



**Report of Head of Scrutiny and Member Development**

**Report to Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny Board**

**Date: 10<sup>th</sup> February 2014**

**Subject: Scrutiny review of the role, number and allocation of PCSOs in Leeds**

Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for Call-In?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number: Appendix number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

**Purpose of this report**

1. At the start of the 2013/14 municipal year, the Executive Board Member for Neighbourhoods, Planning and Support Services requested that the Scrutiny Board undertakes a piece of work around community safety financial planning for 2014/15 and works with Safer Leeds in determining where future community safety resources need to be targeted, with particular emphasis around Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) resources.
2. However, in September 2013, the Scrutiny Board was also notified of a request made by the West Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel to have a coordinated review undertaken by the five West Yorkshire Scrutiny Committees on the role, number and targeting of PCSOs in West Yorkshire.
3. Whilst acknowledging that the specific scope and timeline relating to these coordinated reviews is yet to be finalised, and further to the request made by the Executive Board Member for Neighbourhoods, Planning and Support Services, the Board agreed at its meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> November 2013 that it would commence work immediately to review the role, number and allocation of PCSOs in Leeds that may have implications during the 2014/15 financial year. The outcome from this piece of work would then feed into the wider review requested by the Police and Crime Panel.
4. The Board agreed to undertake this review via working group meetings to which all Board Members would be invited to attend. Three working group meetings were held, with a final working group meeting taking place on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2014.

5. The attached report summarises the key findings of this review and also presents the advice of the working group that met on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2014 in respect of the Scrutiny Board's response to the Executive Board.
6. In consideration of this advice, the Board is asked to formally agree its response to the Executive Board following its review of the role, number and allocation of PCSOs in Leeds.

### **Recommendations**

7. Members are asked to:
  - a) Note the summary of key findings arising from this review as set out within the attached report.
  - b) Consider the advice presented by the working group following this review, as set out in the attached report, and agree the response of the Scrutiny Board to the Executive Board in relation to the role, number and allocation of PCSOs in Leeds.

### **Background papers<sup>1</sup>**

8. None used

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<sup>1</sup> The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the Council's website, unless they contain confidential or exempt information. The list of background documents does not include published works.