

Report of Director of Environment and Housing

Report to Executive Board

Date: 9th March 2016

Subject: Police Community Safety Officers (PCSOs)

Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s):	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for Call-In?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input 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. The fundamental role profile of a Police Community Safety Officers (PCSO) is to provide a high visibility patrol on a local basis. PCSO's engage with local communities and other public service colleagues to problem solve and tackle local priority crime issues, such as anti-social behaviour and protecting the most vulnerable. This involves working with a range of local services, for example: Children's and Adult Services; Schools; Environmental Services; and Housing Leeds.
2. Since 2008, the Council has entered in to a Service Level Agreement (SLA) with West Yorkshire Police (WYP) for the provision of 5 Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) per Ward (165 in total). To support this, the Council makes a 21% contribution to the cost of these PCSO, with the remaining 79% coming from the Office of the West Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC). The current funding arrangements were agreed in 2014/15 for a 2 year period, and will end on 31st March 2016.
3. The PCC has now set out his position for the funding of PCSOs going forward. He has set a new baseline of fully funded PCSO for each district. This will see the numbers he fully funds rise to 160 from the 42 currently in the budget allocation. He is, however, requiring that any additional PCSOs, which are joint funded, are supported on a 50/50 basis. The outcome of this enhanced contribution to 50% has a significant impact on the number of PCSOs which can now be afforded for the same level of funding. The 50/50 split will mean that numbers supported by Leeds City Council will now equate to 67.

4. The net result of the two decisions is that there will be an increase of 20 PCSOs in Leeds in the next financial year paid for by the PCC and the Council, compared to the current number in post. The shift to a mainly Police funded force, which will be deployed using the Police demand model, will lead to a significant change in the distribution of resources across the city with increased numbers in high demand areas. The report proposes that the PCSOs funded by the City Council are distributed equally, which combined with the commitment of the Police to allocate a minimum of one per ward, will ensure there is a baseline of three PCSO's in each ward.

5. Recommendations

- The Executive Board are asked to approve future distribution of Leeds City Council funded PCSOs on the basis of equal distribution of two PCSOs per ward.

1 Purpose of this report

- 1.1 The report informs the Executive Board of the outcome of discussions with the PCC about PCSO numbers, funding and allocation in Leeds.

2 Background information

- 2.1 Leeds City Council (LCC) has supported the role of PCSOs since their introduction in 2001. LCC has been a key partner which has provided additional funding for PCSOs and the City has always maintained the highest number of local authority funded PCSOs funded across the five Districts within West Yorkshire.
- 2.2 Since 2008, the agreement there has been an agreement between the LCC and WYP to jointly fund 165 PCSO posts. For the last 7 years Leeds has seen the local authority PCSOs divided equally between the 33 wards, on a basis that each ward has a minimum of 5.

Main issues

Current Budget Allocation and Numbers of PCSOs

- 2.3 At the outset of the agreement, there were 294 PCSOs deployed in Leeds funded as follows: 165 part funded by the Council, distributed five per ward; 23 part funded by other Partners and 106 fully funded by the PCC. The budget allocation from LCC being just over £1m.
- 2.4 At present the current actual numbers of PCSOs from all three sources is 229 against an established budget allocation position of 230.

Current Structure and Deployment of PCSOs

- 2.5 WYP Funded PCSOs - The allocation of the fully police funded PCSOs across West Yorkshire, and the allocation into each of the 5 Districts is achieved by using an Aid plus (Area based needs assessment) model, which seeks to understand the nature of neighbourhood demand and allocate resources accordingly.

LCC Part funded PCSOs - LCC funded PCSO's are currently allocated on an equitable basis, 5 per Ward. This results in a total cohort of 165 (5x33). The total Council budget for PCSOs is £1.060m per annum based on a contribution of 21% per PCSO.

Table 1 Current Budget Allocation

Community Committee	Current WYP	Current Council	Total Current
Inner North West	6	15	21
Outer North West	1	20	21
Inner West	5	15	20
Outer West	1	15	16
City	12	0	12
Inner South	6	15	21
Outer South	3	20	23
Inner East	3	15	18
Outer East	0	20	20
Inner North East	4	15	19
Outer North East	1	15	16
Total	42	165	207

- 2.6 The PCC has made a decision that any future funding formula with partners who are seeking to part fund PCSOs must be made on a 50/50 contribution. This has a significant impact on the amount of PCSOs which the current budget allocation can afford and takes the local authority cohort from 165 to 67.
- 2.7 The PCC continues to be committed to supporting a neighbourhood policing model for West Yorkshire and is proposing an investment of 440 fully funded Police PCSOs, across 5 Districts. 160 of these have been allocated to Leeds based on the Aid plus model – this compares to the 42 fully funded Police PCSOs budgeted for at present. He has also committed to match funding any partners (50/50) who wish to invest in additional PCSOs on top of the base number that will remain across West Yorkshire. Whilst no figure has been placed on the numbers that could be partner funded, it is safe to assume that the budget to match fund will in practice be limited.
- 2.8 Agreements regarding the 23 PCSOs currently funded by other partners are already under renegotiation and there is potential for some withdrawal. There is, however, an opportunity for new partners, such as Parish and Town Councils who have previously not been involved, to take up the advantage of the joint funding offer. The final picture in regard to partner funding will become clearer in the coming weeks.
- 2.9 The police are committed to starting from a baseline of at least one police funded PCSO being allocated to each ward. In considering how best to deploy 67 posts which will be part funded by LCC, the Police favour some distribution of PCSOs on a ward basis, starting with a minimum of 1 PCSO per ward. Therefore, 33 PCSO's could be distributed by ward and potentially the remaining 34 distributed via the Police demand model, with the advantage of concentrating resources in higher

crime areas. Given, however, the significant shifts in resources that will already occur due to the vast majority of PCSOs now being deployed by the Police, it is not felt necessary to take this step. An equal distribution of the PCSOs funded by the Council will enable a core of 3 PCSOs per ward, which will assist with the policing of the larger outer wards and provide greater continuity.

- 2.10 The impact of the new model, based on LCC funded PCSO's equitably distributed across the 33 wards, is outlined in the table below by community committee area.

Equitable split of LA funded PCSOs

Community Committee	PCSO Fully Funded by Police Allocation	PCSO Part Funded by LA Allocation	Total New	<i>Difference between Police and Council from Existing to New</i>
Inner North West	16	6	22	+1
Outer North West	7	8	15	-6
Inner West	17	6	23	+3
Outer West	12	6	18	+2
City	21	0	21	+9
Inner South	18	7	25	+4
Outer South	12	8	20	-3
Inner East	23	6	29	+11
Outer East	12	8	20	0
Inner North East	14	6	20	+1
Outer North East	8	6	14	-2
Total	160	67	227	20

- 2.11 The information is presented at a community committee level, as it is on this basis which the Police make their own allocation of funded PCSOs, albeit their commitment to dedicating a minimum of one PCSO per ward.

- 2.12 In return for a larger financial contribution towards PCSO's costs, the PCC has committed to offering the local authority a greater influence over the use of PCSO resources to support the delivery of Leeds City Council priorities.

3 Corporate Considerations

3.1 Consultation and Engagement

- 3.1.1 In October 2015, the Environment and Housing Scrutiny Board discussed a number of community themed matters including the provision of Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) in Leeds. In conclusion, the Scrutiny Board agreed to undertake further Scrutiny of this matter and held a number of working group meetings with the Director of Environment Housing, Chief Officer for

Community Safety and the Leeds District Chief Superintendent to discuss the direction of travel for the funding and allocation of PCSOs funded by the Council within the context of the changing and evolving policing structures in Leeds District and across West Yorkshire Police. During this time, the 2016/17 policing budget for Leeds had not been finalised by the Police and Crime Commissioner and this was considered a fundamental factor as part of the Scrutiny Board's deliberations. As such, the Scrutiny Board now intends to await the outcome of the Executive Board's deliberations at today's meeting, including confirmation of the 2016/17 policing budget for Leeds, with a view to considering the role and deployment of policing in general across the city.

- 3.1.2 Discussions have also taken place with the OPCC to confirm budget allocations post March 2016. The OPCC have advised that they will imminently confirm budget allocations for PCSOs in 2016/17.

3.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration

- 3.2.1 An equality, diversity, cohesion and integration screening has been completed.

3.3 Council policies and City Priorities

- 3.3.1 The proposal is in line with the Best Council Plan priority in supporting communities and tackling poverty.

3.4 Resources and value for money

- 3.4.1 As outlined in this report, in 2016/17 the PCC is increasing the number of fully funded PCSOs from the current budget allocation number of 42 but where posts are jointly funded then the contribution will be on a 50/50 basis. Currently Leeds makes a 20% contribution with its £1,060k budget, and whilst this budget in 2016/17 remains at the same level of provision as 2015/16, the revised arrangements mean that the Council will be contributing to 67 PCSOs rather than the 165 that it is contributing to in 2015/16.

3.5 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In

- 3.5.1 The report does not contain any sensitive or confidential information. The report is a key decision and is subject to call in

3.6 Risk Management

- 3.6.1 There are significant risks associated with budget reductions beyond the current financial year. Work is taking place with partners to better understand what the implications and risks associated with budget reductions on the partnerships endeavours to deliver against its shared priorities

4 Conclusions

- 4.1 The report covers the proposed allocation and distribution of local authority funded PCSO posts and commitment to neighbourhood policing.

5 Recommendations

The Executive Board are asked to approve the future distribution of LCC funded PCSO posts, from 2016/17, on the basis of equal distribute of two PCSOs per ward.

6 Background documents¹

6.1 None