



**SERVICES FOR THE COMMUNITY POLICY AND DEVELOPMENT SCRUTINY PANEL**

**TRANSFORMING YOUR COUNCIL – POLICE SCOTLAND FUNDING UPDATE**

**REPORT BY HEAD OF HOUSING, CUSTOMER AND BUILDING SERVICES**

**A. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To provide the members of the panel with an update on the impact of the removal of funding for police officers as part of the budget setting in February 2018.

**B. RECOMMENDATION**

Panel members are asked to note the update on the revised community policing model introduced by Police Scotland and reported performance data since the implementation of the council funding reduction to Police Scotland.

**C. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS**

<b>I</b>	<b>Council Values</b>	Focusing on our customers' needs Being honest, open and accountable Making best use of our resources Working in partnership Providing equality of opportunity
<b>II</b>	<b>Policy and Legal (including Strategic Environmental Assessment, Equality Issues, Health or Risk Assessment)</b>	The Antisocial Behaviour etc. (Scotland) Act 2004 applies
<b>III</b>	<b>Implications for Scheme of Delegations to Officers</b>	None
<b>IV</b>	<b>Impact on performance and performance Indicators</b>	SOA1304_34 (Number of active ASB cases)
<b>V</b>	<b>Relevance to Single Outcome Agreement</b>	<p>This report will have a positive impact on the following SOA indicators;</p> <p>SOA10 – We live in well designed, sustainable places where we are able to access the services we need</p> <p>SOA11 – We have strong resilient and supportive communities, where people take</p>

		responsibility for their actions and how they affect
<b>VI</b>	<b>Resources - (Financial, Staffing and Property)</b>	TYC saving agreed - £658,000 - £548,000 in 2018/19 and £110,000 in 2019/20.
<b>VII</b>	<b>Consideration at PDSP</b>	None
<b>VIII</b>	<b>Other consultations</b>	None.

## **D. TERMS OF REPORT**

### **D.1 Background**

In setting the budget in February 2018 the council agreed to the reduce the funding to Police Scotland by £658,00 through the removal of the contribution for funded officers, funded vehicles and the removal of an analyst posts, but leaving funding for one analyst post. Officers were also instructed to undertaken an assessment of the impact of removing funding for police officers and to report in 6 months' time and 12 months' time.

Resources totalling £189,000 per annum had been made available within Police Scotland to the Divisional Commander on a recurring basis, in support of the 21 police officers, including education campus officers. Following the decision to reduce the funding the council requested that Police Scotland continue to provide the same level of additional resources for deployment in West Lothian. Police Scotland has advised that the additional resources came from a central staffing budget and is now not scheduled for West Lothian.

### **D.2 Changes to West Lothian Community Police Team**

The Service Level Agreement in place at the time of the budget setting meeting between the council and Police Scotland provided for the continuation of the funded officer model until 15 May 2018. On the 16 May 2018 Police Scotland introduced a revised community policing model in West Lothian.

The changes and the new policing model were verbally reported to Services for the Community PDSP in May 2018. The summary of the changes were:

- A new approach to delivering police activity in West Lothian, with the cessation of the Community Action Team, and the implementation of the Community Enquiry Team as of 16 May 2018.
- The removal of the 21 funded officer posts, with the new model comprising of 24 constables.
- The removal of a full time School Link role.
- The implementation of four Locality Areas, aligned to Response Policing as follows:
  1. Linlithgow, Broxburn, Uphall, Winchburgh, East Livingston and East Calder.
  2. Livingston North and Livingston South
  3. Armadale, Blackridge and Bathgate
  4. Whitburn, Blackburn, Fauldhouse and the Breich Valley.

There are four Community Officers per Locality Area. Most of these officers are experienced Community Officers who are well known to local communities. Since implementation of the new model, local command has also changed.

### D.3 Police Scotland Performance and Reporting

Police Scotland report performance on delivering against community safety priorities and on local issues continues via the following ways:

- Quarterly and annual updates to Services to the Community PDSP
- Reports to Local Area Committees
- Community Planning Partners scorecards

The Police report references the themes from West Lothian Council Planning Partnership's Local Outcome Improvement plan and aligned with the Local Police Plan for West Lothian 2017-2020.

West Lothian Area Command report (Appendix 1) sets out the full detail of performance for Quarter 2 for 2018/2019. It shows an increase in recorded crime in West Lothian compared to Q2 of 2017/2018. It also provides comparison of West Lothian in context of the overall Division.

Table 1 below provides an overview of recorded crime and change in the levels of recorded crime for the period July to September 2018 compared to the same period in 2017/18.

**Table 1**

Crime Category	West Lothian % Change	Change	J Division % Change	Change
Common Assault	4.7%	↓	1.8%	↑
Violent Crime	2.75%	↑	9.8%	↑
ASB Calls	8.1%	↓	6.6%	↓
Dishonesty	20.5%	↑	2.9%	↑
Domestic Abuse	7%	↑	8.7%	↑
Sexual Crime	17.3%	↑	13.2%	↑
Road Traffic	3%	↑	3.8%	↓
Missing People	8.7%	↑	14.4%	↑
Housebreaking	35.6%	↑	8%	↓
Racial Aggravated Conduct	16.1%	↑	8.5%	↓

The main observations from the performance data is that:

- West Lothian there have been decreases in Common Assault, and ASB Calls. At Divisional level ASB Calls, Road Traffic, Housebreaking and Racial Aggravated Conduct have decreased
- At a West Lothian and Division level there have been increases in Violent Crime, Dishonesty, Domestic Abuse, Sexual Crime, Missing People. However in terms of Housebreaking and Racial Aggravated Conduct there has been an increase in West Lothian but a decrease at Division level.
- Dishonesty, Housebreaking and Racial Aggravated conduct has increased by higher percentage in West Lothian compared to the Division and ASB calls have decreased by a higher percentage in West Lothian compared to the Division.

#### **D.4 Council Reporting**

Police Scotland provides performance data and accompanying contextual information on their work specific to each ward at the Local Area Committees (LAC). Community Police officers based within the corresponding neighbourhood attend to present and discuss the information to members of the LAC. This enables further discussion and clarification of the report with the LAC attendees – the membership of LAC includes elected members for the relevant ward, council staff and community representatives.

#### **E CONCLUSION**

The reported performance for Q2 2018/19 has seen an increase in 8 of the 10 crime categories when compared to the same period in 2017/18. At Division level there has been an increase in 6 of the 10 crime categories.

#### **F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES**

NEW POLICING MODEL FOR WEST LOTHIAN - VERBAL UPDATE BY POLICE SCOTLAND

<http://coins.westlothian.gov.uk/coins/viewDoc.asp?c=e%97%9Dg%91my%8F>

Community Safety Update – August 2018 – Services for the Community PDSP 18<sup>th</sup> September 2018

<http://coins.westlothian.gov.uk/coins/viewDoc.asp?c=e%97%9Dg%93o%7D%89>

Appendices/Attachments: 1

Police Scotland – West Lothian Area Command Report Quarter 2 2018/19

Alison Smith, Housing Management & Community Safety Manager, Housing, Customer and Building Services.

Tel: 01506 281367

Alison.Smith@westlothian.gcsx.gov.uk

**Ann Marie Carr**

**Interim Head of Housing, Customer & Building Services**

**11 December 2018**