

CABINET – 1 DECEMBER 2004 CRIME & DISORDER PORTFOLIO

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY – COMMUNITY SAFETY OFFICERS







Summary of Purpose and Recommendations:

To inform the Cabinet of developments between New Forest District Council and Hampshire County Council regarding the introduction, location, management, tasking and assessment of Hampshire County Council Accredited Community Safety Officers (ACSOs). In light of these developments the Cabinet is to decide on funding the salaries of an additional two ACSOs.

Cost to Council: £8320 in current financial year. £49,910 for 2005/2006 (less partner funding of £5000).

Within existing budget? No

Contribution to Corporate Plan (Minor/Moderate/Major/Neutral):

	+		-		+		-
	Moderate			Priorities			
	Major			Clean Streets & Public Places	Major		
	Moderate			Crime & Disorder	Major		
	Major			Housing			
	Moderate			Managing our Finances			

Comments on Impacts on Corporate Objectives and Priorities:

The proposal meets the aims of the Heart of the Forest Corporate Plan by assisting in the reduction of fear of crime and fostering safe communities, helping to protect and value older people and providing clean streets and well kept facilities.



COMMUNITY SAFETY OFFICERS

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform the Cabinet of developments between New Forest District Council and Hampshire County Council regarding the introduction, location, management, tasking and assessment of Hampshire County Council Accredited Community Safety Officers (ACSOs). In light of these developments the Cabinet is to decide on funding the salaries of an additional two ACSOs.

2. INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 The Crime and Disorder Review Panel recently appointed an Anti-Social Behaviour Working Group to examine the potential provision of Community Wardens in the New Forest District Council area. The report was submitted to Cabinet on 3.11.04 which resolved :
- (a) that the comments of the Crime & Disorder Panel in relation to the role and functions of community wardens and the recommended options for the way forward be noted and considered in due course as part of the expenditure plan process; and
 - (b) that officers continue discussions with Hampshire County Council with a view to considering what added value NFDC could bring to the County Council's proposals in order to provide a unified service within the District.

This report deals with resolution (b).

3. THE HCC ACSO SERVICE

- 3.1 The main purpose of the service will be to provide a visible presence on the streets to deal with low level anti-social behaviour and give reassurance to the community. It will also deal with environmental crime in relation to litter, graffiti, fly tipping and abandoned vehicles
- 3.2 Powers granted to ACSOs will include:
- Requesting name and address for Fixed Penalty Notice offences and offences that cause injury, alarm and distress to another person or damage or loss of another's property
 - Requesting the name and address of a person acting in an anti-social manner

- Confiscating alcohol from young people or being consumed in a certain public places
- Confiscating cigarettes and tobacco from young people
- Issuing Fixed Penalty Notices for littering
- Issuing Fixed Penalty Notices for graffiti
- Issuing Fixed Penalty Notices for fly-tipping
- Stopping cycling on footpaths and issuing of Fixed Penalty Notice
- Requiring the removal of abandoned vehicles

3.3 Arrangements have been introduced to manage the payment and the issuing of fixed penalty notices.

3.4 ACSOs will concentrate on partnership working to develop local knowledge and they will achieve this by linking into and liaising with District Councils, Anti Social Behaviour Order Co-ordinating Officers, Housing Associations, Registered Social Landlords and Hampshire Constabulary Basic Command Units.

3.5 Evaluation of the service will include:

Key outcomes – reduction in incidents of anti-social behaviour

response from MORI survey of Hampshire residents

response from Citizens Panel

results of satisfaction surveys

Charter of Service results

Key outputs – number of contacts with the public

number of complaints and enquiries actioned

number of fixed penalties issued

number of partnerships established

number of ASBO related incidents

number of media contacts

3.6 There will be four teams of ACSOs operating within the County on a pilot basis and each team will comprise eight officers and one supervisor. They will be line managed by one Hampshire County Council manager based at Winchester. All officers will wear uniform and work in pairs between the hours of 0900 hrs and 2200 hrs.

Each pair of officers will have a marked van equipped with video recording equipment and mobile phones. The service will be piloted in four Districts, targeting the four areas that rated community safety as a high priority in the MORI residents' survey, ie New Forest, Havant, Eastleigh and Basingstoke. One complete team will be dedicated to the New Forest area. The service will be reviewed after six months but the intention is that the scheme will be permanent. Ongoing budget provision has been made. The intention is to roll out the scheme to other areas in the future. Hampshire County Council will be producing monitoring and evaluation reports which will be distributed to all partners.

- 3.7 The Hampshire County Council official launch of the ACSO scheme takes place on 1.12.04. During December each team will familiarise themselves with their respective areas by patrolling and establishing key partnership contacts to enable them to fulfil their aims and objectives. The ACSO supervisor will have a familiarisation visit to NFDC Customer Services Dept to become aware of services available to assist in the above objectives. Full operational patrol duties will commence in January 2005.
- 3.8 NFDC officers have met with the ACSO line manager, team supervisor and police managers from the New Forest Basic Command Unit to discuss local management, tasking and briefing protocols to ensure partnership working. Line management is the responsibility of Hampshire County Council who are also responsible for the complaints procedures. It was agreed that all stakeholders and partners will have a say in the tasking of ACSOs,
- 3.9 It was agreed that ACSOs would be tasked according to data and priorities produced by the partners involved, but in a way that did not interfere in the tasked day to day duties of the officers. This will be achieved by forming an Accredited Community Safety Officer Tasking Group comprised of Police managers, NFDC officers representing the views of the CDRP and internal departments, the ASBO co-ordinator and the CSO team supervisor who would act as chair of the group. Others could be co-opted onto the group as necessary eg CSO Co-ordinator. Meetings will be held fortnightly starting on Tuesday 11th January 2005 at Lyndhurst Police Station. Members of the tasking group could contact ACSO supervisor between meetings for matters of urgency and the ACSO supervisor would maintain day to day contact with police beat officers and supervisors. It would be for tasking group members to ascertain pertinent issues for ACSOs to be involved in, and in this respect they will actively canvass units, departments and stakeholders within their respective organisations to establish issues needing the attention of ACSOs. NFDC officers will be establishing an internal liaison system.
- 3.10 Currently partners have agreed that the ASCOs will be patrolling, initially, in New Milton and Hythe, the areas perceived to have a greater need than other areas of the District. The patrols will, however, respond to New Forest area needs and as such patrol areas may change to meet demand and as the partnership suggests. Hampshire County Council are negotiating with Hampshire Fire & Rescue Service for the officers to be based in the retained fire stations in the area. The vehicles will be garaged at Totton on Hampshire County Council secure premises.

4. PROPOSAL

- 4.1 It is proposed that NFDC supplement the team of eight ACSOs and one supervisor for the NFDC area, by assisting with the funding of salaries for an additional two officers, commencing in February 2005. This would increase the patrol capabilities of the team and ensure a future presence in the NFDC area. Line management and conditions of employment would remain with Hampshire County Council. It is suggested that, should this be accepted, the two extra officers be placed at New Milton to supplement the Hampshire County Council complement. New Milton Town Council has indicated informally that it might be able to offer financial support, and a decision by the Town Council is expected on 2 December, subject to details.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The salary plus on costs per ACSO is £23,772, giving a total salary cost of £55,454 for two officers. Hampshire County Council have indicated that they would accept a 90% funding contribution of £49,910 per annum. Pro rata costs for Feb & March 2005 would be £8320.
- 5.2 Hampshire County Council has indicated that they would meet the cost of unsocial hours payment, recruitment, training, uniform, transport and equipment.
- 5.3 New Milton Town Council has indicated that they might be able to offer funding of £5000 per annum, commencing in the next financial year. A firm decision on this has not yet been taken by the Town Council.

6. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no adverse environmental implications. Positive contributions will be made towards reducing the adverse effects of litter, graffiti, fly tipping and abandoned vehicles which meet the NFDC key priorities of clean streets and public places.

7. CRIME AND DISORDER

- 7.1 ACSOs will increase resources to assist in meeting many of the objectives in the Crime and Disorder Strategy so meeting the NFDC key priority of Crime & Disorder and Community Safety.

8. NFDC CORPORATE PLAN

- 8.1 ACSOs meet the aims of the Heart of the Forest Corporate Plan by assisting in the reduction of fear of crime and fostering safe communities, helping to protect and value older people and providing clean streets and well kept facilities.

9. CONCLUSIONS

- 9.1 ACSOs will be a welcome visible presence in the New Forest area. By part funding the salaries of an additional two officers, NFDC will show a positive commitment to crime and disorder issues and quality of life issues. It will increase the visible presence of officers in the area and ensure a presence in the future to help meet the NFDC corporate aims and objectives. It achieves a cost effective, unified approach with Hampshire County Council.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.1 It is recommended that NFDC fund 90% of the salary costs (less any partner funding) for an additional two Hampshire County Council Accredited Community Safety Officers to be based in New Milton;
- 10.2 That a supplementary estimate of £8,320 be approved for the current year; and
- 10.3 That provision of £49,910 (less partner funding) be made in the expenditure plans for 2005/06 and subsequent years.

For Further Information Please Contact:

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Background Papers:

None