

# NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

## Overview and Scrutiny

### Scrutiny Panel 1 – Serious Acquisitive Crime & Violent Crime and Community Safety

#### CORE QUESTIONS – TO ALL EXPERT WITNESSES

##### Serious Acquisitive Crime

What activity as an organisation/department do you undertake to address/tackle issues of serious acquisitive crime (burglary/theft)?

What activity as an organisation/department do you undertake to **prevent** issues of serious acquisitive crime?

Enterprise is proud of its reputation for adopting and implementing policies to tackle and prevent serious acquisitive crime.

The Company recognises that failure to address these issues can seriously undermine reputation and shareholder value and pose a serious risk to the longer-term sustainability of our business and that of our customers.

Our approach, based upon “Situational Crime Prevention”, uses techniques focused on reducing the opportunity to commit a crime, increasing the difficulty of crime, increasing the risk of crime, and reducing the rewards of crime.

Our operations and those of our customers are encouraged to partake in a number of hard and soft measures:

- Security risk assessments of temporary work sites
- Security plans for our premises that include the use of CCTV security systems, manned guards and mobile patrols at our depots.
- Telematics systems on our vehicles to track assets and ring fence areas of high risk and disposal points such as scrap metal merchants.
- Tracker recovery devices on mobile plant and equipment over certain values.

- The use of identification systems such as datatags and smart water to facilitate recovery
- All kit home to depot rules in high risk areas.
- The use of mobile CCTV units in high risk areas such as trackside Rail Substations.
- Procurement of makes and models of equipment that are not attractive to thieves
- Spot check audits on equipment inventories.
- Educational briefings for employees to help them remove risks such as laptops in cars and also to identify security risks on site.
- Easy reporting systems and lines to authorities.
- Systems of reporting vehicles being driven after working hours in certain areas.

Our business also engages in our working areas with agencies such as Traveller Liaison, youth organisations and local residents associations to inform educate and involve people in our prevention strategies.

We tackle deviation from our policies and procedures through our enterprise HR management tools. These range from employee references and checks, supervisory management to alcohol and drug screening.

**What do you see as the main issues and barriers to successfully addressing Serious Acquisitive Crime within the borough of Northampton?**

The use of accurate and useful management information and statistics is paramount to focusing resources effectively.

Engagement with key stakeholders and organisations across the borough must focus on reducing risk factors for youth offending, drugs and other contributory factors.

The perceived lack of trust in the Police and other authorities among high risk groups.

The political will to tackle key issues must be reflected in effective enforcement.

**What activity do you undertake in partnership with other organisations/ departments to tackle issues of Serious Acquisitive Crime within the borough of Northampton?**

We work with the Northamptonshire waste partnership on fly tipping predominantly outside HWRCs.

We have invested in security which has led to a commitment from boroughs and districts to impose fixed penalties.

Other than this I think that engagement between Enterprise and other agencies in Northampton is quite light, and suspect this to be the case since the service was outsourced.

**How can Northampton Borough Council further help your organisation to tackle Serious Acquisitive Crime and address any barriers, in order to achieve positive reductions?**

To facilitate our involvement with the key stakeholders and agencies to share experience and allow dialogue. Previously the neighbourhood model would have made these links with partner organisations as a matter of course for example operational briefing sessions attended by PCSOs etc.

It would be good for us and our street scene operations if we were to positively encourage this model approach again as it allows us to focus our resources on potential hot spot areas where the integrity and standards of the area have a direct influence on behaviours. This will be particularly important as we become more data rich.

**What do you see the role of the Police Crime Commissioner to be in preventing and tackling serious acquisitive crime and violent crime?**

We see the role of PCCs as ensuring the policing needs of the area are met in making key decisions that will impact on infrastructure such as CCTV and tackling hot spots that attract gang and drugs activity.

To respond to the needs of the public and restore trust in the Police and other agencies thereby reducing the risks of youth offending.

Working with partners to prevent and tackle crime and re-offending

Ensure that the regional/local plans align with national strategic plans for crime prevention.

Setting tougher targets within the area for detection and resolution.

## **Violent Crime**

What activity as an organisation/department do you undertake to address/tackle issues of violent crime?

What activity as an organisation/department do you undertake to **prevent** issues of violent crime?

Our organisation has no direct influence on some of these issues. However we are looking at schemes where a “don’t walk by” approach is promoted and how these can be used as early warning systems within communities.

We currently provide clean-up operations in the town centre and can highlight areas that are particular problems in drug use etc that could gain better focus from wardens and police.

What do you see as the main issues and barriers to successfully addressing Violent Crime within the borough of Northampton?

What activity do you undertake in partnership with other organisations/ departments to tackle issues of Violent Crime within the borough of Northampton?

How can Northampton Borough Council further help your organisation to tackle Violent Crime, and address any barriers in order to achieve positive reductions?

Again to facilitate our involvement with the key stakeholders and agencies to share experience and allow dialogue.