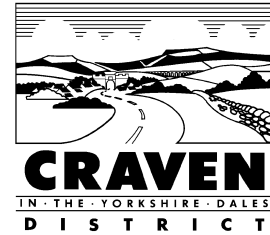


Policy Committee – 22nd July 2014

Creation of a North Yorkshire Community Safety Partnership



Report of the Corporate Head of Business Support

Ward(s) affected: All

1. **Purpose of Report** – To approve the creation of a county-wide CSP.

2. **Recommendations** – that the Council should:

- (i) Support the proposal to merge Craven CSP with the other North Yorkshire CSPs.
- (ii) Support the creation of a Local Delivery Team for Craven District.
- (iii) Retain the current position for the overview and scrutiny decision pertaining to the discharge of crime and disorder functions.

3. **Background**

- 3.1 The Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) has set out her vision of Community Safety across York and North Yorkshire. Currently there are six CSPs in North Yorkshire: Craven, Hambleton and Richmondshire, Harrogate, Ryedale, Scarborough and Selby. In addition, as required by legislation, where there is more than one CSP in a county council area, there also needs to be a county-wide strategy group.
- 3.2 Local delivery in Craven is coordinated by the CSP Officer who is financed through CSP funds, which comprises a grant provided by the PCC and a reserve of underspend from previous year's grants. The Council makes a £10k financial contribution each year. The role of the CSP Officer is to provide local delivery by facilitating the response of partner agencies to deliver the CSP objectives aligned to agreed priorities. The CSP officer chairs, organises and administers many groups, for example Multi Agency Problem Solving (MAPS), Young Persons MAPS, Bronze Prevent & CSP Board – planning, preparation, reports & delivery as well as attending various community safety events throughout the district.
- 3.3 Essentially it is proposed to merge the district CSPs into a county-wide CSP. Districts would work together to secure funding for projects and initiatives, as well as resources to enable provision of the 'day job'. Legislation allows for responsible authorities to propose a combination of CSPs in the interests of efficiency and economy. The power to approve a combination now rests with the relevant Police and Crime Commissioner, but the request can only come from the responsible authorities.
- 3.4 The proposal is made in the interests of efficiency and economy, given the significantly reduced resources available for community safety in the county, alongside the background of significantly reduced budgets for most responsible authorities. In this context, district based local delivery teams will better enable responsible authorities, through operational managers, to implement a partnership based problem solving approach - working together to identify

and mitigate the impact of crime and disorder issues on the locality or victim and to promote crime prevention activities.

- 3.5 There is significant local knowledge, and the support and information networks built up over the years would be almost impossible to replicate at a county level – it is crucial that there remains a local presence and this is recognised by the proposal for district based local delivery teams.
- 3.6 For many years funding to support the work of CSPs in England was provided by the Home Office, initially via Government Offices for the Regions and more recently via upper-tier local authorities such as North Yorkshire County Council. Since 2010 the amount of Home Office funding for community safety has reduced considerably; in North Yorkshire this has dropped from over £700k per year to around £250k per year. In April 2013 the Home Office transferred the funding to Police and Crime Commissioners, and it now forms an integral part of their main grant from the Home Office rather than being ring-fenced or separately identified for CSPs.
- 3.7 The funding from the Police and Crime Commission for the current six CSPs ends on 30 September 2014. All responsible authorities are being requested to consider and agree to the proposal by the end of July 2014, with the combination taking effect no later than 30 September 2014, subject to the agreement of the Police and Crime Commissioner.
- 3.8 It is important to note that failure of any of the responsible authorities to agree the proposal outlined by the PCC will not prevent the proposal going ahead, resulting in the likelihood of isolation and loss of funding by any authorities outside the North Yorkshire CSP.

4 Future Local Delivery options

- 4.1 Local delivery teams, led by Operational Managers, will enable responsible authorities to implement a partnership based problem solving approach. There will be a strategic approach to community safety, including applying for funding from the PCC.
- 4.2 The PCC has already indicated that she will be seeking bids for funding from York and North Yorkshire PCCs for the period from 1st October 2014 to March 2016, before moving on to a more open and competitive commissioning process. A shadow North Yorkshire Community Safety Partnership has been in force for the past few months in order to facilitate the application process, and a joint funding bid, from the shadow NYCSP, was submitted on 30th June 2014. The outcome will not be known for some weeks yet, possibly mid to late August.
- 4.3 In future, contracts to deliver services could therefore be awarded to voluntary or charitable organisations; public sector agencies or bodies, (including Community Safety Partnerships) or private sector companies.

5 Crime & Disorder / Scrutiny Committees

- 5.1 Section 19 of the Police and Justice Act 2006 requires every local authority to have a crime and disorder committee with the power to review or scrutinise decisions made, or other action taken, in connection with the discharge by the responsible authorities of their crime and disorder functions.

- 5.2 To date, to avoid duplication of effort, there has been an informal agreement that the district council crime and disorder committees will focus on community safety issues within their district, and the county council crime and disorder committee will focus on county-wide agreements and partnerships. As with other local authority functions, this duty could be undertaken by a joint committee on behalf of a number of local authorities.
- 5.3 Decisions about the future arrangements of local authority crime and disorder committees are the responsibility of the local authorities, but the proposed changes in community safety structures offer an opportunity for local authorities to review the arrangements of local authority crime and disorder committees.
- 5.4 Options could include the eight local authorities creating a joint crime and disorder committee. This would require a lower level of resources from local authorities than the current arrangements, particularly if the chairing and administrative support of the committee rotated among the eight councils.
- 5.5 Alternatively, the district council crime and disorder committees could focus on community safety issues within their district, particularly the impact of the Local Delivery Team, and the eight local authorities could create a joint crime and disorder committee to focus on the activity and impact of the North Yorkshire Community Safety Partnership. This would require a higher level of resources from local authorities than the current arrangements, although the increase could be limited if the chairing and administrative support of the joint committee rotated among the eight councils.
- 5.6 A third option is that the district council Crime and Disorder Committees would focus on community safety issues within their district, particularly the impact of the Local Delivery Team, and the county council Crime and Disorder Committee would focus on the activity and impact of the North Yorkshire Community Safety Partnership. This would require a similar level of resources from local authorities to the current arrangements.
- 5.7 The 'status quo' option is that O&S committees would monitor the work both of the Local Delivery Team AND the PCC commissions / county wide work in respect to their effect in the Districts. At this time the consensus across the districts is to keep the status quo.

6. Additional Information

- 6.1 The Select Committee met on 11th June 2014 to discuss the proposals and decided that they would like to seek the view of their counterparts in the other districts. An invitation was duly issued but there was little response.
- 6.2 The Crime and Disorder Committee met on 25th June and the PCC, Julia Mulligan, attended. She was able to provide a little more background about her proposals and confirmed that there is no longer any funding for Community Safety, other than what she is prepared to provide from police funds.
- 6.3 The Select Committee are due to meet again on 16th July and the minutes of that meeting will be circulated with this report.

Implications

7.1 **Financial Implications** – In recent years Craven has received £10k per annum in funding. In April 2013 the Home Office transferred the funding to Police and Crime Commissioners, and it now forms an integral part of their main grant from the Home Office rather than being ring-fenced or separately identified for CSPs. This means that funding is at the discretion of the PCC and must be bid for as part of the NYCSP

7.2 **Legal Implications** – The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (as amended) requires the police, local authorities, fire and rescue, probation and clinical commissioning groups (collectively known as the responsible authorities) to work together and with others to:

- a. Protect their local communities from crime and help people feel safer;
- b. Deal with local issues like antisocial behaviour, drug or alcohol misuse and re-offending; and
- c. Assess local crime priorities and consult partners and the local community about how to deal with them.

7.3.1 **Contribution to Corporate Priorities** – None arising directly from this report.

7.4 **Risk Management** – Nothing arising directly from this report.

7.5 **Equality Impact Assessment** –

The Council's Equality Impact Assessment Procedure **has not been** followed. Therefore neither an Initial Screening or an Equality Impact Assessment has been undertaken on the proposed policy, strategy, procedure or function to identify whether it has/does not have the potential to cause negative impact or discriminate against different groups in the community based on •age • disability •gender • race/ethnicity • religion or religious belief (faith) •sexual orientation, or • rural isolation.

8. **Consultations with Others** – NYCC; district partners

9. **Author of the Report** – Deborah Davies, Revenues and Benefits Manager
ddavies@cravenc.gov.uk tel 01756 706482