

# The case for additional policing in Waltham Forest

Waltham Forest is calling for back-up



## **Waltham Forest is Calling for Back Up**

Our police in Waltham Forest do a great job. They work extremely hard in challenging circumstances in order to keep us safe.

Unfortunately there are far too few officers in our part of London borough to meet the needs of our increasingly diverse communities.

Metropolitan Police data shows:

- Proportionally Waltham Forest has one of the lowest levels of police officers for the levels of serious crime committed in the capital.
- Waltham Forest has the highest rate of serious crime, as a percentage of all crime, in London.
- Waltham Forest recorded the second biggest increase in recorded crime in London for the 12 months up to November 2009.

It is clear when you consider the levels of crime, poverty and unemployment in our borough that Waltham Forest is an outer London borough dealing with inner London problems.

Our levels of policing do not reflect that reality. The figures make it absolutely clear: there are disproportionately low levels of policing in our borough.

That's why we launched our campaign for more police last year to make our case for a fair level of resources for Waltham Forest.

We are calling on Boris Johnson and the Metropolitan Police Authority, to review the allocation of police officers in the capital.

So far our campaign for more police has been supported by over 7000 residents from all sections of our community in Waltham Forest.

We are not asking for special treatment, just fairness in the allocation of the number of police officers in the capital.



**Cllr Chris Robbins**

Leader, Waltham Forest Council

[www.walthamforest.gov.uk/backup](http://www.walthamforest.gov.uk/backup)



## The Evidence is Clear

### Waltham Forest has below average number of police officers

The average number of police officers per borough in London is 640.

The number of police officers in Waltham Forest is 578.

### Waltham Forest has second highest increase in crime <sup>(1)</sup>.

In the latest Metropolitan Police crime statistics Waltham Forest has the second highest increase in overall recorded crime.

Crime rose 5.9% or 1512 offences in the past year.

Only Brent saw a higher rise (6.6%).

### Waltham Forest has one of the highest levels of crimes per officer

Waltham Forest has the fourth highest number of crimes committed per officer in London.

The average number of crimes per officer in London is 40.78.

The number of crimes committed per officer in Waltham Forest is **47.2**.

### Waltham Forest has highest rate of serious crime in London <sup>(2)</sup>

Waltham Forest has the highest rate of serious crime in London.

This is classified as the number of serious crimes committed as a percentage of all crime.

Serious crime is Violence against the person including murder, Sexual assault including rape, burglary and robbery

Waltham Forest's serious crime rate is 52%

#### Sources:

1. Metropolitan Police figures: November 2008 - November 2009
2. Metropolitan Police figures: 2008 - 2009



## Latest crime statistics

The latest crime statistics for Waltham Forest show that crime in our borough is rising while crime across London is falling.

We believe the shortfall in police officers in our borough hinders our ability to cut crime in Waltham Forest.

<b>Total Crimes</b>	Waltham Forest	Met Total
No. of crimes (12 months to Nov 09)	27,289	835,839
No. of crimes (12 months to Nov 08)	25,777	850,437
% Change	<b>+5.9%</b>	-1.7%

<b>Violence Against the Person</b>	Waltham Forest	Met Total
No. of crimes (12 months to Nov 09)	5,849	174,865
No. of crimes (12 months to Nov 08)	5,508	173,961
% change	<b>+6.2%</b>	+0.5%

<b>Robbery</b>	Waltham Forest	Met Total
No. of crimes (12 months to Nov 09)	1,575	32,705
No. of crimes (12 months to Nov 08)	1,490	33,372
% change	<b>+5.7%</b>	-2%

<b>Burglary</b>	Waltham Forest	Met Total
No. of crimes (12 months to Nov 09)	3,428	96,633
No. of crimes (12 months to Nov 08)	3,224	92,022
% change	<b>+6.3%</b>	+5%

Source – Metropolitan Police figures – November 2008 to November 2009 - <http://www.met.police.uk/>



## Public support for the campaign

Waltham Forest Council launched the cross party “We’re Calling For Back Up” campaign in August 2009.

The campaign was launched in response to overwhelming public concern about safety on the streets and analysis of Metropolitan Police data, including serious crime, which identified a serious shortfall in police numbers in Waltham Forest.

The campaign calls on Boris Johnson and the Metropolitan Police Authority to increase the number of police permanently based in Waltham Forest by 120 officers.

The campaign is backed by residents from across the borough and from all communities. Over 7000 residents have backed the campaign.

The leaders of the three main political groups on Waltham Forest Council (Conservative, Labour and Liberal Democrat) have all publicly backed the campaign.

On January 21 2010 TELCO (The East London Communities Organisation) decided to back our campaign and delivered 800 signed postcards from residents pledging their support.

The campaign has the support of Melanie Hendricks, the mother of murdered teenager CJ Hendricks, who was tragically stabbed to death in Walthamstow in 2009.

The former Waltham Forest Chief Superintendent, Mark Benbow, who retired in December 2009, said the borough was “clearly not resourced to the right level” last year.

On January 28, a delegation from Waltham Forest Council will travel to City Hall, to present the petition to the Metropolitan Police Authority’s meeting.

### Links for more information:

Latest information on the campaign: <http://www.walthamforest.gov.uk/backup>

Police Campaign Petition: <http://www.walthamforest.gov.uk/surveys/backup/backup.htm>

Views from our residents: <http://www.walthamforest.gov.uk/index/safety/backup/your-comments>



## **The Resource Allocation Formula**

The Resource Allocation Formula (RAF) is the formula by which the Metropolitan Police Service allocates police officers between the 32 Borough Operational Command Units.

It is nearly five years since the Resource Allocation Formula was last reviewed on 11<sup>th</sup> February 2005. The previous time the formula was reviewed was in 2001.

**We believe a further review of the resource allocation formula is needed to ensure fairness in the allocation of police officers across the capital.**

## **Police officers funded by Waltham Forest Council**

We have taken responsibility as a Council for making the streets safer in Waltham Forest. In January 2010 ten new council funded police officers started work in the borough.

The Council is funding the new police constables at a discounted rate which will be matched by the Metropolitan Police centrally, and supported by police funding for an inspector and sergeant to lead the team.

Six officers will form a specialist unit to launch a pilot scheme to tackle gang activity in the south of the borough. Two will reinforce the High Street Safer Neighbourhood Team, and the others will work in schools.



## Appendix

### 1. Crime statistics (November 2008 - November 2009)

This table shows how Waltham Forest bucks the overall London trend and has the second highest increase in recorded crime in London.

Rank	Borough	Notifiable offences	Crime trend
1	Westminster	63,856	Up 1.5%
2	Southwark	36,825	Down 9.9%
3	Lambeth	35,282	Down 0.6%
4	Camden	34,013	Up 0.3%
5	Croydon	33,271	Up 3.8%
6	Newham	33,198	Down 4.2%
7	Ealing	33,172	Up 0.1%
8	Lewisham	29,991	Down 5.3%
9	Hackney	29,024	Down 4.3%
10	Islington	28,991	Down 1.4%
11	Brent	28,680	Up 6.6%
<b>12</b>	<b>Waltham Forest</b>	<b>27,289</b>	<b>Up 5.9%</b>
13	Tower Hamlets	26,868	Down 7.5%
14	Greenwich	26,841	Down 8.9%
15	Haringey	26,416	Down 6.7%
16	Barnet	26,344	Up 1.1%
17	Wandsworth	25,885	Up 0.7%
18	Hillingdon	25,190	Down 1.1%
19	Bromley	25,083	Down 3.4%
20	Enfield	24,363	Down 2.8%
21	Redbridge	24,122	Up 0.2%
22	Hounslow	23,652	Down 1.3%
23	Hammersmith and Fulham	23,210	Up 2.2%
24	Kensington and Chelsea	20,840	Down 8%
25	Barking and Dagenham	20,222	Up 2.8%
26	Havering	17,300	Down 4%
27	Bexley	15,903	Down 2.4%
28	Harrow	15,371	Up 4.7%
29	Merton	14,839	Down 2%
30	Sutton	13,313	Down 3%
31	Richmond upon Thames	11,937	Up 2%
32	Kingston upon Thames	11,188	Down 3.2%
London	Total	835,839	Down 1.7%

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## 2. Number of crimes committed per officer (November 2008-November 2009)

In addition to the large increase in recorded crime in the last year, Waltham Forest Police Officers also had more crimes to deal with than their colleagues in 28 out of 33 other London boroughs.

Rank	Borough	Notifiable offences	Officers	Crimes committed per officer
1	Redbridge	24,122	496.91	48.5
2	Bromley	25,083	524.81	47.8
3	Hillingdon	25,190	528.59	47.7
<b>4</b>	<b>Waltham Forest</b>	<b>27,289</b>	<b>578.17</b>	<b>47.2</b>
5	Ealing	33,172	713.92	46.5
6	Barking and Dagenham	20,222	441.83	45.8
7	Croydon	33,271	735.92	45.2
8	Barnet	26,344	590.67	44.6
9	Havering	17,300	390.76	44.3
10	Lewisham	29,991	678.69	44.2
11	Hounslow	23,652	538.43	43.9
12	Wandsworth	25,885	619.02	41.8
13	Newham	33,198	797.51	41.6
14	Enfield	24,363	590.95	41.2
15	Islington	28,991	706.18	41.1
16	Brent	28,680	715.78	40.1
17	Camden	34,013	856.82	39.7
18	Bexley	15,903	402.10	39.5
19	Westminster	63,856	1,624.27	39.3
20	Hammersmith and Fulham	23,210	594.64	39.0
21	Southwark	36,825	953.70	38.6
22	Greenwich	26,841	708.19	37.9
23	Harrow	15,371	405.82	37.9
24	Sutton	13,313	352.74	37.7
25	Hackney	29,024	773.86	37.5
26	Merton	14,839	396.68	37.4
27	Richmond upon Thames	11,937	320.54	37.2
28	Haringey	26,416	717.85	36.8
29	Kensington and Chelsea	20,840	578.05	36.1
30	Kingston upon Thames	11,188	325.12	34.4
31	Lambeth	35,282	1,032.61	34.2
32	Tower Hamlets	26,868	803.21	33.5
London	Total	835,839	20,494.32	40.78

## 3. Serious crime rate



The most recent figures show Waltham Forest has the highest serious crime rate in London.

Rank	Borough	Serious crime rate
1	<b>Waltham Forest</b>	<b>52.21%</b>
2	Enfield	51.90%
3	Lewisham	51.89%
4	Newham	51.71%
5	Brent	51.70%

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