



Policing- Woking Borough

Local Committee for Woking

18 July 2005

KEY ISSUE:

To report on the crime figures for Woking Borough from April- March 2005 (compared to April-March 2004) using Police statistics supplied at local level.

SUMMARY:

This report sets out the crime figures for April – March 2005 with associated, relevant comments.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS:

This report is submitted for information but the Committee is asked to recognise that the multi-agency partnership approach is the key to success in reducing crime and the fear of crime.

1 Introduction and background

- 1.1 Woking is policed by the North West Surrey Division of Surrey Police, which also covers the boroughs of Surrey Heath and Runnymede. The policing boundaries of the boroughs are coterminous with those of the local authority. This paper, alongside the presentation at the Committee, sets out recent crime figures for Woking Borough.

2 Analysis and Commentary

- 2.1 The table below sets out the crime figures for Woking Borough for the period April – March 2005, compared to the same period last year.

OFFENCE	FYTD (financial year to date)	% CHANGE	NOS.
Total Notifiable	6796	-5.2	372 less
Violent Crime	1211	+6.5	73 more
Robbery	59	-25.3	20 less
Racially Aggravated	67	+4.7	3 more
Theft of Motor Vehicle	176	-27	66 less
Theft from Motor Vehicle	516	-12.5	74 less
Theft of & from Motor Vehicle	692	-16.8	140 less
Burglary Dwelling	435	+ 14	54 increase
Drugs	174	-35%	96 less

- 2.2 The last financial year shows that in the whole crime levels for Woking borough were in the main very healthy with only two main areas for concern.
- 2.3 Violent crime is an issue but the rise is reasonable bearing in mind performance elsewhere countywide and nationally. A lot of effort has been placed in addressing crime and fear of crime in the town centre with a multi-agency created by Chief Inspector Smith under the auspices of the LSP. Some good initiatives have been developed particularly the pedestrianisation of Chertsey Road on Friday/Saturday evenings with the main emphasis being to place responsibility onto the businesses themselves. It should be noted that an additional planning application has been received for 8-10 High Street Woking which if successful may well influence crime levels.

- 2.4 Internally, the Police still deploy one sergeant and six officers on foot in the town overseen by an officer of at least Inspector rank. This is seen as beneficial but does place a continual burden on resources. Some new actions are in place for this year with monthly performance letters sent to each licensee, voluntary breath testing of customers and joint licensing checks with WBC/Surrey Fire and Rescue.
- 2.5 Burglary dwelling is the other concern with the rise accountable to only three prolific offenders who have now all been dealt with. It should be noted that one of them has now received an Anti Social Behaviour Order (ASBO). At the time of writing this report, there are no concerns over the burglary rate so far with a predicted decrease.
- 2.6 One Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership initiative for the new Community Safety Strategy has been to create a multi-agency group to identify and protect elderly people who may be subject to distraction burglaries with an initial meeting scheduled for June this year.
- 2.7 The police neighbourhood panel meetings continue to flourish with the division being highlighted as a 'pathfinder' division. This is part of a national initiative to develop resolving local community issues and is seen as a positive development for the borough. The main concern arising from the meetings is that of speeding vehicles/inconsiderate parking.
- 2.8 Anti-social behaviour continues to be another main priority with 6 ASBO's and 2 dispersal orders introduced last year. Already this year, one ASBO and 3 interim ASBO's have been obtained with some strong working between all agencies via the Joint Action Group (JAG) and Community Incident Action Group meetings.

3 Financial implications

- 3.1 There are ongoing financial implications with regards to the continuing resourcing of the weekend town centre patrols detailed above.

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