

# THE IMPACT OF THE NEW LOCAL POLICING MODEL IN HILLINGDON

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## REASON FOR ITEM

To enable the Committee to comment on the impact of the Local Policing Model in Hillingdon, including the introduction of the Safer Neighbourhood Board.

## OPTIONS AVAILABLE 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

### Local Policing model

The Local Policing model (LPM) was introduced to Hillingdon on 24 June 2013; in the first tranche of boroughs in London to launch this new way of working. The LPM is designed to simplify Borough policing while increasing effectiveness. The model has a number of features:

Neighbourhood Policing Teams (NPTs): Neighbourhood Inspectors will direct the policing of wards clustered together at four sites

- North cluster (Ruislip Police Station) includes the wards of Harefield, Northwood, Northwood Hills, West Ruislip, Eastcote and East Ruislip, Cavendish, Manor, South Ruislip and Ickenham.
- West cluster (Uxbridge Bakers Yard and Police Station) includes the wards of Uxbridge North, Uxbridge South, Hillingdon East and Brunel.
- East cluster (Hayes Police Station) includes the wards of Charville, Barnhill, Yeading, Botwell and Townfield.
- South cluster (Heathrow Police Station: Polar Park) includes the wards of Yiewsely, West Drayton, Pinkwell and Heathrow Villages.

NPT officers are responsible for investigations of all neighbourhood crimes that occur in their wards. They will also attend all the appointments made by victims of crime in these wards.

Emergency Response Teams (ERTs): ERTs will respond to all "blue light" emergency calls (non-emergency calls will be responded to by NPTs). The ERTs will respond across borough boundaries where necessary to ensure the closest ERT will be allocated any emergency call.

Public access: Both NPTs and ERTs work shifts that increase availability of officers until midnight or later, seven days a week. Victims of crime are able to access police officers and staff by requesting an appointment (they will be visited by NPTs) or by accessing police buildings and contact points:

- Uxbridge police station: 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

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- Ruilsip police station: Monday to Friday 10am to 5pm (volunteers), Wednesday and Thursdays 7pm to 8pm (police) and Saturday 2pm to 3pm (police).
- Hayes police station: Monday to Saturday midday to 8pm and Sunday 11am to 5pm.

In Hillingdon, the LPM has increased the number of police officers on neighbourhood police teams from 129 in 2011 to 204 in 2014. The model allows for each ward to have a dedicated ward officer plus a PCSO. However, a cluster Inspector may focus their resources in a particular area to deal with a particular problem within the cluster, rather than keep all officer resources limited to particular wards.

### **Safer Neighbourhood Board**

An important element of the Local Policing Model is efficient and effective engagement between the police and residents. The Mayor of London pledged in his election manifesto to introduce Safer Neighbourhood Boards (SNB) in every borough. These were to replace the existing Community Police Consultation Groups (CPCG).

Hillingdon's SNB was launched on 1 April 2014 and was one of the first in London. The Council's Community Safety Team worked with the police to recruit a volunteer Chair and the successful candidate was Mr Ian Brooks. The SNB also has the following representatives:

- 2 x local councillors
- 1 x young person's representative
- 1 x older person's representative
- 1 x representative from Neighbourhood Watch
- 1 x representative from Victim Support
- 2 x lay members
- 4 x representatives of ward panels

The Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) has outlined a number of responsibilities for SNBs:

- Monitoring volumes, trends and types of complaints relevant to Hillingdon Borough from victims of crime and complaints from members of the public against police officers.
- Monitoring crime performance and community confidence.
- Playing a significant role in setting tasks for Community Payback.
- Ensuring all wards have a ward panel of residents.
- Supporting the Independent Advisory Group.
- Supporting the Custody Visitors Panel and ensuring the system of custody visiting is delivered.
- Ensure the stop and search community monitoring function is delivered.
- Supporting Neighbourhood Watch.
- Suggesting policing priorities in the Borough.
- Encouraging bids for funds from a crime prevention fund.

Hillingdon SNB has focussed on two projects in 2014/15. The first is to support the Council's Early Intervention and Prevention service to introduce a series of drama based workshops with young people at risk of becoming perpetrators or victims of violence. This will be subject to a bid to MOPAC in 2015/16 to the crime prevention fund ring-fenced for London's SNBs.

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The second project has been to support the work of the police ward panels.

## **Ward panels**

In May 2014, the police issued guidance to Safer Neighbourhoods teams advising them how to maintain effective ward panels (the guidance document is included as a Background Paper to this report). The guidance is detailed and includes information on the following items:

- Explanation of what ward panels are.
- Structure of ward panels.
- Core membership of panels.
- Responsibilities of ward panels.
- How to change, dissolve and/or re-constitute ward panels.

The document also includes an outline of how the panel contributes to the police community engagement, including the model of every ward having an effective panel and the chairs of these panels regularly meeting in "clusters". Representatives from these clusters (or Neighbourhood Panels as they are called in the document) then sit on the SNB. This does not currently happen in Hillingdon but it is an aspiration of the Safer Neighbourhood Board to include these representatives in the local structure

The document also includes a template for a constitution for all ward panels to use and terms of reference for ward panels.

The chair of Hillingdon's SNB met with a number of ward panel chairs in October 2014 to discuss this guidance. From this meeting a range of issues have been discussed:

- The guidance seems quite prescriptive around membership, including the role of local Councillors and the tenure of people sitting on the ward panels.
- Should every ward panel in Hillingdon use the same Constitution and Terms of Reference?
- How will new ward panels be set up, or new members join existing panels?

At the meeting there was a general consensus among the panel chairs that they will try and adopt the templates where appropriate.

Currently, the Council's advice to ward panels is to raise any concerns about the guidance with the police either directly or via the SNB. There are advantages to having a common Terms of Reference for all active ward panels (especially as police officers may be attending more than one ward panel and it a common purpose across all panels would be beneficial). However, the Council welcomes ward panels where they work well and would hope that the police take a pragmatic view of membership and length of tenure. It is not the Council's intention to interfere with the operation of the panels. The Council sees ward panels supplementing existing street champion engagement.

Street champions, ward panels and Neighbourhood Watches are all positive ways for residents and local businesses to come together to engage with the local Council and local police around crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour. It is hoped that all three types of engagement continue to flourish and support each other in the future.

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## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Metropolitan Police ward panel review May 2014

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External Services Scrutiny Committee – 17 February 2015