

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

REPORT TO: CABINET

Date of Meeting: 3 May 2011
Report of: Strategic Director - PLACES
Subject/Title: Neighbourhood Policing Service Level Agreement
Portfolio Holder: Councillor Rachel Bailey

1.0 Report Summary

1.1 This report updates Cabinet on the development of a Neighbourhood Policing Service Level Agreement (SLA) with Cheshire Constabulary.

2.0 Decision Requested

2.1 Cabinet is requested to;

2.1.1 consider the comments of Scrutiny Committee as set out in Section 10.1 and

2.1.2 approve a final Neighbourhood Policing Service Level Agreement for 2011-12.

3.0 Reasons for Recommendations

3.1 To take account of the views of the Scrutiny Committee and to continue to support the delivery of neighbourhood policing across the Borough

4.0 Wards Affected

4.1 All Wards

5.0 Local Ward Members

5.1 All Ward Members

6.0 Policy Implications including - Carbon reduction - 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 Council's contribution to neighbourhood policing as described in the Service Level Agreement is covered by the approved budget for 2011/12.

8.0 Legal Implications (Authorised by the Borough Solicitor)

- 8.1 The decision requested asks Cabinet to approve a Service Level Agreement.

9.0 Risk Management

- 9.1 Despite recent budget challenges and reductions in Central Government grants for all partner agencies, the Council 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. The draft agreement was discussed at their meeting on 7th April 2011 and the following recommendations agreed for consideration by Cabinet.

That Cabinet;

Recommendation 1) to retain the three month termination clause

Proposed response: Agree

Recommendation 2) to replace 'the partner' with 'CEBC' throughout

Proposed response: Agreed and amended

Recommendation 3) to provide performance data to Scrutiny half-yearly

Proposed response: Agree

The SLA actually requires NPU level data each quarter and this will then be reported to Scrutiny Committee on a six-monthly basis

Recommendation 4) that at Section 2. 'Developing Neighbourhood Services', Scrutiny Committee asked that the words "***including PCSO's funded by the Council***" be inserted in the first bullet point.

*Proposed response: CEBC does not now specifically fund PCSO's and this new SLA seeks to fund Neighbourhood Policing in its broadest sense. The addition of such text would therefore contradict the basis of the whole agreement. It is suggested that if any text should be added, this should be; "***including Police Officers, PCSO's and other policing staff***"*

- 10.2 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.
- 10.3 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.
- 10.4 The Council is therefore targeting this funding at a local level to focus resources on neighbourhood policing to prevent and detect crimes that impact on communities. This SLA will help ensure a continued dedicated, consistent and visible policing presence in our area.
- 10.5 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.
- 10.6 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 the local Neighbourhood Policing Unit level for the Cheshire East Borough Council area.
- 10.7 Despite Central Government grant reductions, the Home Office have themselves provided funding 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. 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.
- 10.8 Finally, like every public service, Cheshire Constabulary are required to make savings from 2011. To help achieve these efficiency savings, the Police have embarked on a 'Transforming Policing Programme', one aspect of which seeks to review operational policing.
- 10.9 This programme is firmly centred on neighbourhood policing and seeks to deliver a responsive, flexible and public-focused service.
- 10.10 This new SLA will support this transformational change by providing greater local freedom and flexibility to the Basic Command Unit, allowing innovation over how resources are deployed locally to best 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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Appendix A: Draft Service Level Agreement