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| STRONG AND SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE | Agenda Item No. 5 |
| 23 JULY 2009 | Public Report |

Report of the Head of Neighbourhoods

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SERIOUS ACQUISITIVE CRIME

1. PURPOSE

Levels of Serious Acquisitive Crime continue to present Peterborough with significant challenges and is an area of concern for the Safer Peterborough Partnership.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee are asked to consider our approaches to tackling Serious Acquisitive Crime, and to comment on areas where improvement or alternative approaches may prove more impactful.

3. LINKS TO CORPORATE PLAN, SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY AND LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT

The ambition of the Sustainable Community Strategy and the Local Area Agreement is to deliver a bigger and better Peterborough, taking advantage of the inherent opportunities we have and at the same time tackling the challenges we face in order to deliver a higher quality of life for all. Serious Acquisitive Crime forms a major area of focus for Peterborough, articulated in the Community Safety Plan which sets out how we will contribute to this overall vision whilst specifically contributing to the outcome of:

- **‘Making Peterborough Safer’** – so that people of all ages and abilities can live, work and play in a prosperous and successful Peterborough without undue crime or fear of crime’.

4. BACKGROUND

Serious Acquisitive Crime comprises five crime types which fall under the broad category of people taking things that do not belong to them:

- Burglary dwelling
- Theft of motor vehicle
- Theft from motor vehicle
- Robbery of personal property
- Robbery of business property

A comprehensive and iterative action plan has been produced to reduce levels of Serious Acquisitive Crime, and a task and finish group has been formed headed up by DCI Donna Wass from Cambridgeshire Police. The task and finish group reports to the Safer Peterborough Partnership Delivery Board which is chaired by the PCC Head of Neighbourhoods.

The action plan covering Serious Acquisitive Crime focuses on the following priority areas:

- Robbery – reduction of crime, increase in offenders brought to justice and increased confidence

- Burglary – reduction of crime, increase in offenders brought to justice and increased confidence
- Motor Vehicle Offences (theft of and from) – reduction of crime, increase in offenders brought to justice and increased confidence
- The stolen goods market – the objective is to disrupt the market by making it riskier and less rewarding to dispose of stolen property

5. KEY ISSUES

Serious Acquisitive Crime continues to be a cause for concern in Peterborough – we're currently some 30% behind our target performance – with dwelling burglary representing a significant proportion of the problem. Performance relating to dwelling burglary continues to worsen. However, a number of very high profile initiatives have been launched to try to stem the increase in this area of criminal activity, including the partnership-wide Operation Alert which focuses resources and efforts around the city's top 60 burglars. A new operation, this is already showing significant signs of success.

The Scrutiny Committee will be given a presentation by the Serious Acquisitive Crime theme lead, DCI Donna Wass, which will include a broad overview of the subject area, details of Peterborough's performance and discussion topics relating to current interventions.

6. IMPLICATIONS

Serious Acquisitive Crime affects all parts of Peterborough.

7. CONSULTATION

Extensive consultation took place to develop and agree the Community Safety Plan for 2009/10, in which Serious Acquisitive Crime is identified as a priority for Peterborough.

8. EXPECTED OUTCOMES

It is anticipated that Members will become more familiar with the concepts of Serious Acquisitive Crime and the interventions that have been developed to tackle it. It is also anticipated that Members will provide challenge to the interventions developed, and offer suggestions for alternative measures.

9. NEXT STEPS

Following discussions at the Scrutiny Committee, any comments and recommendations will be taken to the Safer Peterborough Partnership Delivery Board for further discussion. Additionally, it is anticipated that Members may wish to have a fuller debate and discussion about this issue at their next Scrutiny Committee meeting.

10. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

Community Safety Plan 2009/10

11. APPENDICES

None