

Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Committee

Agenda

Date: Thursday, 7th April, 2011
Time: 10.30 am
Venue: Committee Suite 1,2 & 3, Westfields, Middlewich Road,
Sandbach CW11 1HZ

The agenda is divided into 2 parts. Part 1 is taken in the presence of the public and press. Part 2 items will be considered in the absence of the public and press for the reasons indicated on the agenda and at the foot of each report.

PART 1 – MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED WITH THE PUBLIC AND PRESS PRESENT

1. **Apologies for Absence**
2. **Declarations of Interest/Whipping Declarations**

To provide an opportunity for Members and Officers to declare any personal and /or prejudicial interests in any item on the agenda.

3. **Public Speaking Time/Open**

A total period of 15 minutes is allocated for members of the public to make a statement(s) on any matter that falls within the remit of the Committee.

Individual members of the public may speak for up to 5 minutes, but the Chairman will decide how the period of time allocated for public speaking will be apportioned, where there are a number of speakers

4. **Minutes of Previous Meeting** (Pages 1 - 4)

To give consideration to the minutes of the meeting held on 3 March 2011

For any apologies or requests for further information, or for a member of the public to make a statement:

Contact: Katie Smith
Tel: 01270 686465
E-Mail: katie.smith@cheshireeast.gov.uk

5. **Community Payback**

To receive a presentation by the Probation Service on the status of community payback in Cheshire East.

6. **Neighbourhood Policing Grant** (Pages 5 - 14)

To receive an update on the development of a Service Level Agreement (SLA) for Neighbourhood Policing in Cheshire East.

7. **Work Programme** (Pages 15 - 22)

To give consideration to the work programme

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the **Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Committee**
held on Thursday, 3rd March, 2011 at Committee Suite 1,2 & 3, Westfields,
Middlewich Road, Sandbach CW11 1HZ

PRESENT

Councillor H Murray (Chairman)
Councillor W Livesley (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors E Alcock, A Barratt, D Flude, D Hough, J Jones, S Wilkinson and
J Wray

Apologies

Councillors J Crockatt, M Davies, P Edwards and M Hardy

81 ALSO PRESENT

Emily Lam – Cheshire Police Authority
Martin Dowell – Cheshire Fire and Rescue
Evan Morris – Cheshire Fire and Rescue

82 OFFICERS PRESENT

Tony Potts
Peter Hartwell
Caroline Simpson
Juliet Blackburn
Mark Nedderman

83 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST/WHIPPING DECLARATIONS

84 PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME/OPEN

There were no members of the public present who wished to address the
Committee.

85 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

That subject to the name of Councillor S Wilkinson being added to the list of
apologies for absence, the minutes of the meeting held on 3 February 2011 be
approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

86 ROAD SAFETY

The Chairman informed the committee that the Environment Portfolio Holder had
been called to attend another Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting which

had clashed with this meeting and therefore suggested that consideration of this matter should be deferred.

RESOLVED – That consideration of this matter be deferred to a future meeting of this committee.

87 COMMUNITY SAFETY WARDENS

The Committee considered a report of the Community Safety Manager informing the Committee of progress made in respect of a number of matters raised originally at its meeting held on 6 January 2011. On 2 February 2011 the committee had received an interim report of the Community Safety Officer containing initial responses to matters raised by the Committee relating to the operation of the Community Warden Service.

Tony Potts, Community safety Manager presented the report and answered Members questions.

Tony informed the Committee that the proposal to reduce the number of Community Wardens employed by the Council from the current 12 to 8 would deliver annual savings of £157,000. The 8 staff would be divided into two teams of 4, and located in Crewe and Macclesfield police stations. In response to questions from members about the extent to which the fixed costs of supplies, transport premises and other ancillary costs could be reduced as a result of employing fewer staff, Tony informed the Committee that he could not quantify the precise figure at the moment, but it was suggested to him that he should be aiming for a 25% reduction.

Tony also explained that the service was undergoing a review of the functions a role of Community wardens. He explained that in future, the wardens would concentrate on their statutory duties and enforcement issues concerning environmental and streetscape services but would withdraw from non statutory duties such as the promotion of community safety issues in schools.

It was also reported that wardens would routinely attend LAP meetings, although it was suggested by Members that perhaps wardens should only attend such meetings as and when required.

RESOLVED – That the report be received and the the new working arrangements as set in the report be noted, but the Community Safety manager be requested to report back to this Committee in six months time on progress with the service and with detailed financial information on the savings achieved through the restructure.

88 NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING GRANT

Peter Hartwell, Head of Safer and Stronger Communities attended the meeting and outlined briefly details of the new Service Level Agreement for neighbourhood policing arrangements linked to the new Neighbourhood Policing Grant. The removal of the ring-fenced CDRP grant from the new formula grant settlement had resulted in there being no earmarked funding for PCSO's in future. Peter explained however, that the Council had mainstreamed a sum of £260,000 in the 2011/12 budget to support neighbourhood policing in Cheshire East.

RESOLVED – That consideration of this matter be deferred to the next meeting of the Committee and the Head of Safer Communities be requested to submit a written report explaining the full implications of the new funding arrangements and Service Level Agreement.

89 EXTRACTS OF THE FORWARD PLAN

The Committee considered an extract from the current forward plan.

RESOLVED – That the forward plan be noted.

90 WORK PROGRAMME

The Committee reviewed the work programme.

RESOLVED – That the report be received.

91 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED - That the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items pursuant to Section 100(A)4 of the Local Government Act 1972 on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 3 and 5 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 and public interest would not be served in publishing the information.

92 NEW SUB REGIONAL ROAD SAFETY ARRANGEMENTS

The Committee considered a report of the Strategic Director Places, outlining progress on the development of a new proposal for road safety joint working within Cheshire and Warrington from 31 March 2011. This would replace the Cheshire Roads Safer Partnership.

RESOLVED – (a) That the report be received

(b) That the establishment of the Cheshire Road Safety Group be added to the Committee's work programme.

93 FUNDING FOR THE COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTARY SECTOR IN CHESHIRE EAST

The Committee considered a schedule containing details of grants, subscriptions and contributions to Service level Agreements covering all of the services within Cheshire East.

RESOLVED – That the report be received, and the Policy and Performance Manager be requested to submit a progress report to this Committee in 3 months time.

The meeting commenced at 10.30 am and concluded at 1.15 pm

Councillor H Murray (Chairman)

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Committee

Date of Meeting: 7th April 2011
Report of: Peter Hartwell (Head of Safer & Stronger Communities)
Subject/Title: Neighbourhood Policing Grant

1.0 Report Summary

- 1.1 This report seeks to update Scrutiny Committee Members on the development of a Service Level Agreement (SLA) for Neighbourhood Policing in Cheshire East.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 That Members comment on the draft SLA.

3.0 Reasons for Recommendations

- 3.1 To allow Scrutiny Committee the opportunity to influence the final neighbourhood policing agreement.

4.0 Wards Affected

- 4.1 All

5.0 Local Ward Members

- 5.1 All

6.0 Policy Implications including - Climate change - Health

- 6.1 Safer communities and a reduction in the fear of crime will improve peoples' sense of wellbeing.

7.0 Financial Implications (Authorised by the Borough Treasurer)

- 7.1 The overall grant budget available is £189,000 per annum. Historically this is made up of a combination of '2nd Homes Discount' monies (£130K) and Home Office grant (£59K).
- 7.2 However, to simplify the corporate financial management arrangements, individual Police and Fire Authority elements of the '2nd Homes Discount' money will now be paid directly to these agencies. This equates to

approximately £27,000 for the Police Authority and £12,000 for the Fire and Rescue Service.

- 7.3 With this direct budgetary transfer to Police and Fire Authorities, the Council's grant budget is £150,000 per annum. This level of funding is now underpinned by the recent Home Office grant award for Cheshire East Borough Council announced on 31st January 2011.

8.0 Legal Implications (Authorised by the Borough Solicitor)

9.0 Risk Management

- 9.1 Despite recent budget challenges and reduction in Central Government grants for all partner agencies, the Safer Cheshire East Partnership has protected the financial support for neighbourhood policing across the Borough.

10.0 Background and Options

- 10.1 At the Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Committee meeting on 3rd March 2011, Members asked for an update on the draft SLA and the associated grant funding.
- 10.2 The historical financial arrangements are quite complex and Members particularly asked for clarity on the future funding of neighbourhood policing. This is explained in 7 above.
- 10.3 Cheshire East Borough Council is supportive of Cheshire Police Authority's direction for the police service as set out in their Policing Plan 2011-14.
- 10.4 This plan sets out the policing objectives for 2011/12 which have been agreed following extensive public consultation and taking full account of the priorities of the Home Secretary.
- 10.5 In particular, the Council is targeting this grant at a local level to focus resources on neighbourhood policing, preventing and detecting crimes that impact on communities. This will help ensure a dedicated, consistent and visible policing presence in our area.
- 10.6 Accordingly, the SLA is focussed on the delivery of;
- Policing Objective 3: Maintain the trust and confidence of the public
Policing Objective 4: Work with the public and our partners to reduce those crimes and acts of Anti-Social Behaviour which the public are concerned about.
- 10.7 Performance will be measured using the indicators set out in Appendix One of the SLA and to reduce unnecessary bureaucracy, these are the same

measures which the police themselves will use to monitor improvement. This data will be available at local NPU level for the Cheshire East Borough Council area.

- 10.8 Despite Central Government funding reductions, the Home Office have themselves provided cash for neighbourhood policing for the next two years. In February 2011, the Home Office finally announced grant funding for Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships for 2011/12. This Community Safety Fund will be used to underpin the SLA under the auspices of Safer Cheshire East Partnership. In any event, from April 2012, this fund will transfer to the new directly elected Police and Crime Commissioner who will then have full discretion over this funding to match their own accountability to local people.
- 10.9 Finally, like every public service, Cheshire Constabulary are required to make savings from 2011. To achieve these efficiency savings, they are embarking on a 'Transforming Policing Programme' to review operational policing.
- 10.10 This programme is firmly centred on neighbourhood policing and seeks to deliver a responsive, flexible and public-focused service.
- 10.11 This new SLA will support this transformational change by providing greater local freedom and flexibility to the Basic Command Unit over how resources are deployed locally, to meet the broader outcomes of reducing the incidence and fear of crime and anti-social behaviour.

11.0 Access to Information

The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting the report writer:

Name: Peter Hartwell

Designation: Head of Safer & Stronger Communities

Tel No: 01270 686639

Email: peter.hartwell@cheshireeast.gov.uk

This page is intentionally left blank

Cheshire Constabulary

Partner Service Level Agreement

Cheshire East Council

**“Working together to deliver Safer and Stronger Neighbourhoods where
people are safe, feel safe and act to help each other”**



**SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT FOR THE PROVISION OF £XXXXXX TO
BE USED DIRECTLY IN SUPPORT OF NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING
WITHIN THE CHESHIRE EAST BOROUGH**

THIS AGREEMENT is made the ___ day of March 2011 between the Cheshire Constabulary **(1)** of Cheshire Constabulary Headquarters, Clemonds Hey, Oakmere Road, Winsford, Cheshire CW7 2UA (hereinafter called “the Constabulary”) of the one part and Cheshire East Borough Council, Middlewich Rd, Sandbach, Cheshire CW11 1HZ **(2) (hereinafter called the Partner)** of the other part.

WHEREAS:-

The Safer Cheshire East Partnership wish to support and enhance the service capacity of Cheshire Constabulary Neighbourhood Policing Teams, by providing £150,000 of funds in direct support of Policing Neighbourhoods in partnership. This agreement will directly contribute towards achieving the policing objectives 3 and 4 as set out in the Policing plan 2011 – 2014.

NOW IT IS HEREBY AGREED AS FOLLOWS:-

1. Aim of this Agreement

The aim of this Agreement is to develop Partnership working towards reducing Crime & Disorder and increase the level of public confidence leading to a greater level of reassurance through the provision of funding support to Cheshire Neighbourhood Policing.

Funding under this agreement will only be utilised in the direct support of Neighbourhood Policing within Cheshire East.

2. Developing Neighbourhood Services

Neighbourhood policing is a way of working which allows the police, its partners and the public to work closely together to solve problems of crime and disorder, and improve feelings of security. The key elements being,

- The consistent presence of dedicated neighbourhood teams capable of working with the community to establish and maintain control – to be visible, accessible, skilled, knowledgeable and familiar to the community;
- Intelligence led identification of concerns from the community, and the Safer Cheshire East Partnership, leading to prompt, effective, targeted action against those concerned
- Joint action and problem solving with the community and other local partners in order to improve the local environment and quality of life within the community.

Neighbourhood Policing is not simply about policing outcomes, it also aims to align local policing activity to a neighbourhood management and community agenda and toward a style and culture where neighbourhood specialists can directly impact upon confidence and satisfaction levels through effective problem solving, greater partnership working and through closer interaction and co-operation with local people.

The Constabulary will provide Quarterly Neighborhood Policing Performance data to the partnerships through the local Task and Co- ordination groups or how otherwise identified. The specific measures are set out at **Appendix 1**, together with current baseline performance.

4. Role of Partners

Active engagement is required between Partner Agencies and the Constabulary through attendance at local tasking arrangements. The Partner will contribute funding as identified earlier, in this Agreement working together to ensure Neighbourhood Policing is focused and tasked with issues that are important to the local community.

Partners will be expected to recognise that there are wider resources available for local neighbourhood management.

5. Management of Finance

The Partner will contribute the agreed sum per annum, 6 months in advance via cheque or BACS.

Cheques are to be made payable to Cheshire Police Authority.

Payment must be made within 30 days of receipt of invoice, and will be paid Six monthly in advance Failure to adhere to this will be considered a breach of this Agreement..

5. Exit strategy

The agreement between the Constabulary and the Partner may be terminated by either party giving 3 months notice.

The commencement date for the purposes of this Agreement will be the 1st April 2011.

6. Disrepute

In the event that the activities or behaviour of either Partner bring or have the potential to bring either into disrepute, either party, reserves the right to terminate this Agreement forthwith without further notice

7. Force Majeure

Neither party shall be liable in respect of any breach of this agreement due to any cause beyond its reasonable control including Act of God, inclement weather, flood, lightning or fire, the act or omission of Government, highway authorities or other competent authority, war or military operations.

.

SIGNED on behalf of the Constabulary

.....

SIGNED on behalf of the Partner

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

Date

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

REPORT TO: SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting:	7 April 2011
Report of:	Borough Solicitor
Subject/Title:	Work Programme update

1.0 Report Summary

- 1.1 To review items in the Work Programme and to determine whether or not any additional items need to be included.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Committee note the work programme.

3.0 Reasons for Recommendations

- 3.1 It is good practice to agree and review the Work Programme to enable effective management of the Committee's business.

4.0 Wards Affected

- 4.1 All

5.0 Local Ward Members

- 5.1 Not applicable.

6.0 Policy Implications

- 6.1 Not known at this stage.

7.0 Financial Implications

- 7.1 Not known at this stage.

8.0 Legal Implications

- 8.1 None.

9.0 Risk Management

- 9.1 There are no identifiable risks.

10.0 Background and Options

- 10.2 The monitoring Officer has issued advice to Overview and Scrutiny Committees on the Membership of Task and Finish Groups for those occasions when Members do not wish to set up a task and finish Group on a proportional basis as follows:
- 10.3 The constitution currently requires that Task and Finish are organised on a proportional basis, but this has proved difficult with such small numbers (they usually consist of 5 or 6 Members).
- 10.4 If the constitutional requirement for proportionality were removed, there is still a statutory requirement. By virtue of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, Schedule 1, advisory committees are subject to the proportionality rules contained in the act. Unlike the constitutional requirement, however, the Act permits proportionality to be dispensed with, provided that the scrutiny committee so decides on a 'nem con' vote. Removing the requirement in the constitution would therefore provide greater flexibility.
- 10.5 In effect this means that if members are mindful to set up a Task and Finish group on a non proportionate basis, this can only be done by a 'nem con' vote ie a vote without objection, otherwise the Task and Finish Group must be set up on a proportional basis
- 10.6 In reviewing the work programme, Members must pay close attention to the Corporate Plan and Sustainable Communities Strategy.
- 10.7 Members must also have regard to the general criteria which should be applied to all potential items when considering whether any Scrutiny activity is appropriate. Matters should be assessed against the following criteria:
- Does the issue fall within a corporate priority
 - Is the issue of key interest to the public
 - Does the matter relate to a poor or declining performing service for which there is no obvious explanation
 - Is there a pattern of budgetary overspends
 - Is it a matter raised by external audit management letters and or audit reports?
 - Is there a high level of dissatisfaction with the service
- If during the assessment process any of the following emerge, then the topic should be rejected:
- The topic is already being addressed elsewhere
 - The matter is subjudice
 - Scrutiny cannot add value or is unlikely to be able to conclude an investigation within the specified timescale

11 *Access to Information*

The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting the report writer:

Name: Katie Smith
Designation: Scrutiny Officer
Tel No: 01270 686465
Email: katie.smith@cheshireeast.gov.uk

This page is intentionally left blank

Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Committee Work Programme – 3 March 2011

Issue	Description/Comments	Suggested by	Portfolio Holder	Corporate Priority	Current Position	Date
Community Payback	To receive an update on the status of community payback in Cheshire East	Committee	Bailey	Safer Communities	deferred	7 April 2011
Neighbourhood Policing Grant	At the last meeting of the Committee it was agreed that consideration of this matter be deferred and the Head of Safer Communities be requested to submit a written report to the next meeting of the Committee.	Committee	Bailey	Safer Communities	deferred	7 April 2011
Possible Task and Finish Group - Wardens	To consider the establishment of a Task and Finish Group to investigate the possibility of merging all Cheshire East Wardens.	Committee	Bailey	Safer Communities	On track	2 June 2011
Preliminary Flood Risk Assessments – Submission Timetable	To submit any suggested amendments/comments to the proposed Flood Risk Areas to the Environment Agency.	Committee	Bailey	Safer Communities	On track	2 June 2011
Funding for the Community and Voluntary Sector in Cheshire East	At its meeting held on 3 March, the Committee agreed to receive an update report on a schedule of grants to Service level Agreements covering all of	Committee	Brown	Being an excellent Council and working with others	On going	2 June 2011

Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Committee Work Programme – 3 March 2011

	the services within Cheshire East.					
Review of the LAP's	To receive an update on how the LAPs are working.	Committee	Bailey	Being an excellent Council and working with our partners	On track	7 July 2011
CCTV	To review the staff training and rotas, camera availability and working protocols.	Chairman	Bailey		On track	7 July 2011 Possible Task and Finish Group
Community Safety Warden Service	To receive a progress report on the new working arrangements including detailed financial information on the savings achieved through the restructure.	Committee	Bailey	Safer Communities	On going	1 September 2011

Possible Items to Monitor or consider at future Meetings

- Performance Management
- Process and Policy for Anti Social Neighbours in private and let accommodation.
- Budget
- Establishment of the Cheshire Road Safety Group

Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Committee Work Programme – 3 March 2011

Dates of Future Meetings

7 April 2011, 2 June 2011, 7 July 2011, 1 September 2011, 6 October 2011, 3 November 2011, 1 December 2011, 5 January 2012, 2 February 2012, 1 March 2012, 5 April 2012 and 10 May 2012.

Dates of Future Cabinet Meetings

11 April 2011, 3 May 2011, 6 June 2011, 4 July 2011, 1 August 2011, 5 September 2011, 3 October 2011, 31 October 2011, 28 November 2011, 5 December 2011, 9 January 2012, 6 February 2012, 5 March 2012, 2 April 2012 and 30 April 2012.

Dates of Future Council Meetings

21 April 2011, 18 May 2011, 21 July 2011, 13 October 2011, 15 December 2011, 23 February 2012, 19 April 2012 and 16 May 2012.

This page is intentionally left blank