

Report of	Meeting	Date
Director of Policy and Governance	Overview and Scrutiny Performance Panel	1 December 2016

PCSO DEPLOYMENT AND FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS

PURPOSE OF REPORT

- To provide the performance panel with background information to consider when discussing the council's investment in Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs)

RECOMMENDATION(S)

- That the panel consider the report and discuss the implications.
- That the panel consider what, if any, recommendations they make to the Executive Cabinet and Council in terms of the council's approach to investing in PCSO provision in the borough.

Confidential report Please bold as appropriate	Yes	No

CORPORATE PRIORITIES

- This report relates to the following Strategic Objectives:

Involving residents in improving their local area and equality of access for all		A strong local economy	
Clean, safe and healthy communities	✓	An ambitious council that does more to meet the needs of residents and the local area	

BACKGROUND

- The council has supported the provision of PCSOs by providing funding to Lancashire Police since for a number of years. The aim of PCSOs is to provide a link between the police and communities, and to also support the council's work in community safety, reassurance and environmental crime.
- The council currently makes a contribution of £297,000 a year for the PCSO provision in the borough. The funding is drawn from the New Homes Bonus funding the council receives. This investment decision is taken on an annual basis at the budget setting council meeting.
- The overview and scrutiny committee have previously considered the work of PCSOs, and have questioned representatives from the police on the matter. The most recent meeting was in October 2016. A summary of that discussion is provided below.

PCSO ACTIVITY AND PREVIOUS UPDATES

8. Overview and Scrutiny received an update report in October 2015 that outlined the contribution the council made to PCSO provision and the approach being taken by the Police to their deployment. At that time, the report outlined:
- The Police's threat and risk analysis indicated that the optimum number of PCSOs for the borough was 14. However, given the council's contribution, they would continue to support a total of 27 PCSOs.
 - That the funding at that point the funding of £11,000 per PCSO amounted to around 33% of the total cost of each post.
 - That the police had agreed to direct some of the PCSO resource toward prevention and early intervention, and they would support the police's early action team.
9. Overview and Scrutiny received a further update at their meeting in March this year. During that discussion, the Police answered questions around the deployment and use of PCSOs:
- There are 19 PCSOs working within the neighbourhood policing teams within the borough, and eight working on early action.
 - The deployment of PCSOs is on the basis of risk, threat and vulnerability.
 - That the money provided by the council is used in resources deployed within the borough.

LANCASHIRE POSITION

10. In August, the Joint Management Board of the Constabulary and the Policy and Crime Commissioner considered a report on the HR Establishment of the Police. It included information about the PCSO posts that receive part funding.
11. The table in that report is set out below

Div	Partnership	Staff Details	FTE	Commitment
West	Blackpool Borough Council	Town Centre, Priority Wards	9	£103,500
West	Blackpool Borough Council	Blackpool Transport	1	£11,500
West	Aspire Academy (formerly Bispham High School)	School PCSO	1	£11,500
West	Blackpool and Fylde College	School PCSO	1	£11,500
West	Montgomery High School	School PCSO	1	£11,500
West	St Marys Catholic College	School PCSO	1	£11,500
West	Pupil Referral Unit	School PCSO	1	£11,500
West	Lancaster University	1 x PCSO	1	£11,000
West	Morecambe Town Council	3 x PCSO	3	£33,804
West	Morecambe High School	1 x PCSO	1	£11,568
South	Chorley Borough Council	27 x PCSO	27	£297,000
South	West Lancs District Council	8 x PCSO	8	£88,000
South	South Ribble Borough Council	4 x PCSO	4	£44,000
South	Community Gateway	1 x PCSO	1	£11,000
South	Cardinal Newman College	1 x PCSO	1	£11,000
East	Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council	16 x PCSO	16	£178,240
East	Ribble Valley Borough Council	2 x PCSO	2	£22,000
East	The Mall Limited Partnership	1 x PCSO	1	£11,000
East	Newground CIC - Blackburn Town Centre	2 x PCSO	2	£22,000
East	Burnley Borough Council	8 x PCSO	8	£88,000
East	Pendle Council	6 x PCSO	6	£66,000
East	Rossendale Borough Council	3 x PCSO	3	£33,000
East	Sir John Thursby Community College	1 x PCSO	1	£11,000
HQ (N)	LCC NIMROD - LDAAT	2 x PCSO	2	£16,814

West(N)	Lancashire County Council	2 x PCSO	2	£264,000
South (N)	Lancashire County Council	6 x PCSO	6	
East (N)	Lancashire County Council	7 x PCSO	7	
HQ (N)	Lancashire County Council	2 x Safer Travel (Corp Dev)	2	
Totals:			119	£1,391,926

12. Of particular note in the table is that Chorley Council makes the largest contribution to part-funding PCSO posts across the county. The contribution is significantly higher than other district councils (West Lancashire making the next nearest at £88k).
13. The main body of the report in August also set out the total number of PCSO posts for each division.
14. For the Southern division (Chorley, South Ribble, Preston and West Lancashire), there are 47 part-funded posts (with 27 of these being funded by Chorley Council). However, there are also 51 fully-funded posts across the division. This information would appear to suggest that Lancashire Police do not provide any fully-funded PCSO posts to Chorley, and they must be deployed elsewhere where partner contributions are lower.
15. The Deputy Chief Executive has raised this query with the Police.
16. Although any changes would need to be undertaken through negotiation with the Police, there is a potential that the council could argue that the Police should identify the number of PCSOs who should be deployed to the borough through their risk and threat analysis. The council could then choose to 'top-up' the provision if it determined it supported its priorities, rather than part funding every PCSO deployed in the borough.

IMPLICATIONS OF REPORT

17. This report has implications in the following areas and the relevant Directors' comments are included:

Finance	✓	Customer Services	
Human Resources		Equality and Diversity	
Legal		Integrated Impact Assessment required?	
No significant implications in this area		Policy and Communications	

COMMENTS OF THE STATUTORY FINANCE OFFICER

18. No comments

COMMENTS OF THE MONITORING OFFICER

19. No comments

CHRIS SINNOTT
DIRECTOR (POLICY AND GOVERNANCE)

There are no background papers to this report.

Report Author	Ext	Date	Doc ID
Chris Sinnott	5337	23 November 2016	PCSO deployment and funding – performance panel

