

HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**CABINET****MONDAY 12 JULY 2004 AT 2.00 P.M.****DEPLOYMENT OF HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL FUNDED
POLICE COMMUNITY SUPPORT OFFICERS**Report of the County Secretary

Author: Jim Nicolson, Crime Reduction Manager

Tel: 01992 588737

Executive Member:- Iris Tarry

1. Purpose of report

This report sets out proposals for the deployment of Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) to be funded by Hertfordshire County Council (HCC) during 2004/05. These proposals reflect revised deployment criteria, which consist of the population, numbers of electoral divisions and geographical size of each district.

Cabinet is also requested to agree the contents of the draft Policy Statement for HCC funded PCSOs.

2. Summary

Currently, HCC funds 12 PCSOs, which are deployed, 4 per district in East Herts, North Herts and Dacorum. In 2004/05, a £1.2 million budget uplift will fund an additional 40 PCSOs. Recent confirmation has been received that a further 8 PCVSO posts will be match funded by the Home Office following a successful bid made jointly by HCC and the Constabulary. It has already been agreed that 3 of these posts will be deployed, one to each police Basic Command Unit areas, to undertake targeted work around the drugs agenda, thus leaving 57 posts to be allocated across the county.

3. Conclusion

Cabinet is invited firstly, to agree the use of the revised deployment criteria and secondly, to agree the subsequent allocations of the 57 PCSO posts. The Crime and Disorder Member Panel, at its meeting on 28 June 2004, noted and endorsed the use of these proposals and the subsequent allocations. The same proposals were also presented to the Chief Officer Group for Crime and Disorder on 23rd June 2004. Chief Officers, including Chief Executives of local authorities and the Constabulary, also endorsed the deployment criteria and the subsequent allocations of HCC funded PCSOs. At this meeting a request was put forward to consider the level of anti-social behaviour incidents as part of the deployment criteria for HCC funded PCSOs.

This issued was subsequently raised for consideration at the 28th June Member Panel meeting, of which Asst Chief Constable Rob Beckley was in attendance. The Asst Chief Constable and Jim Nicolson, Crime Reduction Manager for the Crime Reduction Unit / Drug Action Team, explained that this would be difficult as the Constabulary record 11 categories of anti-social behaviour and levels of recording are not as consistence across the county as they could be. The Asst Chief Constable also reinforced the fact that the core activity of a PCSO is about providing a high visibility presence and to provide reassurance to communities, as opposed to directly responding to crime and disorder incidents.

A table setting out the impact of using the revised deployment criteria is attached as Appendix 1.

An overarching Policy Statement, covering the strategic role of HCC funded PCSOs, has also been drafted. It was noted and supported by Members at the Member Panel meeting on 14 April 2004, and is now attached as Appendix 2 for consideration by Cabinet.

4 Background

Deployment Criteria

As outlined above, the deployment of HCC PCSOs during 2004/05 has been proposed using the following three criteria;

- 1 Population
- 2 Electoral divisions
- 3 Geographical size

1 Population

Column 1 indicates the number of HCC PCSOs that would be allocated to each district, if based solely on the percentage of the total population of Hertfordshire that each district has. For example, Broxbourne has 8% of the total population of Hertfordshire. 8% of 57 posts is 5 posts (when rounded up).

2 Electoral Divisions

Column 2 indicates the number of HCC PCSOs that would be allocated to each district based solely on the number of electoral divisions each district has. For example, Broxbourne has 8% of the total number of electoral divisions in the county (6 out of 78). 8% of 57 posts is 5 posts (when rounded up)

3 Geographical Area

Column 3 indicates the number of HCC PCSOs that would be allocated to each district based solely on the percentage of the total geographical size of Hertfordshire that each district represents. For example, Broxbourne represents 3% of the total geographical size of Hertfordshire. 3% of 57 posts is 2 posts (when rounded up).

4 Average of columns 1-3

The number of HCC PCSOs that would be allocated to each district based upon the average of the above three criteria, population, electoral divisions and geographical size.

5 PCSOs not funded by the County Council

Column 5 indicates the number of additional PCSOs that are either in place, or will be by the end of 04/05 financial year, that are not funded by the County Council. It needs to be stressed that no account has been taken, in regard to the deployment of HCC funded posts, of the provision of these PCSOs from other sources.

6 Total number of PCSO in place by end of 04/05

Column 6 indicates the total number of PCSOs that would be in place by end of 04/05 in each district, taking into account all funding streams, if the deployment methodology proposed in this report was adopted.

7 Harmonising of future funding arrangements

In order to identify an agreed approach to support the future funding of all PCSOs when current time-limited funding provision for a number of the non-HCC posts finishes, a project board has been set up, having its inaugural meeting on 19 July 2004. The purpose of this board is to identify a mechanism, whereby districts can, in order to retain PCSOs, contribute towards the resultant costs. The board will include senior police officers as well as county and district council representation.