

Report of the Strategic Director, Environment and Sport to the meeting of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee to be held on 14th December 2016.

AC

Subject:

Policing across Bradford District

Summary statement:

This report updates members on the policing approaches to policing across Bradford district. .

Steve Hartley
Strategic Director
Environment and Sport

Portfolio:

Safer and Stronger Communities

Report Contact: Ian Day,
Assistant Director Neighbourhood &
Customer Services
Phone: (01274) 433507
E-mail: ian.day@bradford.gov.uk

Overview & Scrutiny Area:

Corporate



1. SUMMARY

This report updates members on the policing approaches to policing across Bradford district.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 At its meeting of 3rd December 2015 Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered a report on new proposals for policing in Bradford District, reflecting reduced resources for delivery. Scrutiny resolved:

“That this committee requests that a progress report be presented to this Committee in 12 months in relation to the implementation of the new operating models across the district, with evidence of how the new operating model is working”

- 2.2 Since Committee considered the report further changes have taken place to resourcing for police at a West Yorkshire level and this report updates on the overall approaches, and the success of these, over the last 12 months.

3. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1 A detailed report of the West Yorkshire Police’s Bradford District approach to policing in Bradford District and the partnership problem solving model is contained in Appendix A of the report.

1. FINANCIAL & RESOURCE APPRAISAL

There are no financial implications for the Council arising from this report. However, the success of the model is predicated on the current arrangement for collaborative working within the Councils Neighbourhood structure.

2. RISK MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE ISSUES

There are no significant risks arising from this report.

6. LEGAL APPRAISAL

This work relates directly to the Local Government Act 2000 and to the Duty of Wellbeing placed upon the Council to promote and improve the well-being of the District.

7. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

7.1 EQUALITY & DIVERSITY

There are no equality and diversity implications apparent.



7.2 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

There are no sustainability implications apparent.

7.3 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS IMPACTS

No significant impacts.

7.4 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

The Police and Council work collaboratively, through the Safer & Stronger Communities Partnership and neighbourhood working arrangements to provide support to and to work with local communities on outcomes that support and promote community safety.

7.5 HUMAN RIGHTS ACT

There are no Human Rights Act implications arising from this report.

7.6 TRADE UNION

There are no trade union implications arising from this report.

7.7 WARD IMPLICATIONS

The information in this report is relevant to all Wards across Bradford District.

8. NOT FOR PUBLICATION DOCUMENTS

None

9. OPTIONS

- 9.1 The Committee can approve the recommendation or amend it and/or make further recommendations.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.1 That Members consider the new policing arrangements for the Bradford District.

11. APPENDICES

Appendix A: Information from West Yorkshire Police (Bradford District) on policing in Bradford District.

12. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Report and minutes of Corporate Overview & Scrutiny Committee, 3rd December 2015.



Appendix A

Bradford District – Problem Solving Approach

1. In November 2015, Committee was presented with a paper outlining a new partnership problem solving model which was to be implemented across the District. The Bradford District Police Senior Leadership Team implemented changes to the delivery of problem solving in order to improve its effectiveness and efficiency at a local level in times of increased austerity and challenge.
2. Building on the existing Partnership Working Area (PWA) model, the approach to problem solving was refined and, based on previous successes, police 'problem solvers' became Police Ward Officers and were given responsibility for a single ward in most cases.

Current Approach to Problem Solving

3. Twenty-five Police (Constable) Ward Officers are deployed across the District, split over the five constituencies, with Bradford West, East and South having one officer per Ward, officers covering two Wards in the Shipley constituency and Keighley problem solvers covering a mixture of either one or two Wards. In addition to the above, the 25 Police Constables covering the City Centre have been given enhanced training in problem solving due to the unique demographic of the City.
4. To supplement the above approach, a total of 47 PCSO problem solvers are tasked with concentrating on tackling the local issues within their Neighbourhoods. The role and use of PCSOs will be refined over the coming months in order to further strengthen our problem solving approach.
5. The Local Authority Ward Officers, in conjunction with local ward police officers co-ordinate the Ward Officer Tasking (WOT) meetings, which are multi-agency meetings held in every ward to discuss and co-ordinate multi-agency problem solving. The WOTs enable the delivery of problem solving by all agencies at a local level
6. In addition to the localised delivery of problem solving, the Neighbourhood Support Hub, formed of co-located Police and Local Authority staff, support the Neighbourhood Ward Officers and Local Authority Area Co-ordinators to ensure that officers at a local level have a direct route into partner agencies and other specialists, such as Environmental Health, Anti-Social Behaviour Officers, Licensing and Neighbourhood Watch Scheme Co-ordinators.



7. Problems are identified by all statutory bodies, using call for service data and local intelligence and concerns from all agencies. All problems are initially discussed at the WOT meetings and once the level of vulnerability has been discussed and agreed, a proportionate multi-agency response is implemented. Identified problems are logged as individual 'occurrences,' which are then owned by the local police problem solver. The relevant WOT assumed responsibility for overseeing progress and providing accountability.
8. At present, there are approximately 100 live problem solving occurrences across the District, each one having an identifiable action plan and is regularly reviewed by the PWA supervisor. These are spread across the District and cover a range of issues from repeat calls to service, to preventing serious crime.
9. In April 2016 a review of the shift patterns worked by all staff across the District was undertaken, leading the alignment of all uniformed resources into PWAs and, in turn, more directly aligned to responding to local problems, with resources being allocated to PWAs using a funding formula based on experienced Policing demands.
10. Due to the increase in demands which have been experienced over the past two years (an increase in both calls for service and the number of emergency and priority calls), the distribution of staffing across the District is currently being reviewed to ensure that officers are distributed across the PWAs in the most effective way in order to ensure effective problem solving across the District.

Experienced Outcomes

11. There have been a number of positive examples of problem solving and partnership working at a local level, which demonstrate the strengthened approach of investment at a Ward level;
12. Officers in Keighley have been able to secure twelve civil gang injunctions (GANGBOs) against individuals who have caused harm within their local communities through gang related violence. Localised tasking arrangements ensured multi-agency intelligence gathering supported the applications in the Civil Courts and the effective deployment of partnership assets to provide reassurance and community messaging since the injunctions were secured. The ongoing management of the GANGBOs and community response is being co-ordinated through the WOT.
13. A localised partnership response to increased anti-social behaviour in the Holmewood Area of Bradford has seen the effective tasking of resources from different agencies in order to understand and address the factors contributing to the offending, which has led to a decrease in criminal damage, against the current District trend.
14. A cohort of 28 young people have been enrolled into the 'Cadets' scheme, a pilot initiative which is soon to be rolled out across the County. The cadet scheme



balances learning life skills with fun, such as hiking or camping trips as part of a Duke of Edinburgh Award.

15. The Employee Supported Policing (ESP) pilot commenced in Bradford in July 2016. 10 students have completed training and come from a range of backgrounds such as mental health, Bradford College and retail. ESP officers are granted 8 hours' time by their employer and will be utilised and deployed within the community in which they are currently employed. For example, NHS officers will be able to attend incidents/calls for service where mental health is a factor and utilise their training as a MH practitioner to effectively deal with the incidents and make clinical decisions. The officers will gain transferable skills which they can utilise in their paid employment. WYP officers will also gain skills from the NHS officers.
16. The District has been able to utilise legislation under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 to deal with vehicles involved in fly-tipping. A vehicle involved in a number of offences was identified and seized by the Local Authority – the first time such a power had been used in the District – which led to the vehicle being scrapped.
17. Fifty-nine Criminal Behaviour Orders have been obtained across the District in order to tackle the most serious and persistent anti-social individuals. Breaching the order has tough criminal sanctions and is an effective tool in preventing further persistent crime and anti-social behaviour. The number obtained in Bradford is greater than any other District in West Yorkshire.
18. Joint work has been ongoing for a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) to come into effect early December in the City Centre. This will give the Council and Police powers to issue fixed penalty tickets for anti-social drinking in a defined space in the City Centre and also provide a power for alcohol to be seized.
19. In November 2016, the District was able to work effectively to problem solve, and ultimately prevent a large number of motorcycle users participating in a 'ride out' through the City Centre. A similar event in Leeds saw over 100 motorcycles ridden through the City in an anti-social manner, leading to adverse national publicity. Effective problem solving through the Neighbourhood Support Hub saw ASB legislation used to obtain an injunction against those seeking to participate, plus a multi-agency contingency put in place to effectively deal with anyone seeking to use a vehicle in an anti-social manner. Significantly, this problem solving took place at a time of peak demand for Policing resources (bonfire weekend) and prevented an additional demand being placed on all partners.
20. Following issues experienced by all agencies as a result of Eid celebrations, particularly around Great Horton Road, a problem solving approach was taken to planning and policing the event in September 2016. Incidents of anti-social behaviour were much reduced this year, leading to positive feedback from the communities and enhanced engagement between the communities and all agencies.

