



BRIGHTON POLICE STATION

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Impact Policy

Date: 24th August 2007

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Dear Tim

Proposed cumulative impact policy for Brighton & Hove City Council.

I have attached crime and disorder information and analysis for Brighton & Hove Police division which is coterminus with the electoral wards of Brighton & Hove city council. The reports focus predominately on violent and anti social offences committed in public places, i.e. not in private dwellings.

These reports have been produced from crime statistics held by Sussex Police. There are clearly identified 'hotspots' for crime related disorder, public place violent crime and alcohol related crime. These being West Street, Lower Esplanade, East Street into North Street and St James Street in Brighton city centre. These areas have evolved over the last few years from the traditional hotspot of West Street as a result mainly of the change in legislation with the introduction of the Licensing Act 2003.

Thought has been given to recommending several small cumulative impact areas rather than one larger area. The figures and geographical mapping show that although there are marked hotspot areas, the gaps between these are very small and even these adjoining streets have issues with violent crime and anti social behaviour, especially at weekends when the large quantity of pubs and clubs in the city centre are at their busiest. The profiles also indicate that areas surrounding hotspots for public place violent crime are prone to raised criminality as well. The hotspots tend to lead naturally from one to the other and with the shift from predominantly West Street to the surrounding area over the last couple of years it is anticipated that this trend will continue, thereby affecting the areas in between the current identified hotspots.

Con/td....

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I would therefore propose a single cumulative impact area that comes north from the beach up Holland Road to the junction with Western Road, travels from there east along the northern side of Western Road to the junction with North Street. From there via Air Street the area would then continue north up the western side of Queens Road, around and including the western side of Surrey Street to the junction with Trafalgar Street. From there we would head east down Trafalgar Street on the northern side of the pavement. The area would continue east across St Georges Place and Richmond Place. From there we would head south on the eastern pavement into Grand Parade to the junction with Edward Street. On the northern pavement we would head east along Edward Street to the junction with Upper Rock Gardens and then south to the beach.

I have also included data for the identified hotspot areas for Hove and East Brighton. I do not feel that at this time these areas, namely Boundary Road in Hove and the Marina need a cumulative impact approach. They should however be highlighted as areas of concern.

I have sought to keep the proposed area as small as possible to firstly justify any policy which may be agreed and also to maximise the police's capacity to respond to any issues.

This highlighted area has the majority of public place violent crime and alcohol related crime and being in the heart of the city centre has a far greater concentration of licensed premises than any other part of the city. Many of these premises are large, mainly vertical drinking establishments, and have the worst track record for crime and disorder within their venues, this is of course in part due to their size. The pressures on this part of the city is only like to intensify as the Oceana development in West Street and the Hippodrome development in Middle Street brings another 5,000 patrons to the area. It is anticipated that there will be an increase in reported incidents, nuisance and noise as a result of the smoking ban within licensed premises, driving people out of premises onto the public highway.

The overtime costs of this enhanced policing this alcohol fuelled disorder across Brighton in 2006 was very nearly £200000. This cost was in addition to that of officers on duty strength. That gives some indication of how much police time and resources are dedicated to tackling this problem. With the increasing constrains being placed on police budgets other crime reduction opportunities and tactics, such as cumulative impact zones must be explored.

The cost of violent crime is not borne solely by the police, the Home Office estimates that the impact of a single crime of violence against the person costs society £19000. This includes the cost to victims from loss of income, to local businesses and to statutory services such as hospital A&E departments.

In summary I feel that the attached statistics fully justify the proposed cumulative impact zone which the police would urge the licensing committee area to incorporate within their next licensing strategy policy. This area takes into account the current policing approach, trends which have developed since the change in licensing law, busy routes into and out of the city centre and the legitimate concerns of local residents who live in the area.

Yours sincerely

Graham Bartlett
Superintendent Crime & Operations