
Report To:	Education & Communities Committee	Date:	06 May 2014
Report By:	Acting Corporate Director Environment, Regeneration & Resources	Report No:	2014/ER/AP/01
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Subject:	Greenock Town Centre, Extra Policing – Progress Report		

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update the Committee in respect of the outputs from the first 11 months of the Greenock Town Centre Policing Initiative agreed by the Council in February 2013.
- 1.2 The funding for this has been allocated from the Environment & Regeneration Committee budget and a report on progress has been submitted to its 1 May 2014 meeting.
- 1.3 It is suggested that in future, reports on progress be made to the Education & Communities Committee as this matter falls more directly within its remit.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 As part of the 2013/2016 Revenue Budget, £80,000 was allocated to provide increased policing in Greenock Town Centre to address concerns identified by the public.
- 2.2 A Service Level Agreement was entered into between the Council and the Police which resulted in the Council funding an extra police officer for 2 years with Police Scotland matching that commitment. As part of the Service Level Agreement, Police Scotland would provide statistical information on progress against agreed targets for 2013/2014 and 2014/2015.
- 2.3 Appendix 1 of the report reflects the interim update covering the period to the end of February 2014. From this it can be seen that most 2013/2014 targets have already been exceeded with those in relation to shoplifting, drinking in public and stop search activity exceeding prior years' performance and 2013/2014 targets by a significant margin.
- 2.4 Police Scotland agreed to review the targets for 2014/2015 and these proposals are shown in the right hand column on page 3 of the Appendix.
- 2.5 In addition, the update outlines other work carried out by the Police in liaison with the community wardens. The feedback from the Safer Communities team has been positive and is included in the body of the report as well as the Appendix.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 That the Committee note the contents of the interim update prepared by Police Scotland in relation to the extra policing for Greenock Town Centre.
- 3.2 That the Committee note and welcome the increased targets for 2014/2015 proposed by Police

Scotland.

- 3.3 That the Committee agree that a further update be presented to the Education & Communities Committee in the autumn of 2014.

Alan Puckrin

Acting Corporate Director Environment, Regeneration & Resources

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 As part of the 2013/2016 Revenue Budget the Council agreed to allocate £80,000 to provide extra policing for a 2 year period to Ward 3 and, in particular, Greenock Town Centre.
- 4.2 Greenock Town Centre was chosen due to its high profile to visitors and residents of Inverclyde.
- 4.3 A Service Level Agreement was entered into between the Council and the Police following public consultation which identified a number of priority areas which were causing concern to the public. These were:
- Violence, disorder and anti-social behaviour
 - Drug dealing and drug misuse
 - Road safety and road crime
- 4.4 The funding allowed an extra police officer to be funded by the Council which was matched by Police Scotland.
- 4.5 In addition to the extra police officer, there was increased and improved working with the Council's own Community Wardens Team.

5.0 CURRENT POSITION

- 5.1 Appendix 1 contains the interim update as at 28 February 2014. From this update it can be seen that for the majority of 2013/2014 targets, set as part of the SLA, performance have exceeded targets.
- 5.2 Specifically in the areas of shoplifting, drinking in public and stop search activity the performance has significantly outstripped not only prior years' performance but also the targets agreed for 2013/2014 and 2014/2015.
- 5.3 Colleagues from the Police gave a briefing to Ward 3 Members in March on the current position and received feedback from Members and officers on their view of the performance to date.
- 5.4 As part of these discussions, it was agreed that new targets would be set for 2014/2015 and these are included in the right hand column on page 3 of the Appendix.
- 5.5 In addition to the statistics contained in the report, there is also an update in respect of other work carried out as part of the Greenock Town Centre Policing Initiative with much of this done in consultation with the Community Wardens Team from Safer Communities. The Police advise that these softer initiatives are also having a material impact and they welcomed the co-operation and close working relationships with the Community Wardens Team and this view was reciprocated.
- 5.6 Further updates will be provided to the Committee in 2014 with the next update being due in the autumn once the 6-monthly figures for 2014/2015 are received.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS

Finance

- 6.1 The funding agreed by Committee runs to 31 March 2015. Members may wish to consider as part of the 2015/2018 budget process whether this initiative should be continued or expanded when considering the overall budget.

Financial Implications:

One off Costs

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	Budget Years	Proposed Spend this Report £000	Virement From	Other Comments
Earmarked Reserves	Greenock Town Centre Policy	2013 / 2015	£80,000		Costs confirmed at £70,000

Annually Recurring Costs/ (Savings)

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	With Effect from	Annual Net Impact £000	Virement From (If Applicable)	Other Comments
N/A					

Legal

- 6.2 No legal implications.

Human Resources

- 6.3 No HR implications.

Equalities

- 6.4 No equalities implications.

Repopulation

- 6.5 The reduction in offending and anti-social behaviour within the Greenock Town Centre has a positive impact on the perception of Inverclyde for both residents and visitors. This will have a positive impact on the Council's repopulation agenda.

7.0 CONSULTATION

- 7.1 The Head of Safer & Inclusive Communities reports that the additional Police Resource has facilitated additional joint working with the Community Wardens on the provision of Joint Disorder Patrols. This initiative involves joint patrols by Wardens and Special Constables at weekends focused on a range of criminal and antisocial behaviour. The outputs from this initiative to the end of 2013 were as follows:-

Stop and Search

332 incidents with a 48.5% (161) success rate. Detections included alcohol (underage), drugs, weapons and property.

ASB Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs)

77 notices served. FPNs were served in respect of a number of offences including breach of the peace and street drinking.

In addition there was a number of detections of offences involving shoplifting, misuse of drugs, underage sales and street drinking.

- 7.2 The quality of the service provided by the Joint Disorder Patrols is clear from the following

comments from the Police Officer coordinating the initiative. These comments were made following a particularly busy weekend at the beginning of November 2013, when, in addition to the joint patrols, the Warden/ Special Constable teams also assisted in the response to a large scale disturbance in Greenock and over the three nights responded to 14 calls in support of regular Police shifts who were tied up with other incidents:-

It was commented upon by the area control room how helpful and useful this initiative was over the three nights as the police were genuinely struggling with the large amount of calls received. Furthermore the area commander personally attended one of our briefings over the weekend to pass on his personal thanks to the wardens and specials for their assistance and help over the three nights.

I have attached a few documents to give you an idea of how successful the three nights were and also how successful this partnership has been since its inception back in April!

Again, my sincere thanks to the wardens for their assistance and efforts over the three nights! They were a real credit to the service!

8.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

8.1 None.



Inverclyde Safer Town Centre Initiative

Project Title: Greenock Town Centre Dedicated Police Officers

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Date: April 2014

Project Outline

Greenock Town Centre is the focal point for business, retail and commercial activity in Inverclyde. It is located in Inverclyde North Multi Member Ward 3. It is a vibrant location which houses the areas main transport hubs, leisure facilities, the James Watt College and Clyde Port Ocean Terminal. In addition, it is also home to a substantial residential community. The Municipal Buildings and associated Inverclyde Council structure is a focal part of this community being one of the largest employers in the area. There is also a local night time economy which is delivered in the main through licensed premises.

Public consultation undertaken by Police Scotland identified the following areas of priority that cause concern to the public in this area.

- Violence, Disorder and Anti Social Behaviour
- Drug Dealing and Drug Misuse
- Road Safety and Road Crime

The town centre of Greenock has a major influence in providing valuable public and community resources. It is therefore essential that the public feel safe going about their daily activity business in this busy locale. The provision of joint funded dedicated police resources will ensure that the strategic aims of Inverclyde Community Planning Partnership are delivered keeping people safe.

Project Deliverables

The proposal outlined the principles to establish two police officer posts dedicated to the Greenock Town Centre.

One post funded by Inverclyde Council and is additional to the current policing resources in Inverclyde. The other post match funded by Police Scotland.

In support of the above vision Police Scotland through prevention, intelligence and enforcement will ensure continuity is delivered to the local community building public confidence and keeping people safe.

The project supported the associated outcomes detailed below:

- **To ensure public safety is maintained throughout the town centre concentrating on traffic flow, dangerous parking and pedestrian activity.**
- **Providing a proactive and reactive police response.**
(This will be an innovative approach aimed at reducing retail crime, anti social behaviour and public concerns. This will be focussed on both day and night economies. This will also be supported by utilising Special Constables and in partnership with Community Wardens.)
- **To provide a highly visible police presence in the town centre area.**
(Promoting Inverclyde as a safe place to live and work promoting the positive attributes of the area. This will be of particular benefit when visiting cruise ships are in the terminal, public events and any other associated community activity.)
- **To be a single point of contact & liaison with Partnership Agencies.**
(Playing a major role in the comprehensive regeneration of the town centre. Also facilitating the establishment of Key Individual Networks (KIN groups) supporting and driving community resilience.)
- **Engagement with Inverclyde Homeless services, addiction treatment centres and unemployment services.**
- **Daily tasking to effectively police emerging trends or patterns of activity within the town centre area enhancing public confidence.**
- **Proactively engage with young people in Inverclyde through opportunities at local events, community groups and established youth organisations which meet in the town centre area.**

Activity

The initiative commenced on 1 April 2013.

The following is a report on activity and current statistics against set targets in table below. This framework was agreed at the outset to monitor the activity in Ward 3 and provide tangible outcomes to measure activity.

	2011 / 2012	2012 / 2013	2013 / 2014 Target	2014 / 2015 Target
Assaults Detection Rate (% Increase)	68%	68%	74% 82.9%	76%
Theft by Shoplifting Detection Rate (% Increase)	68%	70%	72% 88%	80%
Drinking In Public (Detections Increase to PF)	263	346	363 571	450
Seatbelt Tickets (Detections Increase)	159	208	218 176	218
Mobile Phone Tickets (Detections Increase)	155	262	275 196	275
Parking Tickets (Greenock Area only) Increase	427	519	570 598	627
ASB Reports (Incidents Reduction)	2,598	2,051	1,989 1,621	1,800
ASB Tickets (Detections Increase)	710	867	893 727	893
Stop Search Activity (% Positive Detections)	10%	12%	15% 27%	20%

The above figures in blue are results from April – February 2014. Drinking in public incidents have increased above year end target as they have been

dealt with by report to PF rather than an ASB ticket disposal. This in turn will cause a downturn in ASB tickets issued for this offence.

The officers have also undertaken the following work which has a major impact on daily business through Partnership Collaboration and Local Engagement. This activity reflects project deliverable outcomes.

Port Glasgow Victoria Boxing Club

The officers have undertaken work with youths who are known locally as the 'Young West Team'. This was a group of around 10 – 15 individuals who were responsible for a large number of anti social behaviour incidents in and around the West Station area and Greenock Town Centre. As part of the wider engagement places were secured in a multi agency project for these youths to be diverted to the above boxing club. This has been a massive success with 3 of the original 8 that started are now members of the Boxing Club. Officers have built up a good relationship with the youths who now have a positive view of the Police. Since this initiative started, there has been a dramatic decline in offences committed by these youths. Further initiatives are being discussed with Margaret Solomon who is a senior Social Worker for the Youth Justice Service in Inverclyde.

Muslim Prayer Room

The designated officers made established links with the multi faith prayer room in Greenock Town Centre. This partnership is continuing to work really well with even more persons from the BME community in Greenock engaging with Town Centre Officers. Due to the recent Terrorist attack in the Westgate shopping Mall in Nairobi, Kenya, Town Centre Officers have been offering reassurance to this community as it was unknown how this would affect community tensions. There has been no reaction at all and officers continue to engage with the BME community.

Strathclyde Partnership for Transport

Officers have been having regular meetings with SPT in relation to major events which are happening throughout Scotland in which persons leave from Greenock in high volume to attend such as T in the Park and Concerts in Glasgow and Edinburgh. This resulted in Town Centre Officers putting together an action plan over two days in July when people were leaving for T in the Park. This resulted in a high volume of persons being reported to the Procurator Fiscal for drug possession and alcohol offences. Due to this successful pilot, officers are currently in discussion with SPT management as to projected passenger volume for the Commonwealth games in 2014 and how Police and other partner agencies can assist.

IZONE

The IZONE is situated on Nicolson Street, Greenock and is a safe place within the town centre where young people attend to gain access for advice and support from social workers. There are also activities available such as music workshops, team games and free access to the internet. Town Centre Officers regularly attend the IZONE to speak with the youths and engage with them. The 'Young West Team' had been banned from using this service due to their behaviour however since the Boxing initiative, the group have been granted access again to the IZONE and there have been no reports of unruly behaviour and they are positively engaging with other youths outwith their group.

Inverclyde Community Wardens

This partnership continues to grow from strength to strength. Town Centre Officers are regularly carrying out joint patrols with Community Wardens. Both Community Wardens and Town Centre Police are sharing local knowledge and offer each other assistance as and when required. In addition, Special Police Constables have continued to assist with joint patrols and a recent 3 day initiative resulted in a high volume of stop searches. So far, as a result of this partnership there have been a total of 127 positive stop searches and 51 ASBO tickets issued through this partnership collaboration.

St Marys Church

Contact has been made with Carole Bjoness of St Mary's Church, Patrick Street, Greenock. Carole runs a drop in centre at the Church and Town Centre Police will be attending every Friday to speak with the service users such as local homeless persons, drug users and alcoholics. This will be beneficial to Town Centre Police in relation to intelligence gathering building relations with alcohol and drug abusers.

Inverclyde Homeless Centre

Being able to visit the centre each day is of great benefit to Town Centre Officers. Officers are regularly updated as to the turnaround of residents and to those who are problematic. Intelligence received from workers at the centre assist greatly with ongoing enquiries. Workers at the Inverclyde Centre have commented that the presence of Town Centre Officers within the centre is welcome and reassuring as there are a high volume of residents who are violent offenders and often abuse both alcohol and drugs.

Clydeport

The officers have engaged with Andrew Hemphill who is the manager of Clydeport, Greenock. Through this they have made contact with the Inverclyde tourist group who are on hand when every cruise liner docks at Greenock. The officers have stressed to the tourist group their eagerness to assist them with any matters / concerns they have in the local area. This has

been met positively and an information sharing protocol has now been arranged. The officers believe this partnership will ensure that tourists will continue to have a safe and friendly visit to Greenock.

Partnership Testimony

In furtherance to the above activity please find attached a comment from Tom Campbell Inverclyde Council Social Protection Team Leader in relation to Partnership Collaboration between Town Centre Officers and Inverclyde Council Safer Communities:

"Kyle, many thanks for your very positive e-mail.

The fact of the matter is this, your good self and Sgt Jonny Hay were selected to participate in an initiative involving patrolling the Town Centre and surrounding areas which have been identified as "hot spot" areas for various reasons. You developed partnership working including the use of Special Constables and Inverclyde Council's Community Warden Service. Partnership working is used often these days however, this is a true working partnership which has really improved the role of the Community Warden in Inverclyde. At my daily briefings I am asked regularly if there is an Operation Grip taking place with police officers Kyle and Jonny and now Raymond.

Wardens have learned such a lot from you and the other Police Officers involved in the initiative and are gaining so much experience in dealing with our communities. There is no doubt that this is as a result of your good self and the other officers sharing information and regularly showing how hard working professional Police Officers go about their daily business.

From a very selfish point of view I can see such a difference in how my wardens now tackle antisocial behaviour, and deal with complaints from the community. Having the opportunity to contact police through yourself and the other initiative officers, has resulted in very quick police responses, which I believe is such a boost to the service.

As previously stated, Community Wardens are delighted to work in partnership with you and the other officers involved in this initiative. You Kyle and the other officers are a credit to Police Scotland.

I have forwarded your e-mail to The Director of Safer Communities, Mr John Arthur Head of Safer & Inclusive Communities, Mr Drew Hall Service Manager Community Safety and Wellbeing along with a number of Inverclyde Council's Elected Members.

I hope we can work in partnership for some considerable time."

Summary

The above list of activity is by no means exhaustive and clearly indicates the benefits that these dedicated resources have brought to the local community. Their proactivity through dedication and commitment is a credit to them. This

NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED

is a partnership that could only be brought about by continued support from Inverclyde Council Keeping People Safe.

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