

POLICE PARTNERSHIP TASKING TEAM

Cabinet Member	Councillor Douglas Mills
Cabinet Portfolio	Community, Commerce and Regeneration
Officer Contact	Ed Shaylor - Residents Services
Papers with report	None

1. HEADLINE INFORMATION

Summary	To seek approval to provide grant funding to the Metropolitan Police Service under Section 92 of the Police Act 1996 to be used for the provision of enhanced police services within the London Borough of Hillingdon.
Contribution to our plans and strategies	Safer Borough – Community Safety Plan
Financial Cost	The budget for 12 months is £462,000
Relevant Policy Overview Committee	External Services Scrutiny (statutory crime & disorder committee), Corporate Services & Partnerships (community safety)
Ward(s) affected	All

2. RECOMMENDATION

That the Cabinet:

- 1. Authorises the Deputy Chief Executive and Corporate Director of Residents Services, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Community, Commerce & Regeneration, to sign any necessary agreements and make grant funding available to the Metropolitan Police Service in the sum of £462,000 per annum for the period 1 March 2013 to 31 March 2014 on terms that require the Metropolitan Police to provide eleven additional police officers to serve within the London Borough of Hillingdon;**
- 2. Authorises the Deputy Chief Executive and Corporate Director of Residents Services, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Community, Commerce & Regeneration, to enter into negotiations with the Metropolitan Police Service with a view to providing further grant funding to the Metropolitan Police in the sum of £462,000 per annum for the period 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2016 on terms that are broadly similar to the arrangements for the period 1 March 2013 to 31 March 2014; and**

/continued...

3. Requests that the Deputy Chief Executive and Corporate Director for Residents Services refers items 1 and / or 2 (as applicable) back to the Cabinet in the event that match funding is not provided by the Mayor of London in respect of the provision of additional policing within the Borough.

Reasons for recommendation

The London Borough of Hillingdon has a grant funding agreement with Metropolitan Police Service under s.92 Police Act 1996 for the provision of 1 sergeant and 10 constables in a "Police Partnership Tasking Team". Under these arrangements the Mayor of London provides match funding to reduce the cost burden to local authorities.

The Mayor of London has committed to extend the match funding scheme for borough councils within his crime manifesto and options are currently being considered by the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) to support this pledge. Pending the Mayor of London's introduction of the new scheme (which is forecast to be introduced in April 2014) MOPAC are continuing with the existing match funding scheme until 31 March 2014 on the same terms and conditions as are currently in place.

Alternative options considered / risk management

Cabinet could decide not to make further grant funding available to the Metropolitan Police. This is not recommended as the Police Partnership Tasking Team has proved to be an invaluable resource enabling the police to tackle priority crime and disorder issues in the Borough.

Policy Overview Committee comments

At their meeting on 10 June 2013, the Corporate Services & Partnerships Policy Overview Committee expressed their support for the good partnership work which was being carried out by the Police and the Council's Community Safety Team.

3. INFORMATION

Supporting Information

The Police Partnership Tasking Team (PPTT) is tasked through the fortnightly Police Borough Tasking and Co-ordinating Group, which is attended by the Council's Service Manager for Community Safety and Anti-Social Behaviour. The tasks for the PPTT are therefore agreed on a regular basis with the Council to tackle issues of joint concern for the Police, the Council and residents, with two members of the PPTT working specifically on anti-social behaviour. The PPTT is additional to the core staffing provided for the Borough by the Metropolitan Police Service.

London Borough of Hillingdon has had similar arrangements with the Metropolitan Police Service since 2004, initially for four officers. The current number of police officers has been provided under the terms of a grant made in 2009 which was renewed in 2011. S.92 grant funding agreements are usually for a maximum duration of two years.

Financial Implications

The grant funding will be spent annually as follows: £41,000 for each of ten constables and £52,000 for one sergeant, totalling £462,000 per annum. These costs are split between the Community Safety service (General Fund) (six constables and one sergeant) (£298,000) and the Hillingdon Housing service (Housing Revenue Account) (four constables) (£164,000). The grant will be funded from existing revenue budgets.

4. EFFECT ON RESIDENTS, SERVICE USERS & COMMUNITIES

What will be the effect of the recommendation?

The recommendation will assist to keep the Borough safe.

Consultation Carried Out or Required

None at this stage

5. CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Corporate Finance

Corporate Finance has reviewed this report and concurs with the financial implications set out above, noting that the cost of extending Hillingdon's contribution towards the Police Partnership Tasking Team for 12 months is to be met from existing General Fund and HRA revenue budgets.

Legal

Cabinet are empowered to grant or withdraw financial support to any external organisation, which would include the Metropolitan Police.

The Council has powers contained in Section 92 of the Police Act 2006 to provide grant funding to the Police. In making the grant available, officers should ensure that an appropriate funding agreement is in place to ensure that the funding is spent on the purposes for which it was made available.

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

NIL