

**Community Policing Teams
Report by Eibhlin McHugh, Director of Health and Social Care****Purpose of Report**

The purpose of this report is to bring to the Board recommendations set out for the remit and operation of the Council funded Community Policing Teams, detailed in the appended briefing note from the local Police Commander following the reduction in funding arrangements approved in the Council's Financial Strategy from 2016/17.

The report is relation to operating models for the financial year 2016/17 only and a further review will be required prior to the next financial year when further reductions in funding are made.

Background

With a background of restricted resources and prospects, which will remain challenging for an extended period of financial constraint, funding provided for the Midlothian Community Policing Teams is reduced by £125,000 for 2016/17 and a further £125,000 in 2017/18. This saving equates to a quarter of the Community Policing Teams in 2016/17 and half of one in 2017/18.

At present the Council funds 2 x Community Policing Teams operation in Midlothian at a cost of £500,000. These teams act as a tactical police response to crime and anti social behaviour in Midlothian.

Report Implications**3.1 Single Midlothian Plan and Business Transformation**

Themes addressed in this report:

- ☒ Community safety
- ☐ Adult health and care
- ☐ Getting it right for every Midlothian child
- ☐ Improving opportunities in Midlothian
- ☐ Sustainable growth and housing
- ☐ Business transformation and Best Value
- ☐ None of the above

4 Recommendations

The Board is requested to:

- i. Note the proposed models in Section 3 of the appended report and;
- ii. agree that model 3.2 outlined is adopted.

Date: 6th January 2016

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Background Papers: Police Scotland Briefing Note



Appendix 1

BRIEFING PAPER

FOR INFORMATION ONLY			
Disclosable under FOISA 2002		NO	
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Date Created	4.1.2016	Telephone	0131 654 5505
Attachments:			

SUBJECT: PROPOSAL TO CONSIDER FUTURE OPERATING MODELS FOR FUNDED POLICE OFFICERS IN MIDLOTHIAN

1. Purpose

- 1.1 As you are aware, Midlothian Council currently provide £500k per annum to fund two additional teams of police officers to address identified community priorities. Each team currently consists of one sergeant and six constables, and are governed under a Service Level Agreement (SLA) between Midlothian Council and Police Scotland.
- 1.2 During the budget setting process, Midlothian Council agreed to reduce the level of funding by £125k for the year 2016/17 and a further £125k in 2017/18. This paper documents how this will affect current arrangements and seeks to identify models of operation for Midlothian Council to consider during the financial year of 2016/17 only. A further review will take place prior to the year 2017/18 when the further reduction of funding is introduced.

2. Present Operating Model

- 2.1 As stated above, the current level of funding has provided two dedicated teams of one sergeant and six constables per team. These are uniformed officers, working on different shift patterns to maximise visibility and are tasked via the weekly Partnership Tasking and Coordination (TAC) meeting to address identified community issues throughout Midlothian. The following areas of business are key to their current roles:
 - Tackling antisocial behaviour and disorder

- Tackling substance misuse (both drugs and alcohol)
- Road Safety (reduce road casualties)
- Tackling housebreaking
- Reduce youth related calls
- High visibility patrols for community reassurance
- Community engagement

The above list is far from exhaustive and the teams remain flexible to address emerging issues or threats.

The arrangement is governed by a Service Level Agreement, which is reviewed annually and signed off by the Council Leader and Local Divisional Commander. Monthly reports are produced for the Community Safety Delivery Group members and quarterly reports are provided to the Police and Fire Scrutiny Board.

The current arrangements work well and the teams are very effective.

3 Proposed Models

- 3.1 In an effort to maintain continuity and to build on a tried and tested model, one option to consider is an identical model with a reduction of officers to one sergeant and four constables per team.
- 3.2 Alternatively another model to consider would see one team (1 Sgt + 4 constables) operating as they currently are and the other team (1 Sgt + 4 constables) being very much a tasked "initiative team". This second team would primarily operate plain clothed and would seek to tackle high priority issues such as cannabis cultivations/drug dealing, housebreakings to both dwelling and non dwelling properties and addressing persistent and high tariff individuals involved in antisocial behaviour/disorder.
- 3.3 The second option affords a greater degree of flexibility and provides a more focussed and targeted approach to areas of identified risk within our communities. As the Local Area Commander, my preference would be the model at 3.2.

4. Recommendation

This information is submitted for the information and attention of Midlothian Council for consideration.

Kenny Simpson
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Dalkeith Police Station