

Report of : Director of Environments and Neighbourhoods**Report to : Executive Board****Date: 13 March 2013****Subject: Police Community Safety Officers (PCSOs) Service Level Agreement 2013/14**

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|--|---|--|
| 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 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. Leeds has benefited from the work of Police Community Service Officers (PCSOs) for a number of years. The city currently has 310 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), Area Committees, NHS Leeds, City Centre Markets, the White Rose Shopping Centre, some Parish Councils and ALMOs.
2. Despite the budget pressures that the Council currently faces, it has maintained significant investment of around £1.514m per annum in the PCSO's service. This report seeks to extend the current Service Level Agreement (SLA) with the OPCC, for the Council to provide a 30% contribution to support the cost of 165 PCSO's, amounting to 5 officers per Ward, in 2013/14.
3. It also seeks the Executive Board's authority to extend this arrangement on an annual basis for up to three years (to 31st March 2016), subject to:
 - Council budgets allowing.

- Ongoing commitment from the west Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner to provide sufficient match funding to maintain current PCSO levels.
- Continued partnership working with other local service providers to support the delivery of local priorities and ensure that resources, and opportunities for joint working are maximised.

Recommendations

Executive Board is asked to:

Approve expenditure of up to £1.514m in 2013/14, to provide a 30% 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).

Agree for this arrangement to be rolled forward on an annual basis for up to three years (to 31st March 2016), subject to annual Council budget approval and an ongoing commitment from the West Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner to maintain current PCSO levels and to continue to develop local partnership working.

Request that moving forward, an annual inflation increase be included as part of the budget setting process (budgets permitting) in order to maintain PCSO numbers.

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1 Purpose of this report

- 1.1 This report seeks authority from the Council's Executive Board to enter in to an Service Level Agreement (SLA) with the Office of the West Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner for 2013/14, 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 the three ALMOs.
- 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 in November 2012, responsibility for the provision of PCSO's transferred to the Office of the PCC.

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 their Neighbourhood Policing Teams (NPTs), of which there are 17 in total across Leeds.
- 3.2 The deployment of PCSOs is based on intelligence gathered from a range of sources including; hotspot locations for burglary, and ASB; information provided by the community and Elected Members; and data from the Council and other agencies.
- 3.3 The table below shows the proposed designation of all PCSOs in 2013/14 by Police Division, the higher number of OPCC funded PCSOs in City and Holbeck, reflects the demands of city centre policing:

| Division | LCC 30% Funded | OPCC / Other Funded | Total |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------|
| City and Holbeck | 35 | 66 | 101 |
| Pudsey / Weetwood (WNW) | 65 | 32 | 97 |
| Stainbeck / Killingbeck (NE) | 65 | 47 | 112 |
| Total | 165 | 145 | 310 |

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- 3.4 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.
- 3.5 The introduction of the new locality working arrangements over recent years, have brought a sharper focus to how local services work and co-operate with one another on a daily basis in order to deliver better outcomes for local people.
- 3.6 In 2011, a protocol was developed between West Yorkshire Police and Leeds City Council, which sought to develop closer working between Neighbourhood Policing Teams and other local service providers including the three Environmental locality teams, LASBT, ALMO's, West Yorkshire Probation Services, YOS and a range of organisations providing safeguarding services to vulnerable residents.
- 3.7 During the past year, work has been ongoing to develop a clear and effective Fixed Penalty Notice process that better allows PCSO's to contribute to environmental enforcement particularly around key neighbourhood issues such as litter, fly tipping and dog fouling. Embedding and developing this process into areas of highest need across the city will be a priority.
- 3.8 This new approach to partnership working, has helped to deliver significant reductions in crime, and has contributed to the city having 7,078 less victims of crime this year.
- 3.9 Beyond the public reassurance role and crime related activity, PCSO's are actively engaged in the partnership work of the city, examples of successful partnership work that has already taken place, and future areas for development include:
- Joint working with the Out of Hours Noise Nuisance team and LASBT to more effectively deal with noise and ASB hotspots.
 - Providing statements to support successful enforcement action (inc prosecutions at magistrates) in relation to animal related crime – e.g. dog fouling and roaming in East Leeds.
 - Council Officers from environmental services have delivered sessions to new PCSO recruits, on enforcement legislation, and the collation of intelligence to help deal with enforcement crime.
 - The Integrated Youth Support Service and PSCO's have a good track record of working together to deal with issues related to nuisance, in identified hotspots and the city centre. Regular joint patrols and tasking meetings take place to agree actions to tackle crime related issues. Proactive and reactive work in schools also takes place, via the Safer Schools partnership, to steer young people away from criminality.

There remains, however, opportunities to work more closely together in the future, these include:

- Embedding a shared understanding and ownership of neighbourhood issues at the frontline, by ensuring that both police and LCC staff understand the most

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effective pathways to deal with environmental crime and other issues related to community confidence.

- To fully support the Families First agenda at cluster level with Police taking the role of lead practitioner where appropriate.
- To develop improved and enhanced use of restorative practice as a solution to long term neighbourhood issues, lower level crime and anti social behaviour ensuring a focus on victims and quality long term solutions.
- To continue to develop joint working with the Environmental Locality Teams to identify and tackle environmental crime.
- Ensure that Neighbourhood Policing Teams, and in particular PCSOs deal with dog fouling / littering / fly tipping and similar environmental issues.

3.10 With sustained budget reductions over coming years for all public sector services, the commitment to continue to develop our approach to closer and more joined up working with local partners will become even more important.

4 Corporate Considerations

4.1 Consultation and Engagement

- 4.1.1 Discussions with Ward members suggests 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 NPT structure.
- 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 forums, PACT meetings, resident surveys, face to face meetings, local patrols and events, Area Committee meetings, newsletters and other media publications.
- 4.1.3 The partnership working and tasking arrangements between LCC and NPT's 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

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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 NPT's 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. The % formula applied to West Yorkshire is 70/30.
- 4.4.2 The Council has committed up to £1.514m in 2013/14 to support the continuation of the PCSO service across the city. In December 2012, it was agreed that the number of PCSO's contained in the SLA would reduce by 5, from 170 to 165, in order to maintain Council budgets at existing levels. The reduction of 5 officers will not affect the overall distribution of 5 PCSO's per Ward, and has been managed via local policing arrangements.
- 4.4.3 Moving forward, an annual inflation increase will be requested as part of the budget setting process (budgets permitting) to maintain PCSO numbers.
- 4.4.4 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 In accordance with Council procedures, the Council's Executive Board is required to approve all decisions relating to expenditure which exceeds £250k and/or involves the Council entering in to a new contractual arrangement. This decision meets both these criteria.
- 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 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

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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 Executive Board is asked to:

- 5.1 Approve expenditure of up to £1.514m in 2013/14, to provide a 30% 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).
- 5.2 Agree for this arrangement to be rolled forward on an annual basis for up to three years (to 31st March 2016), subject to annual Council budget approval and an ongoing commitment from the West Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner to maintain current PCSO levels and to continue to develop local partnership working.
- 5.3 Request that moving forward, an annual inflation increase be included as part of the budget setting process (budgets permitting) in order to maintain PCSO numbers

6.0 Background documents¹

- 6.1 None

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