

Council: Tuesday, 8 April 2014

Non-Executive Business Item: Councillor Andrew Strongolou

Falling Crime and Police Partnerships

Council welcomes the significant local reductions in crime, with overall crime down 11% from February 2013 to February 2014. Council notes that Barnet has some of the largest reductions in burglary (down 21%) and robbery (down 33.5%) in London over the last year, meaning 747 fewer households were victims of burglary. Council further notes the substantial reduction in serious youth violence (down 18%) and knife crime (down 24%) and thanks the Police for their efforts in this regard.

Council believes our partnership with the Police, through the Safer Communities Partnership Board, is vitally important in achieving and sustaining such falls in crime and in securing the Borough as a safe place to live, work and study. Council therefore welcomes the council's collaboration with the Police in introducing the new and improved CCTV service and, alongside it, Automatic Number-Plate Recognition technology.

Council also believes that the public must have a strong partnership with our Police force. Council therefore recommends the extension of body-cams to Police Officers in Barnet, noting the positive effects such cameras would have for both the Police and the public. Body-cams would aid the collection of evidence and protect officers from false allegations of misconduct. Conversely, they would reassure the public and provide evidence in any allegations made against the Police. Council recognises that their use would need to be carefully regulated in order to protect civil liberties.

Council calls on the Administration to work with the Police towards these ends.

Under Council Procedure Rule, Section 1, Standing Order 23.5: if my item is not dealt with by the end of the meeting I ask that it be voted upon at the Council meeting.