

Partnership Day of Action Boosts Safety Across Romford Town Centre

Romford BID, in partnership with the Metropolitan Police, Havering Enforcement, MLB and town centre security teams, delivered a coordinated Day of Action in Romford Town Centre on Thursday 2 July, reinforcing Romford BID's continued commitment to tackling crime, reducing anti-social behaviour and supporting local businesses. This date was chosen as it fell within Antisocial Behaviour Awareness Week.

The operation brought together police officers, PCSOs, Havering Enforcement officers, security teams from Romford's shopping centres and Romford BID representatives, providing a strong and highly visible presence across the town centre throughout the day.

The Day of Action began with a breakfast briefing at the Salvation Army, where all partners came together to share intelligence, outline operational priorities and coordinate action plans before officers and partners were deployed across the town centre.

Throughout the day, joint patrols took place across key locations including the town centre, Liberty Shopping Centre, Mercury Mall, The Brewery and Romford Station. Attention was given to tackling anti-social behaviour, addressing concerns around begging and rough sleeping, and providing reassurance to businesses, workers and visitors.

Teams remained active across Romford from morning through to the afternoon, working collaboratively to address key issues and maintain a safe and welcoming environment. As a result, several positive enforcement outcomes were achieved, including five arrests (for assaulting police officers x2, theft, breach of a Criminal Behaviour Order (CBO), possession of Class A drugs, and failing to appear), six stop and searches, and five crime reports recorded (shoplifting x2, possession of Class A drugs, assault on a police officer, and theft by finding). In addition, one missing person was located and returned home safe and well.

Dedicated Crime Prevention Stands also operated at Romford Station, Starbucks in the Liberty Shopping Centre and McDonald's on South Street. These engagement points provided crime prevention advice, support for local businesses and residents, and opportunities for members of the public to speak directly with officers and partners about community safety concerns. Further Days of Action will continue throughout the year to build on this momentum.

Julie Frost, Romford BID Director, said: **"Our Partnership Days of Action demonstrate the strength of the collaborative approach we have built in Romford. By bringing together the Metropolitan Police, Havering Enforcement, our shopping centre security teams and Romford BID, we can deliver a highly visible presence that reassures businesses, workers and visitors while proactively tackling crime and anti-social behaviour. These operations are an important part of our ongoing commitment to keeping Romford a safe and welcoming destination."**

Councillor Terry Brown, Havering's Cabinet Member for Public Protection, said: **"We want to help make our borough safe for our residents and our visitors. This day of action as part of Antisocial Awareness Week is one of the many things we do together with our partners to help our town centres be safe and enjoyable places to be. We won't tolerate antisocial behaviour and will continue to support the police in cracking down on those who commit crime in our borough. These days of action also show us working together with the community, including local businesses, residents and visitors, listening to concerns so we can work with them to help towards the prevention of crime and antisocial behaviour. We all have a part to play, from reporting crime and antisocial behaviour to dealing with it and help make our borough a safe place to be."**

Inspector Peter Kirk said: **"Today wasn't just about enforcement – it was about working together for our community. Having police officers, council teams and partner organisations side by side meant we could deal with local issues more effectively and speak with businesses & residents face to face. The feedback we've received shows how much people value seeing agencies working together, and we're committed to building on that. We all want Romford to be a place where people feel safe and proud of where they live, and partnership days like this are an important part of making that happen."**