

SCRUTINY COMMISSION FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES	Agenda Item No. 5
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Report of the Service Director for Adult Services and Communities		
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PREVENTION AND ENFORCEMENT SERVICE

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To provide Members with details of the development of the multi-agency Prevention and Enforcement Service with a particular focus on rural communities.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 Members are asked to scrutinise this report, to challenge where necessary and to suggest ideas and initiatives which will assist the Prevention and Enforcement Service to address issues and challenges in rural communities.

3. LINKS TO THE CORPORATE PRIORITIES AND RELEVANT CABINET PORTFOLIO

- 3.1 This report links to the Corporate Priority of delivering safe and cohesive communities.
- 3.2 The responsibility for the Prevention and Enforcement Service sits within the portfolio of the Cabinet Member for Communities and Environment Capital.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The City's statutory Community Safety Partnership is known as 'The Safer Peterborough Partnership (SPP)'. The partnership is clear that its aim is to bring 'long-term sustainable reductions in crime and disorder and lead in the creation of stronger, supportive and cohesive communities'. The SPP is a strong, vibrant and active body that benefits from close working relationships between partner agencies.
- 4.2 A main delivery arm of the SPP is the Community Safety Service located within the council, which was initially conceived in 2009 as a collaboration of senior management between police and council but has since evolved to become a wider service comprising staff from the council, police, fire and rescue service and the prison service. In addition the service has strong working links with other bodies such as Cross Keys Homes through their Neighbourhood Teams.
- 4.3 On 19th February 2016, Cabinet approved the next steps in the joint service's evolution by approving the creation of a Prevention and Enforcement Service for the Authority's area. Key to the Service is shared cross-agency management arrangements, shared priorities and the sharing of powers cross agency to make the service more efficient for all.
- 4.4 The first phase of the multi-agency Prevention and Enforcement Service (PES) came into effect on the 1st April 2016 and builds upon the work of the Community Safety Service in tackling crime, community safety and quality of life issues. In the service's short time, it has already

demonstrated the effectiveness of employing staff from the agencies identified within 4.2 above work alongside Council officers, sharing information and intelligence and collectively tackling issues which impact and undermine an individual's sense of well-being and public safety in our communities.

- 4.5 Having established the principle of co-operative and collaborative working, we are now further advancing the PES model with the second phase of development. This comprises the development of a single management structure, led by managers from the council and a range of partner organisations and being directed and governed by one collective leadership arrangement. The service will work towards a single set of jointly agreed priorities (these will be evidence-based, meaning that the service will respond to issues wherever there is an identified need) and we will look to streamline the range of prevention and enforcement teams from across organisations into this single structure.
- 4.6 The following Council services form part of the PES:
- Anti-Social Behaviour
 - CCTV Management and Operations
 - Civil (Parking) Enforcement
 - Community Safety and Tasking Management
 - Housing Enforcement including Selective Licensing
 - Neighbourhood Environmental Enforcement (littering, graffiti,
 - Road Safety
 - Traveller Liaison and Enforcement.
- 4.7 The following Police and Fire services form part of the PES:
- Police Neighbourhood Officers (14 PCs and 29 PCSOs)
 - Safer Schools Teams
 - Crime Reduction Officers (Fire and Police)
 - Police Licensing teams
- 4.8 This continued development of the PES directly aligns to the agreed SPP priorities and details our continuing commitment to building cohesive, safer and confident communities by:
- Addressing victim based crime by reducing re-offending and protecting our residents and visitors from harm
 - Tackling anti-social behaviour and quality of life issues
 - Building stronger and more supportive communities, and
 - Supporting high risk and vulnerable victims, particularly in poor quality housing
- 4.9 The PES staffing structure is detailed in Appendix 1 and illustrates a tiered management structure between the Council, Police, Fire and Rescue Service, Cross Keys Homes and HMP Peterborough. The service will be led by a new post of Assistant Director for Communities who will have responsibilities for the PES and other services across the Communities Directorate. Supporting the proposed Assistant Director will be two Heads of Service from the Police and Fire and Rescue Service.
- 4.10 Delivery of the service will be undertaken by the newly created PES Officers and PES Senior Officers roles, being overseen by the newly created cross organisational PES Managers. Police and non-specialist enforcement staff will be required at times, and where appropriate, to wear high visibility uniforms. Case studies where this approach has been adopted in different areas of the UK clearly demonstrate that the wearing of high visibility uniforms increases compliance and the feeling of safety from the community. The wearing of such high visibility uniforms will allow for a greater number of staff to be deployed for specific periods of time (i.e. during weeks of action). Staff will also be equipped with body-worn cameras and radios which will assist with their protection, compliance and evidence gathering responsibilities.
- 4.11 It is proposed that governance will be overseen by the board that currently forms the Safer

Peterborough Partnership (SPP). It is envisaged this will form a separate element to the SPP board, operating in a similar fashion to the Strong and Supportive Communities Scrutiny Committee which dedicates part of each meeting to its statutory role as the Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee.

- 4.12 A full training package is being delivered to ensure that all staff are equipped with the right skills to support their new role (e.g. communication, conflict resolution, radio procedure techniques, etc.). This training is being obtained from our partner agencies, most notably Cambridgeshire Constabulary and HMP Peterborough (Sodexo) as well as being commissioned by specialist providers.
- 4.13 All staff within the PES are subject to non-police personnel vetting level 3 (MV-NPPV3 Vetting). This is required to allow the Chief Constable of Cambridgeshire Constabulary to fulfil a statutory obligation to run an efficient and effective Police service. To meet this obligation, we must provide for the safety of our staff, and to ensure that those with access to Police data are trustworthy and unlikely to breach confidence.
- 4.14 In due course, these officers will be uniformed and (subject to the Chief Constable's approval) have a greater range of powers available to them. These additional powers may include (but are not limited to):
- Issuing fixed penalty notices for fly-posting, graffiti, dog fouling, littering, etc
 - Powers to deal with begging
 - Powers to require people drinking in designated places to surrender alcohol
 - Powers to stop cycles, and
 - Powers to remove abandoned vehicles
- 4.15 These new powers sit alongside those some officers already have to address issues around housing, parking and/or environmental enforcement. The PES Officers will, therefore, significantly enhance our ability to prevent and enforce community safety and quality of life issues by having full access to the wide ranging powers.
- 4.16 Tactical direction and control will be provided through the tasking and co-ordination hub (TaCoH). The TaCoH will harness cross-agency information and use evidence based data to inform the short and long term activity of the PES. Development work is ongoing that will ensure this process fully exploits new technology, aligning cross agency ICT resources to enhance the value of information and better inform activity.

5. KEY ISSUES FOR THE RURAL COMMUNITIES

- 5.1 For the avoidance of doubt, the Prevention and Enforcement Service is a Peterborough-wide resource. It is as responsible for issues within our rural communities as it is for those within the City.
- 5.2 Staff will be structured into teams that will have geographic responsibility for problem solving longer term issues. This model offers a welcome return to providing localised resources and identified points of contact for rural communities, Councillors and Parish Councils.
- 5.3 Whilst those teams will have geographic responsibility, the whole service will be available for operational deployment for 'here and now' issues and specific targeted campaigns.
- 5.4 Complementing the PES is the work of the police's Rural Crime Action Team. Formed in April 2016, this service provides a dedicated response to the County's rural crime needs, with emphasis on the following:
- Hare coursing
 - Agricultural theft and non-dwelling burglary
 - Enforcement of the Hunting Act 2004 and engagement with all concerned groups
 - Daily engagement with Countryside Watch
 - Promoting crime prevention in rural communities

- Active community engagement including maintenance of social media, rural crime newsletter and promotion of good-news stories to traditional media
- Promotion of partnership working for rural issues that are not the sole primary responsibility of the police including fly-grazing, fly tipping, wildlife crime and environmental crime
- Primacy in all heritage crime investigations (theft of lead or other items from churches)

5.5 Whilst RCAT are a countywide resource, they are deployable across the Peterborough rural community. The PES have ability to directly influence that deployment via the Police manager who sits in this service. Recent examples of activity include deployment to Thorney to combat hare coursing, and investigation of a church theft in Thornhaugh where their countywide knowledge has been able to tie this to an organised crime group and other offences elsewhere.

6. IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no financial or legal implications arising from this report.

7. CONSULTATION

7.1 The development of the PES has been subject to formal staff consultation with affected officers, and has also been scrutinised and debated through the Council's normal governance arrangements.

8. NEXT STEPS

8.1 The next phase of the PES, including full accreditation from the Chief Constable and an increase in uniformed officers, will commence in September 2016.

9. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

9.1 None

10. APPENDICES

10.1 Appendix 1 – PES Staff Structure Chart