

CRIME AND DISORDER (OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY) COMMITTEE
26 July 2017

DARTFORD TOWN AGAINST CRIME (D-TAC) PROGRESS REPORT

Summary

1. To consider the Dartford Town Against Crime (D-TAC) scheme's progress during the past 12 months against the objectives / targets outlined in the 2016 - 18 business plan [attached at Appendix A].

2. Recommendation(s)

That D-TAC's achievements over the last year be noted.

3. Background and Discussion

3.1 D-TAC presented development plans to the Scrutiny Committee in July 2016. At this time D-TAC had just been awarded a 'Distinction' by the National Association of Business Crime Partnerships in recognition of its successful work, and was embarking on extensive growth plans.

3.2 D-TAC promotes the concept of a safe and secure Town Centre, and enables partners to adopt a proactive approach by allowing them to identify, target and focus on the most serious, prolific and professional criminals as well as those offenders who are engaging in petty crime and anti-social behaviour that nonetheless affects the local environment.

3.3 D-TAC is a sub-group of both the Dartford Town Centre Partnership and the Dartford & Gravesham Community Safety Partnership. However, the initiative has robust, independent governance with a formal constitution, terms of reference, a Board of Management and an active Steering Group. The Intelligence Manager co-ordinates the dissemination of information and promotes activity that will result in action being taken against persistent offenders.

This network of partners also facilitates:

- preventing and detecting crime and public disorder;
- targeting persistent offenders who are responsible for the majority of crime;
- reducing the opportunity to commit crime;
- assisting the apprehension and prosecution of offenders;
- reducing retail crime losses for members;
- creating a "safe and secure" environment for customers and staff;
- reducing the fear of crime amongst the general public;
- encouraging growth and investment in the town centre;

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3.4 In conjunction with the business community D-TAC identified and presented to Members the following development areas for growth:

- Develop radio infrastructure to ensure coverage across the Borough;
- Expand membership numbers over the next three years to 140 clients (including affiliates);
- Increase the number of members using DISC;
- Provision of radios for lone workers operating in the Borough who require such provision. (e.g. Housing); and
- Increase revenues by 50% to £42,000 pounds per annum.

3.5 Members also suggested that D-TAC consider the use of new technologies to support the schemes expansion to satellite areas outside the Dartford Town Centre. D-TAC has embraced these ideas and developed a number of innovative solutions to support business districts across the Borough. However, due to a number of unforeseen pressures on the town centre some aspects of the business plan were temporarily postponed to ensure optimum deployment.

3.6 Nonetheless significant advancement towards achieving the objectives outlined in the 2016 – 18 Business Plan has been made and this includes:

- Installing the infrastructure required for Borough wide coverage which in turn facilitates membership growth and reinforces the Council's emergency plans;
- Introducing WhatsApp to support satellite business districts;
- Increases in the number of people reporting crime through DISC and WhatsApp
- Introduction of Body Worn video designed to assist lone workers and businesses particularly those in the night economy;
- Radio Training, Counter Terrorism Training and Conflict Management Training; and
- On the back of these improvements it's also anticipated revenues will begin to rise during the next 12 months.

3.7 The Intelligence Manager has also been asked to Chair the Kent Business Crime Network and D-TAC also anticipates that it will be awarded another Distinction from the National Association of Business Crime Partnerships in 2018.

4. Relationship to the Corporate Plan

Safer Communities – To create a safer Borough in which to live, work and socialise. SC2 – Reduce anti-social behaviour.

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5. Financial, legal, staffing and other implications and risk assessments*

Financial Implications	None arising from this report
Legal Implications	None arising from this report
Staffing Implications	None arising from this report
Administrative Implications	None arising from this report
Risk Assessment	Any reduction or withdrawal of service would have a negative impact on crime and disorder within the Borough.

6. Details of Exempt Information Category

Not applicable

7. Appendices

Appendix A: Dartford Town Against Crime Plan 2016-18

BACKGROUND PAPERS

<u>Documents consulted</u>	<u>Date / File Ref</u>	<u>Report Author</u>	<u>Section and Directorate</u>	<u>Exempt Information Category</u>
	July 2017	Lewis Kirnon & Mike Morgan (01322) 343352	EARS	N/A