

Date of Meeting	19 April 2007
Title of Report	Neighbourhood Policing at Area Committees
Portfolio	Partnership Working
Link to Corporate Priorities	Partnership Working
Key Decision	No
Executive Workplan Ref	N/A
Public Report	Yes

Summary of Report

Neighbourhood Policing Teams are currently being rolled out across Wiltshire. Neighbourhood Policing is based on local priorities identified by local people as the issues that need to be dealt with in their area and Police and partners will work together to tackle them. Key to this success is the involvement and support of local people.

The Area Committees as a local community focussed forum present an opportunity for Neighbourhood Policing Teams to establish a regular dialogue with the community and other key partners who attend Area Committees. It will be possible to discuss key issues that are affecting North Wiltshire’s communities and to work towards a joined up solution or plan to tackle those issues.

Officer Recommendations

It is recommended that Members approve the following

- 1. That the Area Committees in Area 1 (Malmesbury) and 5 (Calne) are invited to work with local Neighbourhood Policing Teams to bring Neighbourhood Policing issues to an effective forum working with the Area Committees for a Pilot period to last no longer than 12 months.**
- 2. That the findings of the Pilot and any recommendations for other Community Areas are reported to a meeting of the Executive by the end of March 2008.**

Other than those implications agreed with the relevant Officers and referred to below, there are no other implications associated with this report.

Financial Implications	Legal Implications	Community & Environmental Implications	Human Resources Implications	Equality & Diversity Implications
No	No	Yes	Yes	No

Contact Officer	Jo Cogswell Community Partnership Team Leader 01249 706455 jcogswell@northwilts.gov.uk
------------------------	---

1. Introduction

- 1.1. Neighbourhood Policing is a national initiative that is being implemented by every Police force in England and Wales. Neighbourhood Policing is based on local priorities identified by local people as the issues that need to be dealt with in their area and Police and partners will work together to tackle them. Key to this success is the involvement and support of local people.
- 1.2. Neighbourhood Policing Teams are there to respond to people's concerns about day-to-day crime such as anti-social behaviour, graffiti, noisy neighbours or vandalism. Officers from the teams spend most of their time out on patrol, talking with residents and other community partners about local issues and working together to find the best solutions that will work for them.
- 1.3. There is scope to utilise the community forum that the Area Committees present to discuss community issues that are relevant to Neighbourhood Policing. This report does not present a prescriptive model for how that might work. This report seeks approval to invite two Area Committees to work with the Police and community safety partners to develop a model or models that might be of benefit to the respective community areas.

2. Options and Options Appraisal

- 2.1. **Option One** It is recommended that Members approve the following
 - 2.1.1. That the Area Committees in Area 1 (Malmesbury) and 5 (Calne) are invited to work with local Neighbourhood Policing Teams to bring Neighbourhood Policing issues to an effective forum working with the Area Committees for a Pilot period to last no longer than 12 months.
 - 2.1.2. That the finding of the Pilot and any recommendations for other Community Areas are reported to a meeting of the Executive by the end of February 2008.
- 2.2. **Option two** Members do not approve the recommendations listed in paragraph 2.1.

3. Background Information

- 3.1. North Wiltshire District Council is one of a number of responsible authorities who have a duty to actively promote the reduction of crime and disorder. Much of the activity and work that takes place with other partners that targets crime and disorder is co-ordinated and organised through the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership more commonly referred to as the Community Safety Partnership.
- 3.2. There will be 19 Neighbourhood Policing teams that will operate in North Wiltshire , each made up of a Community Beat Manager, who is supported by Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs), special constables, volunteers and partners, all working together in partnership. The Community Beat Manager will be committed to the role for at least two years. This presents an opportunity for the Officer to know the area and for the community to get to know the Officer.
- 3.3. There are a number of Neighbourhood Policing Teams that fall within the boundaries of each of the Community Areas. There is a requirement for the Neighbourhood Policing Teams (NPTs) to regularly consult and feedback progress and action to local communities. This presents many challenges and opportunities.

- 3.4. Agencies involved in Crime and Disorder have long recognised that working together towards shared outcomes – both hard targets such as crime reduction and softer targets such as community reassurance – can result in better and more effective results, alongside a more efficient use of resources.
- 3.5. The requirement for NPTs to hold local community consultation and feedback on a rolling programme of 6 weeks. This could be a resource intensive exercise not only for the Neighbourhood Policing Teams but for other agencies that work with the NPTs – County Council, District Council, Towns and Parishes, Housing Associations, health, Youth Offending Service, Fire and Rescue and more.
- 3.6. There are existing methods in place for partner agencies to discuss and address problems around anti social behaviour. The NPT will where appropriate be able to feed specific issues or cases into the Anti Social Behaviour Panel meetings. There is scope however beyond these confidential and specialist tasking meetings to include some aspects of Neighbourhood Policing – particularly those that require a community focussed or multi-agency approach at the Area Committees.
- 3.7. Wiltshire Police is running the implementation of Neighbourhood Policing as a project overseen by a Project Board across the County. In North and West Wiltshire there is a steering group focussing on the practicalities of the implementation and looking at opportunities for informed partnership working. A number of Officers from the County and District Councils attend this meeting along with Police, Youth Offending and Housing Association representatives. The Portfolio Holder for Partnerships also attends the meetings.
- 3.8. The steering group discussed the possibility of Neighbourhood Policing forming part of the agenda at Area Committees. Informed by a short briefing note about the Area Committees the steering group supported the concept of organising Neighbourhood Policing Discussions at the Area Committees.

4. Neighbourhood Policing at the Area Committees

- 4.1. In September 2006 Members agreed both short and long term recommendations for the future of Area Committees (Appendix One). The review highlighted the fact that the Area Committees provide a forum for community focus and debate and that the breadth of the debate could be extended further beyond the responsibilities of just the District Council.
- 4.2. The information provided in the Local Government White Paper Strong and Prosperous Communities supports and encourages community level discussion and decision making.
- 4.3. The Area Committee Working Group that is looking at the implementation of the short and medium-long term recommendations. This Officer Member working group is in support of a pilot at Area Committees that looks to raise awareness of Neighbourhood Policing and local community safety issues alongside opportunities to debate and problem solve from both a community and multi agency level.
- 4.4. Crime and fear of crime is a key priority in each of the 5 Community Area Community Plans and the North Wiltshire Community Strategy. Officers from the Council are working with community safety partners in line with the Community Safety Strategy to work together to address Crime and Disorder. There is the opportunity to involve Members from all three tiers and members of the public in issues that may be raised with the Neighbourhood Policing Teams.

- 4.5. Officers have built time and resources into workplans to work with the Neighbourhood Policing Teams and the Area Committees to develop and approach that will be right for the particular Community Area.
- 4.6. The NPT Steering group supported the idea of two Pilot Areas one more rural and one more Town based. Both the NPT Steering Group and the Area Committee Working Group support a proposal that both Area 1 – Malmesbury and Area 5 – Calne be invited to advance this work. This suggestion has very recently become more appropriate given the increasing public interest in the problems and perceived problems in Calne Town Centre.

5. How might this work in practise?

- 5.1. Officers have suggested some ways that the Area Committees may be able to get more involved with Neighbourhood Policing and how the NPTs could take advantage of the community forum that the Area Committees present.
- 5.2. There is scope to utilise the Area Committee as an existing community forum to draw together all the NPTs from one community area to build on the required consultation and feedback in one place where many agencies are able to input.
- 5.3. There are a number of options that are available to us when considering this concept. The consultation and feedback could be held at the Area Committee Meetings presenting a picture to all those present of the key issues that have been raised with the Neighbourhood Policing Teams.
- 5.4. Neighbourhood Policing discussions could be presented as a formal part of the main agenda – facilitated together then breaking off into specific issues or NPT areas or immediately before the Area Committee – say from 6 until 7pm.
- 5.5. NPTs may wish to use the Area committee to access wider partners and present a summary of the findings of the local NPT meetings and give feedback and consultation. This will require support and input from partner agencies examples may include Officers from this Council, the County Council, Housing Associations, Wiltshire Fire and Rescue and health. Commitment to such a forum and discussion will need to be sought from those agencies.
- 5.6. The NPTs are required to consult in their area every 6 weeks, Area Committee Meetings are scheduled to take place every other month with a summer recess. This would suggest that the Area Committees will not be able to host the required consultation. The Area Committees could instead provide an overview for all the Teams in the community area. The Malmesbury and Calne Community Areas will each be home to 3 Neighbourhood Policing Teams.
- 5.7. Officers from the Council will work alongside Community Safety Partners and the Area Committees to facilitate a useful and effective community forum for that particular Community Area.

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1. Wiltshire Police has a budget to operate Neighbourhood Policing, the Calendar of Area Committee meetings will be agreed at the up coming annual Council meeting. There are no financial implications to the Council for the involvement of Neighbourhood Policing Teams at the Area Committees. Any actions or solutions that are proposed as a part of the Neighbourhood Policing discussions will be subject to the relevant decision making processes of partners and so subject to available resources in terms of staff and budgets.

7. Legal Implications

- 7.1. There are no legal implications within this report.

8. Community and Environmental Implications

- 8.1. The Council's approach to reducing crime and disorder and anti social behaviour has a positive impact on the community through the reduction of crime and so the fear of crime and promotion of opportunities to positively engage those groups who may otherwise be engaged in crime or anti social behaviour. Facilitating conversations and problem solving in a local public setting will raise the awareness of the public as to what partner agencies can do and are doing to address Crime and Anti Social Behaviour.

9. Human Resource Implications

- 9.1. The community partnerships team are resourced to lead the Council's approach to Community Safety and Anti Social Behaviour Reduction the discussion of neighbourhood policing at Area Committee level will facilitate District Council involvement in the programme. It is likely that there may be input require form other teams such as Housing or Assets Design and Regeneration, this will need to be considered as a part of the Team workplans.

10. Equality and Diversity Implications

- 10.1. The very nature of this proposal and its ability to deliver against a clear priority in the Community Strategy puts issues of equality and diversity at its centre. There are opportunities that this proposal will present to uncover and discuss community issues related to Crime and Disorder that may currently impact negatively on the community.

Appendices:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Appendix One – Recommendations from the Review of Area Committees• Appendix Two – Map showing Neighbourhood Policing Teams in North Wiltshire
Background Documents Used in the Preparation of this Report:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review of Area Committees Report to Executive August 2006• Strong and Prosperous Communities Local Government White Paper DLCCG 2006