

# COMMUNITY SAFETY FORUM

**Agenda Item 21**  
Brighton & Hove City Council

<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Crime Trends and Performance in Brighton &amp; Hove</b>		
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	<b>6 October 2008</b>		
<b>Report of:</b>	<b>Director of Environment</b>		
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<b>Key Decision:</b>	No		
<b>Wards Affected:</b>	All		

This document describes crime trends up to August 2008 and reports progress against key crime targets relating to the Community Safety, Crime Reduction and Drugs Strategy, 2008-11.

## 1. Performance against Targets for Key Crime Types, 2008/09

### April 2008 to end of August 2008

areas with targets	number of crimes Apr-Aug 2007	number of crimes Apr-Aug 2008	reduction target (from 2007/08 baseline)	2008/09 performance to end <b>August</b> compared with same period in 2007/08		better or worse than same period in 2007/08	
				on target	not on target	better	worse
Total Crimes	12,654	11,224	-5%	-22.0%		☺	
Criminal Damage	2,186	1,940	-5%	-11.3%		☺	
Assault: Serious Injury (GBH/more serious violence)	58 (July)	45 (July)	-10%	-22.4%		☺	
Assault: Less Serious Injury (ABH)	805 (July)	674 (July)	-5%	-16.3%		☺	
Domestic Burglary	426	551	-5%		+29.3%		☹
Theft from/of a Motor Vehicle	889	975	-6%		+9.7%		☹

Pedal Cycle Theft	415	508	-10%	+22.4%	☹
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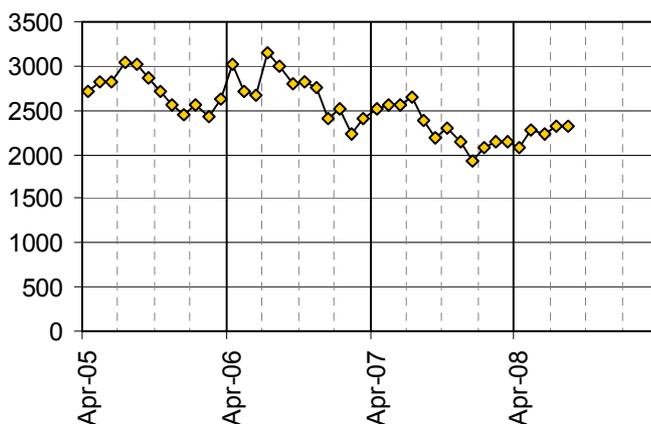
### Main points

After 5 months (April 2008 – August 2008) total crimes have reduced by 22% compared with the same period in the previous year, well in excess of the target.

Criminal damage and violent crime, both high volume crime types, are showing very good reductions at this stage. Domestic burglary and cycle theft, part of the Acquisitive Crime section in the Strategy, are showing a notable increase. Overall vehicle theft is showing an increase. This is due to an increase in theft from vehicles; thefts of vehicles are showing a decline.

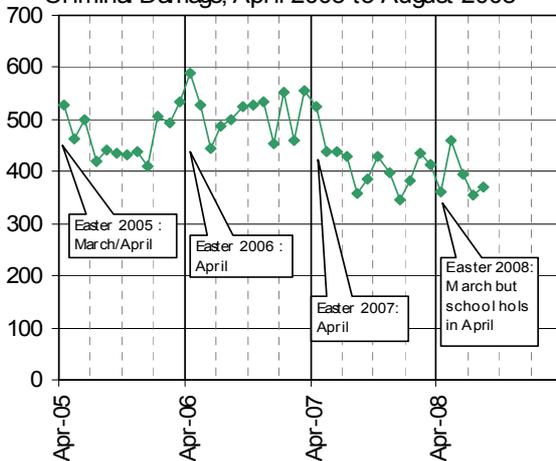
## 2. Crime trends up to August 2008

Total Crimes, April 2005 to August 2008



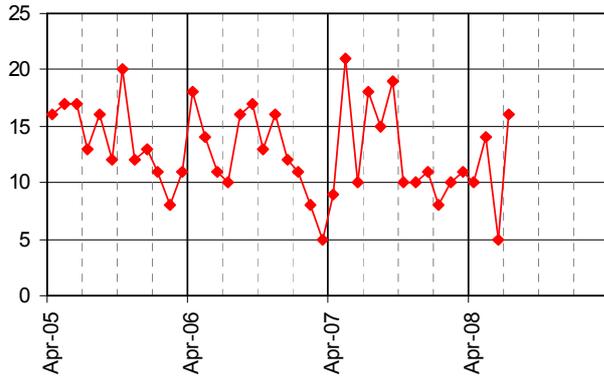
- The number of total crimes in the first 5 months of 2008/09 is 22% lower than in the same months last year. Although total crimes recorded up to August have increased since levels since last December, this is in line with typical seasonal trends which tend to show enhanced levels in the summer when the city has more visitors and more people out of doors.

Criminal Damage, April 2005 to August 2008



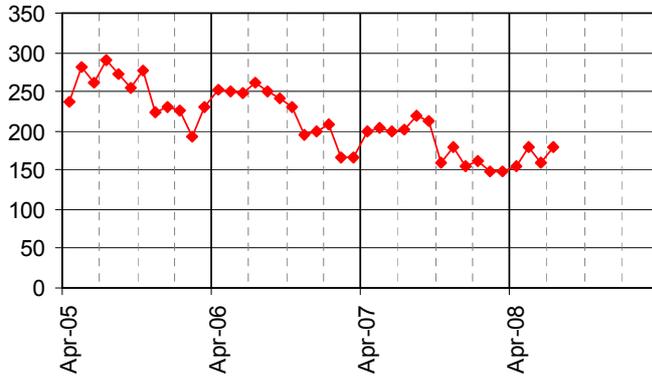
- There has been a degree of fluctuation from month to month over the last year, with the number of criminal damage offences fluctuating between about 350 and 450 per month.

Serious Violence (GBH+)  
April 2005 to July 2008



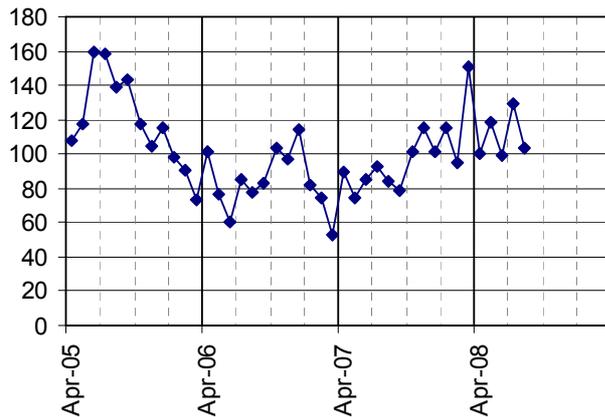
- The number of assaults with serious injury (grievous bodily harm and more serious violent offences) has shown a seasonal pattern over the last three years with more crimes in the summer months. Numbers are low within this grouping compared with those with less serious injury below and are therefore subject to more random variability and this could account for the particularly low level recorded in June.

Assault with Less Serious Injury (ABH)  
April 2005 to July 2008



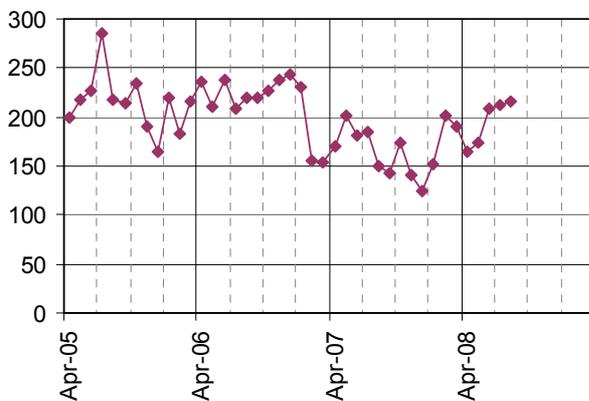
- Numbers for the first four months of 2008/09 are 16% fewer than the same months last year. As with more serious assaults, assaults with less serious injury show a clear seasonality and year on year decline.

Domestic Burglary, April 2005 to August 2008



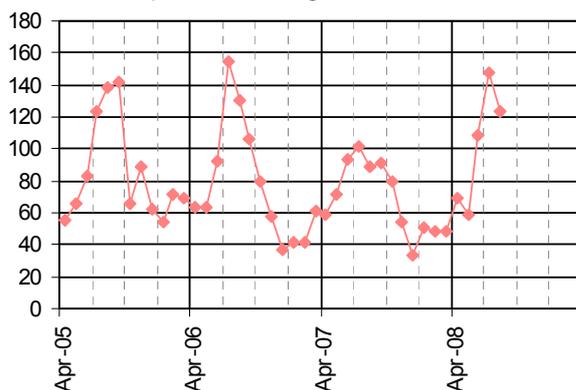
- Numbers of domestic burglaries were showing a long term declining trend in the years up to 2006/07 but rose consistently during 2007/08. Although the numbers between April and August 2008 have dropped from the March peak, they are 29% higher than in the same months of last year.

Vehicle Crime, April 2005 to August 2008



- The number of thefts of and from vehicles have risen to over 200 per month in the last three months. Comparing levels in the first five months of 2008/09 with same months in 2007/08, thefts from a vehicle have risen by 25%. However, thefts of a vehicle have fallen by 19%.

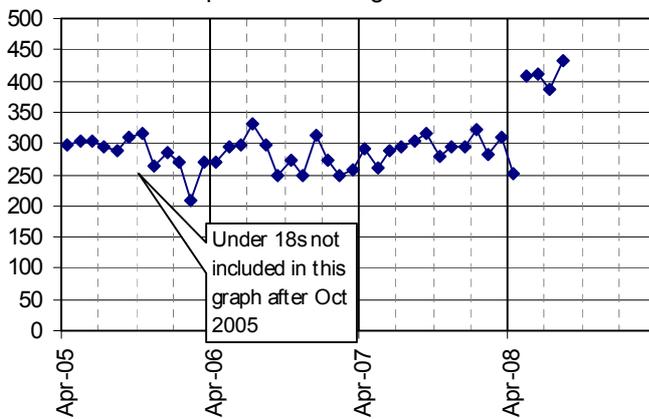
Theft of a Pedal Cycle, April 2005 to August 2008



- Pedal cycle theft shows a strong seasonal effect related to the months when more people cycle. Numbers in the first five months of 2008/09 are 22% greater than in 2007/08 and at about the same level recorded in 2006/07.

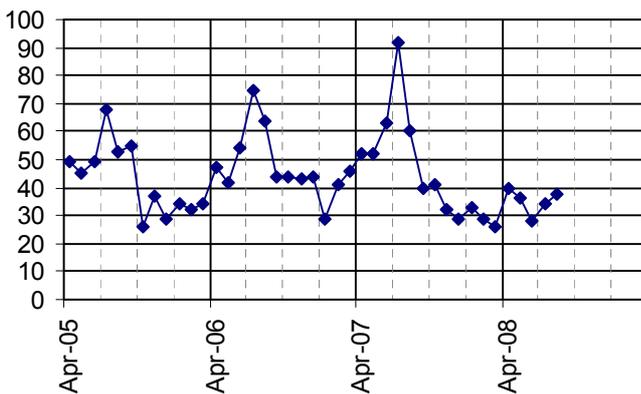
Police crime data presented in this report only reflect those crimes which are reported and recorded. There is likely to be a level of underreporting in many crime types. However, domestic violence and the hate crimes on this page are likely to be particularly liable to underreporting.

Domestic Violence Crimes and Incidents,  
April 2005 to August 2008



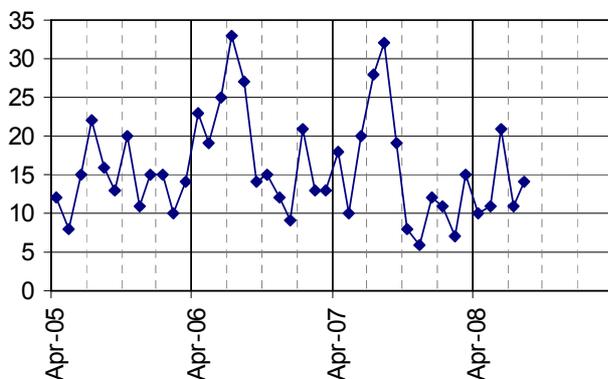
- The number of domestic violence crimes and incidents recorded remained roughly in the region of 250 to 300 per month until April 2008. Recording issues related to the introduction of the new police crime computer system is believed to be the reason for the sudden rise in May. The number of non-crime incidents being recorded rose steeply at that point, but the number of crimes have remained steady.

Racist and Religiously Motivated Crimes and Incidents, April 2005 to August 2008



- A long term rising trend, as well as a seasonal pattern (with enhanced levels in the summer, particularly the month of July), has previously been evident in the data on racist and religiously motivated crimes and incidents. However, levels over the last seven months have been lower than in the same months the year before and a summer peak has been lacking this year.

Homophobic, Biphobic and Transphobic Crimes and Incidents, April 2005 to August 2008



- A seasonal pattern continues to be evident in the data on homophobic, biphobic and transphobic crimes and incidents, with higher levels tending to occur in the summer. Numbers recorded in 2008/09 are lower than in 2007/08.

