

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES TO TARGET ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

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WHAT BENEFITS WILL THESE PROPOSALS BRING TO COPELAND RESIDENTS?

Additional Cumbria PCC resources to target anti-social behaviour interventions in Copeland during 2013/14 will offer direct benefit to residents and target neighbourhoods.

WHY HAS THIS REPORT COME TO THE EXECUTIVE?

(eg Key Decision, Policy recommendation for Full Council, at request of Council, etc.)

Copeland has been offered £91,500 matched funding to spend in 2013/14 and this report requests authorisation for the Council to spend this external funding as agreed with the Cumbria PCC office.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Executive are requested to approve the detailed spend profile on targeted anti-social behaviour in 2013/14 and recommend to Full Council, in line with the Council's Financial Regulations, approval of £91,500 external PCC funding spend.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In February 2013, The Cumbria Police and Crime Commissioner offered each district the opportunity to apply for up to £100,000 matched funding to target anti-social behaviour. The Council were invited to make an expression of interest in February followed by a supporting business case in early March.
- 1.2 The Council is active in the West Cumbria Community Safety Partnership and took an approach in developing our expression of interest within the wider priorities of the West Cumbria Community Safety Action Plan.

2. DISCUSSION

- 2.1 The Cumbria PCC decided to award match funding to Copeland Borough Council for 2013/14 for the following items –
 - Friday Night Project Extension (£34,713)
 - Additional Police Resources and Additional Project Resources to Combat Shoplifting (£50,000)

- Additional Police Resources in Neighbourhood Management Areas (£3,787)
- Young Persons Alcohol Misuse Reduction Project (£3,000)

- 2.2 The £100,000 match funding for this award is provided by a combination of project funding from the Copeland Community Fund and the Home Group Social Investment Fund direct to project activities. The PCC in giving this matched funding commented that district applications “demonstrate the willingness of everyone to work together to address antisocial behaviour in our communities. They also served to demonstrate the range of diverse and innovative ways in which antisocial behaviour is being tackled throughout Cumbria.”
- 2.3 This funding will be subject to a formal funding agreement. The terms of the agreement are consistent with those in existence between the Home Office and the Commissioner and on the basis of which the Commissioner is able to make this funding available to the Council. Specifically, funding up to the agreed amount and for the purposes specified, will be made quarterly following submission of a payment request form and supporting monitoring information. In line with this we will pass on the resource through our grants or commissioning agreement on a quarterly basis in response to monitoring information received. The exact arrangements will be defined once the formal funding agreement is received from the Office of the Cumbria PCC.
- 2.4 Our approach to anti-social behaviour is to work within the West Cumbria Community Safety Partnership Action Plan agreed by all partners including the Council. In bidding for the matched funding we were clear to ensure that targeted activity delivers against priority issues.
- 2.5 The PCC has stated his intention on a Cumbria wide CCTV approach. “In the light of the draft report I have seen from the Chief Constable I believe that it will be possible to provide a sustainable, monitored CCTV facility across Cumbria for the next seven years. Given this I am inclined to adopt a cautious approach, at this stage, to the use of capital expenditure on CCTV systems. The adoption of a county-wide solution provides a unique opportunity to leverage in Constabulary funding and produces the potential for Constabulary resources system monitoring. In addition there would be economies of scale from centralized procurement and standardized equipment and maintenance.” Our bid included a small sum £8,500 to buy the digital CCTV equipment at the end of our current contract for CCTV equipment in four neighbourhoods to then transfer to the Police for such a scheme. We have yet to understand how this will be enabled from the county approach.

3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS TO BE CONSIDERED

- 3.1 The Council has the alternative option to refuse the offer which will lose these additional resources to target anti-social behaviour in our neighbourhoods.

4. CONCLUSIONS

- 4.1 This additional matched funding to the Council will enable additional commissioned activity against the Community Safety Action Plan and priorities for Copeland communities and neighbourhoods as evidenced by local official crime statistics and local knowledge and activity through the Copeland LMAP and its delivery partners.
- 4.2 The Executive are requested to approve the detailed spend profile on targeted anti-social behaviour in 2013/14 as set out in PCC offer set out in 2.1 and recommend to Full Council, in line with the Council's Financial Regulations, approval of £91,500 external PCC funding spend.

5. STATUTORY OFFICER COMMENTS

- 5.1 The Monitoring Officer's comments are: No further comment.
- 5.2 The Section 151 Officer's comments are: The council needs to establish and devise an appropriate mechanism to ensure that it is not financially liable for any non-delivery by partners. The terms of the award, payment arrangements to partners of the match funding and performance arrangements will need to be established, comply with financial regulations and be agreed in advance of any spend.
- 5.3 EIA Comments: The activities to be provided with this matched funding will enable targeted actions in our neighbourhoods, a focus on working with young people on diversionary activities and alcohol misuse campaigns for all ages and engage with businesses in our key service centre, Whitehaven. Residents, communities of interest and geography all have an interest in working together to reduce anti-social behaviour incidents and will be invited to engage with projects supported through this matched funding.
- 5.4 Policy Framework: Our Corporate Plan Priority 2 states our commitment to "Be an effective public service partner so we can get the best deal for Copeland" Bidding for and receiving this Cumbria PCC grant to target anti-social behaviour with and within our communities fits with our stated corporate approach to invest through appropriate means in West Cumbria Community Safety Partnership to address the key challenges and needs of our residents.

5.5 Other consultee comments, if any: The application to the PCC was undertaken in consultation with key partners in the West Cumbria Community Safety Partnership and local agencies including social housing providers in our hot spot neighbourhoods.

6. HOW WILL THE PROPOSALS BE PROJECT MANAGED AND HOW ARE THE RISKS GOING TO BE MANAGED?

6.1 The Council have been allocated £91,500 matched funding against our bid and for delivery of the projects and activities set out in 2.1. The detail of the grant offer in terms of payment schedules will inform our grant and contract letters to partners delivering the targeted activity. We will use our long experience of receiving grants and acting as accountable body to ensure the matched funding is used for the purposes it has been given against. We anticipate all projects to deliver in line with agreed funding and activity profiles but any unspent PCC resource against planned projects will be returned to the Office of the Cumbria PCC at the end of the financial year.

6.2 The Council will receive the matched funding quarterly and pass on as grants or contract payments to deliver the targeted activities. Each project will be commissioned from this matched funding resource through a project brief and linked Service Level or Grant Agreement setting out the detail of activities to be provided, spend and match funding profiles and reporting arrangements. The resources will be used to deliver specific projects which will be managed by the project lead for each activity. The Council will set up a commission with the Police to deliver some of the activity with a clear brief including reporting requirements.

6.3 The West Cumbria Community Safety Core Activities enable a Copeland LMAP (Local Multi Agency Problem Solving Group) which will be meeting monthly through the year and will pick up any direct risk issues from the activities in the neighbourhoods. The West Cumbria Community Safety Tactical Delivery Group meet regularly to monitor the Annual Community Safety Action Plan which includes the activities being funded through this resource. All project activity is reported to the West Cumbria Community Safety Partnership Strategy Group which will be reported quarterly in line with the Council's Corporate Plan performance framework.

7. WHAT MEASURABLE OUTCOMES OR OUTPUTS WILL ARISE FROM THIS REPORT?

7.1 A reduction in anti-social behaviour incidents across Copeland and within current hot spots.

List of Appendices

None

List of Background Documents:

West Cumbria Community Safety Strategic Assessment 2012, 2013/14 Action Plan,
Copeland bid to the Cumbria PCC for matched funding in 2013/14.