

REPORT TO: Safer Policy and Performance Board

DATE: 17 January 2012

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director - Communities

PORTOFLIO: Community Safety

SUBJECT: Community Safety Review

1.0 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To inform the Safer Policy and Performance Board of the outcome from the review of community safety.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Safer Halton Policy and Performance Board members receive a verbal update on the outcomes from the Community Safety Review at the Safer PPB meeting on 17 January 2012

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 review the current and future activities and structure of the team in order to be ready for 2012-13. The review is being jointly led by the police and the council. To help inform this review, the views of members and other stakeholders were sought and findings will be reported to the PPB as part of the verbal report.
- 3.3 The Community Safety Review will also put us in a good position for 2012, when the Police and Crime Commissioner will be elected for Cheshire. The Police and Crime Commissioner will be accountable for how crime is tackled in the police force area. PCCs will be elected by the public to hold chief constables and the force to account; effectively making the police answerable to the communities they serve. They will also work in partnership across a range of agencies at local and

national level to ensure there is a unified approach to preventing and reducing crime.

- 3.4 PCCs will not be expected to run the police. The role of the PCC is to be the voice of the people and hold the police to account. The first PCC elections will take place on 15 November 2012 to elect a PCC for each police force area in England and Wales outside London. Having been through a robust review process, the structure going forward for community safety, aims to put us in a good position to demonstrate to the PCC, that the community safety team is fit for purpose and is providing an excellent, value for money service that meets the needs of our local community.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 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 and be sustainable in the longer term then it is likely that mainstream funding will be required both from the council and other partners. Further information on costs will come from the review process and will be presented to members at the PPB meeting.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Children and Young People in Halton

- 6.1.1 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

- 6.2.1 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

- 6.3.1 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 residents' health

6.4 A Safer Halton

6.4.1 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

6.5.1 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.

9.0 RISK ANALYSIS

9.1 None.

10.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

10.1 None.

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

11.1 There are no background papers under the meaning of the Act.