

**Report of the Chief Constable to the Chair and Members  
of the Operational Policing Panel  
14<sup>th</sup> July 2009**

**Executive & Presenting Officer: Mr Sean White, Assistant Chief Constable  
(Territorial Operations)**

**Status: For information**

**Neighbourhood Policing Update**

**1 Purpose**

1.1 The purpose of this report is to update Members on the progress of implementation of Neighbourhood Policing.

**2 Recommendations**

2.1 That Members note the contents of this report.

**3 Reasons**

3.1 As detailed in the Police Authority paper dated 16<sup>th</sup> August 2005, the Government announced its proposals for Neighbourhood Policing: to introduce Neighbourhood Policing teams in every area of England and Wales by April 2008.

3.2 The Force's approach to Neighbourhood Policing is based on the Chief Constable's ward based model of a named police constable per neighbourhood. In addition, each neighbourhood has a minimum of one PCSO working alongside the constable.

3.3 In line with the principles of Neighbourhood Policing additional constables and PCSOs have been allocated to wards where demand is greatest.

- 3.4 The principles of Neighbourhood Policing were implemented throughout the Cleveland Police area on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2007.
- 3.5 The Force has dedicated 11 inspectors, 28 police sergeants, 148 police constables and 198 PCSOs as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2009 (target figure 197) to Neighbourhood Policing. These resources are further supported by Neighbourhood Support Team Officers, the Special Constabulary and Volunteers, as well as members of the extended police family. PCSO deployment is as follows:

Hartlepool	56
Stockton	54
Middlesbrough	49
Redcar & Cleveland	39
<b>Total</b>	<b>198</b>

- 3.6 As Neighbourhood Policing continues to develop we are seeing more examples of effective community engagement, supported by joint agency problem solving and collaboration. Recently Hartlepool was identified by the NPIA as an Integrated Neighbourhood Policing and Neighbourhood Management example site at York Road. This good practice is being promulgated nationwide.
- 3.7 The value of dedicated neighbourhood officers and the additional investment in PCSOs is evidenced in improved public confidence. Recent British Crime Surveys show the Force position nationally demonstrating positive public confidence in the Force.

Percentage of people who agree that the police and local councils are dealing with anti-social behaviour and crime issues that in their area		
		<b>National Position</b>
September 2008	54%	1
December 2008	53.8%	3

## 4 Implications

### 4.1 Finance

The resourcing of additional PCSOs was outlined in the Police Authority paper dated 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2007. The recruitment of 75 additional PCSOs will further enhance the delivery of Neighbourhood Policing. The Government have indicated the level of PCSO grant for the forthcoming three years as indicated below:

2009/10	£2,892,000
2010/11	£2,967,000
2011/12	£3,044,000

- 4.2 In addition to this settlement the Force is to receive a further £429,000 from partnerships in 2009/10 to fund those additional PCSOs outlined in paragraph 4.1. However, the continued partnership funding arrangements are still subject to on-going negotiation.
- 4.3 Diversity & Equal Opportunities  
The concept of the public influencing policing directly is a key principle of Neighbourhood Policing. The Force, through Neighbourhood Policing has engaged with a wide range of communities to understand their concerns. Their concerns have influenced directly the public priority plans and problem solving activity. Local surveys and consultation with the public indicates continued improvement in satisfaction levels with Cleveland Police.
- 4.4 Human Rights Act  
There are no Human Rights Act implications arising from this report.
- 4.5 Sustainability  
Sustainability is the key to successful delivery. The Force is in a sound position to continue to deliver this style of policing, having used proven methodology to gauge demand and allocate resources.
- 4.6 The ringfencing of staff into neighbourhoods continues to be critical but offers the opportunity for the Force to build upon crime reduction successes and improved public satisfaction.
- 4.7 Risk  
Police Authority and local authority partners invested in 75 additional PCSOs. Whilst Government funding arrangements for PCSOs 2009/10 – 2010/11 is known, the partnership funding arrangements beyond 2009/10 have not been finalised. There is a risk to the reputation of the Force if it is unable to deliver the promised benefits of Neighbourhood Policing.

## **5 Conclusion**

- 5.1 The Force continues to build upon the experience and identification of effective practice in embedding Neighbourhood Policing.
- 5.2 Surveys continue to indicate public support for Neighbourhood Policing and recognise the increase in visible patrols and improved service.
- 5.3 The Force continues to reduce crime rates whilst embedding Neighbourhood Policing.

Sean Price  
Chief Constable