

## DRAFT GROWTH PROPOSAL

London Borough of Tower Hamlets  
Medium Term Financial Strategy 2021-24

<b>Proposal Title:</b>	<b>Partnership Taskforce (PTF) - extra police officers</b>		
<b>Reference:</b>	GRO / HAC 001 / 21-22	<b>Growth Type:</b>	Mayoral Priority
<b>Directorate:</b>	Health, Adults & Community	<b>Growth Service Area:</b>	Adult Social Care
<b>Directorate Service:</b>	Community Safety & Substance Misuse	<b>Strategic Priority Outcome:</b>	7. People live in safer neighbourhoods and anti-social behaviour is tackled
<b>Lead Officer and Post:</b>	Ann Corbett, Divisional Director, Community Safety	<b>Lead Member and Portfolio:</b>	Cllr Asma Begum, Deputy Mayor & Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Equalities

<b>Financial Impact:</b>	Current Budget 2020-21	Growth 2021-22	Growth 2022-23	Growth 2023-24	<b>Total Growth</b>
Budget (£000)		771	-	-	771

<b>Staffing Impact (if applicable):</b>	Current FTE 2020-21	FTE Increase 2021-22	FTE Increase 2022-23	FTE Increase 2023-24	<b>Total FTE Increase</b>
Employees (FTE) or state N/A					

### Proposal Summary:

The current contract with MOPAC for additional police officers ends in March 2021. The proposal seeks to secure continuation of funding for additional police officers under the revised MOPAC 'Partnership Plus' scheme. The police officers will continue to focus on tackling ASB and drugs and aligned with the Community Safety Partnership, resident and Council priorities. In particular, the priority to tackle ASB including drugs and alcohol and violence as set out in the statutory Community Safety Partnership Plan 2017-21 and the Council's 2017 ASB Blueprint for Action. It is recommended that the additional police officers be brigaded to form a new target operating model. The police officers will form part of a multi agency team with a key focus on drug related ASB to create a new ASB and Drug Suppression Unit. The multi agency model will consist of the Council's Neighbourhood Manager, Neighbourhood Officers and will work closely with the Specialist Substance Misuse Intervention Team (SSMIT) in the Substance Misuse Service and the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping service/s.

The police officers will also be tasked through our operational tasking model to hotspot crime areas reported by residents and will target those involved in the sale and supply of street drugs and those chaotic individuals involved on the demand side of the local drugs market. The additional investment will deliver the following outcomes;

- Visibility of neighbourhood police will improve
- Residents will be reassured, and victims' satisfaction level will improve
- Residents concerns about crime and ASB will have been addressed
- Support the Chaotic Substance Misusers Forum focussing on those individuals who have the most complex needs and behaviours often associated with drug related ASB.
- Perpetrators will be brought to justice.
- Criminal justice outcomes will improve and those individuals committing drug/alcohol related crime and/or ASB will be required to address their substance misuse issues via the proactive use of criminal or civil orders.
- Joint partnership operations that deliver positive outcomes for residents and improve perceptions and feelings of safety
- ASB, drug related incidents and drug dealings will decrease
- Communications between residents and the partners will improve

The proposal will also:

- Reinforce the neighbourhood policing model to mitigate and manage crime and ASB as a key Mayoral priority.
- Support the Council's commitment to real neighbourhood policing and neighbourhood management.
- Provide a ring-fenced resource for the Borough which cannot be abstracted and will be locally operationally tasked on issues that matter to residents through the tasking process.
- Provide opportunities for co-location with Council enforcement officers and statutory partners for greater synergy, improved efficiency, reduction in duplication and savings delivery through Neighbourhood Management.
- The Team will have a focus on delivering the neighbourhood priorities that are critical to the Borough and will be tasked accordingly via the tasking process.
- Provide a highly visible commitment and resource to the community, along with the additional policing resource contracted to patrol THH housing estates.

- The proposals are based on purchasing 10 constables and two sergeants with oversight from an existing police Inspector. This will give resilience and help retain the local knowledge and relationships that have been developed with partners and the community. Significantly this proposal recognises the financial pressures on the Council whilst at the same time recognises the significant uplift in police officer numbers deployed to the borough. The revised proposal is for 2 sergeants, 10 constables and vehicles for operational activities and seeks to add value responding to the council priorities tackling drugs and ASB.

#### Budgeted Outcomes / Accountability (focus on improved performance):

The Partnership Task Force will continue to operate to an agreed set of KPIs linked to the Community Safety Plan and provide regular performance updates to the Community Safety Partnership. Over the past three years the PTF has delivered the following;

Number of arrests – 1218  
 ASB warnings issued – 1635  
 Vehicles seized - 193  
 Referrals to DIP/RESET – 186  
 Referrals to the 'Stop and Think' programme- 95  
 Referrals for Vulnerable women who have been trafficked or VAWG – 194  
 Brothels investigated and closed – 37

#### Risks and Implications:

The key performance indicators also included dealing with on street sex working and brothels. Tackling prostitution and supporting those most vulnerable involved in on street sex working is seen as a VAWG issue and has been prioritised by the Council and the Partnership. Most of the women involved in on street prostitution face multiple disadvantage. The Council commissions the organisation Beyond the Streets to help support and work with women involved in prostitution. The PTF provides a valuable resource to enhance referrals to support and diversionary programmes for vulnerable women, and targets buyers of sex and those arrested for kerb crawling ensuring referrals into behaviour change programmes. It is important to note that most of this area of work is undertaken by the PTF, consequently without this resource referrals are likely to stop or drop significantly.

Another programme likely to be impacted in the absence of a PTF would be the Osmani Trust 'second Chance' programme. This affords an opportunity for those suspected of drug dealing to be diverted into help and support and to make different life choices.

The council is making a significant investment in CCTV. The absence of the PTF will mean the council would no longer be able to run initiatives like 'top 10 drug cars' which has proved effective in disrupting the on-street drug dealing and provides reassurance to the public as has been reported in Weavers Ward where we previously had many complaints regarding vehicles involved in drug dealing activities.

#### Value for Money and Efficiency:

This option would provide a policing model that would enable some police resource to support the Mayor's priority to reduce ASB, particularly drug related ASB and respond to issues such as brothels and on street sex working. The additional benefits of a PTF include:

- Support readily available for THEOs and Neighbourhood Management.
- In the absence of additional resources being deployed to safer neighbourhoods, a resource the council can direct to provide reassurance to residents and tackle ASB issues of concern to residents and businesses.
- Ability to task to priorities the council considers important, including resident complaints, alleviating gaps in the police response to drug use and drug dealing.
- Improved information sharing with THEOs, CCTV.
- Support marketing and income generation for the THEOs (added value). This is important as the THEOs alone could be considered as expensive.
- Police powers, in particular fast time use of closure powers.
- Provide an intercept capability for criminal vehicles identified through the council's ANPR enabled cameras and CCTV
- Provide an expert operational response to ASB caused by on-street sex working and brothels
- PTF have a comprehensive performance framework in place
- With a combined resource of PTF and THEOs ability to tackle a wide range of issues from ASB to crime with a wide range of tools and powers.
- PTF has its own management structures.

- PTF have access to training and equipment.
- Access to MPS Legal services to support court proceedings at no cost.
- Strengthen the role of THEOs and opportunities to increase income generation.
- Support for the ASB team and locality-based problem-solving groups.

Funding for this model is £771,000 per annum which is a 21% reduction in actual costs made available by MOPAC to Councils under a scheme called 'Partnership Plus'

## GROWTH PROPOSAL - BUDGET EQUALITY ANALYSIS SCREENING TOOL

Trigger Questions	Yes / No	If Yes – please provide a brief summary of how this impacts on each protected characteristic as identified in the Equalities Act 2010. This will need to be expanded in a full Equality Analysis at full Business Case stage.
Does the change reduce resources available to address inequality?	No	
Does the change reduce resources available to support vulnerable residents?	No	
Does the change involve direct impact on front line services?	No	
<b>Changes to a Service</b>		
Does the change alter who is eligible for the service?	No	
Does the change alter access to the service?	No	
<b>Changes to Staffing</b>		
Does the change involve a reduction in staff?	No	
Does the change involve a redesign of the roles of staff?	No	

Summary:	
To be completed at the end of completing the Screening Tool.	
Based on the Screening Tool, will a full EA will be required?	<b>No</b>

Additional Information and Comments:
An EQIA screening assessment has been completed.