

Report to
Communities Select Committee
Date of meeting: 15th January 2019



Subject: Update on the work of EFDC Funded Police Officers

Officer contact for further information: J Chandler (01992 564214)

Committee Secretary: J. Leither (01992 564756)

Recommendations/Decisions Required:

- 1) That the Communities Select Committee receives a six month report on the work and range of operations of the Council's funded Police team.

Report:

The Council's funded Police Officers became officially operational on 20th July 2018 following a formal ceremony to mark the event. However, the officers, one sergeant and two constables, undertook a period of orientation within the council's Community Safety Team Hub one month prior to this and have therefore been a deployable resource in the district from 20th June 2018.

As a general rule, the team are tasked according to the District Community Safety Partnership (CSP) priorities which are identified through the Annual Strategic Assessment and these are aligned to the Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner's (PFCC) Policing Plan. Outside of this, the team are occasionally deployed to support EFDC Officers in their work, where formal tasking requests identify a risk of threat or harm to staff in carrying out their lawful functions. Close management of this process has ensured that our police resources are targeted most effectively and efficiently.

The core tasking and deployment of the Council's team links into the wider Community Policing priorities for the district, but, the unique position afforded our officers also allows time for self-generation of work, which includes detailed interrogation of Automatic Number Plate Reader (ANPR) systems around the district, enabling prediction and plotting of locations of travelling criminals and preparation of interception tactics.

Since the introduction of the team, close professional working relationships have developed between the officers and members of the Council's Community Safety Team, which has helped to promote fully integrated working between police, ASB officers, CCTV, Safeguarding and ASB investigators. The officers have also worked with other front-line council service areas to support these teams when officers have been faced with threats, intimidation and aggression.

An example of this collaboration was seen when the team supported EFDC Planning Enforcement Officers, who needed to serve enforcement notices on a domesticated Traveller site where officers had been previously subjected to very aggressive threats and intimidation, preventing them carrying out their duty. The police team liaised with the Council's Legal Services and Planning department and developed a plan, Operation Xerses, to allow notices to

be served safely. This operation will continue running until the specific issues at this site have been successfully resolved. Our policing team will take the lead in each phase of the operation in support of EFDC Planning Enforcement.

The team have completed over 30 specific tasking requests over the last six months and have been active in every ward in the district. Examples of work they have undertaken are detailed below;

- High power motor vehicle involved in Organised Criminal Gang activity seized at Limes Farm.
- Work with Parkguard in weapons sweep at Limes Farm, recovering a zombie knife.
- Arrest of two suspects in stolen van at Ongar believed linked to OCG criminality. One of the suspects was subject to international arrest warrant.
- Responded to priority tasking at Buckhurst Hill and arrested two suspects from Kent for going 'equipped' with drugs and offensive weapon.
- Acting on information from EFDC Environmental officers, the team stopped a van suspected of serial fly-tipping and seized it as uninsured.
- Worked with EFDC Community Safety Team on a 'walk in' to council offices, for a female who had been trafficked into the UK and raped on multiple occasions. National Referral Mechanism (NRM) completed and female safeguarded.
- Worked with Integrated Offender Management (IOM) to locate and arrest prolific offender responsible for series of shoplifting offences in Epping. Successfully obtained a Criminal Behaviour Order on the same subject.
- Supported Operation Rose on multiple search warrants and arrests relating to serious gang violence by Hainault/HQ gang active around Limes Farm.
- Worked with Metropolitan Police Safer Neighbourhoods officers in Hainault and jointly prepared 14 Criminal Behaviour Order applications submitted to Crown Court at hearing on 12/12/18 designed to disrupt future gang related violence and drug dealing.
- Supported Housing Officers to prevent breach of the peace in gaining access to a property to carry out essential repairs and maintenance where access was previously refused by tenant
- Worked with Community Safety Team using local knowledge, EFDC CCTV, ANPR and police body worn video to successfully identify suspects and vehicle used in moped enabled attempted robbery High Street, Epping.

Although our EFDC Funded officers do not have a 'patrolling function' per se, they have been involved in policing a wide range of hi-visibility events in the district, such as Halloween, Fireworks night, Epping Christmas market, Debden Broadway Christmas market and Remembrance Sunday at Loughton and Epping. All of these events and occasions proceeded without any incident. They have also been involved in providing additional support to the local Community Policing Team, in areas experiencing high levels of crime.

A full list of the teams' activities can be found in the Activity Log included as Appendix A. (The Activity Log includes support for EFDC staff, under column 6 'EFDC support', where on 16 occasions, a risk or threat to staff existed).

Forthcoming Hub Activity in 2019

In early 2019, our Community Safety Manager and District Commander, Lewis Basford, will be meeting with the Head of Community Safety and Protection for Redbridge Council, to discuss

how we can continue and expand cross border working as work on Operation Rose moves forward. The District Commander will also be meeting his counterpart in the Metropolitan Police to ensure continuity with the operation and to identify where our funded officers can support the ongoing work to prevent a resurgence of County Drug Lines in the district.

At an operational level, we already have a highly regarded cross border working group, chaired by Gary Cootes, one of the Council's Anti-social Behaviour Officers. Gary was recently applauded by the Metropolitan Police, Safer Neighbourhood Team Inspector for his contribution in tackling community safety issues in Hainault and Limes Farm, who stated "It is impossible to quantify the amount of serious violence that has been averted due to our cross border working. As a result of the joint action there are currently 24 Hainault members in prison with sixteen Criminal behaviour orders in place and another eight lodged."

Reason for decision: There is no decision related to this report.

Options considered and rejected: N/A

Consultation undertaken: A range of consultation was undertaken prior to the Council's decision to fund the additional police officers and this included with Nottinghamshire County Council, who had already funded a police team.

Service review: The funding of additional policing will be annually reviewed, with a detailed report to be presented to Cabinet in the final year of funding, in 2021.

Resource implications: The Council agreed three –year funding for the Police Officers, at a total of £555,000.

Personnel: Three Police Officers, including One Sergeant and two Police Constables.

Land: N/A

Community Plan/BVPP reference: Stronger Communities – Community safety and resilience.

Relevant statutory powers: N/A

Background papers: Cabinet Report February 2018.

Environmental/Human Rights Act/Crime and Disorder Act Implications: Increased resources for the District to tackle crime and disorder.

Key Decision Ref (if required) N/A