

Havering Community Safety Partnership response to the Mayor's Policing and Crime Plan (including Estates Strategy).

Using the eight guidance questions formulated by the Mayor, please see the Havering Community Safety Partnership's response to the Mayor's Policing and Crime Strategy below (including the Estates Strategy under question 4)

1. What, if any, other objectives and goals would you add to the Mayor's objectives and goals?

The Havering Community Safety Partnership (HCSP) broadly agrees with the objectives and goals of the Mayor and has aligned its community safety plan accordingly.

2. What, if any, other things could be done to address police performance and resource issues?

The HCSP welcomes the commitment from the Mayor to each borough having a dedicated Borough Commander, which we believe will strengthen local policing leadership and capacity.

We believe that business-related crime, a significant problem for London's town centres, should be taken seriously, perhaps with further co-operation from the Courts in the form of tougher sentences being given. For example, Havering is seeing prolific levels of shop lifting in the borough that are being banned through Havering's 'Banned From One Banned From All' scheme, yet local intelligence tell us that a number of perpetrators have in excess of 30 previous convictions. Clearly more work needs to be done in this area to enable our town centres to continue to thrive.

3. Do you think the confidence in the Metropolitan Police needs to be improved? How do you think that could be done?

Despite low levels of Crime and a high sanction detection rates Havering has suffered from disproportionate levels of fear of crime.

The HCSP does agree that there should be a move away from reassurance only policing towards a more targeted and proactive response to policing (where trends / analysis show crime is likely to occur). There is of course a problem in how to square the circle between giving confidence and deploying only where there is high likelihood of crime. With this in mind, the HCSP welcomes the commitment to increasing numbers of officers deployed in Safer Neighbourhood Teams proposed in the draft Police and Crime Plan.

4. The Mayor has prioritised keeping police officer numbers high rather than keeping underused buildings open. Do you feel that the focus should be on maintaining police numbers or police buildings? How else could budget savings be made?

MOPAC have a target of increasing public confidence by 20%. The HCSP recognises that the closure of Police front desks, such as Hornchurch Police Station, could have a detrimental effect on Public Confidence.

Residents are concerned that the waiting times at Romford Police station are excessive and there is limited public parking available. This will be further increased by closures to Hornchurch and may again have a negative impact on Public Confidence. We would like this to be taken into account when considering the future of Hornchurch Police Station. The Council in particular opposes the closure of Hornchurch Police Station.

However, the Partnership also recognises that times have changed and the majority of crimes are now reported not through Police stations, some of which have very low footfalls, but over the telephone, either through the 999 line or the 101 service, by email or other social networks.

The HCSP is in support of the Metropolitan Police looking to rationalise its resources in a way that means more Police on the streets of Havering, whilst at the same time ensuring that those residents who wish to speak to the Police on a face-to-face basis have the opportunity to do so, either through alternative customer-facing sites at existing buildings in the borough, or through the increased visibility of SNTs.

Dual usage of buildings needs to be considered locally and strategically across London. This would have the by-product of increasing confidence as more Police would be seen in town centres.

5. What, if any, other things could be done to prevent crime?

More high profile public educational campaigns across London will help to prevent crime. Havering has recently suffered a big increase in burglaries; many of these could be prevented by simple measures such as:

- The deployment of timer switches in winter months so that homes look inhabited
- Education on how to lock UPVC windows and doors (such as our Lift, Lock and Remove campaign)
- Low front boundaries and secure side gates
- Reinvigoration of Neighbourhood Watch Schemes and other local neighbourhood initiatives.

Practice has shown in Havering that low cost measures can sometimes be the most effective.

6. What, if any, other things could be done to address justice and resettlement issues?

The HCSP is broadly supportive of the proposals within the draft Policing and Crime Plan with regards to justice and resettlement. Integrated Offender Management

(IOM) has large role to play in this area, and is working well in Havering. It is key to the Mayor's plans that a holistic approach is used when dealing with offenders/ ex-offenders. The other key area within reoffending that the HCSP would like to see highlighted in the Policing and Crime Plan is joint working with services for young people, which we are developing locally. Further work between Integrated Offender Management and Youth Offending Services should be explored more across the city as well as between IOM and mental health services.

There are some concerns locally regarding the negative impact of the implementation of the 'Transforming Rehabilitation' proposals and how this will initially influence the levels of reoffending in the Borough. Our response to this consultation is documented separately.

7. What, if any, other key crime and safety issues that are important to you would you include?

The HCSP is broadly in favour of all the issues addressed in the draft Plan, although recognises that some issues are more pertinent to other boroughs than Havering, such as Gangs, for example.

The Mayor may wish to consider a general priority around 'Addressing crimes which impact on the quality of Life of Londoners'. This allows flexibility for boroughs to work better with MOPAC on emerging crime trends and locally important issues. For Havering this would allow an increased focus on acquisitive crimes and anti-social behaviour.

8. Are there any other issues affecting you that have not been covered in the draft Police and Crime Plan?

The HCSP is keen to see the administration of neighbourhood-level schemes such as Neighbourhood Watch given to councils to co-ordinate, which would enable us to better align Neighbourhood Watch activities with other local crime prevention campaigns.

A dedicated anti-social behaviour police officer in all boroughs who can liaise with the council and other agencies ensuring that intelligence is being captured correctly on individuals might also enhance the local response to tackling anti social behaviour.

There needs to be more clarity regarding how the proposed Safer Neighbourhood Boards will coexist with Community Safety Partnerships and whether they would be required to compete for funding from the Crime Prevention Fund.

The HCSP looks forward to receiving more detail in due course.