

**POLICE COMMUNITY SUPPORT OFFICERS
(Report by Head of Environment & Transport)**

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report provides information about the new Police Community Support Officers that will be deployed in Huntingdonshire this Autumn that have been funded primarily by Huntingdonshire District Council.

2. SUPPORTING/BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 The Police Reform Act 2000 enables Chief Police Officers to recruit Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) and to provide them with limited powers to deal with anti-social behaviour and disorder and provide community reassurance.
- 2.2 Residents in Huntingdonshire have consistently raised concerns about the lack of visible policing.
- 2.3 The District Council established £300,000 per annum in the base revenue budget through the Medium Term Planning process from 2004/05 with £150,000 revenue in 2003/04 to contribute towards the funding of PCSOs in the district.

3. THE ROLE OF POLICE COMMUNITY SUPPORT OFFICERS

- 3.1 The role of PCSO will be to provide a consistent, reliable, high profile, uniformed patrol in areas identified as priorities through strategic assessments, intelligence and consultation where anti-social behaviour, crime and fear of crime feature. The PCSOs will be encouraged to get involved with and known by their communities, including the schools and businesses. Their role will include:
- a) Improving police response to reports of anti-social behaviour and low level offending.
 - b) Working with Police Officers and the local community to provide solutions to long-standing and continued problems of anti-social behaviour and crime.
 - c) Assisting in the expansion of Neighbourhood, Business, Countryside and Boat Watch initiatives.
 - d) Enforcing appropriate traffic offences.
 - e) In conjunction with Police Officers and other partners, PCSOs will be fully involved with Anti-social Behaviour Problem Solving Groups as designated under the Cambridgeshire Multi Agency ASB Protocol. When required they will act as professional witnesses in applications for anti-social behaviour orders / interim orders.
 - f) Assisting Police Officers in the gathering of information and community intelligence from / to members of the public. Whilst clearly having a specific remit themselves as a well trained additional set of "eyes and ears".

- g) Assisting the community police teams in developing forums for consultation on Community Safety issues. To establish links with the hard to reach groups such as ethnic minorities, young people, and other isolated groups such as the elderly, disabled or disadvantaged.

3.2 PCSOs will have powers to address:

- Disorder
- Confiscation of alcohol
- Removal of abandoned vehicles
- Seizure of vehicles used to cause alarm
- Limited Traffic Warden powers
- Cycling on the footpath
- Potentially - dog fouling and litter notices

4. **FUNDING and BADGING**

4.1 In addition to the funding received by the District Council the PCSOs will be funded by:

- PCSO Home Office grant until March 2006
- Police Basic Command Unit grant from the Home Office until March 2006
- Police base budget – continuous
- Other District Councils are contributing varying amounts to PCSOs in their area.

4.2 The PCSOs in Huntingdonshire will have a badge with Huntingdonshire District Council and the crest included on it to indicate the partnership nature of the posts.

5. **NUMBERS OF PCSOs**

5.1 Due to the considerable funding contributed by Huntingdonshire District Council the district will have a greater number of PCSOs deployed relative to the size of population and crime levels than the other districts in Cambridgeshire. Fourteen of the posts are funded by the District Council contribution. The remaining four posts are funded through the Home Office and Police funds.

5.2 Eighteen PCSOs will be allocated to Huntingdonshire. They will be allocated to police sectors as follows:

- Yaxley / Farcet (northern police division area) – 1
- Huntingdon Police Sector - 6
- St Neots police sector - 6
- St Ives police sector (includes Ramsey area) – 5

5.3 The PCSOs were trained during September and are now all out on duties within the District.

6. **MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

6.1 A draft Memorandum of Understanding has been drawn up by the Constabulary, in consultation with partners, to agree the terms of reference for the PCSOs. The Chief Executive will sign this document, in due course, when it is finalised. It is attached as an annex to this report for information and comment.

7. **CONCLUSION**

7.1 Members are asked to note the contents of the report and comment on the draft Memorandum of Understanding.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Supporting report for PCSO bid (Cambridgeshire Constabulary)

File ref:

[Background papers\Supporting report for PCSO report Sept 03.doc](#)

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Appendix to Police Community Support Officers Report

DRAFT MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this document is to recognise that both Cambridgeshire Constabulary and **partner agency** have a role in the overall management of the PCSOs deployed within **the area** and to ensure that both parties understand and agree the extent of their involvement.
- 1.2 This understanding between Cambridgeshire Constabulary and **partner agency** should be documented in a 'Memorandum of Understanding'.

2. Introduction

- 2.1 The Police Reform Act received Royal Assent in July 2002 and allowed Chief Officers to recruit Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) and to provide them with limited powers to deal with anti-social behaviour and disorder.
- 2.2 In March 2003 the constabulary was requested to submit a further bid for Home Office funding in support of additional PCSOs for 2003-2004. This bid required the constabulary to detail the committed funding it had obtained from internal budgets and external partner agencies.

3. Legislation

- 3.1 Section 38 of the Police Reform Act 2002 refers to the designation of suitably skilled and trained civilian employees. Chief Officers can designate such civilian employees as one or more of the descriptions specified. Such designated employees will have the powers and duties contained within that designation
- 3.2 Section 42 of the Police Reform Act 2002 refers to the uniform to be worn, which will be determined or approved by the chief officer of police who granted the designation.
- 3.3 The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 introduced a wide range of measures for preventing crime and disorder. Section 17 imposes an obligation on every police authority, local authority and other specified bodies to consider crime and disorder reduction in the exercise of all their duties. The other specified bodies are joint authorities, a National Park authority and The Broads Authority.
- 3.4 Section 115 of the same Act allows the disclosure of information, for the purposes of any provision of the Act, by any person to a relevant authority or to a person acting on behalf of the relevant authority. The relevant authorities are specified by the Act as being the chief officer of police (or chief constable in Scotland), a police authority, a local authority, a probation committee, a health authority and a primary care trust.

4. Funding

4.1 Funding for PCSOs in **the area** has been provided from:

Source A (partner agency)
Home Office
BCU funding
Cambridgeshire Constabulary

4.2 The Home Office and BCU funding is guaranteed until March 2006.
Funding from Cambridgeshire Constabulary is continuous.
Funding from **partner agency** is available until **date**.

4.3 Continued employment of PCSOs within **the area** depends upon funding continuing to be available.

5. Deployment and operational use.

5.1 The employment and deployment of PCSOs is a policing tactic to impact positively upon the quality of life, fear of crime and public reassurance within Cambridgeshire.

5.2 Cambridgeshire Constabulary recognises the importance of effective and co-operative partnership working in achieving these aims and recognises the contribution made by **source A** in supporting this tactic.

5.3 The allocation of PCSOs to **the area** has been determined by the origin of funding and by crime and disorder levels.

5.4 The funding provided by **source A** is sufficient to pay the salaries, direct costs and maintenance costs of **number** PCSOs. This number of PCSOs will be deployed within **the area** as normal operating practice. Other PCSOs may be deployed within that area dependent upon the origin of funding, policing needs and decisions taken by the Divisional Commander.

5.5 PCSOs will generally operate according to the principles of community policing:
Pro-active, intelligence led, tackling of persistent crime and anti social behaviour problems
Liaison with local community groups and agencies
Improvement of accessibility, availability and familiarity of local policing

5.6 In cases of extreme need the Constabulary will consider the PCSOs as a resource to assist in policing the particular incident. Such a decision will be made at Silver or Gold level within the Constabulary. Officers filling those roles will at the rank of superintendent or above. Examples of such extreme need would be extensive flooding emergencies, terrorist attack and plane crashes.

5.7 The Constabulary may also wish to permanently reallocate PCSOs from **the area** to another part of the county. **Source A** will be notified or consulted if this should be the case. The Constabulary will not reduce the number of PCSOs permanently allocated to **the area** below the number that are funded from **source A**.

- 5.8 The Constabulary in consultation with **source A** will determine deployment of PCSOs to particular beat areas or other localities.
- 5.9 Tactical deployment, tasking, and working practices will be determined by the Constabulary in the context of Community Policing as carried on in the localities to which the PCSOs are deployed within **the area**. Community Policing has consultation and partnership with the local community and other agencies at its heart. Therefore **source A** will have a role in assisting the Community Policing teams and the Division in setting local priorities and objectives for the PCSOs.

6. Community Beat Managers

- 6.1 Community Beat Managers are the constables who have responsibility for the policing of a beat and who assume ownership of the problems of and within the community, and the solutions to those problems.
- 6.2 A network of CBMs exists across the area of Cambridgeshire and the Constabulary will endeavour to ensure their continued availability.
- 6.3 Cambridgeshire Constabulary sees PCSOs as supporting community policing generally and the CBMs specifically.

7. Management

- 7.1 PCSOs are civilian employees of Cambridgeshire Police Authority and will be managed as such. All functions pertaining to supervision, performance monitoring, appraisals, welfare, and sickness will be provided by the Constabulary according to existing procedures.
- 7.2 The PCSOs will be recruited and trained to a standard required for them to carry out their functions. This will be carried on according to Constabulary procedures and varied as necessary.

8. Insignia/badges

- 8.1 The uniform worn by PCSOs is determined by the Chief Constable.
- 8.2 Any PCSO permanently deployed within **the area** will also wear a badge bearing the emblem of **source A** to display the partnership involvement. As partnership funding becomes more and more complex it may become necessary to review the way in which such links are displayed on the PCSO uniform. For example, in the future a PCSO operating within a local authority area and bearing their emblem may also be funded by one or several parish councils and/or other sources. Such badges will be determined by the Constabulary in consultation with the funding partners.

9. Training

- 9.1 The training will be provided by the Constabulary and will be designed according to national guidelines in line with local needs and following the Constabulary's corporate approach to training and development.
- 9.2 The current format is that the PCSOs undergo a four week initial training course followed by up to four weeks of tutored patrol. This training will be evaluated in line with the force evaluation strategy.
- 9.3 Suggestions for additional input from **source A** will be welcomed and considered.

10. Procedural review

- 10.1 This Memorandum of Understanding will be subject to periodic review by the parties to it.