

Report to Stronger Communities Select Committee

Date of meeting: 21 September 2021

Portfolio: Community & Regulatory Services Portfolio

Subject: Community Safety Team EFDC Funded Police Officers 6 monthly update

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Recommendations/Decisions Required:

That the Communities Select Committee receives a six-month report on the work and range of operations of the Council's funded Police team.

Report:

The Council's funded Police Officers became officially operational on 20 July 2018 and continue to make a real impact to the reduction in crime within the Epping Forest District.

The team are tasked according to the District Community Safety Partnership priorities which are identified through the Annual Strategic Assessment. These are aligned to the priorities set by the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner's (PFCC) Policing Plan. Aside from these priorities the team are occasionally deployed to support EFDC staff in carrying out their work where there is an identified threat, harm or risk to staff. Close management of the tasking process has ensured that our police team are deployed efficiently and effectively.

The team have accepted 20 tasking requests in 2021 to date (2019 = 52, 2020 = 50)

The most significant work in 2021 is the partnership work that has taken place in response to the problem of county lines drugs supply in Waltham Abbey. A separate briefing has been prepared and will be presented to members.

Highlights of other work completed include:

- Supporting council officers with joint visits at licenced and business premises highlighted to be committing COVID legislation breaches.
- Support Environmental Health with the initial site visit at a House in Multiple Occupancy (HMO) where there was potential threat, harm and risk to staff. The visit was conducted without incident and the EHO was able to secure sufficient evidence.
- Site visit with Planning Enforcement and Community Resilience at a venue where the occupant presents risk to staff.
- Site visits and representation at professionals meeting in relation to high-risk homeless person. Team also conduct the arrest of the same subject for breach of Criminal Behaviour Order.
- Plan and prepare community policing resources for the local election process. Also provide police cover throughout the two additional count days.
- Targeted patrols and activity around three specific locations which were subject to anti-social behaviour and required a medium to long-term problem solving approach. These taskings are still ongoing but have resulted in arrests, seizures of nuisance vehicles, stop/searches, service of Community Protection Warnings and enforcement of any EFDC-lead orders.

- March: following reports of a fraud in progress (elderly victim, bank cards reported stolen and police send a taxi to collect). The team identified the subject vehicle and tracked it via ANPR to the M11. Appropriate tactics were put in place to prevent a pursuit and the funded officers arrested the offender. The investigation is still ongoing but this was a significant and rare arrest to catch an offender at a live fraud such as this.
- April: Two arrests following a pursuit with cloned vehicle which was found decamped in Buckhurst Hill. Two men who were linked to organised crime were stopped nearby. Police dog located car key and illegal cloning equipment nearby.
- May: Following an attempted burglary in Loughton the subject made off in a van which then made off from officers. The funded team officers located the offender hiding in bushes and arrested him. He was charged and remanded for burglary offences.
- July: Following a series of distraction thefts in the district whereby victims had their Rolex watches stolen, the team reviewed CCTV and identified the offender's vehicle. By chance they sighted two suspects that matched the description parked on Epping High Street paying close attention to pedestrians. The team made the arrest of both suspects, who remain under investigation at time of writing.

Together with the above within the last six months EFDC funded officers together with the Community Resilience and Neighbourhoods Teams have focused their efforts on Op Synapse targeting issues within Waltham Abbey. A presentation will be delivered

Reason for decision: N/A

Options considered and rejected: N/A

Consultation undertaken: N/A

Resource implications: N/A

Legal and Governance Implications: N/A

Safer, Cleaner, Greener Implications: N/A

Background Papers: N/A