

**REPORT TO:** Safer Policy & Performance Board  
**DATE:** 7<sup>th</sup> February 2023  
**REPORTING OFFICER:** Operational Director, Community & Green Space  
**PORTFOLIO:** Community Safety  
**SUBJECT:** Community Safety & Protection Division  
**WARD(S)** Borough Wide

**1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

1.1 To inform the Members of the Board on progress in creating the Community Safety and Protection Division.

**2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That the report be noted.**

**3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

3.1 The Board received a report in November 2022 setting out the arrangements to create a new Division to be a one stop shop for all aspects of community safety, corporate safety and enforcement. The division, under a Divisional Manager covers Community Safety (including Anti-Social Behaviour & Licensing), CCTV, Enforcement, a new Domestic Abuse team and Emergency Planning.

3.2 The re-structuring and recruitment process for the Divisional Manager, Domestic Abuse and Emergency Planning & CCTV Managers has concluded:-



The recruitment process for the vacant Enforcement Team Manager is underway.

Articulating the division's service needs and framework for delivery are the priority for the Divisional Manager and further reports will be provided in due course as the division evolves.

3.3 Some Community Safety and Protection division hi-lights/updates:

3.3.1 **Domestic Abuse Service**

A report was received by the Board in July 2022 setting out the statutory duties, strategic requirements and arrangements for the Domestic Abuse service. The service has transferred (TUPE) to the Council as of 11<sup>th</sup> January 2023, further information is in the agenda item provided.

3.3.2 **Emergency Planning**

The Emergency Planning function is involved in preparations to understand the implications of the PROTECT duty which is anticipated to be implemented in Spring 2023. The duty which is otherwise referred to as Martyn's law has come about in response to the Manchester Arena incident. The duty will place requirements to enhance protection in publically accessible locations. Training, security plans and procedures will form part of the requirements depending on venue capacity. There is uncertainty on the regulatory role which is to be clarified. Land owners will have the responsibility for compliance. Confirmed requirements and arrangements will be set out in a future report.

3.3.3 **Anti-Social Behaviour**

Ongoing partnership work with the local policing units to raise awareness and knowledge of the Anti-Social Behaviour Victim and Witness Support Service, role and function of the Multi Agency Meeting (MAM) and the Tasking and Coordination Meeting (T & C), the Anti-Social Behaviour Pathway and the how to make referrals into the forums to address nuisance and criminal behaviour; to coordinate and facilitate a multi-agency problem solving approach. Ongoing case support with seven intensive cases and support to Housing Provider and community in response to organised crime operation in Murdishaw. Moving forward, the service will be reviewing and re-drafting the Civil Injunction process map and protocol for people aged 18 and under to ensure the safety and security of the direct victim and wider community is not compromised.

3.3.4 **Enforcement**

During the last Quarter (October – December 2022), the waste enforcement team have been involved with investigating 79 incidents of waste related offences and environmental crime. Within this period Officers have issued 70 warning letters in relation to offences and had 13 scheduled interviews with suspects to investigate any involvement in the unlawful deposit of controlled waste (fly-tipping), recorded and held under caution in accordance with the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 (PACE).

The team have worked with colleagues in Halton Housing to address some of the issues in the Carlton Street area, which involved a clean-up of a historic 'grot spot' a joint mail drop from both organisations and encouraging public engagement with the residents in the area.

Due to increasing reports of dogs off leads and dog fouling in Victoria Park, Widnes, Officers have been patrolling the park throughout the week at various times of the day in order to identify, address and to enforce, where necessary, against any of those irresponsible owners found to be breaching the terms of the Council Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) which is in place within the park. This has also included some partnership working across three weekends with the Widnes Local Policing Unit to address any anti-social behaviour issues as well as the ongoing enforcement of the Councils PSPO.

Over the coming months the team currently have a further 9 PACE interviews to facilitate, are currently investigating 4 vehicle owners for the unlawful deposit of controlled waste from their vehicles and have a large investigation in progress concerning a local unauthorised waste removal business, whom, at this stage, we believe has been responsible for at least 6 deposits of waste, collected from residents properties for profit and then tipped in varying locations across the Borough in both Runcorn and Widnes. The team will also be developing a Dog Fouling Investigation policy with a view to ensure that all complaints of dog fouling are dealt with quickly, efficiently and consistently and that offenders are identified, appropriate and proportionate action is taken and offenders are deterred from re-offending.

#### **4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 The Community Safety & Protection division accords with the statutory functions and requirements across a range of legislation:-

- Crime & Disorder Act 1988
- Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime & Policing Act 2014
- Counter Terrorism & Securities Act 2015
- CCTV Arrangements 2012 & 2013
- Domestic Abuse Act 2021
- Environmental Protection Act 1990
- Civil Contingencies Act 2004

#### **5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 Implementing the new structure has generated at £32k saving and a further saving of £39,605 has been achieved in the Domestic Abuse service arrangements.

#### **6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

6.1 **Children & Young People in Halton**

The new Division will have a positive impact on this priority through its work on Domestic Abuse and Community Safety to make neighbourhoods safer.

## **6.2 Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton**

The new division creates job opportunities within the service and will provide training and development opportunities as required across the workforce.

## **6.3 A Healthy Halton**

The Divisions enforcement activities and its emergency planning function will contribute directly to ensuring a Healthy Halton.

## **6.4 A Safer Halton**

The Divisions responsibilities and work with the police, its enforcement activities, CCTV function and emergency planning all contribute directly to a supporting a Safer Halton.

## **6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal**

The Divisions enforcement and licensing responsibilities directly impact on the physical environment. The overall function strives to reduce crime, protect vulnerable residents and create safer neighbourhoods, all of which contribute to building strong and vibrant communities.

## **7.0 RISK ANALYSIS**

7.1 There are no risks associated with this report.

## **8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

8.1 None to report.

## **9.0 CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 Have no effect on the environment.

## **10.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

None under the meaning of the Act.