Meeting Policy and Performance Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Date 13th April 2010

Subject Police Strategic Assessment

Report of Scrutiny Office

Summary This report provides the Police Strategic Assessment from the Borough Commander.

Officer Contributors None

Status (public or exempt) Public

Wards Affected All

Enclosures Appendix A – Police Strategic Assessment

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1. RECOMMENDATIONS
1.1 That the Committee scrutinise and comment on the Police Strategic Assessment.

2. CORPORATE PRIORITIES AND POLICY CONSIDERATIONS
2.1. The Overview and Scrutiny Committees/Sub-Committees must ensure that the work of Scrutiny is reflective of the Council priorities.

2.2. The six priority outcomes as set out in the 2009/10 Corporate Plan are –

- A Successful City Suburb
- Strong and Healthy
- Promoting Independence
- A Bright Future for Children and Young People
- Clean, Green and Safe
- More Choice, Better Value

2.3. The following are also priority improvement objectives –

- Converse with local people to increase their participation in democratic engagement
- Improve Member satisfaction with the Scrutiny process

3. RELEVANT PREVIOUS DECISIONS
3.1 Policy and Performance Overview & Scrutiny Committee, January 25th 2010, Agenda Item 7, ‘Crime and Disorder Overview & Scrutiny’

4. RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES
4.1 None.

5. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY ISSUES
5.1 In addition to the Terms of Reference of the Committee, and in so far as relating to matters within its remit, the role of the Committee is to perform the Overview and Scrutiny role in relation to:

- The Council’s leadership role in relation to diversity and inclusiveness; and
- The fulfilment of the Council’s duties as employer including recruitment and retention, personnel, pensions and payroll services, staff development, equalities and health and safety.

5.2 Equalities are enshrined in the work of the police through the following commitment in The Policing Pledge:
To always treat you fairly with dignity and respect ensuring you have fair access to our services at a time that is reasonable and suitable for you.

6. USE OF RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS (Finance, Procurement, Performance & Value for Money, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)

6.1 None.

7. LEGAL ISSUES

7.1 The crime and disorder powers in relation to Scrutiny are set out in the following legislation:

- Police and Justice Act 2006
- Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007
- Crime and Disorder (Overview and Scrutiny) Regulations 2009

8 CONSTITUTIONAL POWERS

8.1 The Policy and Performance Overview & Scrutiny Committee Terms of Reference contained within the Overview & Scrutiny procedure rules designate power to the committee to deal with all matters which are not the responsibility of the Executive relating to crime, the Crime and Disorder legislation, anti-social behaviour and scrutiny of the Safer Communities Partnership.

9. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

9.1 The Policy and Performance Overview & Scrutiny Committee is Barnet’s nominated Scrutiny committee for dealing with Crime and Disorder issues.

9.2 At its meeting of January 25th 2010, the committee resolved to invite the Borough Commander to address its next meeting, to brief them on crime and disorder issues.

9.3 A presentation on the Police Strategic Assessment is included at Appendix A. Chief Superintendent Neil Basu, the Barnet Borough Commander, will address the committee at the meeting and answer questions submitted in advance by Members.

10. LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

10.1 Policing Pledge
http://www.direct.gov.uk/prod_consum_dg/groups/dg_digitalassets/@dg/@en/documents/digitalasset/dg_172297.pdf

10.2 Crime and Disorder (Overview & Scrutiny) Regulations 2009

Legal: LC
CFO: KB
Summary of existing Partnership Strategic Priorities
(based on Joint Strategic Assessment April 2009)

• Serious Acquisitive Crime
• Violence and High Risk
• Community Focus
• Safeguarding Young People
Crime and Community Safety in Barnet
Current Picture

(based on Joint Strategic Assessment April 2009)
Crime Levels on Barnet (Compared to the MPS average)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rates compared to London and Most Similar Group (MSG) average</th>
<th>Crime Type</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Higher than both London average and MSG in both last 12 and last three months | • Residential burglary  
• Theft from Motor Vehicle |
| Lower than London average, but higher than MSG in last 12 and three months | • Theft from Person |
| Lower than London average but sometimes higher than MSG | • Theft of Motor Vehicle  
• Racially Aggravated Crime |
| Lower than both London average and MSG in both last 12 and three months | • Total Crime  
• Robbery  
• Assault  
• Sexual Offences  
• Non-residential burglary |

- **Main Issue:** Residential Burglary

- **Overall Barnet is safer and has lower crime rates than the MPS average**
Crime performance against targets

Why have these crimes increased?

**Burglary**
- Increased activity of Criminal Network involved in burglaries on Barnet
- Increase in cross-border burglars
- Increase in burglaries committed by Romanian nationals
- Increase in burglaries targeting car keys

**Robbery**
- Personal robbery has fallen for a number of consecutive years on Barnet; current levels are similar to 2007 levels.
- A spike in knife-enabled robberies towards youth victims (often multiple victims in single offences) between late July to mid August 2009.
- Other factors: Increase in robberies with multiple victims; Increase in robberies in areas coinciding with gang / drug tensions; Increase in robberies in parks; Possible increase in Haringey robbers frequenting Barnet.

### Increase / decrease fear to date (Apr 09 – Sep 09)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Crime Type</th>
<th>Percentage increase, significant in absolute volume of increase</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Residential burglary</td>
<td>• Robbery (Person and Commercial)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Sexual Offences</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Gun Crime</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage increase, but not significant in absolute volume</td>
<td>• Serious Youth Violence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Knife Crime</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reduction</td>
<td>• Total Crime</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Serious Violent Crime</td>
<td>• Assault with injury</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Total Serious Acquisitive Crime</td>
<td>• Theft of Motor Vehicle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Theft from Motor Vehicle</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Environmental Scan - (emerging Issues)

• Increasing number of burglaries committed by Romanian suspects
• Increase in youth robberies / violence linked to gangs / drug dealing
• Other emerging Issues
Increase in Burglaries committed by Romanian suspects

- Increasing number of Romanian nationals arrested for residential burglary during the last six months

- Increase in squats being used by Romanian males around burglary hotspots.

- Demographic analysis indicates that the area around the Barnet / Brent border (south of Barnet borough) is an area with a relatively high concentration of Romanian nationals

- The numbers of Romanian males arrested for burglary is likely to underrepresented the actual prevalence of offences due to significant intelligence gaps that exist.
Increase in Robberies and Violence linked to gang / drugs

- **Context:** Low level of serious violence and gang prevalence

- **Developments in 2009:** Problems in HA8 Watling Park area and Dollis Valley Estate area

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Problem</th>
<th>HA8 Watling Park area</th>
<th>Dollis Valley Estate area</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Increase in youth disorder / asb</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Increase in reported robberies</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Increase in reported violence</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Youth Suspects</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth Victims</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult Victims</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Problem believed linked to drug dealing</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some individuals involved linked to gangs</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some individuals involved linked to the Grahme Park Estate</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Other Emerging Issues and predictions

• Cannabis factories
• Higher rates of unemployment - impact handling stolen goods market
• Pressures on public sector budgets
Community Confidence
This section looks at community confidence in the police and local authority in Barnet from two perspectives:

- How can community confidence be maintained – identifies and addresses **risks to public confidence in Barnet**
- How can public confidence be increase – identifies appropriate opportunities for **building public confidence** and makes recommendations around these.

Community confidence is a very wide-ranging issue and relates to almost all areas of policing and local authority activities (e.g. including approachability of officers, response times, smartness of appearance, historic perceptions in area).

This strategic assessment does not seek to exhaustively address each of these issues; rather its scope is **focused** on crime and community safety problems that are likely to impact confidence.
How could community confidence fall?

A single high impact event

Poor volume crime performance

because of

because of

because of

because of

because of

because of

Gang related youth violence

Youth violence / robbery at end of school day

Adult alcohol / drugs related evening violence

Stranger sexual offences

Sustained and significant increase in residential burglary

Concentrated or overlapping crime problems in a small area

Risks to public confidence in Barnet

Implications for Intervention: Strategies to maintain public confidence need to address the risks from each of these issues.
Implications of gangs for Barnet

• Gang related problems pose a risk of causing high harm incidents / serious violence

• The extent of gangs problem on Barnet is small in comparison to many other locations in London.

• Most areas on Barnet are little affected by gangs.

• Impact and risk of gang activity on Barnet
What would the impact be if gang activity on the borough became more widespread?

Level of gang activity London boroughs is strongly correlated with level of serious violence.

- Correlation between the size of a gang problem in an area and the level of serious violence.
- Link between low level of serious violence on Barnet, and relative low development of gang activity on the borough.
- Implications for Intervention.
Volume crime performance

• High volume increases that are over a sustained period are most likely to impact public confidence.

• Burglary is the volume crime where there is most risk of this occurring and hence of impacting public confidence.
Overlapping / concentrated crime problems in localised areas

• Low-level problems, when concentrated in a small area over a sustained period

• Implications for Intervention: Locations where confidence may be at risk due to clusters of overlapping crime problems
Building public confidence

• Where long-term performance is strong

• Where success is achieved

• Where fear of crime is disproportionate

• Knowing when it's right to increase the fear of crime
### Recommended Control Strategy (Police)

**Recommended Control Strategy:** The Control Strategy represents crime types and problem types which are to be the focus of proactive resources and/or intelligence requirements. Issues outside the Control strategy, but which are deemed high risk are automatically a priority.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Crime Type / Problem Type</th>
<th>Strands</th>
<th>Specific Problems</th>
<th>Intelligence Requirement Priority</th>
<th>Proactive Priority</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Violent and High Risk Crime</td>
<td>Assaults, Sexual Offences, Weapon Enabled Crime, Racial Crimes, DV, Robbery, Repeat / Vulnerable victims</td>
<td>Long term risk that gangs on the borough will develop and grow leading to an increase in youth violence. Violence / Robbery at end of school day towards school age victims. Adult Evening Stranger Violence (including alcohol related, drugs related, and sexual assaults).</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burglary</td>
<td>Residential Burglary, Criminal Networks</td>
<td>Prolific co-offending groups / criminal networks committing / facilitating burglary on Barnet. Use of vehicles / arterial roads by burglars to travel around and into Barnet to commit offences. Situational crime prevention weaknesses in the physical make up of many of the boroughs burglary hotspots.</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Safeguarding Young people</td>
<td>Reducing Offending, Reducing Victimisation</td>
<td>Preventing young people being drawn into offending by prolific co-offending groups. Preventing young people being drawn into gangs / drugs violence by gangs.</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Focus</td>
<td>Community confidence, Cohesion, Addressing ASB, alcohol and drugs problems of local concern</td>
<td>Identifying areas with high crime concentrations and dealing effectively with the problems in those areas. Ensuring strong performance and successes are communicated effectively.</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Auto Crime</td>
<td></td>
<td>Prolific repeat offenders</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Terrorism</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>High</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Summary of Recommendations
**The problem**

*Risk of gangs on Barnet growing which would lead to increase in youth violence volume and severity.*

Would damage confidence through increasing the risk of high harm events occurring (such as those with serious injury or involving weapons).

**Recommendations**

**Aim:**
Prevent and limit the long term growth of gangs and gang activity on Barnet

**Interventions:** Concerted Anti-gangs and drugs education program in schools. Higher intensity in areas with more gang activity.

The program should also address the risk of underreporting of gang / youth violence issues.

**Context**

Enforcement based tactics are necessary to tackle the acute problems that emerge from gang issues (such as increasing violence in a park or an estate), however there is evidence these displace activity and can have a limited impact on the gangs long term growth.

The long-term development of gangs on the borough is likely to be depended on the size of the drugs market and ease of recruitment into gangs. These factors can be affected by preventative measures, and the role of education is key.

It is precisely because Barnet does not currently have large-scale gangs problems that such a program would be viable and worthwhile.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The problem</th>
<th>Recommendations</th>
<th>Context</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| *Increase is youth violence and robbery in parks (specifically Watling Park HA8 where the issues are drugs and gangs related)*. | **Aim:** Drive out drugs / weapons and those who frequent the park to engage in robbery, violence, or intimidation so that the park is safe for all.  
**Intelligence:** Identify which parks require prioritisation.  
**Enforcement interventions:** Focused patrols occurring on a sporadic basis on different days and times, including use of drugs dogs and CCTV van.  
**Preventions Interventions:** Ensure park closed and gated overnight. Clear signs with contact numbers to report antisocial behaviour. Deployment of rolling base. Partnership program of family based activities taking park in the park. | Previous strategic analysis has indicated that people’s perception of local parks is likely to have a significant impact on their confidence and perception of crime and safety in the area. This makes sense, as problems in parks will be highly visible and if they take away a persons confidence to use the park, will have forced that person to alter their behaviour.  
A strategy of ensuring all parks within a specified local area are safe between opening and closing time is realistic and achievable and if successful could significantly improve local confidence.  
The enforcement interventions are aimed at tackling current problems in the park. The prevention interventions are aimed at sustaining the improvements.  
*Engagement of local community in the project  
*Joint partnership approach  
*Joint partnership communication strategy to raise awareness of what is being done |
## Confidence

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The problem</th>
<th>Recommendations</th>
<th>Context</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Overlapping crime problems concentrated in small areas are likely to damage local confidence even when relating to low-level crime. | Focus a joint partnership problem solving approach towards locations with the highest long-time concentration of crimes.  
Scan – to identify locations to focus on  
Analyse - to understand the problem and identify points for interventions.  
Respond: Implement interventions to reduce the problem.  
Assess: Review effectiveness and identify if changes to the response are needed.  
Identify ways to address risk of not identifying acute localised problems because of underreporting (e.g. promotion of crime stoppers, review surveys carried out by borough to identify if improvements can be made to provide a more actionable feedback) | While locations with high concentrations of various crime types present a risk to public confidence, they also present an opportunity to significant impacting local confidence by reducing the problems and making a noticeable difference to local peoples perceptions.  
To be most effective, the responses should:  
*Focus on locations where problems are forcing local people to alter their behaviour (e.g. avoiding certain locations at certain times etc.)*  
*Have a clear communication strategy to raise the profile of the activities and their joint partnership nature*  
*Where viable use a wide range of partnership resources and engage local people*  
Recommended this process by managed by the partnership Multi-operations group. In relation to significant issues subgroups should be created bringing together the specific agencies that can impact on the problem. |
Burglary

• Develop joint partnership anti-burglary crime prevention in selected long term burglary hotspots, with a communication strategy focusing on: promoting prevention and also awareness of partnership activities.

• Create action plans for each criminal network involved in burglary on Barnet addressing each aspect that facilitates their offending (handling, communications, transport, association, finances etc.) Where a criminal networks impact is significant enough prioritise enforcement activities to disrupt the group to the point it can no longer make a significant impact.

• Ensure young people identified at being at risk of being drawn into a prolific co-offending group are prioritised for diversionary activities in the partnership.

• Intelligence, Prevention and Enforcement towards the handling stolen goods market, to fill intelligence gap as well as reduce the toleration handling within local communities.

• Recommend borough ANPR system on arterial routes as well as using other activities designed to deter offenders from travelling on Barnet’s roads to commit burglary. Create cross border top 10 offenders list with neighbouring boroughs in relation to offenders who travel.
Violence and High Risk

• Recommend partnership prioritise an anti-gangs and drugs education message

• Recommend continue schools unit continue crime prevention messages in primary and secondary school, and consider the need for a specific message focused on secondary pupils who commute into the borough

• Ensure young people identified at being at risk of being drawn into gangs are prioritised for diversionary activities in the partnership

• Continue to use recently developed (by MIB/ISS for all TP boroughs mandatory use) Early Warning System (EWS) to identify dangerous suspects, vulnerable victims, dangerous locations and potential series of offences. Promote awareness and use of EWS among Barnet units that deal with sexual crime or community safety issues.

• Increase use of overt filming to reduce anonymity of offenders, deter them from travelling to Barnet, and build intelligence on appearance