

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:

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