

<b>4 February 2014</b>		<b>ITEM: 5</b>
<b>Cleaner, Greener, Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee</b>		
<b>Alternative uses for money previously used to match fund Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs)</b>		
Report of: Lucy Magill, Head of Public Protection		
<b>Wards and communities affected:</b> All	<b>Key Decision:</b> Key	
<b>Accountable Head of Service:</b> Lucy Magill, Head of Public Protection		
<b>Accountable Director:</b> Darren Henaghan, Director of Environment		
<b>This report is Public</b>		
<b>Purpose of Report:</b> To present members of Overview and Scrutiny with options for consideration as to how to use the budget previously set aside for the match funding of PCSOs		

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Council has previously spent £227,000 per annum match funding Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) with Essex Police. Cabinet have decided following the work of a task and finish group that they no longer wish to match fund PCSOs and to put the funding into enforcement officers within the Council. This report lays out the options available to members.

### **1. RECOMMENDATIONS:**

#### **1.1 That Cleaner, Greener, Safer Overview and Scrutiny recommend the Portfolio Holder for Public Protection in conjunction with the Head of Public Protection implement either:**

**(a) Structure 1 in Appendix 1 with a budget for operational purposes**

**Or**

**(b) Structure 2 in Appendix 1 with a budget for operational purposes**

### **2. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND:**

#### **2.1 As part of the budget setting process for 2013/ 14, the leader of the Council asked Cllr 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.**

- 2.2 On November 13<sup>th</sup> 2013 the task and finish group reported to Cabinet. Members were informed that Chief Superintendent Prophet had written to the Council stating that with effect from 1 April 2014 Essex Police would cease match funding arrangements for PCSO's, however confirmation had been received that despite this, there would be no reduction in PCSO numbers and no PCSO redundancies
- 2.3 Cabinet agreed to option 2 Thurrock Council ceases match funding of PCSOs.
- 2.4 Option 2 stated, If funding were to cease then the Council would have the option to invest the money into other services. If this was the case this panel would recommend:
- 3: That the options for alternative spends be fully explored between the Head of Public Protection and the Portfolio holder for Public Protection and be presented to Cabinet for consideration.
- 4: That the money be invested into effective services that tackle public protection issues of benefit to Thurrock and which complements the work of PCSOs.

### **3. ISSUES, OPTIONS AND ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS:**

- 3.1 The Council has a budget of £227,000 with regards to match funding PCSOs. Now the decision has been taken to cease match funding two options with regards to structures can be found in Appendix 1. More detailed information on the posts can be found in Appendix 2.
- 3.2 Appendix 1 contains two possible structures for members to choose from. As with any operational team a sum of money needs to be put aside to deal with operational issues, such as overtime, supporting the out of hours team, clearance of fly tips, running costs of the van etc.
- 3.3 The team will focus predominantly on environmental crime, covering littering, dog fouling, fly tipping, fly posting, abandoned vehicles and graffiti. The team will investigate complaints from residents and businesses, carry out proactive work, work with ward councillors, gather intelligence for all work across public protection, support the out of hours nuisance team, carry out high visibility work within Thurrock, issues fixed penalty notices, gather evidence for prosecutions, support the community in preventing environmental crime in their area, such as the Chafford Hundred Stop Dog Fouling Campaign.

### **4. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION:**

- 4.1 A decision has to be made by Cabinet as to future use of the money which was previously used to match fund PCSOs.

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

- 5.1 Consultation has been taken with the Portfolio Holder and Shadow Portfolio holder.

5.2 Items raised during discussion at Cabinet on November 2013 have been taken into account.

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

6.1 Any additional enforcement officers will assist with the corporate priority of building pride, respect and responsibility to create safer communities and to protect and promote our clean and green environment.

## **7. IMPLICATIONS**

### **7.1 Financial**

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

There are no additional financial implications. This report is part of the consultation for Cabinet to lead to a decision as to how the £227,000 previously used to match fund PCSOs is spent.

### **7.2 Legal**

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

There are no legal implications

### **7.3 Diversity and Equality**

Implications verified by: **Samson DeAlyn**  
Telephone and email: **01375652472**  
**Sdealyn@thurrock.gov.uk**

There are no equality or diversity implications noted in this report.

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

Any additional enforcement officers will ensure the Council is compliant with its Section 17 responsibilities.

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS USED IN PREPARING THIS REPORT (include their location and identify whether any are exempt or protected by copyright):**

- 13<sup>th</sup> November 2013 Cabinet Report PCSO Match Funding Overview and Scrutiny Review Panel

## **APPENDICES TO THIS REPORT:**

- Appendix 1 – Structure Options
- Appendix 2 – Post descriptions

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