

Appendix A.

	Recommendation	Response
1.	<p>That the Council work with the Police to deliver more joint resident engagement opportunities, especially in relation to the emerging local policing model, which threatens some of the existing engagement opportunities with the Police. The joint resident engagement should include the merging of the Safer Neighbourhood Panels with the Council's Ward Partnerships to be held on the same date and at the same location. The agenda of one meeting may follow the other, as a means of maintaining their distinctive features, but this will undoubtedly maximise attendance, enhance community engagement and identify shared ward priorities. Councillors, as democratically elected representatives and accountable to residents, should be part of the membership.</p>	<p>The intention to build on the current single example in Highbury West of a merged Ward Partnership and Safer Neighbourhood Panel (SNP) has so far not succeeded. Pursuing this, where it may be possible, will require support from both Members and the Police. Ward partnerships like SNPs vary from ward to ward and some are more active and better co-ordinated than others. This is a key area for development so there may be some consistency and greater opportunities for community representation and engagement.</p> <p>Consideration to date has exposed a number of challenges with the merging of SNPs and Ward Partnerships. Among these is a resistance to what some SNP members think is political interference. However there are other structural and operational issues such as the current length and agenda for each meeting, residents' interest in specific issues and groups' own desire to remain distinct. In the wards where both structures are functioning more effectively, the meetings individually will normally run for up to two hours, with a full agenda and participation and some residents have expressed unwillingness to sit through discussions about things they have little interest in.</p> <p>An attempt was made in St George's ward but was unsuccessful due to insufficient time to discuss and agree policing priorities with residents. In Hillrise there seem to be generally a more positive view about one structure above the other. In Tollington both structures are considered to be strong and well structured, with one meeting during the daytime and involve council officers. Generally merging panels may risk lowering participation, contrary to the intention of the recommendation.</p> <p>On a positive note, the new Highbury East councillors have expressed a desire to have a similar model of merged structures to Highbury West as they think it will maximise the attendance and effectiveness.</p> <p>However, the Met's guidance is very clear; the Ward Panel's should be stand-alone structures and although Councillors are encouraged to attend they are not voting members and should not chair the meetings. There are many examples of joint engagement work outlined below and conducted regularly on the borough.</p> <p>There may still be opportunities however to identify perhaps two or three wards where the chances of a successful merger may be achieved. The council could lead a more focussed approach with the police and residents in pre-determined wards where there is sufficient community infrastructure to support development.</p>

2.	<p>The Committee noted that the current Metropolitan Police guidelines precluded Councillors from Chairing Safer Neighbourhood Panels, however this and other processes for engaging local community representatives was not widely known. Given that Safer Neighbourhood Panels were not always representative of the local community the Committee are of the view that the Deputy Mayor of London, responsible for Policing, should review the processes for operating Safer Neighbourhood Panels to ensure that such Panels are representative of the community and also set out the methods to ensure that this is effectively implemented.</p>	<p>The Metropolitan Police continue to object to Councillors chairing Safer Neighbourhood Panels (SNP) but progress with Recommendation 1 will assist this and could present opportunities to improve community representation at the SNPs.</p> <p>One of the responsibilities of the Safer Neighbourhood Board (SNB) is to “work with the police and partners to ensure every ward has a Ward Panel”. Furthermore, a key objective of the SNB is to consult with the Ward Panels in delivering its responsibilities. The Council has supported the development of the Safer Neighbourhood Board and will be the Accountable Body, including providing secretariat support to the Board.</p> <p>The Council worked closely with MOPAC and locally residents involved in the former police and community engagement board to develop the model of the SNB being introduced across London. Four of the members of the SNB were elected at the first annual crime summit held by the council at the Assembly Hall in March this year. The Council’s Lead Member for Community Safety and a non-executive Member are members of the SNB.</p> <p>In support of the launching of the new Safer Neighbourhood Board Islington police are reviewing its complete engagement processes and youth engagement is a key facet to this. The police have expressed their commitment to working closely with the Council on the SNB to ensure that we have a joined up approach.</p> <p>The Terms of Reference and Constitution of the Safer Neighbourhood Board are attached as Appendix 1, for information.</p>
3.	<p>That the Council’s youth engagement services work to improve young people’s involvement in discussion with the Police and Councillors about local crime and community safety issues and that a process be established by which they may report at regular intervals to the merged community engagement meetings referred to in recommendation 1 above.</p>	<p>Police engagement with youth groups is a central part of the work to reduce crime and there are a number of existing structures in place to enable this. The Islington Stop and Search Monitoring Group is an example of a well-used engagement opportunity.</p> <p>City YMCA has been commissioned to run the Islington Stop and Search Monitoring Group (ISSMG) which was set up in late 2012. The ISSMG is a forum for discussions between the community and the police with regards to stop and search and is attended by a senior police officer and council staff. The council have been working with the police to provide reassurance to concerns about disproportionality and potential abuse of stop and search. The police have improved management oversight of stop and search and ensure officers are clear about the law governing the tactic. Senior officers now carry our regular dip samples of officers’ stop slips and check that the stops are justifiable, whether or not they result in an arrest.</p> <p>The Youth Council undertook a survey of young people in Islington last year, a summary</p>

		<p>of which is in Appendix 2. For the first time in a long while crime issues and staying safe were no longer the most important things to young people, who were more interested in continuing to study and getting a job. Young people reported that they generally felt safe, particularly during the daytime and that they can take measures to keep themselves safe. They felt however that increased police patrols would be among the measures that would make them feel safer. From those who took part in the survey, approximately 70% had never been stopped and searched by the police although for those who reported to have been stopped they did not understand why they had been stopped.</p> <p>Although the new Youth Council has not chosen crime and safety as one of its priorities going forward, on-going measures will be taken to secure their involvement and engagement with issues of youth safety and the Youth Council will be represented at the Safer Neighbourhood Board.</p> <p>A practical example of Council services facilitating discussion between the police and young people can be evidenced in South area MAGPI where the detached team from TYS acted as an intermediary between youths involved in ASB and local police. There was an initial agreement with the police to step down patrols on one day so that the Y-Truck could attend and engage with the young people. Subsequently a construction training programme was successfully delivered to some young people in the area.</p>
4.	<p>That the Police work with the Council to deliver ‘roadshows’ and high visibility events, such as estate meetings and other events, to increase resident engagement and to provide feedback to residents about achievements in crime reduction and community safety relevant to them</p>	<p>The police consider engagement as central to the Neighbourhood Policing Teams’ (NPT) activity and they have conducted numerous engagement events since introduction of the Local Policing Model. Council involvement is a key priority around such events and there are many examples of joint working between the council and police. Some of these events have been organised by the council and other partners with the police in attendance and others, especially the high visibility operations, have been led by the police with support from the council. The examples range from estate-based community engagement to presentations to various community groups, including Friends of Park groups, Faith groups and Tenants and Residents groups.</p> <p>The Community Safety Partnerships unit often co-ordinates some of this work on behalf of the council and the police, whether its attending an open day at the Finsbury Park Mosque in the north or engaging residents in discussing ASB on the Canal in the South of the borough. Residents’ meetings are often attended jointly to get feedback on problems and communicate successes.</p> <p>Other examples of the community engagement conducted over the past year include a 13 week summer initiative in 2013 delivered jointly by the council and police, covering a different theme each week, such as noise nuisance and street population. The police</p>

		<p>led Operation Polar, which was the Christmas Night Time Economy operation run in co-ordination with Council Staff and the police are finalising details of the two large public meetings with partners regarding the criminalisation of Khat and will conduct partnership visits to various cafes and other premises that have been identified in the run up to the change of law at the end of June.</p> <p>In early June Mildmay Community Centre facilitated an open meeting for local residents to talk with their NPT and MAGPI Officer and in Stroud Green and Blackstock Roads police and partners carried out a speed awareness event, which involved speaking with dozens of motorists and, in addition to advising about their speed, were also able to let them know what else was being done in the area.</p> <p>The police attended all 4 days of the Soul and the City Event on the Andover Estate where around 500 people attended each day. Residents were provided with a range of crime prevention leaflets and other information. Recently in Holloway police used their contact lists to email over 225 people and organisations and encouraged new organisations to attend their meeting, including a women’s group for Somali background.</p> <p>These are just a few examples of the detailed community engagement work that has been undertaken.</p>
5.	<p>That the Police develop opportunities to engage with local businesses in relation to understanding better the nature of crime and disorder that affect them and that representation from businesses should be sought to attend Safer Neighbourhood Panels</p>	<p>The Nags Head Town Centre Manager leads the co-ordination of a Crime sub group at the Nag’s Head which has police attendance and looks in great detail at the ASB and crime issues affecting businesses. The group now meets every 5 weeks and each meeting is followed by a day of action the following day addressing all the issues raised by businesses at the meeting and over the 5 weeks.</p> <p>In Archway the Town Centre Management team and local police carry out regular street walkabouts to talk to local businesses about crime concerns and are supported by MAGPI officers to ensure wider concerns may be relayed to other relevant partners.</p> <p>The Tollington Safer Neighbourhood Panel has in the past had good attendance from businesses with representatives from local pubs and bigger businesses like Sainsbury’s and Tesco. The Angel police Team have also carried out 2 Security awareness training sessions for Nag’s Head businesses which businesses found very helpful.</p> <p>The Police have set up a penetration testing team that make undercover visits to businesses in order to check security vulnerabilities with office access. South MAGPI have tasked this police team to conduct such checks on businesses in line with an increase in non-res burglaries in Clerkenwell. There was follow up work done with the business including input from police, outreach, ASB Response Team and Highways; all</p>

		<p>co-ordinated via MAGPI</p> <p>There are strong relationships across the borough aimed at business crime. In 2011-12 Angel was identified as one of the top 10 business crime areas in London. Through the significant work and strong partnership of the Business Improvement District (BID) team this has now significantly improved. There has been significant focus on the key business areas of Nags Head and Archway delivering crime prevention advice (e.g. work with Car Phone Warehouse re target hardening). There are regular proactive operations aimed at “table surfers” and prolific thieves and from recent police activity a prolific thief was arrested and charged for theft of a laptop in a proactive operation in the Archway area.</p> <p>There remains a constant focus on this area of work with a number of new innovations being introduced. For example the Community Safety Partnership funded the introduction of the Littoralis software system within the BID area to allow rapid sharing of intelligence and suspect information between the premises and police to further reduce offending. This overall approach is in support of the new Business Crime Strategy of the MPS and has seen a 24% drop in offences of theft from shops from FY 11-12 to FY 13-14. In addition there are also active Pub Watch partnerships across the borough and the police now have a dedicated team of 3 licensing officers (up from 1) to provide a real focus on NTE issues and to ensure action is taken to minimise the opportunities for offences and ASB linked to the NTE. This will be further enhanced with the proposals to have a dedicated licensing Sergeant to provide greater co-ordination of all police and the council’s activity under the Later Night Levy that is currently being negotiated.</p>
6.	<p>That, where Ward Councillors request this and where Police resources allow, Councillor Ward surgeries should have Police presence, as this will increase Police accountability, as well as make it easier for residents to report crime or anti-social behaviour. This would also allow for follow up action to be taken either by the Police or Council, or both, depending on the nature of the issue. These meetings should be well publicised</p>	<p>No joint surgeries have been conducted to date and more effort could be made to promote the current access points (Safer Neighbourhood Panels and Ward Partnerships) where residents may interact with police and councillors. The police want to ensure that crime reporting is done through the well-established routes and that any joint surgeries do not dilute this.</p> <p>It is normal practice however for MAGPI nominated ward councillors to be invited to all Environmental Visual Audits (EVA) and site visits. The vast majority of EVAs have attendance from a relevant councillors and police.</p>
7.	<p>That the Council Leader and the Borough Commander consider delivering more well publicised joint web based engagement (question and answer), sessions to encourage residents participation in local issues. This will also help to engage other local residents who may be unwilling or unable to attend Police/Council meetings in person</p>	<p>This has been trialled in the past with relative success. While a dedicated web-based Q&A session has not been delivered by the Council Leader and Borough Commander, the council’s communications team work closely with the police and regularly use twitter to promote crime reduction activities and outcomes. Results from police operations or council enforcement activities are often tweeted and re-tweeted.</p>

8.	<p>That the Police publicise and promote the changes made to public access, following the implementation of the local Policing model, including days and times where local venues may be used for such public access to Police</p>	<p>The Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) consulted widely in the run up to the proposed changes to front counter provision, station closures and new access points under the Local Policing Model. There were London wide press releases and briefing notes that provoked considerable public discussion around the proposals.</p> <p>From a borough perspective all changes to opening times were advertised and promoted to residents via the MPS. Opening times and locations of contact points are highlighted on Islington Police website and the proposed changes were discussed at Safer Neighbourhood Panel meetings and other key partnership meetings. Members of the public were also encouraged to partake in the public consultation and the police continue to survey members of the public about the services they receive.</p>
9.	<p>Whilst the Mayor's Policing Plan should in theory increase the Police responsiveness to respond to urgent situations, there is concern that there may be a reduction in the presence at local level of Safer Neighbourhood Officers. It is recommended that the new proposals be monitored after implementation to ensure that they are working effectively and in the best interests of residents and that the Police are accountable for them</p>	<p>There have been some significant improvements in the response times under the Local Policing Model (LPM), with the current I grade response having increased by 2.4% in the last 12 months to 94.1% and S grade calls increased by 1.2% from 86.6% to 87.8% over the same period. Coupled with this the police's latest confidence figures have improved significantly (measured by the Public Attitude Survey) to 69% (target of 66%) and overall satisfaction with the police service is currently at 80% (target of 75%). This has been achieved whilst the significant changes have bedded in and is testimony to the hard work of the policing teams in developing strong local partnerships and maximising engagement work.</p> <p>The above are clearly the headline figures but there has been some resourcing issues balancing the demand of central aid and the launch of the LPM structure. As part of the follow up to the LPM launch the MPS has embarked on a significant recruitment campaign and these new officers are now being delivered through to the front end. For Islington, since November 2013, 26 new officers have joined and over the next 2 months a further 38 will be added, making a total of 64. There are further intakes of staff being recruited through the remainder of 2014 and the police expect to see further officers being posted to Islington. This will clearly have a beneficial impact on police resourcing levels and is a key element in the overall increase of officers numbers committed to under the LPM. These officers have been split equally between the Neighbourhood Policing Teams and the Emergency Response Team.</p> <p>The police accept that there is still more to do and are reviewing their engagement work across the borough.</p>

10.	<p>That the Police ensure that residents and Councillors are properly consulted with regards to the proposed introduction of Safer Neighbourhood Boards and that they are developed to fit in with the workings of the Safer Neighbourhood Panels and other local engagement processes, in order to ensure that any decisions of the Board are not in conflict with other local or Council priorities</p>	<p>The police Borough Commander has been involved in discussions with the Council and members of the (former) Islington Community Safety Board, regarding the development of Safer Neighbourhood Board. Discussions about the board began around April 2013 and continued until February 2014 during which time a number of residents and others were informed and their views consulted. The Safer Neighbourhood Board has been developed to work with the Safer Neighbourhood Panels and will seek to strengthen the community infrastructure that underpins its purpose.</p>
11.	<p>That the Police increase their cross-border working arrangements with neighbouring borough Police forces, such as City of London, Haringey, Hackney and Camden police teams on targeted operations and information sharing, and that this should include working with Council licensing authorities, where appropriate</p>	<p>There is a tri-borough police group set up for Finsbury Park which meets regularly and includes the British Transport Police (BTP) and the Safer Transport Team. We have so far had two very successful multi-agency action days which involved council and police officers from Hackney, Haringey and Islington.</p> <p>One example is “Operation Pentagon” delivered in the East cluster jointly with police from Hackney, Haringey and the BTP and included the UKBA plus a number of Islington council departments. This tackled community safety concerns around the Finsbury Park and Blackstock Road areas. There have been a number of these operations that have made a significant impact on crime and ASB in the locality. Results from one of these operations included 14 arrests for a variety of offences, 11 cannabis warnings, 59 penalty fares on the rail network, 6 environmental enforcement visits on premises on the Blackstock Road and 24 Licensing visits from the joint council and police licensing teams. There were also a number of other activities including youth engagement. This activity has been borne out of regular cross border meetings and improved information sharing between all parties and a real increase in visible priorities identified by local councillor and members of the public.</p> <p>“Operation Juno” was delivered around Farringdon and Fabrics Night Club. The operation addressed crime and ASB problem associated with the Night Time Economy (NTE) with 22 arrests made for various offences as well as general licensing deployments. There has also been a recent similar operation around the Egg nightclub, York Way, as part of the MPS-wide Operation Condor based on NTE issues.</p> <p>“Operation Winter Nights” ran for the whole of December and into early January aimed at cutting Crime and ASB around the NTE. Other boroughs had similar activity and the Islington operations included Islington ASB and street enforcement officers to address the whole range of ASB incidents. This resulted in an 18% decrease in crime over the same period the previous year.</p> <p>Other recent multi-agency and cross-border work include joint planning with Haringey</p>

		<p>police and council services about concerts/events at Finsbury Park in response to related ASB. Islington police, ASB response and licensing teams also worked with our Hackney counterparts and the Canal and River Trust to address ASB on the canal.</p>
12.	<p>That the Police work to improve their information sharing in relation to anti-social behaviour in order that two way information sharing in relation to anti-social behaviour can take place between the Council's improved anti-social behaviour management system and the Police's anti-social behaviour data management system</p>	<p>There are very strong systems in place around sharing ASB information with housing partners using the regular MAGPI meetings and local ward and cluster contacts to resolve ASB issues. The Community Safety Partnerships Unit circulates daily reports of key crime and ASB information, ensuring everyone is sighted on recent issues and can take appropriate action in response.</p> <p>In addition the council and police co-ordinate a monthly Anti-Social Behaviour Action Group (ASBAG) meeting, which reviews the key ASB hotspots and key vulnerable individuals with all relevant partners, aimed at resolving long standing issues. This is a really strong partnership meeting and is becoming increasingly effective at targeting key individuals and problems.</p> <p>AIRSPACE (the police's ASB recording system) is used fully throughout the borough to record actions and also assists in communication with partners and ensures all relevant information is shared. There are numerous examples of excellent information sharing and joint action.</p>
13.	<p>The Committee noted that the Council already use anti-social behaviour orders and anti-social behaviour injunctions to tackle anti-social behaviour on housing properties and that this should continue to be developed in the light of possible changes in legislation over the coming months. Whilst work was already being carried out with Registered Social Landlords to deal with anti-social behaviour this should continue to be developed, and in particular with regard to ensuring that the appropriate Council and RSL staff are trained in presenting all necessary evidence in order to secure evictions when cases go to Court</p>	<p>The injunction remains a key tool for LBI Housing to tackle anti-social behaviour and current Performance Indicators confirm this (60 in 2013/14 and 59 2012/13). New legislation possibly available from the autumn onwards will see Injunction powers slightly amended, particularly where they could be issued against anyone over the age of 10 years old, and would include positive requirements.</p> <p>The Community Safety Partnerships Unit (CSPU) and Housing service have delivered workshops to key partners to introduce the new ASB, Crime & Policing Act and a series of briefings are due to be delivered in June 2014. The training will be delivered by a qualified barrister alongside council legal and ASB staff and will include all council Housing ASB and Tenancy staff, other Council services, such as Environment & Regeneration and other local housing providers.</p> <p>We have secured commitment from local Registered Providers to provide performance indicators for ASB interventions, which will in turn help us to track their use of the various powers and identify any gaps or support needs. The council's ASB Team Leaders and Managers will be attending external training sessions provided by the Social Landlords Crime and Nuisance Group, information from this will be cascaded down to teams from the respective managers.</p> <p>The Council's Housing Case Management Procedures are regularly reviewed to reflect</p>

		<p>changes in operational practice and new initiatives; Housing ASB policies are also currently being reviewed in the light of the legislative changes expected later this year.</p> <p>Anti-social Behaviour Orders (ASBO) continue to be a valuable tool for protecting residents from harassment, alarm or distress from persistent offenders and we have a clear process for engaging with appropriate support services particularly where young people are involved. Last year we obtained 24 and current year to date 2 have been secured. We are preparing for changes under the ASB, Crime & Policing Act with the move to Criminal Behaviour Orders that could include positive requirements.</p>
14.	<p>That there should be a safer schools forum on the borough that regularly reviews the approach to safer schools, the implementation of any agreements, critical incidents and individuals who are presenting risk. This should be multi agency and not bilateral between the schools and the police alone</p>	<p>There are currently 9 “Safer Schools” officers across the borough and a university officer. There are strong partnerships with the secondary schools and there is currently a new review process being developed at the PRU and COLA between the police and Deputy Heads. The purpose of this is to get some common understanding of approach to dealing with key instances e.g. when and what crime to be reported, actions on critical incidents, what assistance can be offered around Preventing Violent Extremism and Child Sexual Exploitation agenda. The aim of these reviews is to ensure a common understanding of expectation and needs and then to broaden the scope out across the borough to improve commonality.</p>