

Item 6; Safer Communities Project: Update

1 SUMMARY/PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report provides a brief update on the three work streams of the Safer Communities Wave 2 Project; (i) Closed Circuit Television (CCTV), (ii) strategy delivery mechanisms and (iii) strategy enhancements.

2 DETAILS

(i) CCTV:

An initial options appraisal for CCTV has now been completed focusing on the requirements of the service now and looking to the future. There are some minimum capacity issues to be addressed, and the primary aim is to ensure a more cost effective system which is more flexible to respond to changing priorities. The extension of the technology to include Automatic Number Plate Recognition is being considered. The options appraisal has looked at three broad approaches; an in-house option, outsourcing the technical platform only and outsourcing the whole function. Soft market testing is in progress to test the assumptions made through the options appraisal, and will be completed by early February. It is expected to take a recommendation to committee in April 2013.

(ii) Strategy Delivery Mechanisms:

A number of principles are proposed to ensure that the governance to support delivery of the Safer Communities Strategy is efficient and effective:

1. Governance arrangements would vary between the following type of priority:
 - (i) Priority **issues** (ASB/ Violent Crime/ Property Crime),
 - (ii) Priority cross-cutting **themes** (reducing the fear of crime/ tackling hotspots, reducing repeat victimisation)
 - (iii) Priority **projects and programmes** (Troubled Families/ Integrated Offender Management and strategy enhancements)

2. Each **priority issue** would be overseen by a strategic sub-group to the Partnership Board (either new or existing) with the following functions:
 - Hotspot and intelligence analysis related to that issue
 - Monitoring of a partnership action plan with performance targets
 - Feeding in communications plan/ targets to an overall partnership plan
 - An approach to tackling repeat victimisation
 - Responsibility for reporting to the partnership board

3. Priority **projects and programmes** would continue to have project or operational boards. These would feed in performance information and escalate issues to relevant priority groups or the Partnership Board where appropriate (this may be time-limited if appropriate).

4. Cross-cutting **themes** would not have separate strategic groups – but will be addressed through the action plan for each key issue.

Subject to the Partnership Board's approval of the above principles, the project will work with officers from partner organisations over the next two months to complete the following:

1. Establish a "task and finish" group to oversee the review of governance and action plans (points 2-6 below).
2. Review existing operational and strategic groups to assess how this model could be adapted to meet the above principles.
3. Develop guideline terms of reference for the "priority issue" groups.
4. Support priority leads to review action plans for each priority issue (to include plans for communications, tackling repeat victimisation and hotspots)
5. Develop reporting principles to guide the outputs produced for the Safer Communities Partnership Board.
6. Define the relationship between priority projects and programmes and the Partnership Board and sub groups.

(iii) Strategy Enhancements:

An outline business case has been developed (attached as Appendix A), which responds to feedback from partners. The recommended initiatives provide opportunities to improve community safety in Barnet and respond to the top priorities of the Safer Communities Partnership. They provide coverage across the justice continuum and will together increase community visibility of crime prevention action, enhance levels of victim satisfaction and promote community participation in addressing key local issues.

- A new housing policy detailing the obligations for social housing tenants (a "new deal with citizens").
- Implementation of community led neighbourhood justice panels to respond to low level crime and ASB
- An extension of the Community Coaches model to those at risk of offending.
- Expanded use of conditional cautions, initially focusing on alcohol related crime and/ or domestic violence and hate crime.
- Enhanced Integrated Offender Management – expanding the cohort to 200 and enhancing the re-settlement pathways.

The package delivers financial and non-financial benefits to a range of partners. The OBC provides an initial mechanism that helps the partnership work together to achieve strategic outcomes by addressing the practical issues of budget flexibility. Following the set-up, launch and evaluation of these projects, the partnership can adjust the allocation of costs to more accurately reflect the benefits delivered to each partner.

The Outline Business Case is on the agenda for the Council's Cabinet Resources Committee 25th February 2013.

3 DECISION REQUESTED

(i) That the Board note the position with regard to CCTV and Strategy Delivery Mechanisms

(ii) That the Board endorse the Outline Business Case attached at Appendix A and that Board members commit their own organisation's commitment to support its delivery.

4 CONTACT FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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