

Bath & North East Somerset Council

MEETING	Economic and Community Development Policy Development & Scrutiny Panel	
MEETING	13th March 2014	EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN REFERENCE:
TITLE:	Avon and Somerset Police- New Operating Model	
WARD:	All	
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM		
List of attachments to this report: The Future is Coming- Infographic and Main Report		

1 THE ISSUE

- 1.1 *This report provides an opportunity for the panel to receive an update and Briefing on Avon and Somerset Police's new Operating Model.*

2 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 That the Panel consider the report and receive a Briefing presentation from the Area Commander on the Police's new Operating Model and proposals for implementation within Bath and North East Somerset
- 2.2 That the Panel consider the implications for delivering the new policing model at local level in Bath and North East Somerset
- 2.3 That the Panel consider opportunities for further collaboration and joint working to improve community safety outcomes in Bath and North East Somerset

3 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCE, PROPERTY, PEOPLE)

- 3.1 There are no direct resource implications for the Council arising from the report. However, as the new operating model is implemented opportunities will be identified to further deepen joint working in localities through the Connecting Communities programme. The Public Services Board, which includes Council, Police, Health and other partners is also working through the Public Services

Transformation Network, which is designed to join up services for victims of domestic violence and which aims to better target resources at those in need.

4 STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS AND BASIS FOR PROPOSAL

- 4.1 There are a number of statutory frameworks which underpin the Council's interest in partnership working with the Police, including the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and the Police and Justice Act 2006.

5 THE REPORT

- 5.1 On 29th January 2014, Avon and Somerset Police presented the outcome of a fundamental review of the way it delivers its services across the force area. This new Police "Operating Model" has as its starting point 'what do the public want from us and how good are we at meeting their needs'. Information about the new model is attached as Appendices to the report.

- 5.2 Although a number of the changes in the new model are internal, the aim is that the public will see tangible benefits as a result. These include:

- Clarity about what kind of service they can expect when they contact the Police including reporting crime online and tracking the progress of the investigation.
- Greater visibility of officers as neighbourhood and patrol officers come together into a single local policing team. All neighbourhood policing constable and PCSO posts will be preserved and new Neighbourhood Managers will work closely with partners and communities to tackle "hotspots" and solve problems, building on the success of joint working in localities such as the Midsomer Norton Community Alcohol Partnership.
- One person from the Victim and Witness Support Team will be with the victim from crime to court. Specialist investigators will use the same victim-centred investigation model for all the victims who need help most such as victims who are persistently targeted and vulnerable or victims of hate crime and domestic abuse.

- 5.3 At the meeting, the Area Commander, Chief Superintendent Spicer will brief the Panel on how this model will be implemented locally and provide an opportunity for members to raise issues and ask questions.

- 5.4 As well as the planned move to new custody sites, including the new facility at Keynsham, there will also be:

- A move of around 1,000 staff from operational support roles to a more clearly defined front-line presence
- Mobile data technology to enhance the number of policing services that officers can offer without needing to return to the police station;
- Closer joint working to manage prolific, dangerous and repeat offenders and minimise the chances of a vulnerable person slipping through the net. Pockets of good practice will be rolled out further, using pilot schemes as necessary
- A new 'Catch and Disrupt' team to catch criminals and crack down on their criminal activities

5.5 The Chief Constable has highlighted that the aim of the new model is to “transform the organisation for the future and mitigate the impact of successive budget reduction”. As such it is designed to deliver £8million of savings to contribute to the overall £42million the force is saving from the current Comprehensive Spending Review. The £8million will be found by a reduction of 134 police officer posts overall, 61 of them PCs with the remainder coming from every rank up to and including chief superintendent. This reduction will be largely realised through the deletion of existing vacant posts. An additional £200,000 of savings will be realised through new ways of working in the Communications Centre.

5.6 The Chief Constable has also identified the need for continued support and joint working with partner organisations for the new model to succeed. In Bath and North East Somerset there is an effective track record of partnership working in relation to community safety and as the model is implemented there are potential opportunities to strengthen this joint working still further. For example,

- Under the Connecting Communities programme, work is currently underway to align locality boundaries, including police beats, as far as possible so that the full weight of partner resources can be brought to bear on local issues
- Our work as part of the Public Service Transformation network provides opportunities to bring together resources from a number of agencies to help provide a more joined-up service to vulnerable victims.
- Our one-stop shops provide opportunities for colocation of specific services where this can provide a more “seamless” outcome for local people

6 RATIONALE

6.1 It is considered appropriate that this report be brought due to the close working with Police partners in our area as well as the interest which elected members as community leaders have in this issue.

7 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

7.1 None

8 CONSULTATION

8.1 This report has been subject to consultation with the Police Area Commander, the Strategic Director – Resources, the Director of Strategy and Performance and the representative of the Section 151 Officer.

9 RISK MANAGEMENT

9.1 A risk assessment related to the issue and recommendations has been undertaken, in compliance with the Council's decision making risk management guidance.

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Background papers	<i>None.</i>
Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format	