

Hastings Borough Council's contribution to Community Safety and Crime Reduction :

Hastings Borough Council has long recognised the importance that community safety plays in shaping people's perceptions of the town and the contribution this makes to future regeneration. The authority therefore allocates funding for a Community Safety Manager who also plays a lead role in supporting the work of the local statutory Crime Reduction Partnership (Safer Hastings Partnership : SHP). This support includes managing the SHP delivery plan, budget and projects.

The council has a good track record in innovative community safety work. Hastings Borough Council were one of the first authorities to introduce a street drinking bylaw (now primary legislation). They were also one of the first outside some London Boroughs to take on devolved DVLA powers to remove hundreds of untaxed and abandoned cars which had formerly blighted parts of the town.

Multi-Agency Tasking Teams (now Community Safety Hub meetings) have been operating for many years and Street Wardens still play an important role in areas like environmental enforcement.

Funding has been made available for Taxi Marshals, the Hastings Barwatch scheme and to support the work of the Hastings Business Crime Reduction Partnership.

The Council commission HVA to deliver a Hate Crime Service to support victims and encourage reporting and this continues to be the only one of its kind across the County.

Achieving 'White Ribbon' town accreditation status in 2014 continues to ensure that the town is a beacon area in its work to support victims of domestic violence. This built on work the authority does in running the local domestic violence forum, delivering a sanctuary scheme to protect vulnerable victims and funding an additional Independent Domestic Violence Caseworker (IDVA).

Other examples of the authorities community safety work include achieving huge reductions in car crime by upgrading security in car parks to gold standard and introducing a 'Reduce

the Strength Scheme' which now encompasses forty four 'Off Licences' who have all agreed not to sell super strength beer, lager or cider.

More recently the council has further demonstrated its commitment to ensuring that the town remains a safe place to live and visit by spending in the region of £400k to upgrade the towns CCTV system and to sustain local monitoring.

Recommendation :

That Hastings Borough Council continues to allocate funding towards community safety interventions