

## MID SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL

<b>TO:</b> Cabinet	<b>REPORT NUMBER:</b> <b>MCa/18/48</b>
<b>FROM:</b> Julie Flatman, Cabinet Member for Communities	<b>DATE OF MEETING:</b> 10 December 2018
<b>OFFICERS:</b> Kathy Nixon, Strategic Director; Melanie Yolland, Communities Officer	<b>KEY DECISION REF NO.</b>

### FUNDING FOR POLICE COMMUNITY SUPPORT OFFICERS

#### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report sets out a proposal for Mid Suffolk District Council to fund two Police Community Support Officers to work across the District. This proposal to fund extra policing capacity responds to ongoing concerns from Town & Parish Councils, local businesses and residents about the need for greater enforcement of parking infringements and speeding and to address and prevent anti-social behaviour. The proposal also increases overall police visibility and community engagement as well as capacity to extend support for victims and vulnerable residents.

#### 2. MID SUFFOLK OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 The following options were considered:

- a. Mid Suffolk District Council to fund two additional Police Community Support Officers.
- b. Mid Suffolk District Council to fund one additional Police Community Support Officer.
- c. Mid Suffolk District Council to provide no additional funding for Police Community Support Officers.

- 2.2 Option 2.1 (a) is recommended because it would provide additional policing capacity to address parking infringements and other community safety and anti-social behaviour issues across Mid Suffolk.

Option 2.1 (b) is not recommended because it would restrict this additional capacity to a smaller geographical area and would not cover the whole of the district.

Option 2.1 (c) is not recommended because it would mean that parking infringements in particular would be largely unenforced in Mid Suffolk, due to competing demands on Police resources.

<p><b>3. RECOMMENDATIONS</b></p> <p>3.1 To agree to fund two Police Community Support Officers for a period of 2 years at a total cost of £149,200 (including vehicles).</p> <p>3.2 To delegate to the Strategic Director, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Communities, the authority to agree the final terms of the Agreement between Mid Suffolk District Council and Suffolk Police.</p>
<p><b>4. REASON FOR DECISION</b></p> <p>To increase policing capacity in response to concerns from businesses and residents.</p>

## 5. KEY INFORMATION

### The reasons for funding additional Police Community Support Officer capacity

- 5.1 Mid Suffolk Councillors receive ongoing feedback from Town and Parish Councils, local businesses and residents regarding concerns in the district about parking infringements, speeding and low level anti-social behaviour that the Police often cannot prioritise due to the need to focus on more serious matters. Communities also want to see an overall increase in police visibility and greater reassurance for vulnerable groups such as the elderly. These issues impact both on the quality of life of local people and on the footfall of local businesses.
- 5.2 In response to these concerns, Mid Suffolk Council proposes to fund two additional Police Community Support Officers to work across the district. This resource would be over and above existing core Police Community Support Officer capacity funded by Suffolk Police. The arrangement would be supported by a formal Agreement with Suffolk Police, which would be for two years.
- 5.3 It is anticipated that by 2020 Civil Parking Enforcement powers will be extended to local authorities in Suffolk. The funding of additional Police Community Support Officers now would provide the required policing capacity to ensure that parking infringements that impact on traffic flows, safety and access to businesses and private properties could be more effectively dealt with in the interim.

### The role and tasking of the two Police Community Support Officers

- 5.4 The fundamental role of Police Community Support Officers is to contribute to the policing of neighbourhoods through visible patrols with the purpose of reassuring the public, increasing orderliness in public places, being accessible to communities and working at a local level with partner agencies.
- 5.5 The role of the two additional Police Community Support Officers funded by Mid Suffolk District Council would be to:
- Undertake public-facing duties in uniform;
  - Be visible in communities on foot, cycle patrol or a vehicle in rural areas;
  - Deal with parking infringements and speeding;

- Deal with other antisocial behaviour, low-level crime and incidents, local problems/priorities and quality of life issues;
- Support and improve services to victims and vulnerable people; and
- Conduct community engagement and problem-solving activity.

- 5.6 The Police Community Support Officers would be directly employed by the Police. They would also be tasked by the Police, who would ensure that this was in line with the priorities agreed with Mid Suffolk District Council.
- 5.7 Standard working hours for the funded Police Community Support Officers would be between 08:00 and 18:00 Monday to Sunday. However, Mid Suffolk District Council could request a change in this shift pattern either on a temporary or permanent basis in response to local issues and the Chief Constable has undertaken to 'use reasonable endeavours to accommodate such requests.'

#### Costs of funding Police Community Support Officers

- 5.8 The annual cost of each Police Community Support Officer is £34,000. This includes:
- (a) provision for basic salary;
  - (b) uniform and equipment costs;
  - (c) a contribution towards the cost of training;
  - (d) weekend and location payments; and
  - (e) standard pay increases, employers' National Insurance contributions and Local Government Pension Scheme contributions.
- 5.9 Where a Police vehicle is required, there is an extra cost of £3,300 per vehicle per year. It is proposed that Mid Suffolk should request two vehicles for use by the two additional Police Community Support Officers to ensure that they are able to cover the whole of the Mid Suffolk area.
- 5.10 The total cost to Mid Suffolk for the 2 year period would be £149,200 (2 x Police Community Support Officer @ £34,000 each per year plus two Police vehicles @ £3,300 each per year).
- 5.11 The funding for this would come from the Growth & Efficiency Fund.

#### Monitoring and Evaluation

- 5.12 The designated Police Inspector and representatives from Mid Suffolk District Council would hold quarterly local review meetings to monitor the Agreement. The Police would also provide management information on the performance and deployment of the additional Police Community Support Officers.
- 5.13 The Police would attend a meeting of Mid Suffolk Council twice a year to provide an update directly to all Members.

## **6. LINKS TO JOINT STRATEGIC PLAN**

- 6.1 The provision of additional policing capacity supports the key priority areas of Economy and Environment and Strong and Healthy Communities, as set out in the Joint Strategic Plan.

## 7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 Details of the costs of this scheme are set out at paragraphs 5.8 – 5.11 of this report.
- 7.2 There are sufficient funds in the Growth & Efficiency Fund to cover the total cost of £149,200 for this scheme.

## 8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 This scheme is underpinned by statutory powers given to local authorities to make a grant to the Police for policing purposes under Section 92 of the Police Act 1996.
- 8.2 The terms of the scheme will be set out in an Agreement between Mid Suffolk District Council and Suffolk Police.

## 9. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

This scheme will support a safer environment by improving both safety and community reassurance for local residents and businesses.

## 10. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 10.1 This report is most closely linked with the Councils' Corporate / Significant Business Risk No. 3(a). This, along with mitigation, as it relates specifically to the funding of additional Police Community Support Officers is set out in the table below.

Risk Description	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigation Measures
3 (a) Lack of effective engagement with communities to understand their future needs means we may not be able to help communities to become more sustainable.	2 (unlikely)	2 (noticeable)	This proposal to fund additional policing capacity is a response to feedback from communities; there will be ongoing engagement with Town & Parish Councils and local businesses to inform the future priorities for the Council-funded Police Community Support Officers; these additional officers will build relationships with, and provide relevant advice and support to, local community groups; they will also promote the growth of Neighbourhood Watch Schemes.

## 11. EQUALITY IMPACT ANALYSIS

- 11.1 There are no equalities issues arising from this report. The additional Police Community Support Officers will be available to the whole of the Mid Suffolk district.

## 12. APPENDICES - None.

## 13. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS - None.