

# Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Joint Policing Committee Annual Report 2017

## Introduction

Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Joint Policing Committee (JPC) was established in 2009 and is a partnership between Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council, An Garda Síochána and the Community. The membership comprises of senior Garda Officers, elected Councillors and Oireachtas members and representatives of community & voluntary groups.

The DLR Joint Policing Committee is intended to be a forum for discussion and a means of building confidence, trust and safety in the County. In doing this, the DLR JPC seeks to prioritise key community policing policy issues and identify initiatives which will contribute to improved community policing and prevention or reduction of future crime in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown.

## Role of the JPC

The legislative frame work for the establishment of Joint Policing Committees is set out in Section 36 of An Garda Síochána Act 2005 and the amendments to this Act in 2014. Section 36(2) of the Act provides that a JPC's function is to serve as a forum for consultations, discussions and recommendations on matters affecting the policing of the local authority's administrative area, and in particular to:-

36.—

*(2) The joint policing committee's function is to serve as a forum for consultations, discussions and recommendations on matters affecting the policing of the local authority's administrative area, and in particular to—*

*(a) keep under review—*

*(i) the levels and patterns of crime, disorder and antisocial behaviour in that area (including the patterns and levels of misuse of alcohol and drugs), and*

*(ii) the factors underlying and contributing to the levels of crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour in the area,*

*(b) advise the local authority concerned and the Garda Síochána on how they might best perform their functions having regard to the need to do everything feasible to improve the safety and quality of life and to prevent crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour within the area,*

*(c) arrange and host public meetings concerning matters affecting the policing of the local authority's administrative area,*

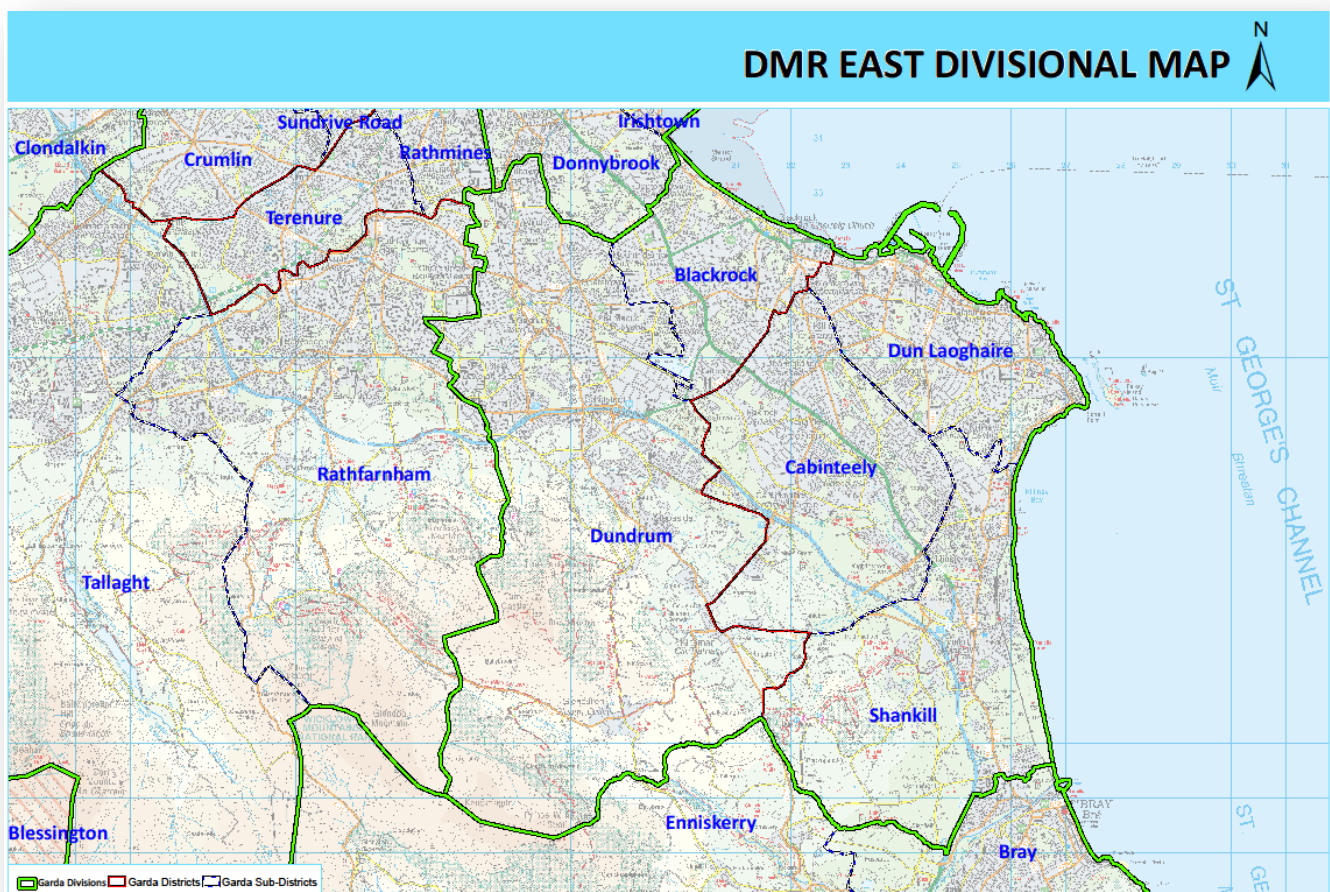
(d) establish, in consultation with the local Garda superintendent, as the committee considers necessary within specific neighbourhoods of the area, local policing fora to discuss and make recommendations to the committee concerning matters that it is to keep under review under paragraph (a) or on which it is to advise under paragraph (b), in so far as those matters affect their neighbourhoods, and

(e) co-ordinate the activities of local policing fora established under paragraph (d) or otherwise.

## Garda Districts Covered by the Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Joint Policing Committee

The majority of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown is located within the Dublin Metropolitan East District.

Within the DMR East District, there are two sub districts of "F" covering Dún Laoghaire, Shankill and Cabinteely and "W" covering Blackrock, Stillorgan and Dundrum areas.



## Joint Policing Committee Meetings in 2017

In 2017, the DLR Joint Policing Committee was chaired by Cllr Mary Hanafin. The JPC held three (3) meetings in 2017 on March 8th, June 8th and November 15th.

There was attendance and input to a workshop by the Policing Authority for JPC Chairperson's and Chief Executives representatives regarding policing priorities in July 2017.

### Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Joint Policing Committee Membership 2017

Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council	
Cllr. Barry Saul	Elected representative
Cllr. Barry Ward	Elected representative
Cllr. Chris Curran	Elected representative
Cllr. Cormac Devlin	Elected representative
Cllr. Deirdre Donnelly	Elected representative
Cllr. Deirdre Kingston	Elected representative
Cllr. John Kennedy	Elected representative
Cllr. Liam Dockery	Elected representative
Cllr. Lynsey McGovern	Elected representative
Cllr. Mary Hanafin <i>Chairperson</i>	Elected representative
Cllr. Michael Merrigan	Elected representative
Cllr. Ossian Smyth	Elected representative
Cllr. Patricia Stewart	Elected representative
Cllr. Peter O' Brien	Elected representative
Cllr. Shay Brennan	Elected representative
Dearbhla Lawson	Director of Service, EC&CD.
Dave Lawless	Administrative Officer EC&CD
An Garda Síochána	
Michael Daly	Chief Superintendent
Martin Fitzgerald	Superintendent
Community Representatives	
Gay Wright	DLR Public Participation Network
Anne Harrington	DLR Public Participation Network
Richard Phillips	DLR Public Participation Network
Tony McCarthy	DLR Public Participation Network
Gina Hogan,	Loughlinstown, Shankill LPF
Reverend Asa Bjork	Dun Laoghaire, LPF
Vacant	Sandyford / Stepside LPF
Barry Cullen	DLR Drugs & Alcohol Task Force
Members of the Oireachtas	
Deputy Catherine Martin	Dáil Éireann
Senator Gerry Horkan	Seanad Éireann

## Changes in Membership in 2017

Chief Superintendent Gerry Russell, Orla McPartlin and Michael Daly held the position of district officer for the DMR East in 2017 and attended or were represented at the March, June and November meetings of the DLR JPC respectively. Expressions of interest were received from Deputy Catherine Martin and Senator Gerry Horkan. It was proposed and agreed that both Deputy Catherine Martin and Senator Gerry Horkan would be included as members of the DLR JPC. Barry Cullen was also nominated onto the DLR JPC representing the DLR Drugs & Alcohol Task Force.

## Joint Policing Committee work programme

A six year Strategic Plan was developed for the DLRJPC and adopted in June 2016.

The JPC Strategic Plan 2016-2021 contains 18 individual actions across three strategic Goals:

- 1. Supporting and promoting Crime Prevention in DLR*
- 2. Enhancing Community Safety & Security in DLR*
- 3. Facilitating Community Engagement and Collaboration on Safety Issues*

The 2017 Work Plan was based on the current guidelines and code of practice which apply to JPCs and the Goals/Actions set out in the Strategic Plan.



## Highlights/Achievements for 2017

### **1. Supporting and promoting Crime Prevention in DLR**

**Age Friendly County** – An information and entertainment evening for 50 older people residing in the Ballybrack area that would not normally attend social outings or events, was organised by the Gardaí with financial support from the Local Authority and the Lions Club, as part of the DLR Festival of Inclusion in October. Information packs on crime prevention were given to each person attending.

A Community Safety and Security Event for older people, organised by GOPA, was held on 12th October, with presentations on: Safety and Security by the Garda Crime Prevention Officer, Elder Abuse by the HSE and Accident Prevention by the HSE

As well as supporting 141 **Neighbourhood Watch Schemes** across the County, the Gardaí worked with relevant parties to establish **Hospital Watch**, **Campus Watch** and **Bus Watch** in 2017.

**CCTV** - An Garda Síochána established a sub-group to explore the future strategic CCTV needs of the County using An Garda Síochána Crime statistics and analysis to determine the CCTV priority needs / locations within the County, and research the long term benefits of any proposed scheme and to quantify the infrastructure and resources required. A Report was developed on the context and key issues that should be taken into account when considering future CCTV schemes. It was agreed that any future strategic schemes of CCTV will need to be developed and led by An Garda Síochána and Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council.

## **2. Enhancing Community Safety & Security in DLR**

**Operation Thor** - Operation Thor involves the use of intelligence led policing to target particular burglary gangs using the motorway infrastructure to access the more affluent areas, as well as those individuals living in the Division and known to be involved in burglary and related crimes.

- Funding was secured for Operation Thor in 2017
- Number of burglaries decreased by 9% up to 29th October 2017 in the DMR East Division

**Dunedin** - A security review was carried out by dlr Anti-Social Behaviour Section and the Gardaí with a number of recommendations made, which were implemented in 2017 and which resulted in reduced levels of ASB. These included:

- CCTV installed with help of funding from the Dept of Housing, Planning & Local Government under Anti-Litter/Anti-Social Behaviour initiative. A supporting letter from the Gardaí was provided and accompanied the grant application
- Lighting improved
- Old Eircom site secured
- High visibility patrols carried out by the Gardaí
- Interventions by dlr Anti-Social Behaviour and the Gardaí

**Road Safety Initiatives** - The DLR AXA Safety Road Show took place on 2nd and 3rd October at full capacity of 2,600 people. The Show specifically targeted teachers and Transition Year students and featured exciting and highly interactive displays aimed at reinforcing road safety in a dynamic context. All feedback generated was very positive.

Stay Bright on Fright Night took place on 29th October with between 1000-1500 children targeted as part of its on-going Road Safety Awareness Campaign.

A meeting with transport providers and other front line service providers took place on 1st June, as part of Operation Irene 2017. Very positive feedback on Operation Irene was reported at LPF meeting.



### **3. Community Engagement and Collaboration**

**Local Policing Forums Review** - A review of the Local Policing Forums was commenced in 2017 with a number of workshops/meetings with stakeholders organised. Final report with recommendations expected to be completed in Q1 2018 for presentation to JPC.

**Social Inclusion** - An Intercultural Family Garda Open Day took place, as part of the DLR Festival of Social Inclusion, at Dún Laoghaire Garda Station on 7th October, with a view to creating awareness of the role Gardaí play in Irish society. Music was provided by the Garda Band, while tours of the Garda Station took place and specialised units were on hand to show and explain their roles.

**Garda Youth Diversion Programmes** in 3 locations continued to work well in 2017 – Ballyogan, Loughlinstown/Ballybrack and Stepside. These projects aim to help children move away from behaving in a way that might get them or their friends into trouble with the law and children develop their sense of community and their social skills through different activities. The projects offer opportunities for education, employment training, sport, art, music and other activities.

A **multi-agency group**, based on the SARA policing model, was established to address specific issues relating to concerns regarding youth activity in the Shanganagh/Rathsallagh area. Agencies worked together to identify opportunities for positive youth engagement and involvement of Youth Leaders in the area.

## **Development of Local Policing Forums in the County**

There are three Local Policing Forums established in the County under the auspice of the Joint Policing Committee. These include:

1. Loughlinstown/Shankill & Ballybrack (Chaired by Insp. James Murphy)
2. Sandyford/Stepaside (Chaired by Insp. John O' Driscoll)
3. Central Dún Laoghaire (Chaired by Insp. Tom Condon)

The role of these Policing Forums is to enhance the collaboration and communication between An Garda Síochána, Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council, the main Transport companies, and local Residents' Associations and organisations.

Each of the LPF's met 6 times in 2017 and worked to address local concerns and issues.

## Monitoring of key safety/security issues in the County

The Chief Superintendent presented an overview of the key policing priorities for the DMR East District at each of the DLR JPC meetings, noting some of the key crime statistics and approaches proposed to address identified priorities.

Progress reports on the JPC Strategic Plan 2016-2021 were provided at each JPC Meeting as well as updates on the LPF Work Plans.

There was attendance and input to a workshop by the Policing Authority for JPC Chairpersons and Chief Executives' representatives regarding policing priorities in July 2017.

The Policing Authority has made its submission to the Commission on the Future of Policing in Ireland. The Commission on the Future of Policing represents a significant moment in the evolution of the Garda Síochána. It is an important opportunity for the country to reflect on and consider its experience of, relationship with and aspirations for the national policing service. The outcomes of this process will impact on policing in Ireland for many years ahead.

The Authority's submission to the Commission on the Future of Policing comprises high-level observations ranging across key themes – Structure, Oversight and Accountability, Performance, Recruitment, Training and Workforce Composition, Internal investigation and discipline, Transparency Culture, Ethics and Human Rights.