

# **BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

## **CABINET**

**7TH NOVEMBER 2007**

### **LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT FUNDING TO BROMSGROVE COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP**

Responsible Portfolio Holder	Cllr June Griffiths
Responsible Head of Service	John Godwin

#### **1. SUMMARY**

- 1.1 To inform the Cabinet of a reduction in funding to the Bromsgrove Community Safety Partnership in 2007/08 and uncertainty about funding levels for 2008/09

#### **2. RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 The Cabinet is recommended to:

2.1.1 Note the contents of this report; and

2.1.2 Understand the risk to Bromsgrove Community Safety Partnership and the possibility of losing Posts funded via the Partnership and the impact this would have on Bromsgrove District residents.

#### **3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 Funding from the Home Office to the Local Area Agreement (L.A.A.) was reduced and this was passed on to Bromsgrove Community Safety Partnership in July 2007.

During the last 4 financial years Community Safety Partnerships have not received increases via central government funding with the exception of one increment in line with a single year's R.P.I. This is the first time there has been an actual cut to funding.

In Worcestershire, Partnerships receive 65% of the overall L.A.A. funding with the remaining 35% being retained by the Safer Communities Board to commission county-wide projects. The majority of funding Bromsgrove CSP receives is used to support posts:

3 x Neighbourhood Wardens  
1 x Admin Support Officer  
1 x dedicated Analyst

The Admin Post has always been funded via the Partnership since October 2003 and the Wardens have been since January 2004

Other funding is also received by the Partnership from West Mercia Police and the Fire Service. Bromsgrove District Council financially supports the Partnership via hosting the admin and financial support it requires and the main streamed post of Community Safety Officer and the Community Safety Manager

For 2008/09 L.A.A.funding is for Community-Safety-based activities and it is not 'ring fenced' for Community Safety Partnerships. This could also affect the Police funding stream used to support Community Safety Partnerships as it also comes from the L.A.A. central 'pot'.

This could potentially put all the Partnership-funded posts at risk for 2008/09. The impact on Bromsgrove District Council would be that the costs of Neighbourhood Wardens and Admin Support posts would fall on the Council

It is unlikely Partnerships will know the projected levels of L.A.A. funding before Christmas 2007.

### 3.2 Merger of the North Worcestershire Partnerships

In order to address the concerns outlined above with regard to funding and to reflect the fact that Sense of Community is a Council priority, work is being undertaken to assess the feasibility of Bromsgrove, Redditch & Wyre Forest Community Safety Partnerships merging.

A joint Bromsgrove, Redditch and Wyre Forest Report on the proposed merger has been prepared separately and will be put before each Council's Executive Cabinet in November 2007 for consideration.

## 4. Financial Implications

### 4.1 LAA Funding cut of £10,000 in July 2007 resulted in the following cuts being made:

#### 4.1.1 School holiday (Summer Term, October Half Term, February Half Term and Easter Term) Diversionary Schemes: **Was £10,000 now £6,000**

Community Safety's Youth Action Group developed the 'Say Yes' (Sports, Arts, Youth) project for the 07 Summer Holidays. Partnership funding was used to buy sports and arts equipment and the time of Support Youth Workers, Sports Coaches and Transport. Areas that did not have access to sustained youth provision such as Stoke Prior, Alvechurch and Romsley were the target areas.

Although the Summer programme went ahead, the cut in funding has meant the planned October Half Term Programme was reduced and the February and Easter programmes cancelled as they relied on additional Partnership funding which is not now available.

It was also hoped that additional Partnership funding would have enabled Outreach workers to engage with young people at the new Multi Use Games Areas at St Georges Close & Charford and the yet to be installed Areas at Catshill and Wythall.

The equipment needed to support activities in these areas has already been purchased via the 'Say Yes' programme

4.1.2 Funding to support Tasking initiatives highlighted by Partners:

**Was £10,454      now      £4,454**

This has meant a major reduction in the amount of money available to support new initiatives or projects or seasonal issues such as Christmas/Drink Driving or tackling specific anti-social behaviour issues as they are identified via the Tasking process.

4.1.2 A joint funded, with Redditch Community Safety Partnership, play-based project (When Times Collapses) looking at mental health issues associated with Crime, Disorder and Anti-Social Behaviour has been cancelled. A refund of £6,000 allocated from Bromsgrove CSP 2006/07 Budget is to be returned from the organisers and will be reallocated via the Partnership to support Tasking initiatives.

4.2 In 2007/08, Bromsgrove Community Safety Partnership funded:

3 x Neighbourhood Wardens	£ 60,000
Admin Support Post	£ 17,000
Partnership Data Analyst	£ 30,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>£107,000</b>

Income from the LAA and Partners

LAA	£ 94,650
<i>(this after the 10.01% cut to the budget July 07)</i>	
Police	£ 12,000
Fire Service	£ 2,000
Carry forward from 2006/07	£ 8,804
<b>Total</b>	<b>£117,454</b>

**Balance of £10,454:**

Funding Diversionary Projects 07	£ 6,000
Tasking Support	£ 4,454
<b>Total</b>	<b>£10,454</b>

With reducing monies available to fund projects within the Bromsgrove District for 2007/08 there will be no carry forward for 2008/09. The pressures will be also around creating a 'pot' of money to support Tasking projects and funding existing posts.

With no specifically 'ring fenced' allocated funding to Bromsgrove Community Safety Partnership for 2008/09 there will be pressure to reduce the number of posts currently funded if the final allocation via L.A.A. be a further reduction on the current 2007/08 level of funding.

## **5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 There are no inherent legal problems presented via a reduction to Budgets. The 1998 Crime & Disorder Act covers the establishment of a Community Safety Partnership and which organisations should be statutory Partners. Levels of funding are not covered. The Act does say there should be a Council Officer who has responsibility for Community Safety issues within a local authority.

## **6. COUNCIL OBJECTIVES**

- 6.1 Community Safety links to the Council's Objective 2 – Improvement of reputation and the Council's Objective 3 – Sense of Community and Well-being and it's priority of Community influence.

## **7. RISK MANAGEMENT**

- 7.1 The main risks associated with the details included in this report are:

- Loss of income to Bromsgrove Community Safety Partnership
- Redundancies with Neighbourhood Wardens
- Reduction in support to local communities and BDC Officers

- 7.2 These risks are being managed as follows:

- Loss of income/redundancies:

Risk Register: Community Safety, Neighbourhood Wardens  
Key Objective Ref No: NW1  
Key Objective: Ability to employ Neighbourhood Wardens

- Reduction in support to local communities:

Risk Register: Community Safety, Neighbourhood Wardens  
Key Objective Ref No: NW2  
Key Objective: Community Development

## **8. CUSTOMER IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1 Any reduction in posts could have a direct influence on the level of support to the Community Safety Partnership/Tasking Group and its members. Currently they task Wardens to tackle issues raised via PACT meetings or by individual members of the public.

Reduction in the numbers of Wardens funded would reduce the support Residents receive on anti social behaviour and environmental crime issues. This may also lead to Fear of Crime being heightened as a result of visible support to communities being reduced.

## **9. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 There are no implications for the Council's Equalities and Diversity Policies

**10. OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

<b>Procurement Issues</b>	<b>None</b>
<b>Personnel Implications</b> Should posts be reduced then a clear exit strategy will need to be generated to support any potential redundancies	
<b>Governance/Performance Management support of principal of Shared Service Agenda</b> Lack of Warden input may directly influence residents Fear of Crime levels through less support to tackling Anti Social Behaviour.	
<b>Community Safety including Section 17 of Crime and Disorder Act 1998</b> Reduction in resources will mean reducing support to areas and individuals from the Community Safety Partnership	
<b>Policy</b>	<b>None</b>
<b>Environmental</b> Less Warden time will mean reducing time supporting identification and clearing up of Flyposting, Flytipping and Graffiti.	
<b>Equalities and Diversity</b>	<b>None</b>

**10. OTHERS CONSULTED ON THE REPORT**

Portfolio Holder	<b>Yes</b>
Chief Executive	<b>Yes</b>
Corporate Director (Services)	<b>Yes</b>
Assistant Chief Executive	<b>No</b>
Head of Service	<b>Yes</b>
Head of Financial Services	<b>Yes</b>
Head of Legal & Democratic Services	<b>Yes</b>
Head of Organisational Development & HR	<b>Yes</b>
Corporate Procurement Team	<b>No</b>

**11. APPENDICES**

N/A

**12. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

N/A

**13. CONTACT OFFICER**

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