

RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO POLICY & FINANCE COMMITTEE

Agenda Item No.

meeting date: TUESDAY, 7 JUNE 2011
title: RIBBLE VALLEY COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP
submitted by: CHIEF EXECUTIVE
principal author: BILL ALKER

1 PURPOSE

1.1 To give Members an update on the Ribble Valley Community Safety Partnership including budgets, current initiatives and future funding and partnership working.

1.2 Relevance to the Council's ambitions and priorities:

- Council Ambitions – }
 - Community Objectives – }
 - Corporate Priorities – }
 - Other Considerations – }
- Community safety has always been one of the Council's top priorities in keeping the area safe. Our reputation as one of the safest areas in the country is well known both locally and nationally.

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Ribble Valley Community Safety Partnership was formed in 1998 as a direct result of the Crime and Disorder Act of that year. It is a statutory partnership of which Ribble Valley Borough Council is one of the key partners.

2.2 Other partnered agencies include Police, Lancashire County Council, Lancashire Fire & Rescue Service, Probation Service and NHS East Lancashire.

2.3 The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 places a duty on all Councils to “formulate and implement for each relevant period a strategy for the reduction of crime and disorder in the area”.

2.4 Over the past 13 years the Ribble Valley Community Safety Partnership has worked towards reducing crime, tackling anti-social behaviour and identifying initiatives to provide alternatives for those who are in danger of offending and sanctions for those who commit crime.

2.5 Currently, Ribble Valley is the joint third safest place in the country. However, it is virtually impossible to have no crime whatsoever and whatever crime there is must be dealt with.

2.6 Good relationships based on trust and mutual understanding, have been key to the development of our partnership. This has been at both an individual and agency level.

2.7 Funding has been provided by the Home Office via Government Office North West and more recently the Safer Lancashire Board. This funding has been used to employ staff and develop a number of initiatives.

2.8 Over the years, the CSP has been justifiably proud of its many and varied initiatives, these include:

- Longridge mini CCTV system
 - Ribble Valley mentoring scheme – one to one work with pupils at secondary schools
 - mobile Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) cameras to track travelling criminals
 - Friday night football leagues and sport clubs providing diversionary tactics for young people
 - funding for Friday night opening of the Clitheroe Juice Bar
 - the development of Longridge Skate Park
 - the use of smart water to prevent stone theft
 - the domestic violence initiative ‘Show DV the Red Card’
 - alcohol control zones; and
 - crime prevention messages on meals on wheel napkins
- 2.9 One of the main successes of the CSP has been in its work encouraging better quality of life issues such as addressing neighbour disputes and encouraging a better understanding between individuals.

3 ISSUES

- 3.1 There is currently some uncertainty about community safety primarily due to doubts about future funding and direction for partnerships.
- 3.2 We know for instance that in 2012 there will be a newly elected post of Police and Crime Commissioner for Lancashire. This will replace the Police Authority and will give the strategic direction for CSPs and will hold budgets for both the Police and Community Safety Partnerships.
- 3.3 In our recently produced strategic assessment, the CSP identified its top four themes or concerns which will need addressing over the next 12 months.
- 3.4 There are road safety; criminal damage; anti-social behaviour and arson; violent crime and domestic violence; serious acquisitive crime.
- 3.5 We have bid into the Safer Lancashire Board for two key areas of work which we value and wish to continue to fund.
- 3.6 One is the continued funding for six months for the Community Sports Facilitator post currently held by Peter Fletcher. The second bid was for part funding for one Police Community Support Officer for the Ribble Valley.
- 3.7 The Safer Lancashire Board has accepted the bid for the Community Sports Facilitator post but rejected the PCSO bid.
- 3.8 The CSP has looked again at its budgets and now finds that it is able to fund the PCSO post from existing budget savings.
- 3.9 In addition, we have received £10,000 from Lancashire Drug and Alcohol Team (LDAAT) to fund alcohol related initiatives. LDAAT have also earmarked £30,000 for substance misuse products which will go directly to the Ribble Valley Children’s Trust.
- 3.10 Our proposal therefore is that the CSP and the Children’s Trust pool their resources and start to develop projects which will make a difference in both areas of work.

- 3.11 Ribble Valley CSP has been very successful in attracting outside funding from partner agencies such as the Primary Care Trust, Lancashire Drug and Alcohol Action Team, Lancashire Police Authority and Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service.
- 3.12 Choosing, developing and delivering projects which will address concerns highlighted by the strategic assessment will be more crucial than ever in 2011/12 because of the knowledge that the new Police and Crime Commissioners will be appointed next year and the fact that they will provide the future direction for community safety across the whole of Lancashire.
- 3.13 There are also proposals to create Community Safety Partnership hubs across the six Police divisions to encourage closer working between district CSPs and to develop a more strategic approach to tackling some of the big issues that face districts in the coming weeks, months and years.
- 3.14 The trick for Ribble Valley CSP over the next 12 months will be to create a balance between countywide strategic direction being led by the Safer Lancashire Board and our own locally driven agenda looking at the priorities which were flagged up in our strategic assessment.
- 3.15 As funding decreases and will eventually disappear, it is even more important to work in partnership with relevant agencies, pooling budgets and resources and becoming more aware of how best we can produce locally focused solutions which do not have a high cost but deliver sustainable solutions.
- 3.16 It is still unclear just how much funding will come to the CSP but Members can rest assured that whatever funding does come our way, it will be spent sensibly and appropriately delivering sustainable solutions wherever possible.

4 CONCLUSION

- 4.1 Ribble Valley CSP has been and hopefully will continue to be a successful partnership aiming to provide joint working and a variety of initiatives which will result in keeping crime down to enable the area to enjoy its well earned reputation as a safe place to live, work and visit.
- 4.2 The CSP has always prided itself in collaborative working with its neighbours and our ability to make best use of external funding.

MARSHAL SCOTT
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None.

For further information please ask for Bill Alker, extension 4412.