

Report of : Director of Environments and Housing

Report to : SLT

Date: 4 December 2014

**Subject: Police Community Safety Officers (PCSOs), Service Level Agreement
– Funding 2014/15**

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

Summary of main issues

1. Leeds has benefited from the work of Police Community Service Officers (PCSOs) for a number of years. The city currently has approx. 294 PCSO's working across the city, 165 of which are part funded through Council budgets. Other PCSO's are funded from a range of sources including the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC), Community Committees, NHS Leeds, City Centre Markets, the White Rose Shopping Centre, some Parish Councils and ALMOs.
2. For 2014/15 and 2015/16, the Council has negotiated a reduced contribution to the 165 Leeds City Council funded PCSO's with the West Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner. The total annual reduction amounts to £454,000 per annum, or a 9% reduction to the current contribution of 30%.

Recommendations

The Director of Neighbourhoods and Housing is asked to:

1. Approve reduced expenditure of £1.0514m per annum in 2014/15 & 2015/16, to provide a 21% contribution towards the costs of 165 PCSO's (5 per Ward) across the city, by means of a Service Level Agreement (SLA) with the Office of the West Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC).

1. Purpose of this report

- 1.1 This report seeks authority from the Director or Neighbourhoods and Housing to enter in to an Service Level Agreement (SLA) with the Office of the West Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner for 2014/5, and for this to be extended annually thereafter up to 31st March 2016 subject to Council budgets and an ongoing commitment from the OPCC to sustain current PCSO levels and local partnership arrangements.

2. Background information

- 2.1 The fundamental role of a PCSO is to contribute to the policing of neighbourhoods, primarily through highly visible patrols with the purpose of reassuring the public; tackling anti-social behaviour in public places; responding to concerns raised by residents and Elected Members; and being accessible to communities and partner agencies working at local levels. This involves working with a range of local services including Childrens and Adults Service's, Schools, Environmental Services and Housing Leeds.
- 2.2 From 2008, the Council has entered in to a SLA with West Yorkshire Police Authority for the provision of PCSOs across the city. Following the election of the first West Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) in November 2012, responsibility for the provision of PCSO's transferred to the Office of the PCC.
- 2.3 Throughout this time, discussions have taken place with the PCC to come to an agreement about the Councils' contribution to PCSO's, in light of significant budget reductions to Council budgets. In late 2013/14, the West Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner agreed to a two year funding arrangement with Leeds City Council which reduced the Council's contribution to PCSOs from 30% to 21%, this amounts to a reduction of £454k per annum.

3. Main Issues

- 3.1 PCSOs part funded by LCC, are allocated on an equal 5 per ward basis across the city. West Yorkshire Police allocate their PCSO cohort, across the Leeds Ward Based Policing Teams.

- 3.2 The deployment of PCSOs is based on intelligence gathered from a range of sources including; hotspot locations for, example burglary, and ASB; information provided by the community and Elected Members; and data from the Council and other agencies.
- 3.3 PCSO's work closely with a wide range of organisations and often act as the "eyes and ears" within local areas, reporting on a range of issues, from anti-social behaviour and truancy, through to matters of safeguarding.
- 3.4 The introduction of the new Leeds district-wide working arrangements by West Yorkshire Police from 1st April 2014, has helped to develop closer working within localities and brought about a better understanding of how local services work and co-operate with one another on a daily basis in order to deliver better outcomes for local people.
- 3.5 The funding arrangement secured by the Council with the OPCC, will support the sustainability of Leeds City Council funded PSCOs to the end of 2015/16, subject to the Councils budget setting process.

4. Corporate Considerations

4.1 Consultation and Engagement

- 4.1.1 Discussions with Ward members confirms that there is strong support across all political groups to continue the current arrangements, with the role of PCSO's seen as pivotal within the WY Police Ward based policing structures.
- 4.1.2 West Yorkshire Police and Leeds City Council Services undertake regular consultation with residents through a wide range of means to assess local needs and priorities. The methods include Community Committees and forums, resident surveys, face to face meetings, local patrols and events, newsletters and other media publications.
- 4.1.3 Partnership working and tasking arrangements between LCC, WYP and other partners, are determined via consultation with local communities, elected members and through intelligence products produced by West Yorkshire Police (WYP), LCC and the Safer Leeds Executive – the city's Community Safety Partnership.

4.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration

- 4.2.1 LCC, WYP and the OPCC follow Equality procedures which ensure that their services are accessible to all the residents of Leeds. Services are developed and delivered in response to need and intelligence information, which aims to address inequality and improve lives.

4.3 Council Policies and City Priorities

- 4.3.1 The development of closer working between locality based services, is delivering improved outcomes for local people and the work undertaken through local policing arrangements is aligned with the Safer and Stronger

Partnership's priority to 'Make Leeds an attractive place to live, where people are safe and feel safe, and the City is clean and welcoming.

- 4.3.2 The work of the Ward Based Policing Teams supports the delivery of the Safer Leeds Plan, which aims to reduce crime and its impact across Leeds and effectively tackle and reduce anti-social behaviour in our communities.

4.4 Resources and value for money

- 4.4.1 The Home Office provides funding to the OPCC to provide a PCSO service across the whole of West Yorkshire. In order to maximise the funding made available, the PCC is required to secure additional funds from other contributors such as Local Authorities.
- 4.4.2 The Council has committed up to £1.053mm in 2014/15 to support the continuation of the PCSO service across the city. This is a reduction of £454k per annum in comparison to 2013/14 budgets.
- 4.4.3 Through the development and delivery of closer working between service providers, communities will benefit from the delivery of more joined up services, working together better to address identified local needs and deliver improved outcomes.

4.5 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In

- 4.5.1 The £1.053m committed to support PCSO's in 2014/15 is part of an approved budget, therefore this decision sits within the delegation of the Director of Neighbourhoods and Housing.
- 4.5.2 The provision of 165 PCSO through the arrangement outlined in this report is subject to a Service Level Agreement (SLA) with the Office of the West Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner. The SLA has been scrutinised by officers in the Council's Governance and Legal services, and will be formally ratified by the Chief Legal Officer subject to the approval of this report.
- 4.5.3 This decision is not subject to call In procedures.

4.6 Risk Management

- 4.6.1 The ongoing provision of the PCSO service in its current form is subject to significant ongoing investment from the OPCC and LCC. Both organisations are in the process of managing unprecedented budget reductions. As a result, it may not be possible maintain investment at current levels moving forward. Regular discussions take place between senior elected members and strategic managers to discuss the potential implications of budget cuts and minimise the impact of these on local services wherever possible. This approach will continue in the future.
- 4.6.2 Regular meetings also take place within localities, with senior officers to assess the practical arrangements to take forward joint working and maximise resources. These discussions are used to assess risk and develop plans to mitigate potential issues should they arise.

5. Recommendations

5.1 The Director of Neighbourhoods and Housing is asked to:

- 5.1.1 Approve reduced expenditure of £1.0514m per annum in 2014/15 & 2015/16, to provide a 21% contribution towards the costs of 165 PCSO's (5 per Ward) across the city, by means of a Service Level Agreement (SLA) with the Office of the West Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC).