

Appendices:  
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**NORTHAMPTON**  
BOROUGH COUNCIL

## CABINET REPORT

<b>Report Title</b>	<b>Cabinet response to Serious Acquisitive Crime, Violent Crime and Community Safety Task &amp; Finish Group</b>
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**AGENDA STATUS: PUBLIC**

<b>Cabinet Meeting Date:</b>	15 January 2014
<b>Key Decision:</b>	No
<b>Within Policy:</b>	Yes
<b>Policy Document:</b>	No
<b>Directorate:</b>	Customers & Communities
<b>Accountable Cabinet Member:</b>	Councillor David Mackintosh
<b>Ward(s)</b>	All

### 1. Purpose

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- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to respond to the recommendations in the Overview and Scrutiny report on Serious Acquisitive Crime, Violent Crime and Community Safety, presented to Cabinet 17 July 2013

### 2. Recommendations

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- 2.1 That the recommendations included in the Overview and Scrutiny report for Serious Acquisitive Crime, Violent Crime and Community Safety are accepted in the main with comments as described below.
- 2.2 That the task and finish group are formally congratulated on a high quality and comprehensive report.

### 3. Issues and Choices

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#### 3.1 Report Background

- 3.1.1 At the Overview and Scrutiny Work Programming event for 2012/2013 the scrutiny of Serious Acquisitive Crime and Violent Crime was identified as a key priority. This was therefore included within the Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme 2012/2013.
- 3.1.2 A number of meetings were held to gather evidence from a broad range of stakeholders. During this process a significant amount of evidence was heard.
- 3.1.3 26 recommendations are included in the report. They are broadly focussed on how the Council and partner agencies can further incorporate the hate crime process into its day to day working and how it works with partners to provide a joined up approach and response.

#### 3.2 Recommendations and Service Responses

##### Northampton Borough Council (NBC)

1. A funding pot is identified to provide target hardening for properties that are located within hot spot areas.

*This is agreed providing the funding is possible within the council's financial planning programme. Community Safety Partnership Funding to be sourced to fund this for 2014. Annual bid for NBC Capital funding may be required for future years (2015 onwards), due to reductions in Police and Crime Commissioners funding pot.*

2. Northampton Borough Council ensures active engagement with the Troubled Families Agenda.

*Recommendation agreed. Inter-departmental group have been established, and engagement/activity taking place.*

3. Prior to any physical works being undertaken, consideration to long-term maintenance is given and resources identified.

*Recommendation agreed. This now forms part of any project planning undertaken*

4. Councillors are issued with regular updated information on the demographics of their wards.

*Recommendation agreed. Access to the 'Northamptonshire Analysis' system, with training in its use being arranged for April/May 2015 for all Councillors. This system provides a broad range of information at a local level.*

#### Housing

5. Obsolete signs in place around the Council's housing stock are removed and all relevant signage is in situ and is clearly visible.

*Recommendation agreed. There are no issues highlighted at present, all signage is relevant and appropriate. Regular reviews form part of an ongoing process.*

6. An enhanced and responsive maintenance service is implemented in "hotspot" areas.

*Recommendation is already provided for within service area. This approach will also be broadened to provide a borough-wide enhanced service to victims of crime, thereby ensuring that tenants who do not live in hot spot locations are not disadvantaged.*

7. A funding pot is identified to provide target hardening on Council properties that are located within hot spot areas.

*Recommendation agreed. Target Hardening scheme will be progressed by Housing for 2014/15 in partnership with Community Safety.*

### **Planning/Regeneration**

8. It is ensured that when land or buildings is transferred, it is stipulated that the land must be cleared and properly secured.

*It is probable that his recommendation cannot be applied to all sales or transfers. If land is sold it can include positive obligations to fence, but this is difficult to enforce. It would be even more difficult (unless land is 'transferred' under a lease) to enforce obligations for land clearance and keeping land clear.*

*It is recommended that this is monitored and dealt with on a case by case basis and where appropriate for sales or transfers to third parties a provision inserted in any sale and long lease agreements, where it is legally valid and practically enforceable to do so, to help ensure that new owners or long leaseholders keep property boundaries properly maintained and premises clear of waste.*

9. Consideration is given to utilising unused open spaces in residential areas across the town for public use.

*It is recommended that a site audit is carried out on any unused open space to determine if appropriate for public use. Open spaces in residential areas can have amenity value even though it is not being used actively. Equally not every bit of land is suitable for active public use as it may cause disturbance and nuisance to residents.*

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.

*Recommendation agreed. Planning has been working closely with the Police Architectural Liaison Officer on new developments in the Borough and this will continue.*

### **Neighbourhood Wardens**

11. Clarification is given on the role of the Neighbourhood Wardens. This information is disseminated to ward Councillors.

*Recommendation agreed. A summary of warden's duties will be circulated to all Councillors for their information.*

12. Neighbourhood Wardens undertake annual refresher training on crime prevention matters.

*Recommendation agreed. Refresher training has been arranged and will be taking place in early 2014.*

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.

*Recommendation agreed. Training and development plan is currently being developed, with guidance being provided by the University of Northampton*

### **Partners and Agencies**

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.

*Recommendation agreed. This forms part of the core process for the Community Safety Partnership when delivering projects.*

15. On-going maintenance budgets are included with any environmental improvements such as fencing.

*Recommendation agreed. This is part of the core process for the Community Safety partnership when delivering projects.*

16. A directory for young people is developed that provides information on services and facilities available to young people.

*Recommendation agreed. Northamptonshire County Council Community Safety Team is progressing a directory. NBC, Partnerships and Communities Team will be feeding into this process, including consultation with the Youth Forum.*

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.

*Recommendation agreed. New contacts have now been established and data sharing sets agreed to enable weekly reporting to commence in early in 2014.*

18. A mechanism is introduced to ensure that the Health and Wellbeing Board can provide information and feedback to the Community Safety Partnership (CSP).

*Recommendation agreed. Initial discussions taken place, will be progressed in 2014 by CSP chair.*

19. Membership of the CSP be revisited to ensure that it includes all relevant Agencies and service areas, including the Voluntary Sector.

*Recommendation implemented. Membership reviewed and updated. Chief Executive from Volunteer Bureau represents the Voluntary sector.*

20. When training/education around crime prevention issues is undertaken, consideration is always given to the audience and the trainer is mindful to use appropriate language that is universally understood.

*Recommendation agreed. This has been flagged with all relevant agencies and proposed approach agreed.*

21. Information systems between the Police and local Councillors are reviewed and further developed.

*Recommendation agreed. Briefings to local councillors on crime issues and local information is available on request from local Safer Communities Policing Teams. Access to the 'Northamptonshire Analysis' system, with training in its use being arranged for April/May 2015 for all Councillors.*

22. Support is given to the Intensive Community Engagement programme hosted by Northamptonshire Police.

*Recommendation agreed. This is taking place. Police engaging with Community Safety Partnership to ensure joined up approach is taken.*

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.

*Recommendation agreed. Links have been established through Environmental Services Partnership Unit.*

## **Community Forums**

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.

*See comments on recommendation 9. Any consultation with Residents Associations, Community Groups and Forums will be progressed by the Partnerships and Communities team.*

## **Northants Probation Service**

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

*Recommendation agreed. This is taking place through the CSP, in partnership with the Probation Service.*

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

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

*Recommendation agreed. A copy of this report has been sent to the Police and Crime Commissioner*

## **3.3 Issues**

3.3.1 As detailed in 3.2

## **3.4 Choices (Options)**

3.4.1 As detailed in 3.2

## **4. Implications (including financial implications)**

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### **4.1 Policy**

4.1.1 None at this stage

### **4.2 Resources and Risk**

4.2.1 Financial implications identified at this stage will be resourced from existing budgets. However, recommendations from the task and finish group may need to be reviewed in light of financial constraints and planned changes in structures.

### **4.3 Legal**

4.3.1 Consulted LGSS Legal. No issues specifically highlighted.

#### **4.4 Equality and Health**

4.4.1 No issues identified. Anybody can be a victim of Serious Acquisitive Crime and Violent Crime.

#### **4.5 Consultees (Internal and External)**

4.5.1 A wide range of other stakeholders were consulted with and evidence collated to inform this piece of work:

Leader of the Council & Cabinet Member, NBC  
Chair of Community Safety Partnership  
Key Officers, Northampton Borough Council  
Key Officers, Northants Police  
IOM Team, Northants Probation  
Neighbourhood Wardens  
Head of Offender Management Services, Northampton Prisons  
Accident and Emergency, Northampton General Hospital  
Victim Support  
Northampton Youth Forum  
The Police and Crime Commissioner  
Housing Services, Northampton Borough Council  
Sunflower Centre  
Ward Councillor

#### **4.6 How the Proposals deliver Priority Outcomes**

4.6.1 NBC Corporate Plan – Invest in Safer, Cleaner Neighbourhoods; Better Homes for the Future; Creating Empowered Communities; Responding to your Needs.

4.6.2 Northampton Community Safety Plan – Reducing Serious Acquisitive Crime and Violent Crime.

#### **4.7 Other Implications**

4.7.1 None

### **5. Background Papers**

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5.1 Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee April 2013

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