

Tilley Awards 2007

Application form

Please ensure that you have read the guidance before completing this form. **By making an application to the awards, entrants are agreeing to abide by the conditions laid out in the guidance.** Please complete the following form in full, **within the stated word limit and ensuring the file size is no more than 1MB.** Failure to do so will result in your entry being rejected from the competition.

Completed application forms should **be e-mailed to tilleyawards07@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk**

All entries must be received by noon on **Friday 27th April 2007**. No entries will be accepted after this time/date. Any queries on the application process should be directed to Alex Blackwell on 0207 035 4811. Any queries regarding publicity of the awards should be directed to Chaz Akoshile on 0207 035 1589.

1. Details of application

Title of the project '**Operation Loophole**'

Name of force/agency/CDRP: Merseyside Police / Liverpool Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership.
'CITYSAFE'

Name of one contact person with position/rank (this should be one of the authors):
Constable Ian Thompson –Community Safety Liaison Officer –
Liverpool Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership.

Email address:
Ian.C.Thompson@merseyside.police.uk

Full postal address:

Merseyside Police
Eaton Road Police Station,
West Derby,
Liverpool.
L123HF
Telephone number: 0151 777 4451

Fax number 0151 777 4417

Government Office For the North West

Name of endorsing senior representatives(s)

Superintendent Nick Phillips (Seconded Police Superintendent to Liverpool City Council – Assistant Executive Director Community Safety.)

Superintendent Stephen Ashley – Liverpool North
Superintendent David Labdon – Liverpool South

Position and rank of endorsing senior representatives(s) Police Superintendents Merseyside Police

Full address of endorsing senior representatives(s)

Mr Phillips
Liverpool City Council
Millennium House,
60 Victoria street,
Liverpool.
L16JD

Superintendents Ashley / Labdon
Merseyside Police Headquarters
Canning Place
Liverpool
L691JD

Please tick box to indicate that all organizations involved in the project have been notified of this entry (this is to prevent duplicate entries of the same project)

2. Summary of application

In no more than 400 words please use this space to describe your project. (see guidance for more information).

The Liverpool Loophline is a 12-mile stretch of a former railway line, which runs across the City of Liverpool from Halewood to Aintree. The line crosses three Basic Command Units, two Local Authority areas and numerous ward and neighbourhood management area boundaries. The Loophline has been transformed into a recreational resource as a linear park ideal for walking and cycling. The maintenance of the Loophline is carried out by a registered charity, SUSTRANS and the Loophline also forms part of the Trans Pennine cycle route.

Historically, the Loophline was run down, overgrown and an unattractive grot spot. This attracted criminality and anti-social behaviour leading to unacceptable levels of street crime and volume crime with an associated fear of crime and disorder for people using the line and / or living in close proximity to it - estimated at approximately 250,000 residents across Liverpool.

In the summer of 2003 action was taken to deal with the issues. Merseyside Police joined with a number of partner agencies including SUSTRANS / Local Authorities – therefore ‘Operation Loophline’ was born as an holistic, problem solving approach to tackling immediate issues head-on whilst building in sustainability.

Operation Loophline is one of the most innovative cross-border multi-agency police driven initiatives. Tackling crime and disorder and anti-social behaviour targeting finite resources at critical locations: using crime pattern analysis, local community intelligence, local knowledge and strict adherence to the SARA process and problem solving model, Operation Loophline continues to deliver outstanding results.

Operations Loophline 1 and 2 were funded primarily via the Home Office Streetcrime Fund. Operation Loophline 3 was also co-funded by Liverpool Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership with additional emphasis on partnership working.

The Liverpool partnership has exclusively funded Loophline 3 and 4 Key elements to this have been to increase public reassurance and satisfaction as well as stretching the teams performance and accountability and the inclusion of other partners agencies.

Part of the exit strategy is always looking for continual improvement and seeking innovative ways of

designing out of crime, a key feature of the multi agency run operation is a public perception survey that is carried out on the conclusion of the operation. Consequently a paper has been submitted to the Crime Reduction College incorporating an effective 'blue print' in how to design out crime.

3. Description of project

Describe the project following the guidance given in no more than 4000 words (see guidance for more information in particular Section 7 – judging criteria)

Operational Objectives

- ❖ To work in partnership improving public satisfaction and community reassurance.
- ❖ To reduce, prevent and detect crime and robustly deal with offenders.
- ❖ To reduce and prevent disorder including incidents related to drugs and alcohol misuse.
- ❖ To provide high visibility patrolling within Loopline in order to reduce incidents as they affect the quality of life of the community. *This will also enhance the public perception of a safer environment and increase public confidence and satisfaction with partner's agencies. It will also see a greater community use of the loopline, increasing the health of local people for exercise using the loopline for recreational walking and cycling.*
- ❖ To work effectively at engaging young people in diversionary activities offered as part of the Cardinal Heenan Summer Splash Project. Police officers will also visit schools prior to the operation to educate them on the effects of ASB in the area during the school holidays. The officers will link in with the Arson Reduction Officer from the Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service.
- ❖ To ensure the effective management of resources available to successfully achieve the above objectives.
- ❖ To respond effectively with any emergency that arises.

Operation Loop Line covers three Basic Command Units Liverpool North / Liverpool South and Knowsley

The operation is aimed at reducing crime and disorder on the Loopline. The operation will specifically tackle anti-social behaviour in and around the Loop-line in harmony with current anti-social behaviour campaigns. The operation will help improve public confidence and satisfaction through Neighbourhood Policing.

Targeted Activity

Week 1- 2	Criminal damage and littering
Week 3-4-5	Inappropriate use of vehicles
Week 6-7	Separating young people from drugs and alcohol

The aim of the operation is to reduce all aspects of criminality both on and in the immediate area of the Loopline.

Anti social behaviour and the associated offences are linked to the misuse of drugs and alcohol by youth offenders. The geography of the operation will be the 12-mile stretch of Liverpool Loop-line from Halewood to Aintree. Officers will patrol the line and a corridor of 500 metres on both sides of the line. In addition officers will be encouraged to patrol local hot spots and hospital car parks.

In addition the operation will also extend to cover local parks including Croxteth Country Park / Walton Hall Park and also Springfield park. The operation will be using cycle both police officers and Community support officers, using both plain-clothes and high visibility resources from specialist departments. The operation is normally staffed by one sergeant, six constables and has recently used four Community Support Officers. The shift pattern is be reflected by local need and demand, offences and intelligence.

The officers are be briefed on a daily basis by a supervisor and will react to the available intelligence from a variety of sources, crime pattern analysis / local knowledge / community engagement and also the use of Crimestoppers. Throughout the year a steering group meets and looks at key areas for action and sets targets aligned to various business models to support partnership aims.

The operation is co ordinated from Eaton Road Police Station and officers are seconded for a period of six weeks. Office facilities, I/T and telephones are made available for the duration of the operation.

Preparatory Actions

In line with the Merseyside Police - Operational Planning Model 'COPS CORE PACKAGE' is used as the business model and takes into account operational planning, Health and Safety requirements.

A crime prevention survey is always undertaken before the operation commences and part of the pre planning is working with the management services of the Loopline – Sus trans are always consulted and implement many of the recommendations that have been so successful since the commencement of the operations.

Intelligence units are always tasked with providing accurate information and locations of offences and incidents in order to direct the staff policing the loop line. Meetings take place with the relevant police areas ensuring a co-ordinated and effective approach to this operation ensuring resourcing and staffing commitments are maintained.

Partner agencies directly involved in this policing operation are fully briefed and tasked with key delivery elements to support the operation. These include Citysafe, Liverpool City Council Neighbourhood Management, Liverpool Anti Social Behaviour Unit, Berrybridge Housing, Liverpool Youth Services, Merseytravel, Alder Hey Hospital, Eastern Link, Cardinal Heenan Sports Centre, Connexions, Liverpool City Council and Sus Trans.

A Health and Safety Risk Assessment is prepared in anticipation of the operation, the plan is compiled with full consideration to the articles of the Human Rights Act 1998.

All actions contained within this plan will be proportional & justified.

Resource Requirements & Staffing

Merseyside Police's basic command teams at Knowsley, Liverpool North and Liverpool South areas all

provide staff. Additional officers from support departments will provide other specialists support i.e. Air Support Unit, and also Merseyside Police's Mounted department.

Merseyside Fire and Rescue - Arson Reduction team will patrol the loop-line with police officers to provide support and education to youths. They will be able to complete one tour of duty per week and will accompany police officers.

Liverpool City Council Neighbourhood management team will highlight the operation to communities and area committees, and will run cycling events where practicable, engaging the community.

Equipment

All police officers engaged on Operation Loopline will wear normal uniform including high visibility fluorescent jackets whilst engaged on this operation, however, there may be a requirement for officers to work in plain clothes reacting to intelligence on occasions. The wearing of body armour is always in accordance with the current status of the Force.

The cycles used in operations will be provided by the officer's own Area. They will be stored in the container in the car park at Eaton Road Police Station

Merseyside Police have a mobile police station which will be located in West Derby Village during the operation and staffed by community support officers

Activity

We have ran four successful 'Operation Looplines'

Previous Operation Loopline have resulted in significant reductions in street crime offences and low- level criminality. Public perception surveys are conducted at the conclusion of each phase of the operation and have shown overwhelming support in the communities for the operation.

Operations Loopline 1 and 2 effectively "cleaned up" the Loopline of street crime offences and other substantial criminal activity. Further scan and analysis of the changing needs of the Loopline have led to a shift in the focus of the operation and a significant alteration of the patrol model.

The emphasis of Loopline Four has been to concentrate on Anti-social behaviour and related low-level nuisance specifically criminal damage, congregating youths, alcohol and substance misuse and importantly the inappropriate and unlawful use of off-road motorcycles and quad.bikes

Through effective consultation and engagement with localised agencies such as Liverpool City Council Neighbourhood Management Teams and associated agencies, the parameters of Operation Loopline Four were agreed and set.

Operation Loopline supports the aspirations of the Merseyside Police Chief Constable's 'Blueprint for Service Improvement' and also Liverpool City Councils 'Local Neighbourhood Delivery Action Plans.'

The overall statistical information captured by the 6-week operation are outstanding :below are examples of the last operation Loopline ran.

OPERATION LOOPLINE 4 RESULTS OF PERFORMANCE

ΣΤΟΒ ΣΕΑΒΣΗΕΣ	882
ΣΠΗΜΟΙΣ – ΔΕΥΣΕ	55
ΜΑΒΗΙΙΙΣ – ΜΟΒΟΒΣΥΣΓΕΣ	52
ΑΙΠ ΓΙΤΤΕΒΙΙΣ	
ΕΙΧΕΔ ΞΕΙΑΓΓΙΛΣ ΕΟΒ ΔΙΣΟΒΔΕΒ	15
ΙΒΑΪΙΣ ΕΙΧΕΔ ΞΕΙΑΓΓΙΛΣ	8
ΑΓΣΟΗΟΓ ΣΕΙΣΕΔ ΟΛΕΒ	211 ΓΙΤΒΕΣ
ΣΤΟΒΣ ΣΗΕΚΣ \ ΙΠΤΕΓ	213

PARTNER AGENCIES COMMITMENT TO OPERATION LOOPLINE

CONNEXIONS

Information and details were passed to support Young People and provide further intervention strategies as required

SUSTRANS

This is the registered charity that maintains the Loophole, SUSTRANS have continued to fully support and engage with the operation. Daily briefings were conducted highlighting graffiti/damage to be removed or repaired within 48hrs. Fly tipping was also dealt with promptly and effectively. This was particularly effective adhering to the principles of “Broken Windows” theory. This was an effective part of the operation as early intervention strategies could be implemented.

PROBATION SERVICE

Probation assisted the operation by deploying a work detail to specifically targeted locations for 2 key reasons: -

1. To clean/clear up graffiti / environmental damage
2. To be seen by young people as a deterrent

Through Crime Pattern Analysis recommendations were put forward for specific target hardening/ site clearances in order to increase surveillance opportunities and reduce the potential commission of offences at these locations.

NEIGHBOURHOOD MANAGEMENT SERVICES

Prior to the commencement of the operation Liverpool City Councils Neighbourhood Management Teams worked closely with the Police identifying areas of significance either crime generators or local hotspots. This information was gleaned directly as a result of the input of all agencies and activities to reduce criminality and Anti-social behaviour were put in place.

YOUTH SERVICES

Knotty Ash Youth services and Cardinal Heenan Summer Splash project were the key drivers in the

delivery of Youth Diversionary activity. Knotty Ash acted as a conduit for Youth Service Providers and Police Community Support Officers, to signpost activity across the Loopline.

TRADING STANDARDS

All intelligence gathered from agencies, community and Police has indicated that alcohol misuse by Young people is a key element in social decline and subsequent low-level volume crime and anti-social behaviour on the Loopline and surrounding areas.

Trading Standards worked jointly with the operation to proactively target premises and locations. Visits were made to alcohol outlets and a number of test purchase operations were undertaken resulting in a number of young people attempting to incite Police Officers to buy alcohol. Large quantities of alcohol were seized from young people or found abandoned upon police approach.

CRIMESTOPPERS

The team flagged the operation to Crimestoppers and used any intelligence that was passed highlighting the determination to meet local problems at a local level.

SUMMER SPLASH

A specific targeted programme of diversionary activities was provided at Cardinal Heenan Sports Centre. This has been a supporting feature since Loopline II and has been refined to specifically target the age range of 12 to 17, which has been identified as the main age range of young people involved in the commission of offences and anti-social behaviour on the Loopline.

REASSURANCE MODEL

Public reassurance and satisfaction have underpinned every aspect of the operation. Officers engaged with many hundreds of Loopline users of all ages and abilities.

Officers distributed personal attack alarms to elderly / at risk users of the Loopline. BeYouthwise wristbands and associated merchandise were distributed: crime prevention advice was given when required and officers were tasked to visit all retail premises near the Loopline.

Repeat victims were visited and the scope of the operation was widened to cater for a band 500metres on each side of the path. This not only brought retail and residential areas within the scope of the operation but Alder-Hey children's hospital, Broadgreen Hospital and Fazakerley Hospital were included for high visibility patrolling.

The team liaised closely with the Air Support Unit and also the Summer Schools Watch initiative as officers deployed on mountain bikes were a particularly effective resource in patrolling in and around school grounds.

Frugal management of resources will allow a reduced operation for Autumn Half-term and February half term including the mischief night period and bonfire night. (2006/7)

This will also facilitate a key element of the Assessment phase of the SARA process.

This is a unique, cost effective and performance-driven operation spanning three policing Basic Command Units, 2 local authorities and numerous ward boundaries and should be seen as a blueprint for cross-border co-operation between Police and partners and the local community.

MERSEYSIDE FIRE AND RESUE

Fire safety advocates have worked along side the operation targeting and identifying potential danger areas, it is hoped that this work will develop for future operations.

TACTICAL ADDITIONALITY

This year the Loopline team have utilised cycle helmets 'head cams' and have been successful in reducing incidents of anti social behaviour showing young people what their behaviour looks like.

Results of public perception survey undertaken :-

Operation Loopline – Public Perception Survey **Focusing on Neighbourhoods –**

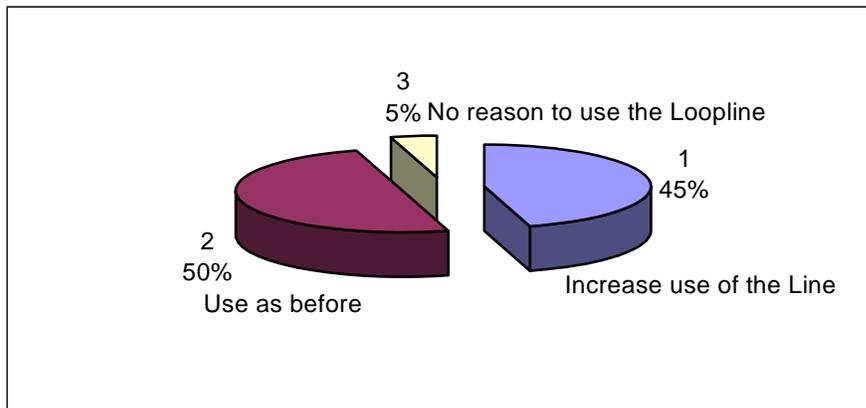
Return rate of Questionnaire

Appendix A

As a resident living near to the Loopline we would value any comments you have to make regarding this operation. We would therefore be grateful if you could complete the enclosed questionnaire and return it in the envelope provided,

Q1 Have you noticed any improvement around the Loopline?

Yes 93 %
No 7 %



General comments -

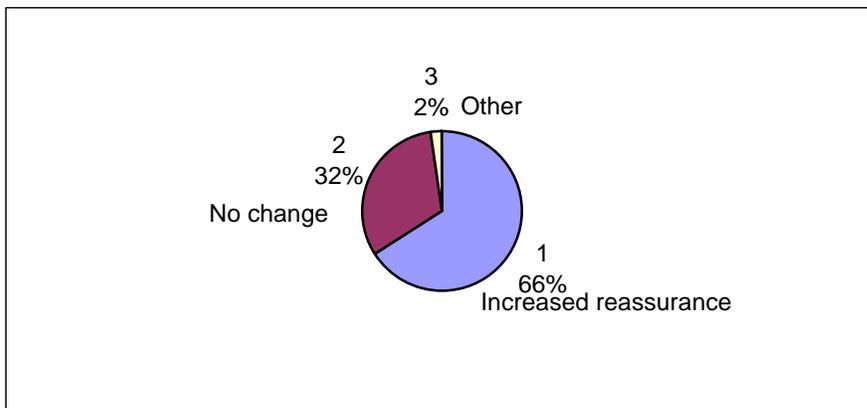
- ❖ *Motor cycles problems have been reduced.*
- ❖ *Nice to see the police on bikes.*
- ❖ *A great reduction in youths causing annoyance.*

Q2 Do you feel safer / reassured?

Yes 68 %

No 32 %

Other 2 %



General comments

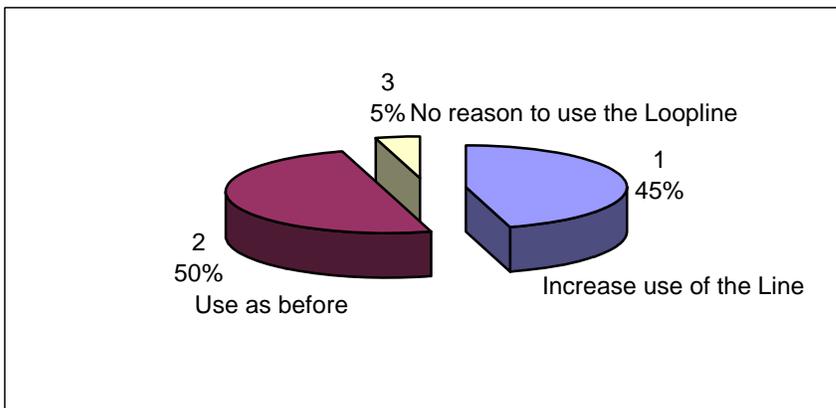
- ❖ *Still would not use the Loopline after dark.*
- ❖ *Never enough police officers.*
- ❖ *Youths remain visible on the Loopline – make me wary.*
- ❖ *Now encouraged to use the Loopline.*
- ❖ *Man exposing himself (post operation).*

Q3 Have you been encouraged to use the Loopline ?

Yes 45%

No 50%

Other 5%



General comments

- ❖ *To old to get out / I'm too old.*
- ❖ *Will use the Loopline during the daytime.*
- ❖ *Will use regularly during the summer.*
- ❖ *Happy to use the Loopline during the light nights.*
- ❖ *Use the Loopline for cycling*
- ❖ *It should be closed its an invasion of our privacy.*
- ❖ *More reassuring seeing the police on the Loopline.*

Q4 Has this operation improved your confidence in your local police ?

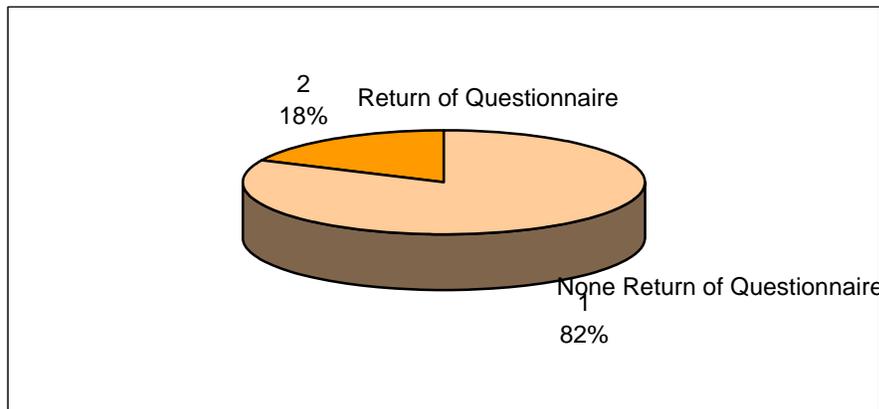
Yes 75 %

No 23%

Other 2%

General Comments

- ❖ *We need a 24/7 presence.*
- ❖ *I don't think we can improve the Looline.*
- ❖ *The local police are very helpful.*
- ❖ *Its good to know the police are supporting us.*
- ❖ *I think the police do a wonderful job.*



- ❖ *I feel a lot safer knowing the police are on the Looline.*
- ❖ *What operation.*
- ❖ *Thank you for the questionnaire so I can say thank you.*

Crime Analysis along the Liverpool Loop Line

In order to analyse crime along the Liverpool Loop Line we have drawn a buffer of 25m, 50m and 100m either side of the route; it is then possible to determine how many crimes have occurred within these buffers. This analysis is meant to give an indication of crime levels along the Loop Line and caution must be taken when interpreting the results.

Incidents that have occurred within the 25, 50 and 100 metre buffer zone are not necessarily related to the Loop Line.

25m Buffer Zone

A summary of crimes recorded within the 25m buffer zone are shown below.

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	% Change 2005 - 2006
TOTAL CRIME	215	204	96	152	219	240	10%
Burglary	17	23	13	26	16	24	50%
- Dwelling	9	6	7	17	5	6	20%
- Non Dwelling	8	17	6	9	11	18	64%
Criminal Damage	28	38	21	38	44	48	9%
Drug Offences	2	8	1	6	32	23	-28%
Fraud and Forgery	15	8	5	4	2	2	0%
Other Offences	2	4	3	4	4		-100%
Robbery	7	2	3	5	3	8	167%
Sexual Offences	2	2		1		1	NA
Theft & Handling Stolen Goods	121	90	35	49	78	92	18%
- Theft of a vehicle	13	15	5	7	3	7	133%
- Theft from a vehicle	13	12	4	7	9	9	0%
Violence Against the Person	21	29	15	19	40	42	5%

50m Buffer Zone

A summary of crimes recorded within the 50m buffer zone are shown below.

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	% Change 2005 - 2006
TOTAL CRIME	403	489	567	603	657	867	32%
Burglary	51	81	60	74	57	119	109%
- Dwelling	15	36	29	31	29	61	110%
- Non Dwelling	36	45	31	43	28	58	107%
Criminal Damage	81	111	130	160	175	215	23%
Drug Offences	6	23	19	25	65	67	3%
Fraud and Forgery	20	16	103	52	26	63	142%
Other Offences	5	7	7	11	8	7	-13%
Robbery	11	7	5	13	6	22	267%
Sexual Offences	2	3	1	4	7	3	NA
Theft & Handling Stolen Goods	182	180	181	162	194	259	34%
- Theft of a vehicle	35	48	26	39	21	19	-10%

- Theft from a vehicle	31	36	40	37	34	60	76%
Violence Against the Person	45	61	59	104	119	112	-6%

100m Buffer Zone

A summary of crimes recorded within the 100m buffer zone are shown below.

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	% Change 2005 - 2006
TOTAL CRIME	863	1178	1217	1383	1575	1888	20%
Burglary	127	184	153	185	166	275	66%
- Dwelling	39	77	78	74	69	122	77%
- Non Dwelling	88	107	75	111	97	153	58%
Criminal Damage	188	275	282	416	438	557	27%
Drug Offences	13	46	46	58	158	148	-6%
Fraud and Forgery	34	42	118	63	39	80	105%
Other Offences	8	8	14	19	19	11	-42%
Robbery	26	29	24	23	29	46	59%
Sexual Offences	7	6	6	13	19	6	NA
Theft & Handling Stolen Goods	365	443	396	365	443	491	11%
- Theft of a vehicle	100	112	91	63	55	38	-31%
- Theft from a vehicle	77	115	98	74	117	140	20%
Violence Against the Person	95	145	178	241	264	274	4%

Source: Merseyside Police , MIS, 2007. Prepared by: Louise Shiels,
 Citysafe, Liverpool City Council, Tel: 0151 225 4848
 Email: louise.shiels@liverpool.gov.uk
 16/03/07

Examples of effective designing out crime



We have worked with partner agencies to design accessibility points to reduce the chances of motor cycles being allowed access to the Loopline, but allowing for wheel chairs

Barriers have been deigned with angle irons to make it less desirable to use as a seat.



Simple designing out methods of crime / disorder 'hot spots' by closing access to unused tunnel, whilst putting in designated pathways as part of 'rule setting'

At suitable locations across the BCU's we have also used crime pattern analysis to influence the implementation of 'Alleygates' to reduce domestic burglary.

We have also initiated and piloted a unique innovation device - a 'mobile mosquito vehicle' a seized vehicle through having no insurance has been fitted with a

mosquito devices (emits high frequency sounds to reduce youths causing annoyance) and has been deployed a known hot spot locations.

CCTV – we have used head cams for mobile officers and are in the process of using rapid deployment cameras for the forthcoming operation.

Loopline operations are mainly implemented throughout the school summer holidays, however they have also been ran during some targeted half terms 'Halloween / bonfire nights' to continue high visibility presence along the Liverpool Loopline

As with all major partnership plans we are continually looking for new innovative initiatives to support operations and also reduce the need for external funding.

Within the Liverpool BCU's Neighbourhood Inspectors are utilising the skills of Community Support Officers and have now made a patrol plan for these officers to include the Liverpool Loopline as part of daily routine.

Plans for the 2007 operation are now well advanced and once again will have a rich mixture of partnership contribution.

April 2007 a number of police officers who have worked on the operation have now taken up cycling seriously and are in the process of cycling from Lands End to John O'Groats to raise money for local charities.

Section 4: Endorsement by Senior Representative

Please insert letter from endorsing representative:

Operation Loopline is a partnership initiative that was introduced to combat both crime and anti-social behaviour. The problem in this case stems from an excellent initiative to turn a disused railway line into a 'linear' park. Unfortunately this provided unforeseen opportunities for criminals and those that engage in anti-social behaviour.

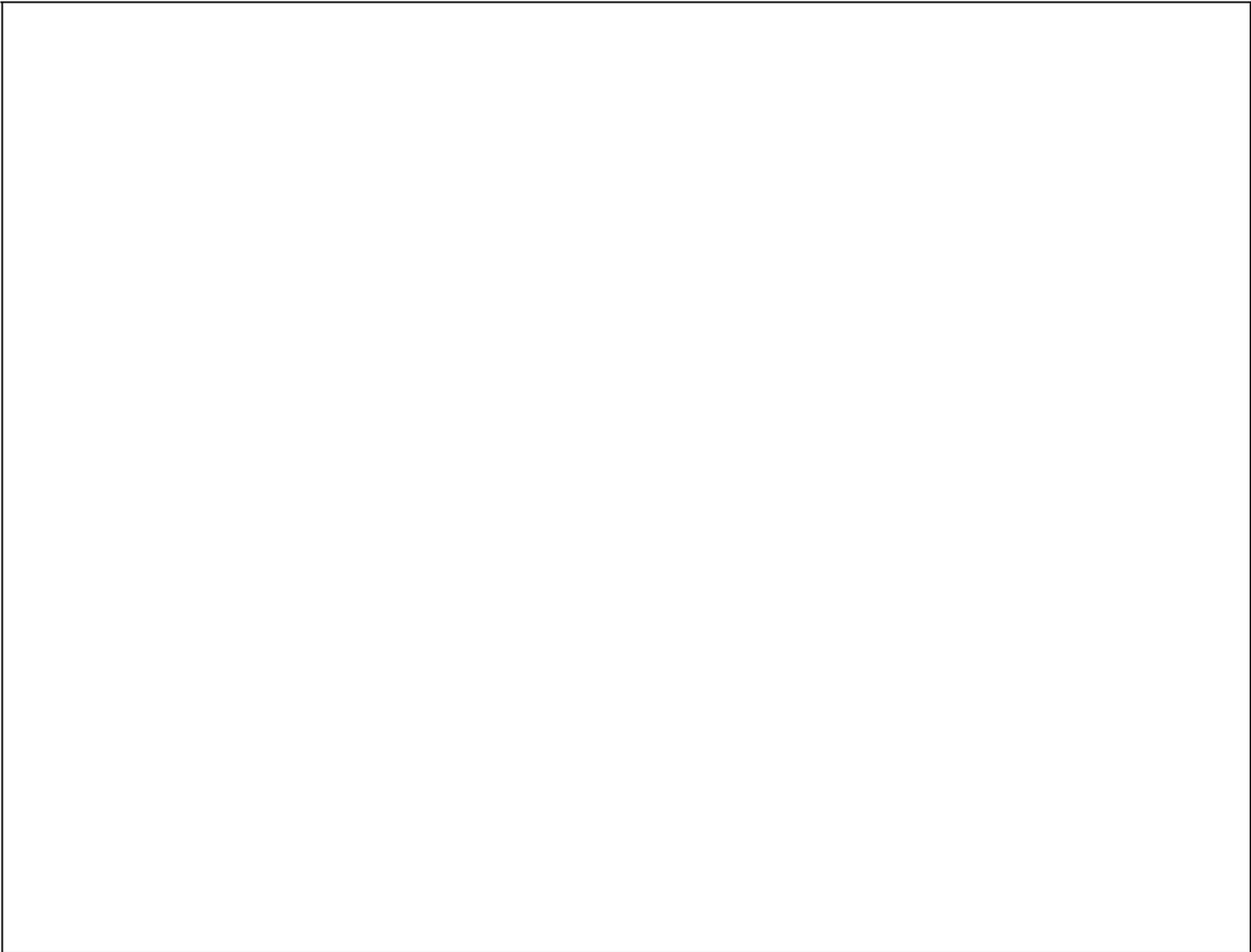
This paper highlights the effectiveness of the partnership response that was put in place. The success of the operation depended on close partnership working and imaginative solutions to the various problems that became evident.

This operation has been used as a template for a number of similar operations across Liverpool. Operation Loopline is used across three separate BCUs and two CDRP areas which in itself provided difficult challenges that were overcome and have strengthened relationships in other areas.

In particular, local residents have been extremely supportive of the operation as the enclosed public perception survey shows.

Operation Loopline has proven to be a success in dealing with a difficult and challenging problem in a unique city. Merseyside Police will continue to support the operation.

Steve Ashley
Operations Superintendent
Liverpool North



Checklist for Applicants:

1. Have you read the process and application form guidance?
2. Have you completed all four sections of the application form in full including the endorsement from a senior representative?
3. Have you checked that your entry addresses all aspects of the judging criteria?
4. Have you advised all partner agencies that you are submitting an entry for your project?
5. Have you adhered to the formatting requirements within the guidance?
6. Have you checked whether there are any reasons why your project should **not** be publicised to other police forces, partner agencies and the general public?
7. Have you saved you application form as a PDF attachment and entitled your message 'Entry for Tilley Awards 2007' before emailing it?

Once you are satisfied that you have completed your application form in full please email it to Tilleyawards07@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk. Two hard copies must also be posted to Alex Blackwell at Home Office, Effective Practice, Support & Communications Team, 6th Floor, Peel Building (SE Quarter), 2 Marsham Street, London, SW1P 4DF.

