

RESIDENTS' SERVICES SELECT COMMITTEE - SAFER HILLINGDON PARTNERSHIP REPORT

Committee name	Residents' Services Select Committee
Officer reporting	Richard Webb, Director of Community Safety and Enforcement
Papers with report	Appendix 1 - Reported Crime Overview Appendix 2 - MPS Report
Ward	All

HEADLINES

The Residents' Services Select Committee acts as a Crime and Disorder Committee as defined in the Crime and Disorder (Overview and Scrutiny) Regulations 2009 and carries out the bi-annual scrutiny of decisions made, or other action taken, in connection with the discharge by the responsible authorities of their crime and disorder functions.

As part of its statutory responsibility to undertake crime and disorder scrutiny, this report provides the Residents' Services Select Committee with a report from the Metropolitan Police Service and an update on the work of the Safer Hillingdon Partnership, as the statutory community safety partnership for the Borough.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Residents' Services Select Committee notes the contents of the reports and asks questions in order to clarify matters of concern or interest in the Borough.

Witnesses

Chief Inspector Ben Wright, MPS, will be attending the meeting to answer questions relating to crime in the Borough and the Policing response to that crime.

Richard Webb, Director of Community Safety and Enforcement for Hillingdon Council will attend the meeting to answer questions relating to the Safer Hillingdon Partnership and the work of the Council to prevent and reduce crime.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Mayor's Police and Crime Plan and Grant Funding

In December 2024 the London Mayor published a draft Police and Crime Plan for 2025-2029. This Police and Crime Plan sets out the Mayor's proposed high-level priorities for policing, crime and community safety in London for the period 2025 to 2029.

The Mayor's agenda is stated to be "to make London a safer city for all, by being tough on crime and tough on the complex causes of crime."

The Plan is structured around three key objectives that the Mayor wants the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC), the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) and all partners to work

together to achieve.

Reducing Violence and Criminal Exploitation

The Mayor will:

- Take a public health approach to tackling the causes of violence and lead a city-wide effort to prevent people from being drawn into violent crime.
- Support and oversee robust enforcement and partnership activities to reduce violent crime and protect people from exploitation.
- Work with criminal justice agencies and other organisations to reduce reoffending by violent offenders.
- Take a public health approach to reducing Violence Against Women and Girls.
- Stand with communities against hatred and extremism, and work with agencies to strengthen London's counter-terrorism efforts.

Increasing Trust and Confidence in the MPS

The Mayor will:

- Build trust through greater transparency and accountability.
- Support the MPS and build partnerships to make neighbourhoods safer.

Improving the Criminal Justice System and Supporting Victims

The Mayor will:

- Support and oversee the MPS to deliver a better service for victims of crime.
- Support improvement in the criminal justice system in London.
- Work with criminal justice partners to reduce reoffending.
- Commission high-quality support services for victims.
- Support the work of London's Independent Victims' Commissioner

A Council response was provided to this draft Police and Crime Plan, and officers are now waiting for the final plan to be published. This plan, and its priorities and objectives, will need to be considered by the Safer Hillingdon Partnership and reflected in the partnership's work programme.

The Council receives a Local Crime Prevention Fund grant from MOPAC for work to tackle and reduce priority crimes in Hillingdon. The current grant ends in March 2025. MOPAC have confirmed that the grant funding will continue at current levels for the next 4 years. A bid for this funding has been submitted by the Council and officers are waiting for confirmation that this bid has been accepted. The work to be funded by the grant needs to support the local delivery of the Mayor's Police and Crime Plan priorities and it has been proposed that the grant for Hillingdon will contribute towards the local costs of:

- The Council's domestic abuse work, including victim support services.
- Reduction of the risk of criminal exploitation, particularly for young people.
- The cost of supporting the Community Risk Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference process.

Safer Hillingdon Partnership Developments

Membership of the Safer Hillingdon Partnership has been extended and now includes representatives of the Hillingdon Hospital and Harmondsworth Immigration Removal Centre.

The Safer Hillingdon Partnership is currently finalising a new Community Safety Strategy for the Borough. The strategy will identify the priorities for the partnership and the organisational arrangements in place to deliver actions against those priorities and monitor progress of partnership plans. To support the identification of the priorities, the annual strategic assessment is being finalised which profiles crime in the Borough and strategic issues likely to affect crime and community safety partnerships. For the first time in a number of years, to support the identification of priorities for the partnership a crime and disorder survey has been undertaken. This survey seeks respondents' views on the crime, disorder, and anti-social behaviour issues that they think the partnership prioritise addressing and their experiences on reporting crimes if they have been a victim of crime. There has been a good response to the survey to date with nearly 500 responses. The survey closes on 30th March.

Appendix 1 of this report contains some crime data from the draft Community Safety Strategic Assessment as background information for the Committee.

At the September 2024 meeting of the Resident's Services Select Committee the Committee were informed that a new community safety dashboard was in development for the Safer Hillingdon Partnership which would enable the partnership to view crime trends at each meeting. This dashboard is now available and was utilised at the December 2024 partnership meeting as supporting data for discussions on crime trends.

Cuckooing

In August 2024 the partnership agreed a new cuckooing protocol and a webinar to promote the protocol was delivered in November. This work has progressed as part of the Anti-Social Behaviour priority of the Safer Hillingdon Partnership.

'Cuckooing' is the name applied when the home of a vulnerable person is taken over to be used for criminal purposes, normally without the consent of the occupier. Following the adopting of the protocol, a webinar for internal and external stakeholders—including Community and Voluntary Organizations, NHS staff, social workers and other front-line practitioners—was conducted on 21st November 2024, in conjunction with Adult Safeguarding Week and with support from the Safeguarding Partnership Team.

This new protocol has led to an increased awareness of how vulnerable people may be exploited in their homes, which in turn has led to an increase in cuckooing referrals to the Community Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference process (CMARAC). In 2024, 8 cases of cuckooing were referred to the CMARAC and 8 have been referred in January and February 2025 alone. At CMARAC meetings cases are discussed with all relevant partners and actions agreed to help reduce the risks to the people being exploited and the impacts of the criminal behaviour on the local community.

Closure Orders

Further partnership work in relation to the Safer Hillingdon Partnership priority to reduce anti-social behaviour has seen a significant increase in the use of Closure Orders in the Borough. A Closure Order under the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 can be granted by a Court on

application by the police or local authority when there are reasonable grounds to believe that the premises concerned are being used for anti-social behaviour or other illegal activities. The order prohibits anyone from entering the premises other than those identified in the order, typically the owner, legal occupier, emergency services and other named parties. They are effective in deterring anti-social or criminal behaviour since they make it an arrestable offence for unauthorised persons to enter the premises.

The Council, with support from the Police, have successfully applied for and been granted closure orders for a number of Council premises which have suffered from long-standing problems of anti-social behaviour in the communal areas of the buildings or associated with visitors to some properties in the building. Orders were secured for Harding House, Sutcliffe House, Skeffington Court, Fairlie House and The Gouldings. Two further closure orders were obtained on two properties that were being used as brothels.

Police Neighbourhood Teams have regularly visited the premises concerned to monitor compliance with the orders and arrests have been made where unauthorised persons were found in those premises. Residents of the buildings concerned have reported a significant reduction in ASB at the buildings concerned and welcomed the action by the Council and Police.

Precision Crime Fighting Group

The Police and Council have recently introduced a new partnership meeting to support joint working on emerging and priority crime and disorder issues in the Borough. Monthly joint meetings enable Police and Council teams to review overall crime data for the Borough and information relating to specific priorities. This meeting is intended to ensure there is a shared understanding of the community safety related threat, risk and harm in Hillingdon. A focus on subjects and locations of concern enables joint tasking of resources such as CCTV and allows for agreement on how the different options available to the Police and Council can be best utilised to reduce community risks.

Financial Implications

None at this stage.

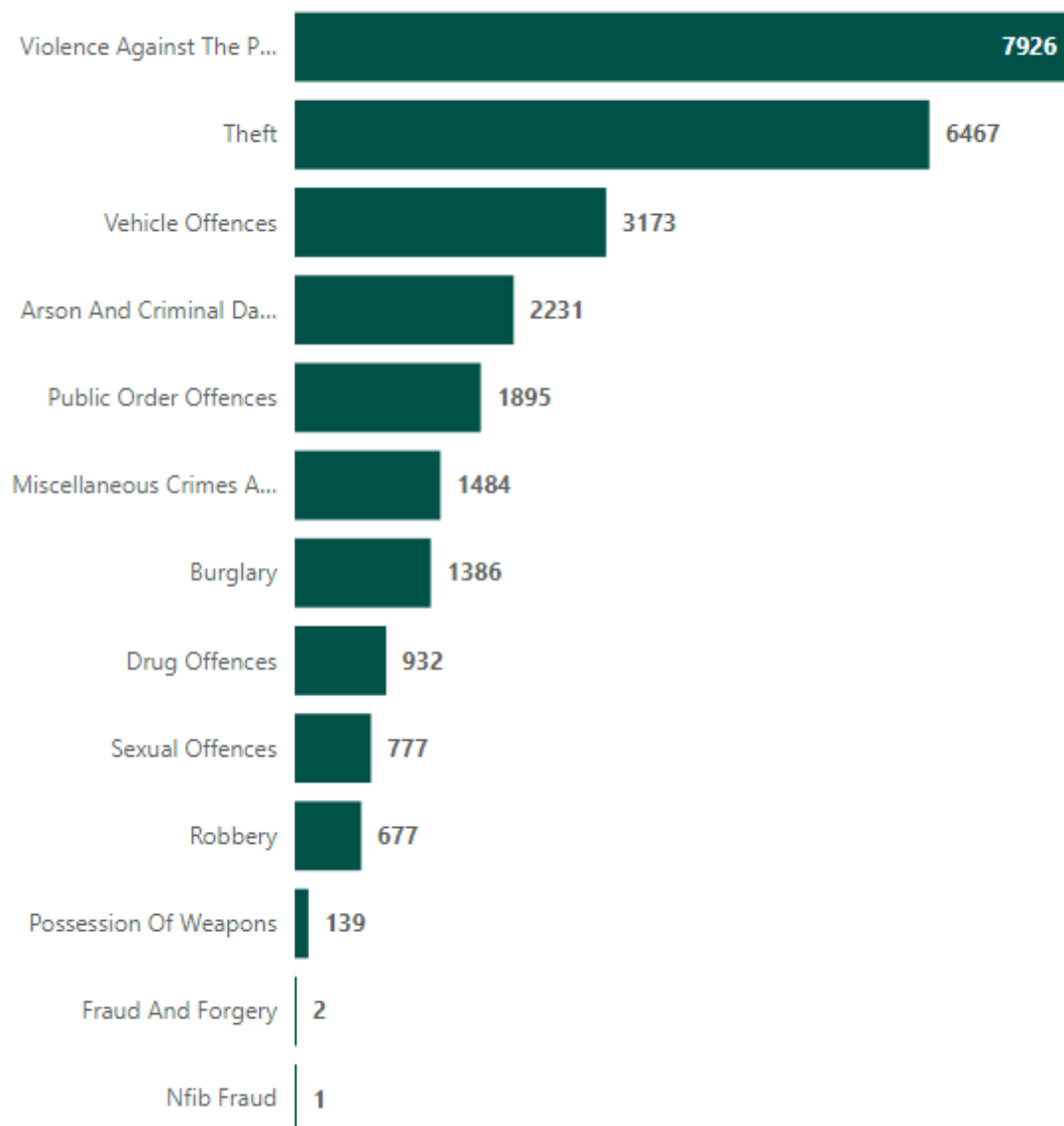
Legal Implications

None at this stage.

Appendix 1 – Reported Crime Overview

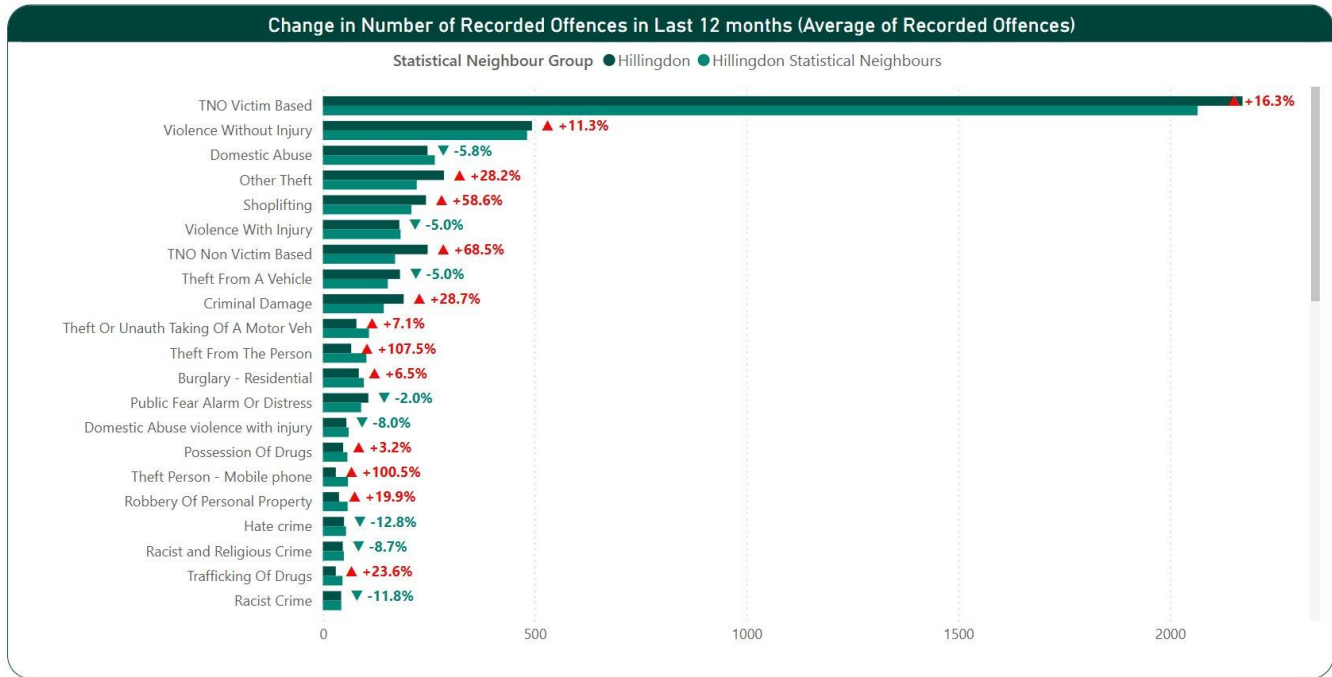
Breakdown of reported offences by crime type for 2024 for Hillingdon(source MPS)

Volumes by Offence Type



Change in Recorded Offences by Type between 2023 and 2024

Jan 2024 - Dec 2024



Rate of Offences by Type Per 1000 Population

Rate of Offences per 1,000 population by Category

