



Derby City Council

**COUNCIL CABINET**  
**30 April 2014**

**ITEM 13**

Report of the Cabinet Member for Streetpride  
and Neighbourhoods

## **Responding to Organised Crime Groups**

### **SUMMARY**

- 1.1 The 2014-15 strategic intelligence assessment identifies organised crime groups as having a changing and increasing impact upon crime and the economy in the city. The Labour-led council is committed to tackling the problem of organised crime in the city by targeting those groups who cause most harm to communities and our local economy. The Council's approach will be tough on organised crime with a campaign in partnership with other local and regional partners, aimed at pursuit and disruption to dismantle these groups.

Organised Crime Groups (OCGs) exist primarily for financial gain and status, taking advantage of technological trends, economic climate, drugs markets and targeting vulnerable individuals and communities. OCGs can be defined as 'individuals working with others, with the intent and capability to commit serious crime on a continuing basis, which includes elements of planning, control, co-ordination, structure and group decision-making. OCGs can and do impact across a number of areas:

- Operating within the hidden economy, impacting upon tax revenues and legitimate business
- Fraud, across a range of areas particularly benefits, illicit alcohol and cigarettes. Recent reports by the Audit Commission indicate that local authorities across the country are subjected to fraud, totalling £178 million, of which £120 million is council tax and housing benefit related
- Control and management of drug markets. OCGs are responsible for the distribution of Class A drugs in the city, with a small number of OCGs being responsible for the majority of drug supply. OCGs are also involved in the local production and supply of cannabis and the associated laundering of money through 'legitimate' business fronts such as car washes, nail bars, pubs and take- aways.
- OCGs are responsible for human trafficking, in the movement of vulnerable individuals from Eastern Europe to Derby, leading to what many now call 'modern day slavery' This also includes sexual exploitation of children and young people.
- Derby's most notorious urban street gang (USG), the A1 have been successfully disrupted to the extent that there is no longer an identified risk and

threat in relation to USGs. However a number of key former A1 nominals now operate as and within OCGs in the supply of Class A drugs

- Derby has 19 profiled Organised Crime Groups, operating across a number of crime areas and communities

1.2 OCGs have a significant impact upon Derby's local economy, are engaged in fraud across a range of agencies but particularly the city council, impact upon confidence in specific inner city communities, are responsible for serious crime, human trafficking and control of drug markets

1.3 The 2014-15 strategic intelligence assessment identifies the above and identifies further some key findings:

- OCGs are becoming increasingly sophisticated, with regional and international links, highlighted by the recent Home Office research on OCGs titled, 'From Global to Local'. OCGs unlike urban street gangs seek to avoid detection and operate below the radar of many public agencies
- Corruption may be an issue and is currently a gap in knowledge and intelligence
- There is a need to improve partnership working in relation to OCGs as partners, especially local authorities can play a crucial role in the prevention and disruption of OCGs
- The Normanton area of Derby remains a focal point for police and partners. Drug OCGs are well established in this community and the emergence of human trafficking OCGs from Eastern Europe (operation Attwood for example) pose an increased risk of OCG activity in this part of the city
- Identification and management of OCGs needs to be improved

1.4 Alongside these local issues and increased understanding of OCGs, linked to the reduction in Urban Street Gang activity, the Government have recently published a new OCG strategy. This strategy has at a local level 3 major recommendations:

1. To develop local OCG strategies with a focus on Pursue, Prevent, Protect and Prepare
2. To develop local OCG profiles, to identify, profile and assess the risk and threat of local OCGs
3. To develop local OCG Partnership Groups to target OCGs in the 4 identified work areas in the Home office strategy

## **RECOMMENDATION**

2.1 To contribute to and support the Police in developing an OCG local profile

- 2.2 To agree to develop and contribute, across a range of council service areas, in the setting up of a local OCG partnership group

<b>REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION</b>
-----------------------------------

- 3.1 To respond to the identified risk and threat in Section 1
- 3.2 To deliver at a local level the Home Office strategy and a more effective response to the prevention and disruption of OCGs



Derby City Council

## COUNCIL CABINET

30 April 2014

### Report of the Strategic Director for Neighbourhoods

#### **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

- 4.1 The local OCG partnership group consists of the following council service areas alongside key local and regional partners.
- Community Safety: provide leadership and co-ordination of the work and share intelligence and OCG profiles. Lead on the disruption element of OCG plans
  - Trading Standards: Target with enforcement OCGs operating counterfeit goods and money laundering
  - Planning: Enforcement activity in relation to planning.
  - Derby Homes: Tenancy enforcement targeted at OCG families
  - Benefit Fraud: Housing and Council Tax Benefit Fraud and issues relating to trafficking
  - Police: Enforcement via Operation Redshank, Investigations and OCG Profiling
  - UK Border Agency: Intelligence sharing, immigration legislation enforcement
  - Department of Work and Pensions: Benefit Fraud
  - Serious and Organized Crime Agency: Regional intelligence sharing and resources
  - HMRC: Money laundering, Tax avoidance and enforcement
  - Gambling Commission: Money laundering.

#### **OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 5.1 None

**This report has been approved by the following officers:**

<b>Legal officer</b> <b>Financial officer</b> <b>Human Resources officer</b> <b>Estates/Property officer</b> <b>Service Director(s)</b> <b>Other(s)</b>	Consultation on this policy approach to pursuing and disrupting OCGs has been agreed with the key agencies identified in 4.1  Tim Clegg Service Director Streetpride and Partnerships
<b>For more information contact:</b> <b>Background papers:</b> <b>List of appendices:</b>	Andy Thomas 01332 643020 andy.thomas@derby.gov.uk None Appendix 1 – Implications

<b>IMPLICATIONS</b>
---------------------

**Financial and Value for Money**

- 1.1 The above proposal is delivered within existing resources

**Legal**

- 2.1 The local response to OCGs and Home Office are non-statutory requirements

**Personnel**

- 3.1 None

**Equalities Impact**

- 4.1 By tackling OCGs more effectively the more vulnerable individuals and communities will be better protected and less vulnerable to becoming victims of organised crime

**Health and Safety**

- 5.1 None

**Environmental Sustainability**

- 6.1 None

**Property and Asset Management**

- 7.1 None

**Risk Management**

- 8.1 None

**Corporate objectives and priorities for change**

- 9.1 Creating safer, stronger communities