

**EXETER CITY COUNCIL**

**SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – ECONOMY  
6 MARCH 2014**

**EXETER BUSINESSES AGAINST CRIME**

**1. PURPOSE**

- 1.1 At its meeting on 6 March, Scrutiny Committee – Economy will receive a presentation on the work of Exeter Businesses Against Crime (EBAC). This brief report gives a brief overview of EBAC and sets out key data on membership levels/crime reports as useful background for the presentation.

**2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 Exeter Businesses Against Crime was launched in March 2006, with the ‘Pubwatch’ scheme being incorporated in to EBAC in the same year.
- 2.2 EBAC is primarily focused on the City Centre and tasked with ‘reducing business crime’, more specifically on tackling both shoplifting and anti-social activity and crime.
- 2.3 EBAC interfaces with other business crime partnerships across the southwest and beyond.

**3. SUMMARY OF WORK**

- 3.1 Current EBAC membership stands at 111, with Pubwatch membership standing at 42. Membership has shown a slight increase since launch, with membership levels as follows:
- Launch – EBAC 105/Pubwatch 31.
  - 2012 – EBAC 106/Pubwatch 40.
  - 2013 – EBAC 107/Pubwatch 43.
  - 2014 – EBAC 111/Pubwatch 42.
- 3.2 Incident reports are collected from EBAC members and these provide a sound indicator of progress in driving down business crime. Incident report statistics are set out below:
- Launch – 1464.
  - 2012 – 630.
  - 2013 – 453.
- 3.3 EBAC has a close interface with the City Council’s CCTV Control Room, Police, Guildhall Shopping Centre & Princesshay security teams and individuals businesses.
- 3.4 Management of EBAC is undertaken by Anthony Couch, Business Crime Manager, who in turn reports to the City Centre Manager.

**4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 EBAC is self-funding, with operating costs met through membership fees.

4.2 EBAC made a financial surplus in 2010/11 (£3,018.27), 2011/12 (£3,474.36) and 2012/13 (£3,471.82) and it is anticipated a surplus will again be made in 2013/14. The financial surplus has been ploughed back in to year-on-year scheme development – creating a sound foundation for continued membership growth.

**5. RECOMMENDATION that:**

5.1 Scrutiny supports the on-going work of EBAC and notes the significant contribution EBAC makes to reducing levels of both business crime and anti-social behaviour.

**JOHN HARVEY  
CITY CENTRE MANAGER**

**ECONOMY DIRECTORATE**

**Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 (as amended)  
Background papers used in compiling this report: None**