

STOCKTON-ON-TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET RECOMMENDATIONS

PROFORMA

Cabinet Meeting9th February 2012

1. Title of Item/Report

EIT Review of Community Safety and Security Services

2. Record of the Decision

Cabinet considered a report that presented the findings of the Housing and Community Safety Select Committee following the EIT review of Community Safety and Security Services. Members were provided with a copy of the relevant Equality Impact Assessment.

It was explained that the review had encompassed the following areas within Community Safety and Security Services; ASB Team, Community Safety, Community Safety grants, Security and Surveillance (CCTV, alarm monitoring, etc), Care Call (community alarm service, Telecare, Telehealth, Domicillary Care), Neighbourhood and Enforcement Service, Caretaking Services (Admin Buildings), Town Hall Housekeeping Service, Concierge Security (fully funded by Tristar Homes Ltd).

The overall aim of the review had been to identify options for future strategy, policy and service provision that would deliver efficiency savings while sustaining/improving high quality outcomes for SBC residents. Members of the Select Committee considered that the high performing frontline service benefitted the area and were keen that the need to make efficiency savings did not impact detrimentally on the service. The Committee was also sensitive to planned central government funding cuts to the police as this may feed through to policing in the Borough, which may have a negative impact on crime levels.

The Committee identified a number of vacant posts that if deleted would produce savings.

The Committee also proposed to delete two of the four posts of Senior Neighbourhood Enforcement Officer, and to use the vacancies at the main Neighbourhood Enforcement grade as deployment options for the two people displaced from the senior level. This approach was intended to minimise the impact upon service delivery.

Unions were consulted to discuss the proposal. Other alternatives had

been considered, for example, retaining the current four Seniors, or running with three, but it had been concluded that the 'two Seniors' model was the best option in the circumstances. Discussions then focussed on the criteria and process for selecting two from the remaining three Seniors. The trade unions confirmed that the selection criteria were satisfactory and were advised that an HR Officer and the Community Safety Manager would participate in the selection process to provide additional independent objectivity.

It was noted that 21 of the 26 respondents to the consultation process expressed clear support for this proposal.

Cabinet was informed that Hartlepool Borough Council as lead authority of the Cleveland Emergency Planning Unit (CEPU), had initiated a programme of efficiency measures, with targets for 10% savings for all four local authorities within year 1, i.e 2011/12 (achieved), a further 5% for 2012/13 and a final 5% in 2013/14. The Chief Emergency Planning Officer had put in place a range of measures to achieve these budget reductions in staffing levels and increased income generation through organisation of training programmes. The intention was to make the savings without reducing the level of service to the four authorities. In particular, a full and active programme of updating, testing and exercising statutory emergency plans in respect of the chemical industry would be maintained. Progress of the CEPU savings is being monitored via the Joint Committee on emergency planning;

The Committee had agreed a reduction in the contribution to the Cleveland Emergency Planning Unit of £7,000

Cabinet noted that, in relation to other costs associated with the above deleted posts, there would be a further reduction to the Services and Supplies Budget.

During debate the work of the Committee and Officers was applauded, particularly in identifying the changes to operational structures, that would have limited impact on frontline services, whilst achieving savings in the region of £152,000. It was suggested that further work be undertaken to focus on residents' satisfaction and service improvement and transformation opportunities.

RESOLVED that

1. the identified vacant posts across the service be deleted with duties being absorbed by other posts across the authority.
2. two of the four posts of Senior Neighbourhood Officer be deleted.

3. there be a reduction in the contribution to the Cleveland Emergency Planning Unit.
4. there be a reduction in the Services and Supplies Budget directly associated with deleted posts.
5. that Executive Scrutiny Committee be asked to consider including a further piece of work on Community Safety and Security Services in the Scrutiny work programme, to focus on the issues detailed above.

3. Reasons for the Decision

As part of the Council's EIT Programme, the Committee had undertaken the review with the aim of identifying options for future strategy, policy and service provision that would deliver efficiency savings while sustaining/improving high quality outcomes for SBC residents.

4. Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

None

5. Declared (Cabinet Member) Conflicts of Interest

None

6. Details of any Dispensations

Not applicable

7. Date and Time by which Call In must be executed

Midnight on Friday 17th February 2012

Proper Officer
13 February 2012