

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of the Review was to:

- To investigate, as a benchmark, Northampton's crime statistics in relation to serious acquisitive and violent crime
- To identify 'hotspots' in relation to serious acquisitive and violent crime
- To identify the impact that serious acquisitive crime and violent crime has on the residents of Northampton
- To identify the serious acquisitive crime and violent crime issues that Northampton Borough Council, in partnership with other Agencies, can have an impact upon

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed at its work programming event in March 2012 to include a review of serious acquisitive crime, violent crime and community safety. These were issues that had been identified by a number of members of the public as key concerns. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee commissioned Scrutiny Panel 1 to undertake the review. An in-depth review commenced in May 2012 and concluded in April 2013.

A Scrutiny Panel was established comprising Councillor Danielle Stone (Chair); Councillor David Palethorpe (Vice Chair); Councillors Mick Ford, Brendan Glynane, Christopher Malpas, Dennis Meredith, Brian Sargeant and Chief Inspector Max Williams, Northants Police, Sharon Henley, Northants Police, and Neil Bartholomey, Chair, Northampton PubWatch, (Co-Optees).

The Scrutiny Panel established that the following needed to be investigated and linked to the realisation of the Council's corporate priorities:

- Context:
  - Local statistics
  - Demographics – local and national
- Baseline data:
  - National crime statistics
  - Local crime statistics
    - Synopsis of various research documents and other published documents
    - Evidence from expert internal witnesses
    - Evidence from expert external witnesses
    - Evidence from ward Councillors
    - Site Visits

This review links to the Council's corporate priorities - Corporate Priority 2 - Invest in safer, cleaner neighbourhoods, creating an attractive, clean and safe environment.

## CONCLUSIONS AND KEY FINDINGS

A significant amount of evidence was heard, details of which are contained in the report. After gathering evidence the Scrutiny Panel established that: -

6.1 The purpose of the Scrutiny Panel was:

- To investigate, as a benchmark, Northampton's crime statistics in relation to serious acquisitive and violent crime
- To identify 'hotspots' in relation to serious acquisitive and violent crime
- To identify the impact that serious acquisitive crime and violent crime has on the residents of Northampton
- To identify the serious acquisitive crime and violent crime issues that Northampton Borough Council, in partnership with other Agencies, can have an impact upon

Scrutiny Panel 1 recommends to Cabinet that:

### **Northampton Borough Council (NBC)**

- 6.1.1 A funding pot is identified to provide target hardening for properties that are located within hot spot areas.
- 6.1.2 Northampton Borough Council ensures active engagement with the Troubled Families Agenda.
- 6.1.3 Prior to any physical works being undertaken, consideration to long-term maintenance is given and resources identified.
- 6.1.4 Councillors are issued with regular updated information on the demographics of their wards.

### **Housing**

- 6.1.5 Obsolete signs in place around the Council's housing stock are removed and all relevant signage is in situ and is clearly visible.
- 6.1.6 An enhanced and responsive maintenance service is implemented in "hotspot" areas.
- 6.1.7 A funding pot is identified to provide target hardening on Council properties that are located within hot spot areas.

## **Planning/Regeneration**

- 6.1.8 It is ensured that when land or buildings is transferred, it is stipulated that the land must be cleared and properly secured.
- 6.1.9 Consideration is given to utilising unused open spaces in residential areas across the town for public use.
- 6.1.10 Planning continues to work with and seek advice and guidance from the Police Architectural Liaison Officer to ensure new developments meet 'Design out Crime' standards.

## **Neighbourhood Wardens**

- 6.1.11 Clarification is given on the role of the Neighbourhood Wardens. This information is disseminated to ward Councillors.
- 6.1.12 Neighbourhood Wardens undertake annual refresher training on crime prevention matters.
- 6.1.13 An on-going professional training and development plan, with specific focus on crime prevention and community safety, for Neighbourhood Wardens is produced and implemented

## **Partners and Agencies**

- 6.1.14 Following completion of projects in hotspot locations, an exit plan is developed outlining support and maintenance post project, in order that the positive results are maintained.
- 6.1.15 On-going maintenance budgets are included with any environmental improvements such as fencing.
- 6.1.16 A directory for young people is developed that provides information on services and facilities available to young people.
- 6.1.17 There is timelier sharing of data from Accident and Emergency with the Community Safety Partnership. This means weekly highlight reports and full details on a monthly basis.
- 6.1.18 A mechanism is introduced to ensure that the Health and Wellbeing Board can provide information and feedback to the Community Safety Partnership (CSP).
- 6.1.19 Membership of the CSP be revisited to ensure that it includes all relevant Agencies and service areas, including the Voluntary Sector.

- 6.1.20 When training/education around crime prevention issues is undertaken, consideration is always be given to the audience and the trainer is mindful to use appropriate language that is universally understood.
- 6.1.21 Information systems between the Police and local Councillors are reviewed and further developed.
- 6.1.22 Support is given to the Intensive Community Engagement programme hosted by Northamptonshire Police.
- 6.1.23 Formal links between Enterprise Management Services (EMS) and Northampton Borough Council are developed around situational crime to ensure faster information sharing and faster responses to dealing with service issues, therefore resulting in a positive outcome for the community.

### **Community Forums**

- 6.1.24 Residents Associations, Community Groups and Forums are encouraged to use open spaces which in turn will assist in community development and ownership of their local areas.

### **Northants Probation Service**

- 6.1.25 A programme of works on the priority locations identified by Northampton Borough Council is built into the Community Pay Back Initiative.

### **Police and Crime Commissioner, Northamptonshire**

- 6.1.26 A copy of this report is provided to the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, Northamptonshire.

### **Recommendations to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

- 6.1.27 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee be asked to consider the inclusion of a Scrutiny Review of Interpersonal Violence in its Work Programme for 2013/2014.
- 6.1.28 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee, as part of its monitoring regime, reviews the impact of this report in six months' time.