

ENFORCEMENT STRATEGY

2007 TO 2010

**HELPING WHERE WE CAN AND BEING TOUGHER WHEN
WE NEED TO BE**

LONDON BOROUGH OF HARINGEY

FORWARD – by Councillor Canver, Executive Member for Enforcement and safer Communities

Keeping Haringey clean and safe is a priority for the Council. Our Community Strategy, developed in consultation with other public bodies, local businesses, community groups and residents, highlights the strong link between the overall quality of the environment and people's health, safety and quality of life.

The impact of dirty streets and open spaces, unsafe and regulated development, criminal and anti social behaviour all create a negative impact on people's safety, health and their sense of well being.

The Enforcement Service has a key role to play in helping to deliver the objectives set out in the Community Strategy. It underpins its vision for Haringey to be 'a place people talk about proudly and where they want to be', and strongly reflects its key priorities to be sustainable, economically vibrant, safe, healthy and people focused.

Achieving our objectives requires that we seek to strengthen the role of those that live and work in Haringey in promoting compliance. Peer pressure, community intelligence, responsible citizenship and fair trading are all essential elements of a compliance strategy. In addition it is important to ensure that enforcements solutions are developed to meet local needs and to engage with local stakeholders in the development of local action planning.

The service seeks to ensure that advice and information is available to individuals and local businesses about their responsibilities and duties and, when appropriate, uses its powers to make sure that those who disregard the law are held to account for their behaviour. Our approach to enforcement and the decisions that we make are set out within our enforcement policy.

Recent legislation gives local authorities strengthened powers to improve the safety and quality of our private sector housing, trading, local environment and public spaces. Enforcement resources have also been strengthened in Haringey including the development of street enforcement and street warden teams, safer neighbourhood policing teams and tactical enforcement officers to target out most persistent and prolific offending. These resources and our established trading standards, environmental health and planning enforcement staff work alongside each and our other enforcement partners.

This strategy sets out how the Council's Enforcement service, with its partners, will use these resources and powers available to promote a safe, clean and healthy local environment for everyone. We will aim to achieve this by helping where we can and being tougher when we need to be.

BOROUGH PROFILE

Haringey's diverse communities make the borough an interesting and challenging place to live and work.

Haringey has a population of approximately 224,500 with 40% of these residents living in wards that are amongst the 10% most deprived in the U.K. Unemployment locally exceeds both the national and regional averages with 7.7% of the population claiming job seekers allowance (Oct 06). In contrast to this the west side of the borough is predominantly affluent promoting wealth, stability and good educational attainment.

Haringey recognises over 160 community languages. It has the third highest proportion of 'other' white residents in London (16%). Other large black and minority ethnic (BME) communities are black Caribbean (10%) and black African (10%). This ethnic and cultural diversity has led to the development of a cosmopolitan borough which boasts a thriving and vibrant business economy.

There are about 8000 business in total in Haringey, 92% of these are small employing less than 24 people. There are around 2,000 registered food businesses with a high concentration involving food and drink. In terms of food manufacture, there are no national companies, but a number of local and regional businesses. Meat processing and kebab manufacture is present on trading estates around the borough. Within the retail and wholesale sector imported food is a significant issue.

Almost two thirds of Haringey population live in private sector dwellings providing homes to over 70,000 households. 22% of households are living in overcrowded conditions the private rented sector makes up 20.1% of the housing market with Houses in Multiple Occupation Accounting 1.5%. The 2001 census highlighted an increase in the number of one person households living within the borough. This increase could account for the number in Illegal planning conversions which has given rise to the need to introduce to the service a team solely dedicated to investigating planning enforcement issues. Complaints relating to house conversions make up to 20% of the overall planning complaints made by the Haringey public.

The borough has approx 2500 empty properties with over 1200 long-term empty properties which continue to harbour undesirable activity and blight our neighbourhoods (April 06).

The enforcement service is committed to ensuring that we contribute towards producing a safer, healthier community which can enjoy a thriving local business economy. Our Enforcement strategy along with its supporting enforcement policy outlines the direction through which we aim to achieve this ambition.

THE ENFORCEMENT CHALLENGE IN HARINGEY

“Environment and crime continue to be uppermost priorities for residents living in the borough”. “Improving the quality of the natural and built environment and reducing the level of crime are key priorities for the partnership. This is because a clean, well maintained and attractive environment not only makes people feel happier with where they live but it also helps make them feel safer” (Haringey Strategic Partnership, Local Area Agreement January 2007.)

Environmental factors and stressors affecting quality of life for Haringey can be considered under three main headings. Environmental crimes that affect our pride in our public realm as well as our sense of safety and community; the trading environment as a source of employment, essential services, recreation, and economic well being; and our housing as a source of security, health and social stability.

Environmental Crime

Fly –Tipping and Dumping

Fly tipping is the illegal dumping of waste ranging from old washing machines to lorry loads of building material or abandoned piles of black refuse sacks containing trade waste. Despite increases in enforcement and improvements to waste collection services, overall reports of dumping within the borough have continued to increase. Whilst much of this reflects the increased levels of reporting undertaken by Council officers tasked with the role of spotting dumping, it is clear that the dumping of small items and black bags on the street for collection is a significant problem.

Data reports on dumping and street cleansing have been used to identify borough hot spots, with 40% of all complaints relating to the locations in the North East of the borough in N17.

Littering

Litter can be something as small as a sweet wrapper or as large as a bag of rubbish, and includes discarded cigarettes, and chewing gum. Shopping areas, transport hubs, and industrial areas are all hotspots for littering with 15% of sweeping complaints for the borough coming from the N15 postal area of the borough.

Graffiti and Fly Posting

A neighbourhood blighted by graffiti and fly posting can be visually intimidating for the community and visitors to the area. In the first six months of 2006 9,000m² of graffiti was removed as well 100m² of fly posting and 1 m² of paint spillage. Around two thirds of this work carried out was reactive in response to reports from council staff and the public.

Public Eyesores and Nuisance Premises

One of the problems experienced is that significant locations and local landmarks such as abandoned sites, empty properties, Net work Rail land and trading Estates, for example, can often suffer from neglect resulting in a concentration of environmental crime issues in one place. Currently around 80 such locations are being investigated and action taken where necessary to remove these locations as eyesores.

In addition a number of premises and traders operate with a disregard for legal requirements such as planning permission and licensing. Problem garages and social clubs can often cause significant public concern and be a magnet for other criminal behaviour.

Illegal advertising hoardings, for sale and to let boards and other unauthorised structures can also impact the appearance of our streets and open places degrading the environment. Such careless or deliberate offending can create an cluttered and ugly environment.

The Trading Environment

Haringey's has a vibrant business community dominated by small business. There are about 8,200 businesses in total in Haringey, 92% of these are small employing less than 24 people. There is a relatively high concentration of businesses involving food and drink with a total of around 2,000 registered food businesses. Overall employment as of September 2006 was 75% but only 58% among our ethnic minorities.

Whilst most business show strongly compliant behaviour some rogue traders operate. Problem social clubs operate in the borough and can be a magnet for criminal behaviour including, sale of stolen and counterfeit goods, illegal drinking gambling and other criminal behaviour.

Food Safety

The Borough is characterised by its restaurants and other caterers. In addition, as the population diversifies, there is an increasing amount of imported food coming into the borough to supply local requirements both for Haringey and the North London area generally. Businesses reflect the diverse & multicultural profile of the Borough which has a high number of proprietors whose first language is not English. There are currently 2,172 registered food businesses in Haringey. Although these frequently change ownership the total number is expected to remain the same or increase slightly. Half of all food premises are restaurants or catering premises which often carry the highest levels of risk if there is poor food hygiene.

The importation of food from non EC countries for a diverse community also introduces a risk for food safety. Unfit meat and bush meat has been found in the borough and demand for products not considered fit for human consumption does exist in the borough.

Although not often considered a food, Khat which is chewed as a recreational drug, but does not currently have a drug status, is widely used within the borough by mainly the Somalian community. Its impact on health has been established causing psychological and dental problems and adding to problems of worklessness and family breakdown. Our work in protecting food safety needs closely follow such dietary variations in our communities.

Trading Standards

The illegal sale of age restricted products can result in criminal activity, anti-social behaviour, solvent and alcohol abuse all of which have an adverse impact on society. Trading Standards focus safety resources on age-restricted products to protect the health of the young and reduce anti-social behaviour, particularly in relation to cigarettes and alcohol.

Counterfeiting is a huge problem globally, with millions of counterfeit goods being produced and sold every year. Custom and Excise are seizing well in excess of 100m items a year and last year the EU seized about £2bn worth of counterfeit goods. Buying counterfeit goods can also have much greater consequences than people realise, with members of the public unwittingly giving money to organised crime and terrorist organisations. Counterfeiters also have a huge impact on legitimate businesses, which causes them to lose millions of pounds of revenue a year. Smuggling and buying counterfeit goods also funds organised crime and terrorist organisations. Criminals who produce counterfeit goods have a huge effect on legitimate companies forcing them to close down.

Health and Safety

Haringey has approximately 8,200 businesses providing employment for over 59,000 people with a mixture of offices, factories, retail shops and food businesses. Approximately 7,000 businesses fall within the enforcement responsibility of the Local Authority. Factories and certain types of businesses are enforced by the Health and Safety Executive. It is estimated that there are approximately 5,000 non-food business that fall within Haringey' enforcement responsibility for Health and Safety.

There are a number of areas within Haringey that have a high concentration of retail shops. Haringey also has 17 industrial estates, which are mainly located to the east of the Borough. The Borough also has a sizeable consumer service-type industry that includes over 40 Launderettes, over 40 Hairdressers and Barbers and nearly 60 licensed Special Treatment Establishments of various descriptions.

We have three significant land sites, Finsbury Park and Alexandra Palace both of which cater for large events that attract people from all over the country including large Pop Music Events, Firework Displays and the Tottenham Hotspurs Football Club on the Tottenham High Road. Here, a minimum of 19 games would be played during the season, each game attracting over 30,000 people and up to a maximum capacity of over 36,000.

Housing and Health

Empty Property Enforcement

There are a substantial number of privately owned empty properties in Haringey, which is both a wasted resource for the owner and the community. With over 2,400 empty properties Haringey was rated as having the 13th highest proportion of empty properties in London (June 2005), this figure has now increased to 2700 (Feb 07). Empty properties continue to present a range of issues and can impact on neighbourhoods, communities and residents in a number of ways including:

- Devaluation of neighbouring properties leading to a loss of equity for homeowners and a disincentive to maintain their properties.
- Blight on neighbourhood - dumping ground for rubbish etc.
- Vandalism, graffiti and other crimes including anti-social behaviour activities.
- A potential for arson
- Pest infestation.

An empty property may represent a wasted opportunity to providing housing in an area of high demand. The fact however remains that empty homes exist within communities, these vacant properties attract crime and vandalism and are an eyesore for neighbours. There is extensive public support in Haringey in favour of more action on empty homes and in order to support the better Haringey initiative in building sustainable communities it is imperative that the enforcement service introduce effective enforcement methods for dealing with the boroughs long-term vacant properties.

Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO)

HMOs form an important source of low cost accommodation and the Council realises that they will continue to provide accommodation for certain households choosing to reside with in the borough. Many people need access to cheap flexible accommodation and in most areas HMOs meet this need. HMOs play a valuable role In Haringey by providing affordable accommodation in areas of high housing demand where rents are high.

The physical conditions and management standards in HMOs are often worse than in other types of accommodation. Occupants are at a far greater risk of death or injury than in any other type of residential accommodation. Facilities in HMOs are often very poor and below statutory standards and in some cases fire escape arrangements are unsatisfactory or unsafe. The impact that badly managed HMOs have on the community include increased crime, antisocial behaviour and a destabilised community destabilisation.

It estimated that 3,077 dwellings acted as HMOs at the time of the survey (2001). It is very likely that due to the dynamics of the borough that this is an under estimation and the more likely level is in the region of 6,000. This lack of accuracy highlights the need for proactive measures to be introduced to accurately identify the number of HMOs in the borough. The survey found unfitness levels at

27.5% of all bedsit HMOs, 19.3% are in substantial disrepair and 70.5% do not have provision for escape from fire. (*Private sector stock condition survey 2001*)

Unauthorised Housing Development and Planning Enforcement

Based on 2002-2005 approximately 900 complaints of planning breaches are registered for investigation each year. Of these cases Harringay ward has the largest number of cases followed by Highgate and Noel Park. In total these 3 wards represent over 30% of all cases investigated. Examination of cases closed however also show that approximately three quarters of all cases closed could not proceed to formal planning enforcement. Nearly 40% of closed cases had no enforceable planning breach, and for a quarter of cases planning enforcement action was not the most expedient next action.

Complaints relating to house conversion, unauthorised structures and departure from approved plans reflect more than half of complaints.

An analysis of legal instructions issued for planning breaches in 2005 and 2006, show that there was an increase of more than 600% between the two years, and an increase of more than 500% for prosecutions alone. These increases reflect increasing levels of activity and efficiency within the enforcement service, rather than an increased in offending.

Domestic Noise

Noise can have a significant impact on the wellbeing of residents. The development of a late night economy, the mixing of housing tenure, the increased use of outdoor spaces, fireworks and intruder alarms are all contributing to the overall level of noise complaints for the borough. The service expects to receive over 5,000 complaints each year with significant peaks during festivals, major sporting events, and in the summer months. Our housing estates can also be a major source of reported noise nuisance.

ENFORCEMENT STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Haringey Community Strategy – A sustainable way forward

Haringey's 2016 vision is for a place for diverse communities that people are proud to belong to. This strategy establishes a clear direction for the development of our enforcement priorities.

We need to ensure that our communities have pride in their neighbourhoods and environment. To achieve this we need to continue to improve the public realm, ensuring that neighbourhoods are cleaner, tidier more attractive and welcoming. Air quality should be improved. Communities need to feel safe and therefore we need to continue with our partners to reduce crime by focussing on crime hotspots and repeat offending.

We need to safe guard our buildings of heritage, whilst ensuring that new and developed housing is built to high standards. Housing can be a major factor in health inequality. Our homes should be energy efficient, affordable, settled and safe. We need to make the most of our housing to ensure we have a sufficient supply of affordable private sector housing, and reduce overcrowding.

Food and drink and our cultural industries are part of Haringey's 'unique selling point'. We need to support these strengths and our businesses as successful employers and providers of economic wellbeing.

Six priorities have been established for the strategy.

People at the heart of change

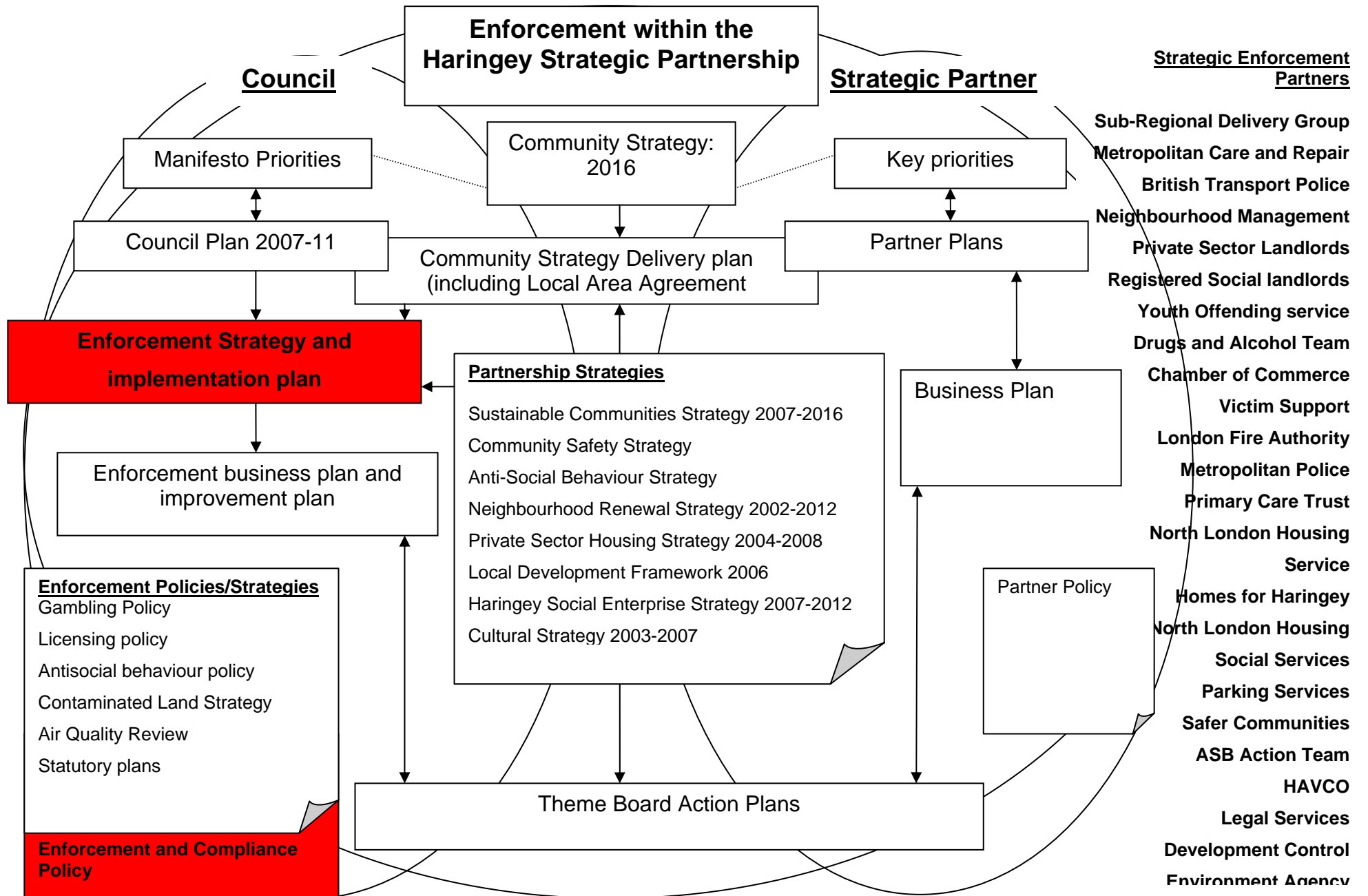
An environmentally sustainable future

Economic vitality and prosperity shared by all

Safer for all

Healthier people with a better quality of life

These priorities of the Haringey Strategic Partnership's Community Strategy determine and feed into individual partnership delivery strategies and Haringey Council's four year Council Plan. This enforcement strategy for the Council's Enforcement service will be delivered by an implementation plan which in turn will feed into the services annual business planning and improvement planning. as shown over page.



Enforcement Strategic Priorities

The enforcement service has developed four key priorities for driving and delivering the enforcement contribution to our Community Strategy.

A Safer, Cleaner and Sustainable Environment

Healthier Communities

Supporting Business Improvement

Effective and valued enforcement

PRIORITY ONE - A Safer, Cleaner and Sustainable Environment

Aims:

- To reverse and prevent unauthorised use and non permitted development
- To implement an enforcement tool for targeting unscrupulous, failing landlords
- To promote good citizenship and reduce the fear of crime
- To stop environmental crimes and the abuse of public spaces
- To act against landowners that neglect properties and create public eyesores

Examples of Good Practice in Haringey

Junior Wardens

Junior Wardens is delivered by the Street Warden Team and involves members of the Community Safety Partnership such as the police, fire-service and other council and outside agencies to deliver a package covering a range of subjects to children aged 5-11years. The programme has involved working with teachers, parents and pupils to educate and inform young people about the local street environment.

Operation Tailgate

A series of joint operations known as “Tailgate” has been built on joint planning and high visibility in some of the boroughs crime hotspots. Tactical Enforcement Officers are responsible for investigating, co-ordinating and targeting enforcement action on those perpetrators who continuously choose to flout the law and pose the greatest environmental risk to our communities. By working together and utilising all respective powers, operational partners and resources the heavy enforcement and environmental response team can strive to successfully target the boroughs repeat offenders and facilitate other partnerships and strategies in meeting their objectives.

Operation Stop it

This is an Enforcement operation which works along side Police officers from the Safer Neighbourhood Teams to identify and stop on the road vehicles carrying waste and check that they are appropriately licensed. We target location and routes associated with our known dumping hotspots and utilise new £300 fixed penalty notices to those caught offending. We also undertake mystery shopping inviting those that advertise removal of rubbish as a service to visit us at a location and catch those operating illegally.

PRIORITY TWO - Healthier Communities

Aims:

- To enforce the standards set for Houses in Multiple Occupation through the use of available licensing powers.
- To remove hazards identified within private rented dwelling which pose the greatest risk to the vulnerable occupants and increase the percentage of vulnerable people living in decent homes in the private sector
- To control the supply of illegal and dangerous goods and products. This will include the supply of age restricted products to children – e.g. alcohol, knives, tobacco
- To intervene to protect health at work; and to ensure the supply of safe food, products and services
- To reduce the health impact of pollution and nuisances, including noise, contaminated land, tobacco and other air pollutants.

Examples of Good Practice in Haringey

Helping to achieve decent homes.

Thermal comfort measures are currently offered to vulnerable residents living in non decent homes. 'here to HELP' a partnership initiative managed by British Gas was implemented in 2004. The initiative provides a holistic approach to support vulnerable households by offering energy efficiency measures, home security upgrades links to charity partners and a free benefit health check. Since 2004 – May 2006 the scheme has been responsible for delivering improved energy efficiency measures to over 2000 homes.

Licensing Houses in Multiple Occupation,

Mandatory licensing of HMOs has been successfully introduced and the council is a leading example in this area. The success is built upon strong publicity, engagement with landlords and tenants and discounts for early applications and accredited landlords. In the first year of implementation over 200 property applications were received.

Underage Sales

We operate a rolling programme of underage sales test purchasing. This programme ensures that every month we will target shops selling products which cannot be sold to children. Our programme includes alcohol, tobacco knives, solvents, fireworks and aerosol spray paints. Thirteen traders were prosecuted in 2006 for selling age restricted goods to underage test purchasers.

PRIORITY THREE - Supporting Successful Business

Aims

- To promote Haringey as a good borough to do business and to protect our vibrant and diverse business community.
- To encourage and support good landlords
- To support businesses and traders to achieve compliance with the regulations affecting them.
- To target organised criminal activity such as counterfeiting and illegal street trading which undermines legitimate business

Examples of Good Practice in Haringey

Landlord Accreditation and forums

Haringey's Enforcement service works together with other London boroughs in partnership to support the London Landlord Accreditation scheme. Training courses are run in the borough and the borough has over 200 accredited landlords which is in the top three of all London boroughs.

Safer Food Better Business.

Safer Food Better Business (SFBB) is an innovative and practical approach to food safety management. The Food Safety Team (FST) are part of a London wide initiative to provide over 100 Food Business's within the Borough with face-to-face support on the implementation of SFBB. Between May 2006 and February 2007 the Food Safety Team held 7 SFBB Workshops for 99 delegates.. One of the workshops solely targeted Turkish speaking Owners. All attendees are in the process of receiving a 1-2-1 coaching visit by a Haringey Food Safety Officer.

On line services

The Enforcement service extensively uses the Council website as an important media for information giving. The Enforcement Service website can now be used to access a range of online services for making a complaint to completing a licensing application form making the service readily accessible and up to date.

PRIORITY FOUR - Effective and valued service

Aims:

- To support area improvement and local action planning with communities
- To develop services through feedback and consultation
- To provide value for money, ensuring that our priorities for enforcement are matched by our use of available resources
- To produce highly trained and motivated staff who can provide a flexible approach to enforcement activity
- To improve our communication of enforcement outcomes and performance

Examples of Good Practice in Haringey

Environmental Crime - Promotional DVD

The Enforcement Service has produced a promotional film which describes the work of our Environmental Crime Teams. The film shows how we are tackling environmental crimes and has been widely circulated and used to demonstrate what we do and why we do it at promotional events and as an educational tool for our work in schools.

Innovation in information technology

Haringey Council were one of the first five boroughs to share trading standards data nationally. Haringey is one of the 16 London Boroughs to have successfully transferred from the Consumer Direct post office system to direct connectivity to enable for efficient and effective data sharing.

Green Lanes Strategy Group – Operation Tripod

Green Lanes is a dynamic commercial centre with residential roads running from the central shopping street. Around 30,000 residents include established Greek and Turkish-speaking immigrants and, more recently, Poles, Russians and Albanians. Businesses owned and managed by Turks or Kurds include shops and member-only clubs operating 24/7, reflecting their cultural heritage. Tensions grew between residents and traders, particularly concerning the 24-hour culture with key issues being waste, traffic and parking and unlicensed clubs. Operation Tripod was one part of the Council's response and was developed in participation with key decision-makers to tackle the issues where enforcement could work. In 2005, Haringey Council received beacon status for its work with local communities. A major factor in this recognition has been the success of the Green Lanes Strategy Group

ENFORCEMENT RESOURCES

The Enforcement Service

The Enforcement service consists of 4 operational service groups supported by an Enforcement Support Group providing business support and administrative support.

Commercial Services Group

The Commercial Services group consists of two Enforcement Teams covering Environmental Health and Trading Standards. The service has also developed a business liaison post to build our engagement with businesses

Commercial Environmental Health includes the functions of Pollution Control, Health and Safety at Work and Food Safety. Inspections for Food safety and Health & Safety at Work are operated through risk based programmes and supplemented by sampling a food programme. Response work includes the investigation of complaints and formal notification of incidents and accidents. Pollution control includes the implementation of a Contaminated Land Strategy and Air Quality Action Plan.

Trading Standards includes the enforcement of fair trading and consumer protection, together with the administration of the Licensing Authority role. Inspections for Trading Standards are operated through a risk based programme and supplemented by a test purchasing programme aimed at enforcing age restricted sales. Response work includes the investigation of complaints and formal notification of product reports.

Environmental Crime

The Environmental Crime group includes a team of Street Wardens service covering 3 scheme areas for Seven Sisters, Northumberland Park and West Green, Bowes Park and Noel Park. The service also operates finite deployments to other locations where there are crime or antisocial behaviour issues arising. The service seeks to provide a highly visible uniformed presence and works closely within scheme areas to develop close contacts with community groups and other bodies. Wardens develop local intelligence to support enforcement work and some wardens have been trained and authorised to undertake enforcement work. Wardens also undertake youth diversion projects to remove offending opportunities and develop skills and self esteem.

The Street Enforcement team includes uniformed officers undertaking full time enforcement. These officers operate across the borough provide a rapid response to reported incidents such as fly tipping and patrolling areas including known environmental crime hotspots. The service uses a broad range of enforcement powers including fixed penalty notices. The service enforces the following

- Street Trading
- Highways – permissions, obstructions and abuse of the highway
- Litter and fouling
- Trade Waste and carriers licensing
- Fly tipping
- Fly posting, graffiti and criminal damage
- Planning Enforcement – advertising hoardings, for sale /to let boards, satellite dishes and eyesores.

Housing and Health

A private sector housing enforcement team of officers delivers interventions according to the Private Sector Housing Strategy including health based interventions to remedy and remove housing risks in the private sector; the enforcement of HMO standards through licensing; and the return of empty properties through enforced sales and compulsory purchase powers. These officers also carry a case load of planning enforcement of unauthorised housing development including unauthorised HMOs and conversions.

Additionally the service provides specialist support to landlords in developing affordable and safe private sector housing.

Enforcement Response

Enforcement Response includes two operational groups. A team of area based officers and a team of officers focussed on out of hours offending and primarily on domestic noise nuisance.

Area Based officers are responsible for maintaining the business unit links with area groups, enforcement partners such as SNT teams and other area based stakeholders. They will negotiate and commit resources for the Business unit for area based action plans. They will also carry a case load of response enforcement work according to the priorities of an area including planning enforcement investigations.

Out of Office services provide a level of cover for all response work outside of normal working hours and provide additional backup to our daytime operations. The service provides a lead response on Noise and Licensing investigations but is commissioned to undertake other surveillance and interventions in support of daytime services. Services here are configured to provide a rapid response to noise nuisance and providing immediate relief and sanctions through the use of abatement and fixed penalty notice powers.

Enforcement Budget

The overall cost of the Enforcement business unit for 2007/8 is £6.6m with a contribution from Council resources of approximately £4.7m. The remainder is made up from income from our paid for services such as pest control, mortuary and coroners service, together with contributions from the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund, New Deal for Communities and Planning Delivery Grant. The payment of fixed penalty notices for environmental crimes is expected to be in the region of £75,000 for 2007/8.

Our budget for enforcement is aligned priorities, and has been increased for services delivering our priorities noise control, planning enforcement, empty properties action and environmental crime. However, increasing levels of enforcement being delivered also requires us to prioritise the formal action we take through the courts. To maximise our value for money our enforcement policy focuses on compliance without intervention, intelligence led tactical enforcement on rogue traders, partnership working and the use of alternative methods of disposing of offences, including the extended use of formal cautions and fixed penalty notices.

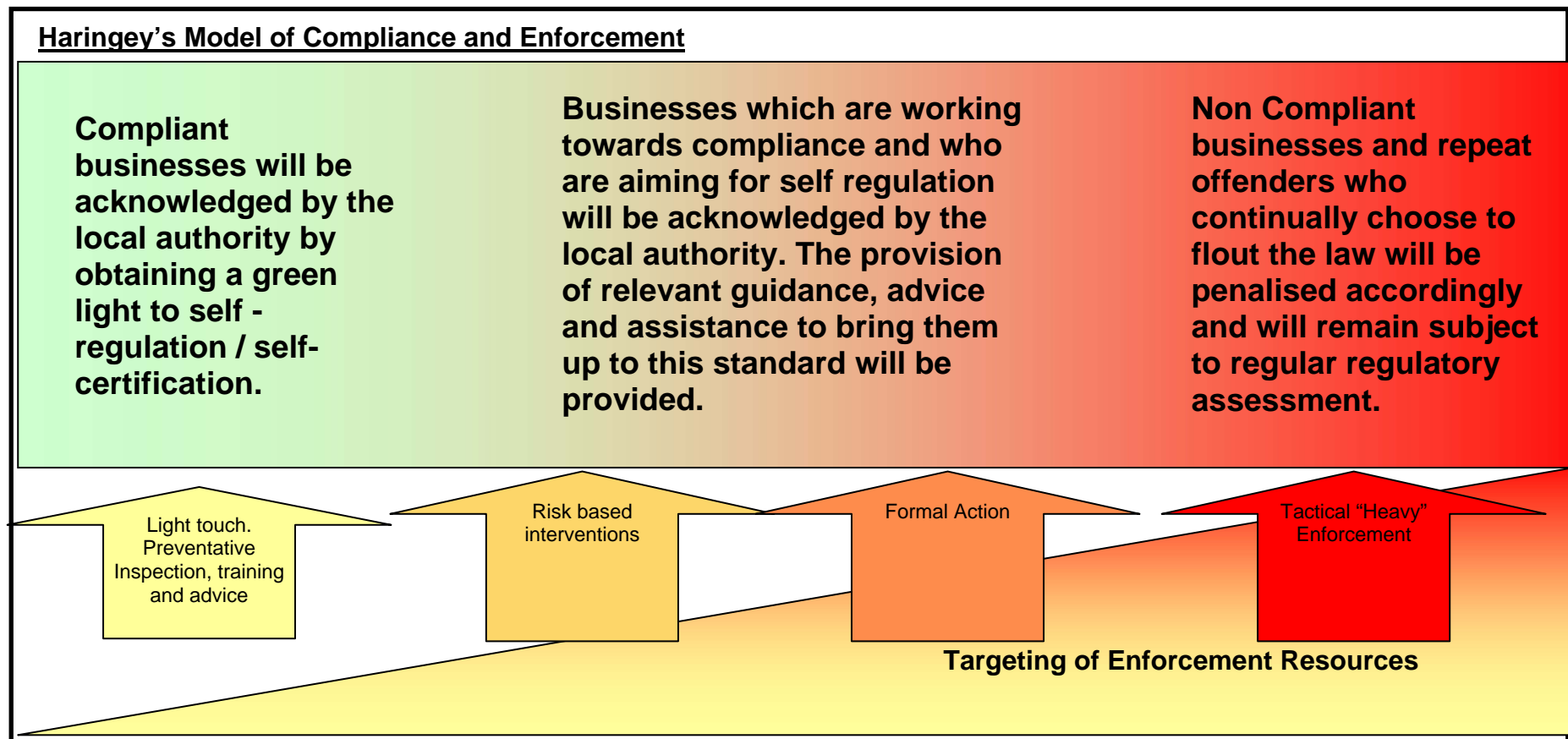
From our total expenditure, approximately £5m will be spent on salary related costs for enforcement as follows:-

Enforcement Resource	Principal Links to Enforcement Priorities	Percentage of total resource
Environmental Crime including street enforcement and street wardens	Priority One – Environmental crime, citizenship and fear of crime Priority Two – Tackling Organised Crime	29%
Commercial enforcement – including trading standards and environmental health	Priority Two – Controlling illegal supply of products; implementing smoking controls and air quality improvement Priority Three – Supporting business and tackling organised crime	29%
Enforcement Response - Out of hour enforcement including noise and licensing	Priority Two – Stopping nuisance Priority Three – Supporting business Priority Four – Area based local action planning	13%
Planning Enforcement	Priority One - Unauthorised development, environmental crime combating eyesores	6%
Housing and Health/private sector housing enforcement	Priority One – Combating problem landlords and empty properties Priority Two – Control of Houses in Multiple Occupation. Priority Three – Supporting Landlords	23%

DELIVERING OUR ENFORCEMENT STRATEGY

It is our aim to provide an enforcement service that ensures that businesses and individuals are encouraged and supported in compliant behaviour with targeted use of enforcement powers to prevent re-offending.. To do this we will:-

- Establish initiatives that raise awareness of offending, good practice and which builds self assessment and regulation for business
- We will use with risk based assessments to ensure that it we provide targeted and proportionate enforcement.
- We will, with our enforcement partners take the toughest possible action on priority crimes for Haringey, repeat and deliberate criminal behaviour.



We will seek to maximise the effectiveness of enforcement through

- the use community and partnership intelligence to identify criminal behaviour,
- the deployment of covert and overt surveillance including the use of highly visible activity
- the use problem solving and scanning techniques
- joint working and operations with our enforcement partners
- an increase or out of hours activity and operations in response to a developing 24 hour society and late night economy.
- early interventions to stop offending when it happens
- using the most effective powers available and where possible developing local byelaws where powers need to be strengthened.

Enforcement Policy and Priority Crimes

The Council recognises the importance of ensuring that all enforcement decisions are clearly explained, consistent and proportionate, in order to protect the public. Our Enforcement Policy sets out the principles that will guide all of our enforcement activity and establish a clear basis for the enforcement interventions we make. Our policy provides a hierarchy of enforcement actions available the service and through the use of gravity factors establishes a basis for taking tough enforcement action on priority crimes for Haringey.

Our policy will also ensure that staff will work to the Council's Customer Care standards to ensure that everyone is treated fairly, regardless of their age, religion, sex, disability, sexuality or ethnic background.

Tactical Enforcement

All service groups within Enforcement contain a Tactical Enforcement resource for deployment on the highest priority enforcement issues. Some, but not all, tactical enforcement targets will reflect organised criminal behaviour and demonstrate prolific offending across crime areas. Tactical Enforcement themes currently include -

- Nuisance garages – dealing with motor vehicle trade offences, abuse of highway, and control of waste and nuisance behaviour.
- Problem Social Clubs – dealing with licensing, planning, nuisance and illegal trading activities. Premises can become a magnet for other criminal activities.
- Public Eyesores – a programme of hotspot locations in the borough which have a detrimental impact on an area. Issues can include planning, environmental crime offences.
- Problem Landlords – dealing with landlords and letting agents that consistently flout housing standards, planning controls and which allow nuisance behaviour to exist in badly managed premises.

- Organised Crime - Traders operating in the informal economy are also often prominent and prolific offenders. They can be engaged in product counterfeiting, the introduction of illegal goods or the reintroduction of stolen goods to the market place, criminal deceptions, food adulteration, substitution and fraud or supply chain or long form frauds.
- Empty properties - persistently empty properties can become a magnet for environmental crime and antisocial behaviour. Enforcement action provides a route for bringing such premises back into use.

Tactical Enforcement officers will operate from within the service groups but will also operate collectively on joint operations to establish cross service communications on enforcement targets. This will ensure that we prioritise our resources on our highest priority targets and ensure that will maximise the involvement of other enforcement partners. This tactical to approach is also called “heavy enforcement”. A Tactical Response Planning Group coordinates the use of intelligence to plan joint enforcement operations. The flow of information through the service and which is used to plan tactical enforcement targets is shown in the chart below. See Appendix A.

Working with Neighbourhoods and Area Based interventions

Haringey Council as part of its community involvement plan declared seven area assemblies across the borough. Neighborhood Managers work through the council’s seven area assemblies bringing the council and other agencies together with local people to tackle local problems. Area based working through joint partnerships with the community, police and other agencies allows for targeted, evidence based, tactical enforcement work specific to the concerns of that community group.

Partnership Working

Partnerships are key to the delivery of services across the local authority as a whole, the development and use of effective partnership can be seen through the work of the HSP and the Community Strategy and the work being carried out through the Local Area Agreement. The Enforcement Service has developed very successful partnerships with both internal service providers and external stakeholders. These partnerships have enabled the enforcement service to carryout successful targeted and tactical joint operations, which have been highly organised and intelligence led.

A varied and expanding programme of joint operations has been developed over the past three years between the Environmental Crime Group our internal and external partners such as the Police, DAAT, Safer, stronger Communities Team, Housing and ASBAT.

Strategic Implementation and Action Plan

The Enforcement Strategy will be delivered through the Enforcement Strategy Implementation Plan that will form part of the Enforcement Business Unit annual service plan.. This will be developed through consultation and reviewed each year.

Appendix A Intelligence led Tactical Enforcement

