
Decision Maker: Public Protection and Enforcement PDS Committee

Date: 24th January 2024

Decision Type: Non-Urgent Non-Executive Non-Key

Title: **MATTERS ARISING**

Contact Officer: Steve Wood, Democratic Services Officer
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Chief Officer: Tasnim Shawkat, Director of Corporate Services and Governance

Ward: N/A

1. Reason for report

1.1 **Appendix A** updates Members on matters arising from previous meetings.

2. RECOMMENDATION

2.1 The Committee is asked to review progress on matters arising from previous meetings.

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| Non-Applicable Sections: | Policy/Financial/Legal/Personnel |
| Background Documents: (Access via Contact Officer) | Previous Matters Arising reports and Minutes of meetings. |

Corporate Policy

1. Policy Status: Existing Policy
 2. BBB Priority: Safe Bromley
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Financial

1. Cost of proposal: No Cost
 2. Ongoing costs: Not Applicable
 3. Budget head/performance centre: Democratic Services
 4. Total current budget for this head: £366k
 5. Source of funding: Revenue Budget
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Staff

1. Number of staff : 6 FTE
 2. If from existing staff resources, number of staff hours: Completion of "Matters Arising" Reports for PP&S PDS meetings can take up to a few hours per meeting.
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Legal

1. Legal Requirement: None
 2. Call-in: Not Applicable
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Customer Impact

1. Estimated number of users/beneficiaries (current and projected): This report is intended primarily for Members of the Public Protection and Safety PDS Committee.
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Ward Councillor Views

1. Have Ward Councillors been asked for comments? Not Applicable
2. Summary of Ward Councillors comments: N/A

| <u>Minute Number/Title</u> | <u>Matters Arising</u> | <u>Update</u> |
|--|--|--|
| <p>Min 11</p> <p>SBP Member Update</p> <p>14/11/23</p> | <p>What training was being provided to police officers with respect to using the Speed Gun?</p> <p>A Member enquired as to why the robbery of school children was higher in Bromley than in neighbouring boroughs such as Croydon?.</p> <p>What was the plan for dealing with repeat offenders regarding shoplifting?</p> | <p>Twenty courses have been secured in use of the speed gun. This will mean around half of all Dedicated Ward Officers will be able to use the gun and administer fines. The police are in the process of procuring more courses and looking to ensure as many as possible are trained. The courses are underway and around a dozen have already been delivered.</p> <p>In relation to this question, the number of robberies itself is not higher, but there is an increased prevalence of Bromley school children being targeted by those who live outside the Borough. The exact reasons are not yet understood, but it could be seen by some that Bromley schoolchildren are somehow a “softer target” due to the perceived affluence of the area. This is not a firm conclusion, but a hypothesis looking at the data. The police are addressing this by getting increased crime prevention advice into schools and Superintendent Luke Baldock and the wider Bromley Team will be meeting the Association of Headteachers in February.</p> <p>The police have recently held the first Bromley Retail Crime Working Group, with stakeholders from across all partners and business. We have agreed a programme to target prolific offenders with Criminal Behaviour Orders, based on best practice identified in other Forces. This should add significant ability to target recidivist offenders with meaningful enforcement. The first steps are now in place and the police expect to roll this workstream out in the coming months.</p> |
| <p>Min 12</p> <p>HMO Update</p> <p>14/11/23</p> | <p>A Member asked why there were 350 homes in the Borough that were empty and not paying Council Tax and what could be done about this. The Head of Environmental Health and Licensing answered that it was likely that some were going through Probate and some would be overseas investment properties. It was suggested that the question be referred to Housing Services for a response.</p> | <p>The Housing Department has advised that just because a house is not occupied does not mean that Council Tax, and in many cases the EHP (Enhanced Housing Premium) is not being levied. In 68% of cases, EHP is being levied, and in other cases recovery procedures are in progress.</p> |