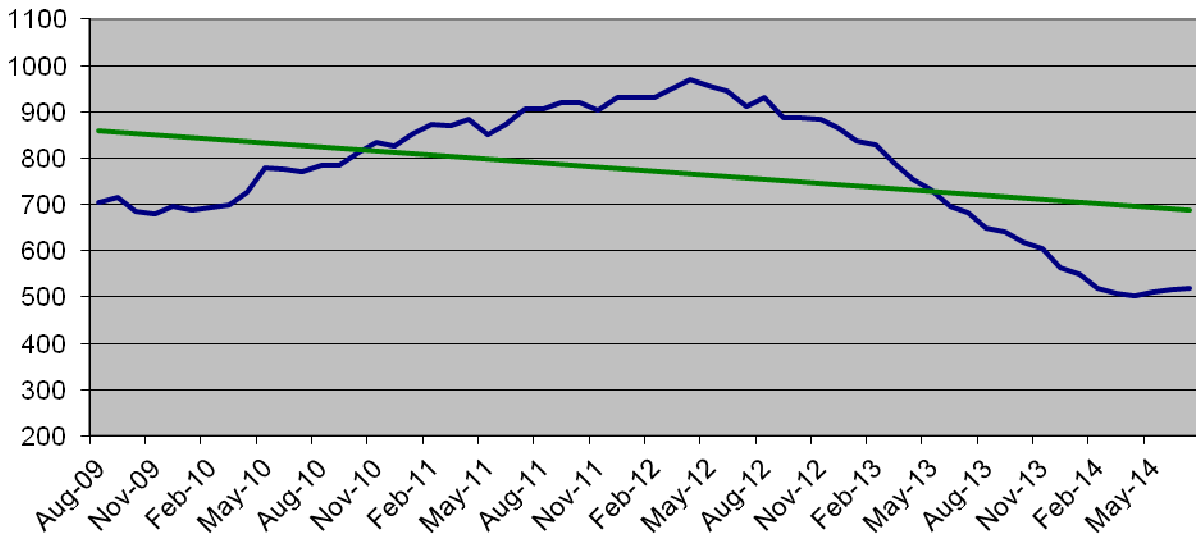
Serious Acquisitive crime offences (burglary, robbery, theft of vehicles and theft from vehicles) have decreased by 28% when we compare the 12 months prior to July 2009 (6,862 offences) to the same period in 2014/15 (4,896 offences).

Total burglary - rolling 12 mths over 5 years



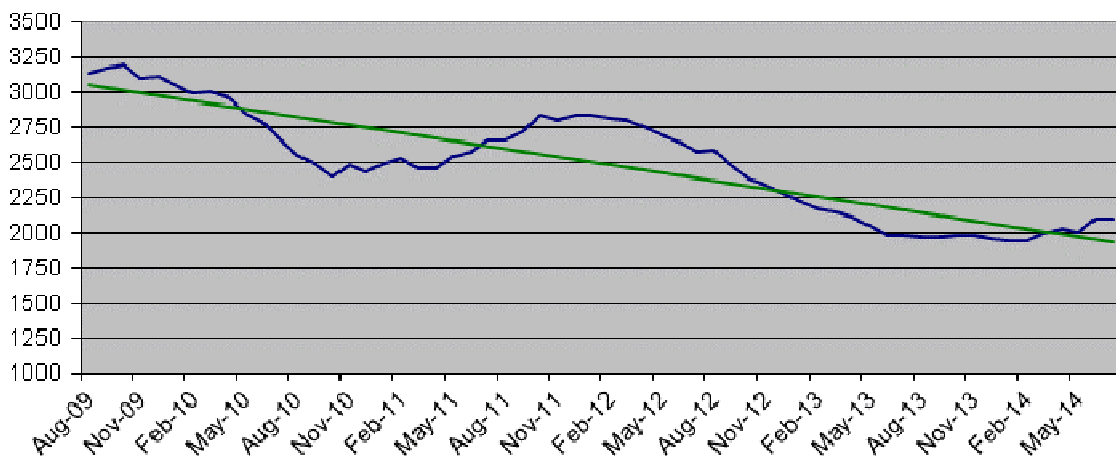
Total burglaries have reduced by 9% when we compare the 12 months to July 2009 (2,215 offences) and the same period in 2014/15 (2,008 offences). This reduction is largely attributable to the very sharp drop in burglaries since the end of 2012.

**Total Robbery Figures - Rolling 12 Months
Over 5 years**



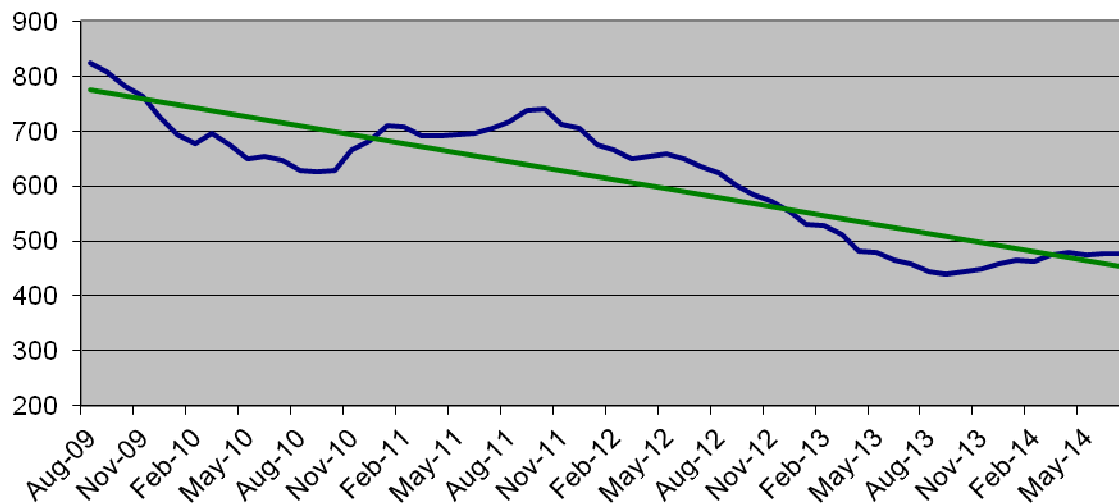
The number of reported robberies has reduced by 28% when we compare the 12 months to July 2009 (728 offences) and the same period in 2014/15 (518 offences). As with burglary, the recent reduction is largely attributable to the very sharp drop in offences since the end of 2012.

**Total Theft from Motor Vehicle - Rolling 12 Months
Over 5 years**



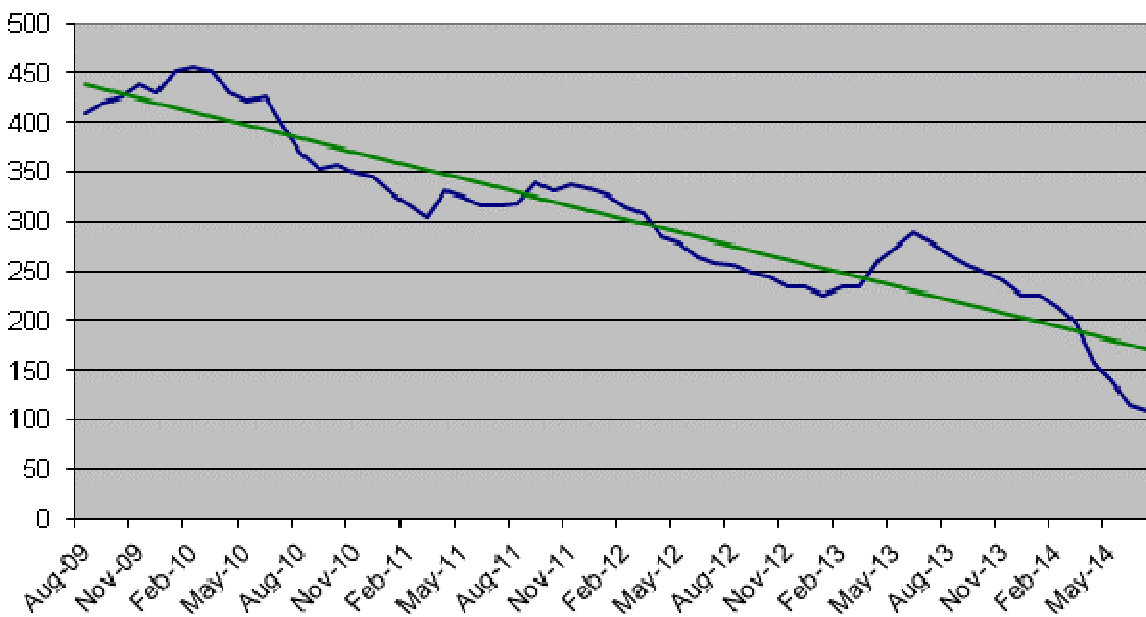
The number of reported thefts from vehicles have reduced by 32% when we compare the 12 months to July 2009 (3,079 offences) and the same period in 2014/15 (2,092 offences).

**Total Theft of Motor Vehicle Figures - Rolling 12 Months
Over 5 years**

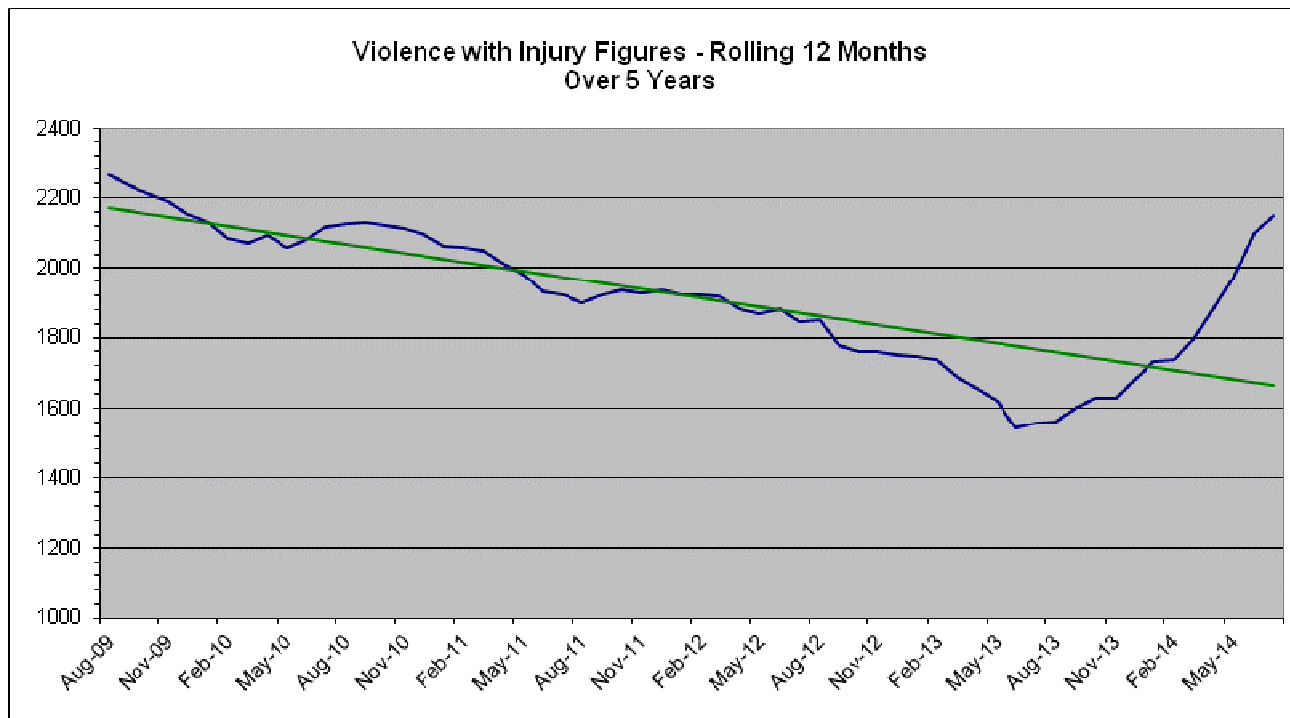


The number of reported vehicles being stolen have reduced by 43% when we compare the 12 months to July 2009 (838 offences) and the same period in 2014/15 (477 offences).

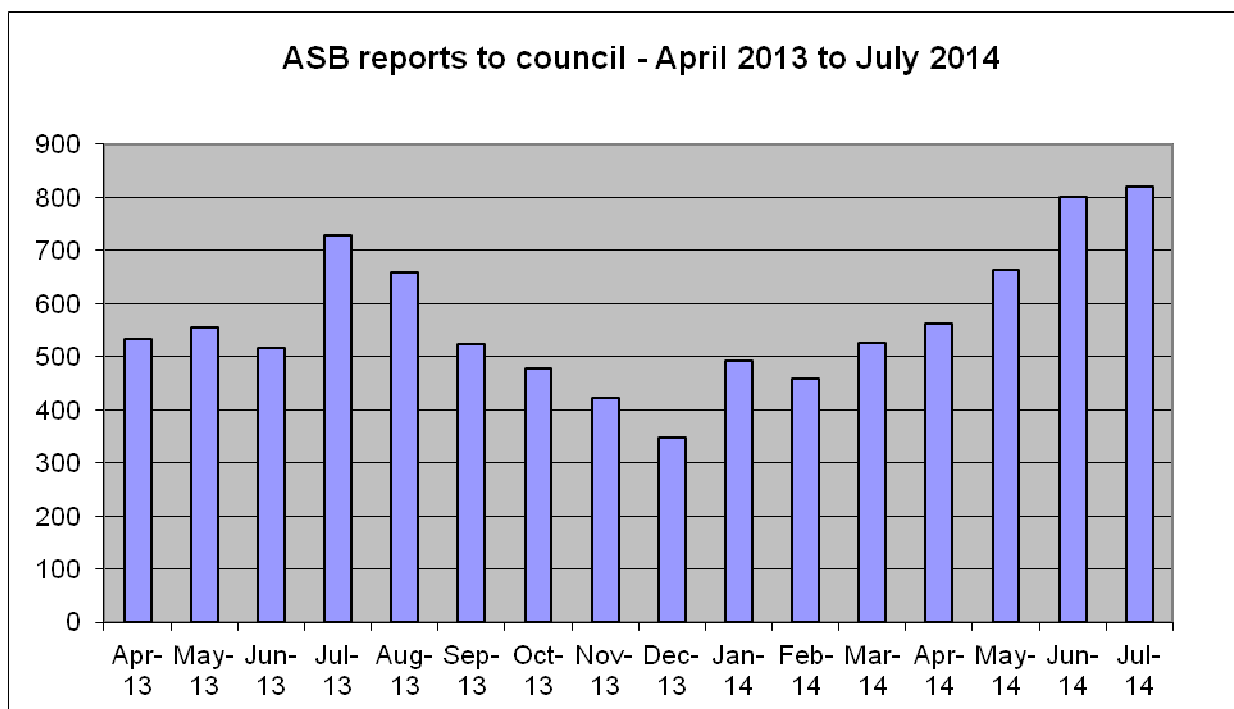
Most serious violence - rolling 12 mths over 5 years



The number of reports of Most Serious Violence have reduced by 72% when we compare the 12 months to July 2009 (401 offences) and the same period in 2014/15 (109 offences).



The number of reports of violence with injury have reduced by 6% when we compare the 12 months to July 2009 (2,299 offences) and the same period in 2014/15 (2,149 offences).



The data shows a normal seasonal spike of reports during the summer (due in part to school holidays and longer days). However, the number of reports being made to the council has increased compared to the same summer months last year.

PART I – MEMBERS, PUBLIC AND PRESS

Commentary on current and past performance

Keeping people safe is one of the Council's top priorities, and this is shared by the other statutory partners of the Safer Hillingdon Partnership – the Police Service, Fire Service, Health Service and Probation Service.

The figures in the tables above highlight that all organisations working to keep Hillingdon safe have faced significant challenges in terms of reducing resources but have, for the most part, risen to these challenges with reducing crime numbers. Hillingdon remains a safe borough to live in, work in and visit.

Total number of crimes in Hillingdon August 2003 to July 2004 = 28,857

Total number of crimes in Hillingdon August 2013 to July 2014 = 20,229

This shows a decrease of 29% over the last 10 years.

Hillingdon also remains one of the safest boroughs in London and one of the safest areas within our Most Similar Group of 15 local authorities²:

(August 2013 to July 2014):

Hillingdon has 6th (out of 15) lowest crime rate per 1,000 population in Most Similar Group. Hillingdon has 15th (out of 32) lowest crime rate per 1,000 population across all London boroughs.

Future issues

The most significant future issues facing the Safer Hillingdon Partnership are as follows:

Anti Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014: During 2014/15 this new Act will be implemented across England and Wales. The first 7 parts of the Act introduce a range of new tools and powers available to partner organisations to deal with anti-social behaviour. The six new powers replace over 20 current powers available. Training has already started across the Partnership to ensure that frontline staff understand the new powers and are able to use them to give residents speedy resolutions to neighbourhood disorder.

Transforming Rehabilitation: The changes to the Probation Service have started to take shape. In June 2014 the new National Probation Service took over the management of high risk offenders and a number of Community Rehabilitation Companies (CRCs) started to manage medium and low risk offenders. Currently the CRCs are interim organisations as later in 2014 private sector organisations will bid for the contracts to run the CRCs in different parts of the country. Hillingdon falls within the London CRC area.

Ending Gangs and Serious Youth Violence: In October 2014 the Home Office will be carrying out a "peer review" of how Hillingdon is currently working to reduce serious youth violence and prevent gangs from gaining a foothold in our communities. The review group will interview a range of stakeholders and deliver a report outlining our current strengths and areas for improvement.

² Most Similar Groups are clusters of local authority areas across England and Wales that share similar demography and socio-economic factors. Hillingdon's Most Similar Group includes Trafford (Greater Manchester), York, Swindon, Sheffield, Plymouth, Exeter, Hounslow, Leeds, Reading, Southampton, Cardiff, Northampton, Bristol and Oxford.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Protocol for the Crime and Disorder Committee.

PART I – MEMBERS, PUBLIC AND PRESS

External Services Scrutiny Committee – 18 September 2014

Protocol for the Crime and Disorder scrutiny function of the External Services Scrutiny Committee

Preamble

Section 19 of the [Police and Justice Act 2006](#)³ requires every local authority to have a crime and disorder committee with the power to review or scrutinise decisions made, or other action taken, in connection with the discharge by the responsible authorities of their crime and disorder functions. The [Crime and Disorder \(Overview and Scrutiny\) Regulations 2009](#)⁴ (the Regulations) complement these provisions.

The Act and the Regulations do not require councils to alter existing committee structures. There must, however, be a formal place where community safety matters can be discussed.

Hillingdon has designated the External Services Scrutiny Committee (“the Committee”) to deal with crime and disorder scrutiny.

It will be recommended to Council that the Terms of Reference for the External Services Scrutiny Committee be amended to include the following:

- To scrutinise the work of the Safer Hillingdon Partnership (the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership for the borough) and its member agencies, insofar as their activities relate to the Partnership itself
- To consider actions undertaken by the responsible authorities of the Partnership
- To make reports or recommendations to the Cabinet with regard to those activities
- To ensure that members of the Safer Hillingdon Partnership are accountable to residents, businesses and visitors to the borough and to its elected councillors, and that performance is improved
- To focus on improvement, on enhancing the performance of existing services, and on a constructive examination of the priorities of the Safer Hillingdon Partnership
- To base its investigations on finding solutions to weaknesses in performance and making policy recommendations to Cabinet or partners when necessary

Role of the Committee

The role of the Committee is a ‘critical friend’ of the Safer Hillingdon Partnership, providing it with constructive challenge at a strategic level rather than adversarial fault-finding at an operational level.

The Committee includes in its work programme a list of issues which it needs to cover during the year. This will be forwarded to the relevant partners on the Safer Hillingdon Partnership, reflecting local community need, for their information.

The Committee may establish task and finish groups with the specific remit to deal with crime and disorder scrutiny matters which are brought to its attention outside the formal committee process, to be reported back to the Committee.

³ <http://www.opsi.gov.uk/acts>

⁴ <http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2009>

Bringing matters to the Committee (either as a policy or performance issue or a Councillor Call for Action)

In order to avoid inappropriate matters being brought to the Committee, the Terms of Reference common to all Policy Overview Committees and the procedure for **Councillor Call for Action** should be followed. These are included on page 136 of the [Council's Constitution](#)⁵.

Recommendations made by the Committee

- Copies of reports and recommendations should be sent to such responsible authorities or co-operating bodies as are affected by the report or recommendations
- Receipt of the recommendation should be acknowledged within 10 calendar days
- The recipient of the recommendation should submit a response within a period of 28 calendar days from the date the report or recommendations are submitted, and
- In the response, the responder must detail how progress in implementing the recommendations will be measured
- The Committee will monitor that recommendations have been implemented.

With this provision there is a clear link between the Police and Justice Act and the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act, which also requires partners to respond to requests for information, and to respond to reports and recommendations made by an authority's scrutiny function. Section 19 of the Police and Justice Act complements these existing powers.

Frequency of meetings

The regulations leave the frequency of meetings to local discretion, subject to the minimum requirement of once per year (current terms of reference on p.140 refer to a bi-annual scrutiny of decisions).

Attendance

The Committee will expect the following responsible authorities to arrange for a senior officer (such as Chief Executive, Director, Head of Community Safety and / or Head of Partnerships) to attend when required (see below in relation to the Met Police Authority):

- London Borough of Hillingdon
- Metropolitan Police Service
- Primary Care Trust
- Fire Service
- Probation Area

The Committee will invite other organisations as and when required.

Role of the Police and Crime Commissioner

The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act established the role of elected Police and Crime Commissioner and brings Police Authorities to an end. In London, the Police and Crime Commissioner will be the Mayor of London through the new Mayor's Office of Policing and

⁵ <http://www.hillingdon.gov.uk>

Crime. The Police and Crime Commissioner will have a similar role to the Metropolitan Police Authority, to:

- secure an efficient and effective police force
- appoint and hold to account the Commissioner of Police
- set the police and crime objectives for the force
- set the budget
- contribute to national policing capabilities
- co-operate with the criminal justice system
- fund community safety activity

Each police area will also have an elected Police and Crime Panel to scrutinise and support the Police and Crime Commissioner. In London this role will be undertaken by a specific committee of the Greater London Assembly.

Co-option

The Council's Constitution makes provision for the External Services Scrutiny Committee to recommend to Council the appointment of non-voting co-optees, either as permanent members or for a limited duration to assist with a specific project from a panel of advisers set up for this purpose. It is anticipated that these co-optees would be specialists in particular areas, and would be an employee, officer or member of a responsible authority or of a co-operating person or body and would not be a member of the Cabinet of the local authority. Membership may be limited to membership in respect of certain issues only. The Committee will take care to clarify the role of such a co-optee, who may be expected, as part of the Committee, to hold his or her own organisation to account.

There is also a general power to include additional non-voting members under section 21(10) LGA and paragraph 5 of Schedule 8 to the Police Justice Act.

Attending Committee meetings

The Committee may request the attendance of other representatives from one or more of the responsible authorities. Those so invited must receive details of what is expected of them when they attend the meeting and will usually be given reasonable notice of requirement to attend, namely a minimum of 28 calendar days.

It will generally be more appropriate for more senior officers to attend, mainly because they are likely to have the general expertise to enable them to answer policy questions at the meeting itself. Less senior officers with relevant experience and expertise may accompany the senior officer.

In inviting representatives of the responsible authorities to attend, members should have regard to the capacity constraints of the partners so invited, and the value they are likely to be able to add to a Committee discussion.

Requests for information

The Committee will from time to time request further information from the Safer Hillingdon Partnership – performance information, for example.

Receipt of the request for information should be acknowledged within 10 calendar days and the recipient of the request should submit a response within a period of 28 calendar days from the date of the request.

Responses to requests for information must be well focused and thought through.

The information provided by responsible authorities and co-operating bodies must be depersonalised, unless the identification of an individual is necessary or appropriate in order for the Committee to properly exercise its powers.

Chairman, External Services Scrutiny Committee

Head of Community Safety

11 February 2010 ⁶

END

⁶ amended 9/2/12 with reference to the Role of the Police and Crime Commissioner
