

Regeneration, Culture and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee

BRIEFING NOTE – No.16/17

Date: 27 November 2017

Briefing paper to: All Members of the Regeneration, Culture and Environment
Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Purpose: This briefing note has been produced in response to a question raised at the Regeneration, Culture and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 19 October 2017 when the Portfolio Holder for Planning Economic Growth and Regulation was held to account and concerns anti social behaviour in town centres.

Introduction

This briefing note provides a response to a question to the Portfolio Holder for Planning Economic Growth and Regulation in relation to what the Council/Police are doing to guard against and respond to Anti Social Behaviour in town centres?

Response

The Community Safety Partnership (CSP) office is based in Medway Police Station alongside the Community Safety Unit.

Incidents of anti-social behaviour (ASB) are reviewed every morning by the Community Safety Unit who also host a daily tele-conference call with Kent Police, Kent Fire and Rescue Service, Medway Council Housing and Community Wardens. The purpose is to discuss all issues coming in over the previous 24 hours to allocate additional resources, where appropriate.

To ensure that issues of ASB in both Gillingham and Rochester town centres are addressed, Kent Police have responded by undertaking high profile policing in the areas, including using dispersal powers. Where a police officer has reasonable grounds to suspect that someone is contributing, or is likely to contribute to anti-social behaviour or crime or disorder in an area, they can direct that person to leave a specified locality for a period of up to 48 hours.

Specific operations have also been coordinated, using high-visibility patrols and stop and search powers to target the location and those believed to be involved in ASB. As a result, the Community Policing Team (CPT) has responded to, and resolved, the majority of calls received. The dedicated ASB car has been deployed to town centres on a daily basis and at times of high demand.

Kent Police have the following resources allocated to town centres through the CPT:

- Two Police Constables cover all town centre policing in Medway; one is predominantly based in Chatham and the other in Gillingham, but they are not dedicated solely to those areas and can be deployed wherever demand dictates.
- There are currently two PCSOs dedicated to Gillingham town centre and two in Chatham. As of early 2018, it is planned that there will be three in Gillingham and four in Chatham to reflect demand.

The Safer Communities team proposes to introduce a team of three ASB Officers to work with Kent Police with the purpose to tackle complex ASB problems across Medway. The team should be operational from April 2018.

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