

Open Report on behalf of Pete Moore, Executive Director of Finance and Public Protection

Report to:	Community and Public Safety Scrutiny Committee
Date:	13 January 2016
Subject:	Neighbourhood Policing

Summary:

This report has been prepared with a view to briefing Councillors in respect of planned changes to Neighbourhood Policing across the County. This report is an early briefing and will be followed by a more detailed briefing later in 2017 at which point all the decisions in respect of this restructure have been finalised.

Actions Required:

The Committee is invited to consider and comment on this report.

1. Background

Following considerable financial challenge and the need to respond to a number of significant emerging issues the force has revisited how it utilises its limited resources. This review has considered some of the significant threats, which includes:-

- Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) – how the force receives and processes intelligence in respect of CSE; how can it improve investigations into the growing number of allegations. This is a complex area of business requiring specialist skill sets, particularly in respect of the misuse of the internet.
- Cyber Crime – a continually challenging area of business. Organised Cyber Crime will focus on those most vulnerable in our society, target them and by deception take vast amounts of cash. Cyber also links across into Harassment, Abuse, Rogue Trading, Scams and CSE.
- Missing – Missing is a significant issue for police resources. A simple missing person can utilise excessive resources for a considerable amount of time. Work is required to improve partnership working with such as Children's Homes and Nursing Homes to find better ways of reducing such demand. This area of work links across Cyber and CSE and presents significant threat to young vulnerable children.

- Offender Management – it has long been recognised that re-offending rates of over 60% (from custody) and 30% (non custody) demonstrate an ineffective way to tackle many prolific offenders. The county are developing a new refreshed approach to tackling offenders that will have a significant impact of reducing demand across the public sector.

This review identified a need for circa 39 additional officers within the Public Protection arena to enable the force to deliver an appropriate level of service to respond to allegations of serious crime and put in place safeguarding measures.

Neighbourhood Policing Structure (NHP)

Lincolnshire Police introduced NHP in 2002. The premise being that the service and community should work closely together to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour. The NHP model was designed to ensure that the police effectively recruited the support of the whole community, both in developing and sharing intelligence, reporting crime and influencing some of our operational decisions via Neighbourhood Community Panels. Much work was done in linking County, District and Parish councillors into policing.

It was also recognised that every criminal and victim lived in the community and by effective engagement Police were in a better position to monitor and influence the behaviour of both. The final focus of NHP was to work more closely with partners using their skills, knowledge, resource and powers, recognising interdependencies and therefore realising some efficiencies through economy of scale.

In 2008 the force had 42 Community Beat Managers (CBM), circa 154 PCSOs working across 42 beats areas, each being led by a CBM. In 2015, at the conclusion of the review the force will have 32 Community Beat Managers with 149 PCSOs (plus 20 volunteer PCSOs) working across the 42 beat areas.

The proposal identifies that:-

- West Lindsey will have 5 CBMs
- South Kesteven will have 4 CBMs
- North Kesteven will have 4 CBMs
- Lincoln will have 5 CBMs
- Boston will have 4 CBMs
- SH will have 4 CBMs
- Coast will have 3 CBMs
- Wolds will have 3 CBMs
- NHP will lose 8 Sergeants

It should be noted that every beat area will retain a CBM; however, CBMs in a number of cases will have two beat areas to manage. In many cases there will be no change. The force has also stipulated that the 31 CBMs will be 'red circle', in that they will be allowed to focus on their role and will only be re-directed to other duties in extreme circumstances. This is a fundamental change and will likely

deliver a better deal for communities than the 42 CBMs frequently being abstracted to do other duties and therefore not available to their community.

2. Conclusion

In deciding how to reduce the number of PCs in each district and beat area key data has been analysed. This data included: - Population; Geography, Crime, ASB, and Demographics in respect of poverty, vulnerability etc.

The force has used a 'traffic' light approach and identified areas of risk (Red); areas with increased demand (Amber) and areas of limited demand (Green). In essence the force has placed resources in areas where demand and risk are greater and areas where there is limited demand and active community's resources have been reduced.

The force intends to revisit how the NHP model performs and how it can be improved to ensure the police offer an integrated service to our communities. Plans are in place for a workshop in January to progress this work.

3. Consultation

a) Policy Proofing Actions Required

n/a

4. Background Papers

No background papers within Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the preparation of this report.

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