

# **Briefing Note**

## **Neighbourhood Policing Teams (NPT's)**

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### **Purpose:**

To update Westbury Area Seminar on the emergence of Neighbourhood Policing Teams, the Council's response to their arrival and planned involvement in their development.

### **Context:**

The emergence of Neighbourhood Policing Teams is an example of the increasing focus and commitment central government is placing on the 'neighbourhood' as the area where public services connect with local people and should be influenced by local priorities. Similar shifts are also happening in health and local government. NPT's form a key role in the delivery of the governments Respect Agenda.

The neighbourhood agenda is gathering steam and forms a key part of the larger community planning agenda. West Wiltshire District Council is committed to developing 'Local Area Working' through its Area Seminars and Community Area Partnerships. The emergence of NPT complements the extensive work already underway in West Wiltshire and there is a real opportunity to ensure that both sets of activity are implicitly linked. Crucial to both is the engagement of both local communities and their ward Members to inform the priorities that will increasingly shape the design and delivery of our public services.

### **Neighbourhood Policing Teams**

- In Wiltshire each team will develop into a mix of Police Officers, Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs), Special Constables and other volunteers, including Neighbourhood Watch Schemes. They will work in local neighbourhoods, which have been identified across the county.
  - Its envisaged that each team will consist of at least 1 PC, 3 Specials and 2 PCSO's
- Phased role out of Teams from April 06 – Mar 08: All teams must be in place by April 2008.
  - 99 Neighbourhood Teams across Wiltshire and Swindon
  - 206 New PCSO's, 36 PCSO's for West Wiltshire
  - Cost of estimated £4 million, 75% centrally funded the remainder to be found locally. Estimated cost for extra PCSO's in West Wiltshire £222,000

West Wiltshire has 3 identified 'Development sites' or pilot sites based on the Vulnerable Localities Index (VLI) for role out during 2006:

- Trowbridge Adcroft – due to go live 14 Feb 2006

- Melksham North
- Warmister West

The Neighbourhood Policing Teams will focus on local priorities, using all available powers to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour to improve the quality of life in our local communities.

The teams will be highly visible and accessible, engage with their local communities to gather information, views and concerns, and work with partner agencies to find lasting solutions to local problems.

Past experience suggests that much of the queries and priorities that NPT's will be asked to address will have solutions with partners other than the police. For example abandoned cars, litter and graffiti. It is important then to ensure good communication and all relevant partners are linked into NPT's.

### **Opportunities for West Wiltshire**

- The basis of NPT's is to ensure local services are delivered to meet local priorities identified by those respective communities. There is a strong relationship between the Councils commitment to 'Local Area Working' and the development of NPT's.
- West Wiltshire District Council along with Town and Parish Councils has a range of new powers in relation to Clean Neighbourhoods & Environment Act 2005. The District Councils is currently in the process of exploring how, when and where it could best utilise these new powers. There is an opportunity to explore the role NPT's and in particular PCSO's could play in enforcement action (fixed penalty notices) in support of the Councils objectives.
- The role of ward members is considered crucial to the effective delivery of NPT's. The active role of members in NPT's may stimulate members involvement in the Council's own 'Local Area Working' agenda, and in turn support the development and recognition of their role as community leaders.

### **Way ahead**

- West Wiltshire District Council is planning to take an active part in the formation of NPT's. There is a need to ensure that NPT's are integrated and form part of the established 'local area working' family.
- Explore and agree the role of PCSO's as a potential 'value added' method of delivery for aspects of the Clean Neighbourhoods & Environment Act 2005.
- In parallel with above: West Wiltshire DC explores how it can work in partnership with the probation service with regard to how Community Punishment Order's (Unpaid Work) can be utilised to improve the environment and form links between an offence and punishment. EG: Community Initiatives have recently linked an offender who damaged a bench in Trowbridge Park with the Depo who are now working with the Probation Service to arrange a period of unpaid work litter picking the park area.
- West Wiltshire District Council explores with Wiltshire Constabulary potential of routing Asset Recovery Agency funds to NPT's in support of PCSO funding.