

7 November 2013		ITEM: 6
Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee		
Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) Match Funding Review		
Report of: Councillor Simon Wootton – Chair of the PCSO Match Funding Overview and Scrutiny Review Panel		
Wards and communities affected: All	Key Decision: Key	
Accountable Head of Service: Lucy Magill – Head of Public Protection		
Accountable Director: Darren Henaghan – Director of Environment & Public Protection		
This report is public		
Purpose of Report: To inform Cabinet of the findings of the review panel.		

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

At Full Council in February 2013 the Leader of the Council asked Councillor Simon Wootton to lead a task and finish group to explore PCSO funding, it's impact and relevance but also, to give a steer to the Council as to whether the funding should continue.

A Review Panel was subsequently established and undertook an investigation into the funding issue, finalising its report in October 2013. The attached review report in appendix 1 contains all findings for the Cabinet's consideration.

1. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1.1 To note the PCSO Match Funding Overview and Scrutiny Review Panel report attached at appendix 1.**
- 1.2 To agree the recommendations contained within the report at appendix 1.**

2. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND:

- 2.1 The Review Panel undertook a four month investigation into PCSO funding which involved a wide cross section of stakeholders including Essex Police, community groups and the Portfolio holder for Public Protection.**

2.2 The full background, method and activities of the Panel are detailed in the attached report at Appendix 1.

3. ISSUES, OPTIONS AND ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS:

3.1 All issues and options are considered within the report attached at appendix 1.

4. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION:

4.1 The Panel was established by request of the Leader of the Council. The Panel therefore has a duty to report its finding to the Cabinet for decision. The Panel recognised the prerogative of the Cabinet to make the final decision on funding and has therefore provided a variety of options within the main report in Appendix 1 for the Cabinet to consider.

5. CONSULTATION (including Overview and Scrutiny, if applicable)

5.1 The Panel undertook an in depth consultation with a variety of interested parties involved in PCSOs. These consultations are detailed within the main report.

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

6.1 The Council has a duty to work with partners to protect the residents of Thurrock and make Thurrock a safe environment. The review looks at a certain aspect of policing within Thurrock and investigated its role and value to the community.

6.2 Overview and Scrutiny is exercising its duty, as set out in the constitution, to add value to the decision making process by providing Cabinet with a balanced and well informed report on PCSOs. The report ensures there has been scrutiny not only of the safety of Thurrock residents but also the financial responsibilities of the Council as well.

7. IMPLICATIONS

7.1 Financial

Implications verified by: **Mike Jones**
Telephone and email: **01375 652772**
mxjones@thurrock.gov.uk

The is currently a provision of £227,700 within the Public Protection directorate for the funding of PCSOs.

7.2 Legal

Implications verified by: **Chris Pickering – Principal Solicitor**
Telephone and email: **01375 652 925; chris.pickering@bdtlegal.org.uk**

This report relates to options to the Council in spending on PCSOs and the Council has discretion of this money. Therefore, there are no legal implications to the decision as long as appropriate consultation is undertaken along with an Equality Impact Assessment and risk assessment.

7.3 Diversity and Equality

Implications verified by: **Samson De'Alyn**
Telephone and email: **01375 652472**
sdealyn@thurrock.gov.uk

There are no diversity implications in relation to the recommendations contained within the Review Panel's report.

APPENDICES TO THIS REPORT:

- Appendix 1: PCSO Match Funding Overview and Scrutiny Review Panel Report

Report Author Contact Details:

Name: Matthew Boulter
Telephone: 01375 652082
E-mail: mboulter@thurrock.gov.uk