

10 October 2011		ITEM 10
Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee		
Police Community Support Officers (PCSO)		
Wards and communities affected:	Key Decision:	
All	Key	
Accountable Head of Service: Lucy Magill, Head of Public Protection		
Accountable Director: Bill Newman, Director of Sustainable Communities		
This report is Public		
Purpose of Report: For overview and scrutiny to recommend a small group to work with the Portfolio holder to work up options in relation to the budget which currently funds PCSOs.		

Comment [sj]: PLEASE CLICK THIS BOX ONCE and enter the date of the meeting (in font 16, not capitals)

Comment [sj]: Please leave this for completion by Democratic Services

Comment [sj]: PLEASE CLICK THIS BOX ONCE and enter the name of the Committee you are reporting to (in font 16, not capitals)

Comment [sj]: Please enter details of any Wards and Communities affected by the report. If this section is not applicable, you should enter "none".

Comment [sj]: Yes/No/Not Applicable – a 'Key Decision' is generally one affecting more than 2 wards or above £50,000 expenditure – see Guideline 2.7

Comment [sj]: Please state the Head of Service's name and job title

Comment [sj]: Please state Director's name and job title

Comment [sj]: State whether your report is Public or Exempt. If Exempt (i.e. not to be given to the public or discussed in

Comment [sj]: Briefly set out the purpose of your report

Comment [sj]: Please provide a summary of the key points in your report

Comment [sj]: The recommendations should be set out in bold in the form of the decision that the decision-

Comment [sj]: You should briefly explain why the report is on the agenda - See para. 5.3 and 5.4 of the report writing guidelines.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Council currently match funds 14 Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) to the sum of £227,700 per annum. PCSOs provide a visible policing presence and community reassurance. PCSOs however are not enforcement officers. The report will outline the difference between PCSOs and the Council's Community Protection Officers to give members the opportunity to debate what they wish to see this funding used for.

1. RECOMMENDATIONS:

1.1 That members recommend a small group of members from cleaner, greener, safer overview and scrutiny work with the Portfolio Holder for Communities, Culture and Leisure on options related to the PCSO funding to report back to the overview and scrutiny budget meeting in November.

2. INTRODUCTION:

2.1 The Council has match funded PCSOs since 2004/05. At the present time the Council are match funding 14 PCSOs from a budget of £227, 700

2.2 The Council has 8 Community Protection officers who duties involve responding to anti-social behaviour and environmental enforcement service requests and carrying out proactive environmental enforcement.

Environmental enforcement covers areas such as littering, dog fouling, fly tipping and fly posting.

3. **BACKGROUND:**

- 3.1 PCSOs were by the Police Reform Act, 2002 to complement and support regular police officers by providing a visible, accessible uniformed presence to address quality of life issues in the community and offer public reassurance. They don't carry the same equipment as police officers, nor do they have the same powers. Instead, they are used to deal with those tasks that do not require the experience or powers of police officers, freeing police officers to concentrate on other duties instead. The PCSOs also concentrate on building-up links with the community such that information is often more readily passed to them by members of the public than to police colleagues.
- 3.2 In Thurrock there is an establishment of 55 PCSOs including 14 match funded by Thurrock Council and 4 funded by Lakeside. Following the Police Reform Blueprint, it is understood that Thurrock will have 43 PCSOs including the 14 match funded by Thurrock Council and 4 funded by Lakeside. The PCSOs are deployed across the whole Borough in ward based Neighbourhood Policing Teams (NPTs).
- 3.3 Whilst the PCSOs can be transferred to assist in other parts of Thurrock temporarily as the need arises to support colleagues to deal with major events or incidents, they spend the vast majority of their time in the same wards, getting to know the community and dealing with local concerns.
- 3.4 The performance of PCSOs is routinely monitored and monthly data is received from the police. Performance information can be found in Appendix 1
- 3.5 PCSOs do not have the same powers as Police officers. The Chief Constable decides what functions of the available powers that the PCSOs will perform. PCSOs can demand names and addresses for anti-social behaviour offences, seize tobacco from under 18 year olds and dispose of it. The full list of powers of a PCSO can be found in Appendix 2
- 3.6 The Council has Community Protection officers who fulfil a wide range of enforcement roles. The legislation under which they carry out enforcement can be found in Appendix 3
- 3.7 Performance data for the Community Protection team can be found in Appendix 4
- 3.9 Current costs for match funding PCSOs can be found in Appendix 5. (Costs for PCSOs usually increase as at 1st September, at the present time it is unknown whether costs will increase in September 2012).
- 3.10 Costs for a Community Protection Officer can be found in Appendix 6.

Comment [s]: **If used, this could briefly explain the factual and policy background - See para. 5.4 of the report writing guidelines.**

3.11 Minutes from the Cleaner, Safer, Greener Overview and Scrutiny September 2010 where PCSOs were discussed are included at Appendix 7.

4. ISSUES AND/OR OPTIONS:

4.1 PCSOs are not enforcement officers, they are predominantly there to provide visible community presence and build relationships in communities.

4.2 The Council's community protection officers have numerous enforcement functions.

4.3 At the current time there is a budget of £227,700 which is used to match-fund PCSOs.

5. IMPACT ON CORPORATE POLICIES, PRIORITIES, PERFORMANCE AND COMMUNITY IMPACT

5.1 Community visibility and enforcement assists in achieving Thurrock's vision for ensuring a safe, clean and green environment.

6. IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Financial

Implications verified by: **Michael Jones**
 Telephone and email: **01375 65772**
mxjones@thurrock.gov.uk

There is a budget of £227,700 which is currently used to match fund PCSOs. This budget could continue to be used for this purpose, could be used to fund other areas or could be used as a saving.

6.2 Legal

Implications verified by: **Jamie Hollis**
 Telephone and email: **01375 652925**
jhollis@thurrock.gov.uk

As this report seeks to establish a group to consider options in relation to PSCO funding, there are no direct legal implications arising at this stage.

6.3 Diversity and Equality

Implications verified by: **Jane Pothecary**
 Telephone and email: **01375 652472**
jpothecary@thurrock.gov.uk

Comment [s]: **Other headings may be appropriate. The report should outline the reasoning that leads to its recommendations and must include:**

- 1. a brief summary of options considered;**
- 2. consultation outcomes**
- 3. a risk assessment.**
- 4. Whether the responsible cabinet members have been consulted/contributed to the report (NB professional and political advice must be clearly distinguished)**

- See para.5.5 of the report writing guidelines.

Comment [a]: Please refer to Section 5.7 of the Report Writing Guidelines

Comment [sj]: This section should always be completed – if they are dealt with fully in another part of the report, they also need a brief cross reference here. The names and job titles of the officers providing the implications should be

Comment [sj]: See Guideline 6.2

Comment [sj]: See Guideline 6.3

Comment [sj]: See Guideline 6.4

The Council has a statutory duty under the Equality Act 2010 to promote equality of opportunity in the provision of services and employment. The group working with the Portfolio holder to work up options in relation to the budget which currently funds PCSOs, will be tasked with completing Equality Impact Analysis on any proposals it puts forward which assess both the HR impact and the broader impact on the wider community.

6.4 **Other implications (where significant) – i.e. Section 17, Risk Assessment, Health Impact Assessment, Sustainability, IT, Environmental**

Community visibility and enforcement supports the Council's duty under Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Reduction Act and the Environmental Protection Act.

7. **CONCLUSION**

7.1 PCSOs play an important part in community presence in Thurrock, their role is not one which is predominantly enforcement based. Community Protection officers are enforcement officers who enforce various legislation.

BACKGROUND PAPERS USED IN PREPARING THIS REPORT:

- Public Protection Monthly Performance Report
- Cleaner, Safer, Greener O and S Sept 2010 Report and Minutes

APPENDICES TO THIS REPORT:

1. PCSO performance information
2. PCSO Powers
3. Community Protection legislation enforced
4. Community Protection performance information
5. PCSO Match Funding Costs
6. Community Protection Officer Costs
7. Minutes from C,S,G O and S Sept 2010

Report Author Contact Details:

Name: Lucy Magill
Telephone: 01375 652513
E-mail: lmagill@thurrock.gov.uk

Comment [sj]: This should inform the recommendations in the report

Comment [sj]: See Guideline 8. If any Papers are to be placed in the Members room that relate to this report, you should also list them here

Comment [sj]: List the Appendices referred to in the Report

Comment [sj]: Insert the full contact details of the author of the report