

REPORT TO: Safer Halton Policy and Performance Board

DATE: 15th November 2011

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, Communities

SUBJECT: Community Safety Review

WARDS: All

1.0 Purpose of the Report

1.1 To inform the Safer Halton Policy and Performance Board of the terms of reference and timescale for the review of community safety.

2.0 Recommendations

Safer Halton Policy and Performance Board members are asked to note the terms of reference and to receive a final report when the review is complete

3.0 Overview

3.1 Halton Community Safety team is a combined Police and Council partnership team that reports to the Safer Halton Partnership and has been traditionally funded over recent years through some mainstream funding from Police, Partners and the Council but primarily by government grants given on a year to year basis. The team has grown over a period of years but due to financial cuts was slightly reduced in size during the last financial year. The current economic climate and cessation of government grants for the next financial year dictate that the team cannot continue in its present format without an injection of funding to address the anticipated shortfall.

3.2 Rather than simply reduce the team in size again it has been agreed to safety, which is being jointly led by the police and the council. These review the current and future activities and structure of the team in order to be ready for 2012-13. Terms of reference for the review of community are set out in Appendix 1. To help inform this review, the views of members and other stakeholders will be sought.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The policy implications of the review relate primarily to the Safer Halton priority as set out below, however this is a cross cutting work area which has wider implications on other areas of council business.

5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

5.1 If community safety is to continue then it is likely that mainstream funding will be required both from the council and other partners to make up the shortfall in costs. Further information on costs will come from the review process.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Children and Young People in Halton

The work of the Community Safety Team links very closely with that of the council's Children's' and Enterprise Directorate and the Youth Offending Team. They provide a valuable role in addressing anti social behaviour and promoting positive behaviour by young people.

6.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton

The Community Safety Team work closely with the probation service and YOT, supporting offenders to change their behaviour and to access training and employment opportunities.

6.3 A Healthy Halton

Addressing anti-social behaviour and crime is the key function of the Community Safety Team and without this work it is likely that both will increase having a significant impact on resident's health

6.4 A Safer Halton

Should funding for community safety no longer be available, there will be an impact on crime and anti-social behaviour with both likely to rise, having a negative impact on residents quality of life.

6.5 Environment and Regeneration

If anti-social behaviour and crime are not fully addressed in Halton this is likely to lead to a deterioration in the quality of the environment and a corresponding reduction in confidence of the public and business in the borough.

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

None identified.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

None identified.

9.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

There are no background papers under the meaning of the Act

APPENDIX 1

PROJECT TERMS OF REFERENCE

Project Title: Review of Halton Community Safety Team

Mandated by: Chief Superintendent Richard Strachan – Cheshire Constabulary and David Parr, Chief Executive – Halton Borough Council

Background:

Halton Community Safety team is a combined Police and Council partnership team that reports to the Safer Halton Partnership and has been traditionally funded over recent years through some mainstream funding from Police, Partners and the Council but primarily by government grants given on a year to year basis. The team has grown over a period of years but due to financial cuts was slightly reduced in size during the last financial year. The current economic climate and cessation of government grants for the next financial year dictate that the team cannot continue in its present format without an injection of funding to address the anticipated shortfall. Rather than simply reduce the team in size again it has been agreed to review the current and future activities and structure of the team in order to be ready for 2012-13.

Project Brief:

The task of the project team is to:

- Identify the priority community safety outcomes for 2012-13 onwards having regard to the JSNA ,the Halton Sustainable Communities Strategy and intelligence & data
- Define the role of the community safety team (CST) in delivering the priority community safety outcomes for 2012-13 onwards Identify the demand for the services from public and all partner agencies on the CST and how this demand can be met
- Identify the activities that provide value in achieving the priority community safety outcomes for 2012-13 onwards
- Identify the purpose of the CST, is it a delivery or enabling organisation,
- Identify how other partner organisations, third sector bodies and the general public can assist and support in the identification and delivery of the priority community safety outcomes for 2012-13 onwards
- Make recommendation on the structure and staffing of the CST and how it can most efficiently and effectively operate in contributing to the delivery of priority community safety outcomes for 2012-13 onwards

To assist with this work the baseline current main strands of work for the community safety team are;

- ❖ reducing anti-social behaviour,
- ❖ reducing alcohol harm,
- ❖ integrated offender management,

- ❖ safer schools,
- ❖ hate crime and gypsy-traveller issues,
- ❖ crime reduction.

(A detailed breakdown of the activities within those strands is available).

The project team should take cognisance of:-

- 1) Strategic aims and objectives of the Safer Halton Partnership within Halton's Sustainable Community Strategy 2011-26
- 2) Legislative obligations under the Crime and Disorder Act
- 3) Review of the death of David Askew in GMP area and the subsequent recommendations
- 4) Forthcoming changes across the Sub-Region to the ASB tools and community triggers
- 5) Cheshire Constabulary transforming policing principles and of addressing root causes to problems
- 6) Delivery of domestic violence services in Halton
- 7) Opportunities to share resources with other partnerships or agencies.

Project Oversight:

The project oversight and day to day decision making will be conducted by Superintendent Sarah Boycott, Cheshire Constabulary and Mr Dwayne Johnson, Strategic Director Adults & Community, Halton Borough Council. Final recommendations will be presented to the Joint Chairs of the Safer Halton Partnership prior to any circulation to the board for final agreement of the team structure and funding.

Project Team:

The project team will consist of full time commitment of Mr Mark Antrobus, Cheshire Constabulary and Mr Paul McWade, Halton Borough Council.

Timescales:

The project is anticipated to start from Monday 10th October 2011 with the review being conducted during the following 6 weeks. At the conclusion of the review an options paper will be presented to the chairs of the SHP for agreement in November 2011. After the structures and funding for the proposed community safety team are agreed – detailed processes will be produced by the existing community safety team to reflect the new service delivery and structure. Go live for the new team being April 2012.

Assumptions:

The project team should not be constrained by the current availability or lack of availability of central government / mainstream funding whilst drawing up its recommendations. However, cognisance must be given to the current financial landscape to identify financially viable options.

The project team should not be constrained by the current structure, format or operating practices that exist within the Partnership and work streams.

The project team will present recommendations and savings/costs for the proposed community safety team.

The project team will be dedicated to the project for the 6 week review period.

Deliverables:

At the end of the review period the project team will present an options paper covering the role and structure of the proposed CST and associated outline staffing and operating costs together with recommendations for the Safer Halton Partnership chairs to consider.