

Report of: Neighbourhood Renewal Business Manager

To: Executive Board

Date: 20th February 2006

Item No:

Title of Report : Deployment of Oxford's Street Wardens



Summary and Recommendations



Purpose of report: To brief Executive Board upon further deployment of Street Wardens, pending the budget settlements of 2006/7 and 2007/8



Key decision: No

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Susan Brown

Scrutiny Responsibility: Community

Area(s) affected: Blackbird Leys, Northfield Brook, Littlemore, Rose Hill, Iffley, Iffley Fields, Barton, Risinghurst and Sandhills, Quarry, Churchill, Lye Valley, Marston



Report Approved by: Strategic Director (Housing, Health and Community)
 Daisy Cane – Legal Services
 Mike Baish – Financial Services



Policy Framework: No



Recommendation(s): To note the report, and the reconfiguration in services outlined in it.



Introduction/Background



- Members will be aware that Oxford's Street Warden scheme has been established since 2003 in Blackbird Leys, Northfield Brook, Littlemore and Rose Hill, and that it further expanded in 2005 to Iffley, Barton, and parts of Iffley Fields, Churchill, Risinghurst, Lye Valley and Sandhills and Quarry.



2. It has been uniformly welcomed in these areas, and statistics confirm that crime has dropped in these areas (the Street Wardens explicitly contribute to the impact upon, for instance, vehicle crime by arranging for the removal of untaxed vehicles, and upon drug related crime by feeding back intelligence to the police, amongst many other forms of crime).
3. In the 2005, a 3 year budget was agreed to both sustain the funding regime for the wardens (taking over from time limited Central Government funding, and mainstreaming the service), and to extend it incrementally over the 3 years. The first phase of this expansion took place in 2005/6, into Barton, and parts of Churchill, Lye Valley, Risinghurst and Sandhills and Quarry. Under the proposals for 2006/7, the scheme was originally due to expand through the recruitment of 2-3 additional wardens.

Current position

4. Also in the 2005/6 budget, the City Council agreed to joint fund 3 Police Community Support Officers in 2005-06, 3 additional PCSOs in 2006-07 and 2 additional PCSOs in 2007-08, subject to matched funding being identified by the police. 2005-06 allocation has now been achieved, and there are PCSO's in Blackbird Leys, Northfield Brook and Barton.
5. It is submitted that the key distinction between Wardens and PCSO's is that whilst both are crime and anti social behaviour focussed, the methodology is different. PCSO's are employed and tasked by the police and have a greater emphasis in intelligence gathering and tackling crime, whilst Wardens are employed by the City Council and have a greater role in community development and target lower level anti social behaviour such as litter, fly-tipping, graffiti and abandoned vehicles.
6. The imminent commencement of the Neighbourhood Policing Programme will see the police lead on the roll out of a multi agency approach to local policing in particular areas. There is therefore a requirement to consider deploying PCSO's where they would best serve the Neighbourhood Policing Programme. It is considered that Grandpont (as well as New Hinksey and St Ebbes) and Jericho (as well as Osney) would be suited to this (subject to obtaining the views of the police).
7. It has become clear that there are various anti social behaviour and crime and disorder concerns around the Northway and Marston areas, with Plowman Tower, for instance, figuring prominently in terms of the

numbers of anti social behaviour incidents investigated. Accordingly, it is recommended that additional warden deployment in 2006/7 should be to task a new team to cover Northway and Marston.

8. It should be pointed out that, using existing resources, it will be possible for wardens to cover additional areas such as the Gladstone Road area of Quarry, and the Broad Oak area of Churchill.
9. The neighbourhood policing initiative is ground breaking and large scale, and has the full support of government. Thames Valley Police will have a greater number of PCSOs in 2006-07 subject to match-funding and will be looking for partners. This being the case, it is important to recognise that it puts additional pressure upon the council to co-fund PCSO's across the city as the NP model is rolled out (it is intended it should eventually cover the city in a series of "neighbourhoods", the boundaries for which are still under consideration).

Recommendation

10. Due to this pressure, it is proposed that the money currently earmarked for further Street warden expansion in 2007/8 should be diverted towards match funding additional PCSO's for deployment as the NP scheme is rolled out, subject to full consultation by the police with the City Council.
11. This would result in the most deprived areas of the city having street wardens operating in tandem with the police and, in some areas, PCSOs, providing the essential community development aspect of the role. There could potentially be 18 PCSOs to cover the other areas of the city that require a uniformed presence but that has lower crime and deprivation levels or have the need for a focus on intelligence gathering.

Name and contact details of author: Steve Kilsby, Oxford 252087
skillsby@oxford.gov.uk



Street wardens	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
OCC Budget	£175,000	£ 500,000	£ 500,00
Warden head count	15	17	17
Warden head count amendment	0	2	0
Management and admin	2	2	2
Total head count	17	19	19

PCSOs	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
OCC Budget	£ 45,000	£ 90,000	£ 300,00
Head count (match-funded with TVP)	3	6	20
Head count amendment (match-funded with TVP)	0	0	15
TVP sole-funded PCSOs	3	3	3
Total	6	9	23

Current Street Warden areas and proposed extensions

