

COMMUNITY SAFETY SAVINGS PROPOSALS AND BUDGET ANALYSIS

Overall Context

- Total reduction of £155,000 in 2012-13 - £60,000 of Home Office Community Safety grant and proposed £95,000 reduction in Council funding; removal of other one-off funding for projects
- Introduction of Police and Crime Commissioners in November 2012 with Home Office budgets transferring April 2013
- Reduction in detailed regulation from Home Office as to how Community Safety Partnerships work; ending of central performance framework
- New tools and powers relating to Anti Social Behaviour

Proposed Approach

- Focus on strategic advice and support to elected members, Council and partners on community safety, including mainstreaming under "Section 17" duties; provide advice and support to elected members in ensuring local priorities are delivered through the move to PCCs
- Ensure robust strategic assessment and Community Safety Plan including support for partners and sub-groups delivering the Plan
- Continue to support the capacity of communities to identify and address community safety concerns
- Provide support for problem-solving at community level
- End operational roles; transfer these roles where appropriate to the most appropriate service areas within the Council
- Establish and pilot specific initiatives where no other service can take the lead

Delivering this approach

- The current assessment is that there is a requirement for 2 posts (manager and officer) to deliver the approach set out above
- The manager role would focus on providing support, advice and development for elected members, partners and Strategic Directors
- The officer role would focus on building the capacity of sub-groups and communities and monitoring delivery of the Plan, including leading on specific projects and priorities
- The team would work with others to build appropriate expertise in policy areas

Anti-Social Behaviour

- The team would retain a policy and developmental role in relation to ASB
- Casework will be addressed by Police, Somer or Council staff as appropriate
- Referrals for more complex cases will be made to the new team
- The Council will consider its contribution to this team in the context of new tolls and powers and what would add most value

CCTV

- There remains an identified community safety requirement for 24/7 control room operation
- Budgets relating to CCTV currently within the Community Safety Budget will be reduced in line with the minimum required to meet this requirement and will be transferred to the new Communications Hub service area

Partnership Arrangements

- The Responsible Authorities Group has hitherto reported directly to the LSP as its community safety “arm”
- It is proposed that in future a community safety working group of key partners report directly to the Health and Wellbeing Board to ensure join-up with initiatives such as community budgets and looking at wider preventative work