

Committee: Police	Date: 2 nd November 2012	
Subject: Community Engagement Update		Public
Report of: Commissioner of Police POL 68/12		For Information
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Summary</u></p> <p>This report contains details of engagement since the previous Community Engagement report was presented to your Committee.</p> <p>As agreed at your September Committee, this report identifies engagement undertaken within defined communities under the headings of Residents, Businesses (including Small and Medium Enterprises SMEs), hard to reach groups and Transient/visiting community.</p> <p>This update includes details of local priorities in the Residential Section set at Community Partnership meetings for North, West, South and East areas, which include begging and safer cycling.</p> <p>Business Engagement in this period has included stakeholder meetings with businesses regarding action by the Occupy London movement; arrangements for engagement for the TUC march on the 20th October; and specific engagement with the business community on Counter Terrorism through Operation Argus (table top exercises) and Project Griffin (briefings for security staff).</p> <p>Highlights from this period for engagement with hard to reach groups and the transient community include engagement with Muslim, Hindu and Sikh communities to improve trust and confidence in the police. During the recent protests by students in reaction to the UK Border Agency’s decision to revoke the London Metropolitan University’s licence to sponsor overseas students, Ward officers have engaged with the University’s authorities and students to ensure all protests were peaceful and any tensions were identified at an early stage. In addition, the Wards policing team have obtained three Anti Social Behaviour Orders (ASBOs) in this reporting period. This includes two against aggressive beggars.</p>		

The Force continues to strive to engage with the transient community to improve cycle safety under Operation Atrium.

Further Wards concerns are detailed at Appendix A.

Recommendations

It is recommended that this report be received and its contents noted.

Main Report

Section A – Residential Engagement

1. With the conclusion of the Olympic period North, South and West areas have held Community Partnership Meetings (CPM).
2. North Area - A CPM held on Monday 8th October 2012 closed two priorities from previous meetings but asked for police to concentrate on begging in Aldersgate Street between Long Lane and Carthusian St, and rough sleeping in the John Trundle and Breton House areas. Patrols have been instigated by Wards officers to counteract the begging issue and will be taken to the next tasking meeting for more formal action.
3. West Area - Priorities from the previous meeting were closed. A new priority of good road behaviour in the Holborn Circus area was set. Details of issues at this junction have been forwarded to the Operation Atrium (a specific operation aimed at safe cycling) team for inclusion in their taskings and the Cycle Squad has been assigned to patrol the area.
4. South Area - The last CPM was held on Monday 8th October 2012. The community stated they did not have any priorities they wish the police to address for this period.
5. East Area - The community have currently not set any priorities for the area. The East Area sergeant has arranged suitable dates with their panel Chairmen for both resident and business post Olympic CPMs.
6. On the Golden Lane estate there has been an issue with a number of garages and sheds being broken into. Ward officers established that a

resident, known to be a hoarder was breaking in to store their own items, this issue has now been resolved.

7. Reports were received that three Barbican/Golden Lane residents were victims of bank scams. Crime prevention messages were placed on the Barbican Talk and Golden Lane web forums and notices were placed in communal areas. Ward officers visited elderly residents at coffee mornings and the local doctor's surgery agreed to display information posters. An Economic Crime Directorate officer attended the Barbican/Golden Lane CPM on 8th October to provide up to date advice on current scams.

Other issues raised at Ward Level are appended to this report. (**See Appendix A for full Ward breakdown**)

Section B – Business Engagement

8. The 15th October 2012 marked the 1st anniversary of the birth of the Occupy London movement and the protest camp at St Paul's. Occupy London announced that they were going to protest at Paternoster Square and then go to a secret location for a two day occupation. This caused deep concerns within the business and residential community. Ward policing arranged a Stakeholder meeting with the businesses that were affected by the previous Occupy protest camp. Their concern over the policing response was addressed and a communication network was established to ensure that on the protest day there was a conduit for all to share information. Ward officers visited all small businesses and residents in the area to ensure that the community was fully engaged.
9. The relationship built up between the Force's Community Policing team and their Metropolitan Police counterparts will be utilised again in the coming month for the TUC demonstration on Saturday 20th October 2012. City officers are to be attached with the MPS community team in the control room at Lambeth. This will allow City residents and businesses to be given up to date messaging and allow City concerns to impact on the overall policing plan.
10. The Counter Terrorism department has carried out 36 briefings to companies in the City on various topics ranging from hostile reconnaissance, bomb threats, the current terrorism threat and, following a number of suicides from business premises, how to work

towards preventing suicides from their buildings. Around 130 people attended these briefings from 65 companies.

11. A further edition of the business focus newsletter was issued. The circulation has increased from 370 for the last edition to 3912 for this edition.
12. The Counter Terrorism Security Advisors have conducted 5 Argus sessions (table top exercises) and 1 Griffin (briefing for security staff) session in this period. The Argus sessions were delivered to 3 retail sectors and 2 business sectors reaching 45 attendees. One Project Griffin event reached 110 attendees.
13. The CT section is developing new CT tactics using Behaviour Detection Officers (BDO). A trial to evaluate and implement this new approach to deployments is taking place in November and December 2012. This new approach involves a more effective and strategic co-ordination of existing CoLP resources to deter and detect hostile reconnaissance. If successful, this should not only deter the selection of the City as a terrorist target, but also result in a reduction in wider crime. In order to successfully implement this tactic community engagement is vital, and with this in mind, the Force has started to train Ward police officers and PCSOs with a specific community engagement strategy. To date the force has trained 36 BDO's, 10 engagement officers and 8 engagement PCSOs. The project has been trialled on a police entry point under the supervision of the Home Office with a view to implementing it nationally. The initial pilot has been deemed a success.
14. City of London residents and businesses were surveyed to ascertain the level of satisfaction with the Force communications during the Olympics. The results of the survey showed:

Business

Very Satisfied	54%
Satisfied	42%
Neither Satisfied/Dissatisfied	4%

There was only one respondent that stated they were very dissatisfied and it has not been possible to ascertain whether the respondent was City based or within the MPS Area, nor was it made clear what their dissatisfaction related to.

Resident

Very Satisfied 60%

Satisfied 40%

Olympic engagement has been included as an agenda item at all recent CPMs and the response has been extremely positive.

15. The City of London Crime Prevention Association will meet on Wednesday, 24th October 2012, at the Carpenters Hall in Throgmorton Avenue. They will have a guest speaker, Nigel Cook, Counter Terrorism Security Co-ordinator (CT SecCO) Metropolitan Police. Mr Cook's presentation will outline the role of a Counter Terrorism Security Coordinator, explain where the role sits within the command structure for an event and examine the range of threats and vulnerabilities within the security planning process. He will also look at the implications that such events can have within the commercial sector.

Section C – Hard to reach groups

16. Wards police have attended various engagement and networking events with members of the City Muslim, Hindu and Sikh communities to improve trust and confidence in the police.
With the approach of Hajj, engagement has been undertaken with the City's business and residential Muslim community on the subject of Hajj fraud and to provide advice on how individuals can protect themselves. Part of this process was an interview given on the Islam Channel, the UK's largest Muslim TV channel.
17. During the recent protests by students in reaction to the UK Border Agency's decision to revoke the London Metropolitan University's licence to sponsor overseas students, Ward officers have engaged with the University's authorities and students to ensure all protests were peaceful and any tensions were identified at an early stage.
18. A member of the Wards team attended Imam training course with the Imam for City and London Met University to get an insight into his work. In addition, Ward officers have attended two University Fresher's Fairs in the City to offer advice on crime prevention and personal safety

19. On Tuesday 9th October 2012 the Honourable Artillery Company (HAC) hosted the passing out parade of 18 police cadets. They have successfully completed the Induction Course and have attended and contributed on a regular basis. The cadets have assisted at the City Life Family Festival in Leadenhall Market, at the Saracens charity rugby match at the HAC and most recently at the Child Victims of Crime charity event at The Brewery, Chiswell Street collecting money in the foyer for the charity.
20. The Wards policing team have obtained three Anti Social Behaviour Orders (ASBOs) in this reporting period. This includes two against aggressive beggars and one against a female who makes repeated 999 calls stating she is going to kill herself. The Force is working in partnership with the relevant Health Trust to manage the female. Preparations are currently ongoing for a fourth ASBO against another aggressive beggar.
21. Ward police officers continue to staff Op Poncho (homeless /rough sleeping operation) 5 times a week, Monday to Friday, locating and engaging with rough sleepers. The latest count shows that there are currently 14 individuals sleeping out at night. This is a reduction on the previous total of 19. Recent proactive successes include the acceptance of accommodation by a long-term rough sleeper in Cloak Lane and through partnership working with the Corporation and UK Border Agency, three foreign nationals sleeping at Bassishaw Highwalk, Garlick Hill and Greystoke Place have been repatriated. Ward officers working with the Corporation have persuaded the owners of the buildings in Rose Alley to erect new fencing. This has closed off a problematic area with regard to rough sleeping. Ward officers for Mansell Street Estate are also in the process of holding meetings with the estate management to respond to complaints of rough sleepers appearing on the estate since the closure of a local hostel and to attempt to resolve some of the issues.
22. Ward officers held a meeting with estate staff from the Barbican, Golden Lane and Tudor Rose Court and Social Services to discuss contact with vulnerable and elderly residents and safeguarding measures. Ward officers are currently visiting a number of these residents who have dementia and mental health issues to assist social services gather information for assessments and checking on the welfare of those that have been refusing entry to carers.

Section D – Transient Community and / Visitors

23. Wards and Crime Investigation Department staff have collaborated to combat the rise in thefts from tourists by people posing as police officers. Details of sightseeing buses and coach companies were obtained and their co-operation obtained to allow warning notices to be displayed giving advice on how police would act and what a genuine warrant card looks like. Further engagement is being explored through the City hotels to see if visitors could be given advice on arrival.
24. Operation Atrium (operation for safer cycling) has continued through this period. The force is currently running an enforcement phase where cyclists who commit traffic offences are given a fixed penalty notice. They can opt to have this ticket rescinded if they attend a road show where they receive a presentation on the law and safer cycling. The Roads Policing Team and Cycle Squad ran a separate road show at the start of October, providing advice on safety and security

Consultation

25. The Lead Member for Community Engagement has been consulted in the preparation of this report.

Conclusion

26. This report informs Committee members of residential, business and other community engagement activity undertaken by the Force.

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