

## CABINET

24 MAY 2024

### JOINT REPORT OF THE LEADER AND PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR CORPORATE FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE AND THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR PARTNERSHIPS

#### A.9 Part Funded Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) (Harwich & Dovercourt)

##### PART 1 – KEY INFORMATION

###### **PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

To seek approval to continue to part-fund a Police Community Support Officer (PCSO)\* in the Harwich & Dovercourt area for the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024 until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025 (12 months), Harwich Town Council and Tendring District Council will each fund 50% of the role.

*\*This is an extension of the existing arrangements, and a postholder is currently in this role if; formally agreed, the Council will be invoiced for their contribution.*

###### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Since 2019/20, Tendring District Council (TDC) and Harwich Town Council (HTC) have collaborated to fund a PCSO in the Harwich and Dovercourt area.

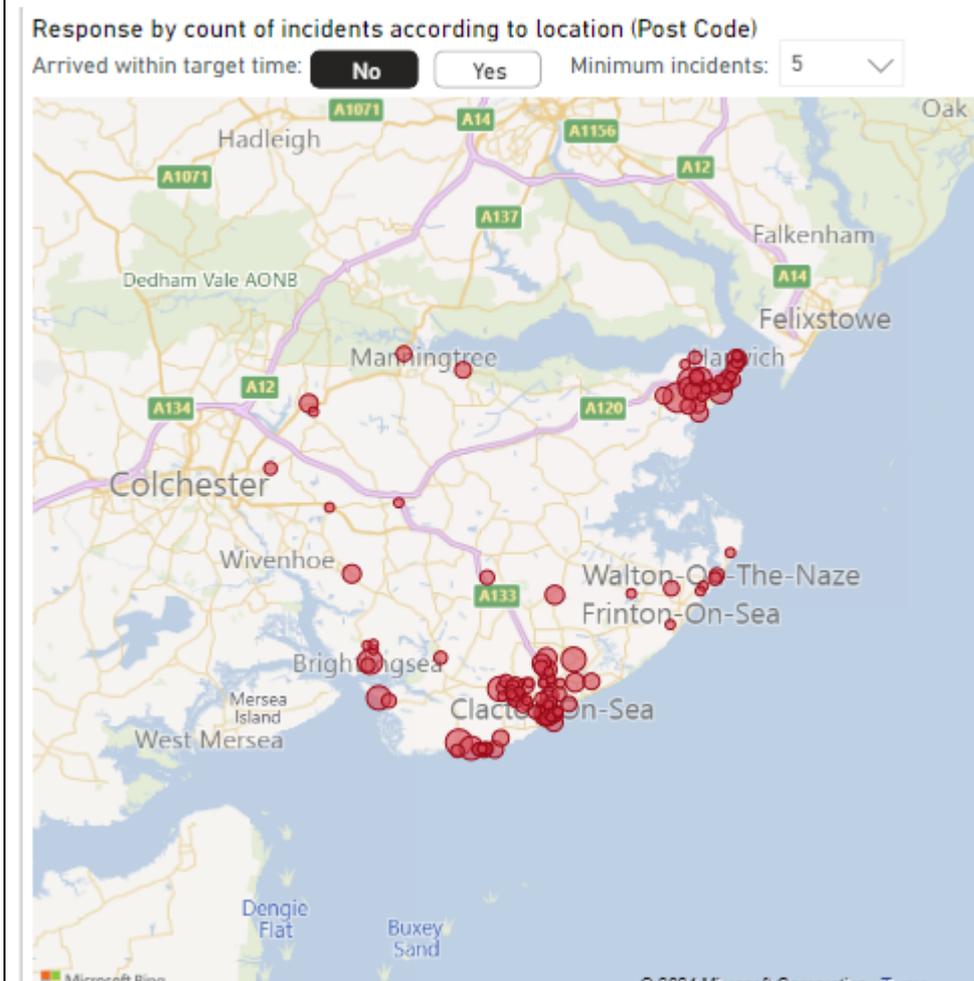
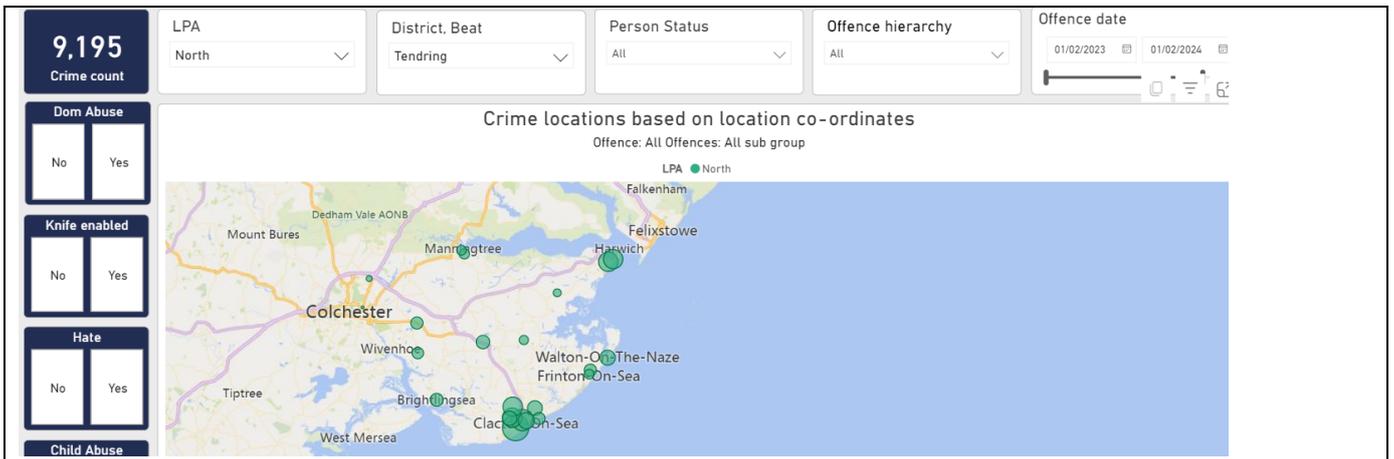
This is agreed on a year-by-year basis, and the funding is not part of the Council's base budget. The funding has been secured in previous years through separate decisions and transferring money from elsewhere in the Council overall budget.

The Police report that this arrangement has been hugely important and greatly appreciated by Essex Police. They believe that this has been a mutually beneficial arrangement and sincerely hope it can continue for the full period specified.

In line with our Community Safety Partnership arrangements, the Community Safety & Safeguarding Manager has met with the Community Policing Team Inspector to discuss implementing specific targets and key performance indicators for the role in conjunction with agreed priorities as outlined in the Community Safety Strategic Priorities and Delivery Plan.

The PCSO for the Harwich area submits a monthly report to both Tendring District Council and Harwich Town Council. The report provides information on the number of hours the PCSO spends patrolling each month, as well as the engagement events, calls, and incidents they attended. In addition to any further activity, such as joint patrols or problem-solving activities with Council ASB Officers or our Ambassadors.

The two heat maps below show the crimes and the incidents recorded in Harwich and the surrounding areas.



You can also see from the heat map that Clacton has the highest reported incidents, closely followed by Harwich, which has more than the rest of the areas in the district combined.

There are specific operations and projects that run in Clacton; however, these operations are not available in Harwich at this time.

### OP DIAL / OP GRIP / OP MINERVA

**OP Minerva – “Minerva Zones”;** risky places that have crime generators or attractors (including education, transport hubs, night-time economy, & open spaces) that create vulnerability, in relation to Violence Against Women & Girls (VAWG) offences in public

spaces.

**Op Dial & Grip – Is a joint operation across areas in Essex (Clacton and Jaywick in Tendring) in response to the Government’s Anti-Social Behaviour Action Plan introduced in March 2023.**

**Dial and Grip are high visibility patrols by Police and partner agencies (TDC) in a specific area. Hotspots must cover the areas experiencing the highest volumes of SV and ASB.**

**Includes “ASB-linked offences” (e.g. public order, drug misuse and criminal damage) and “shoplifting-related ASB” – but only “where it has a detrimental effect on a neighbourhood”. Each area must be patrolled at least once every three days, for at least 15 mins. Each area may be patrolled more than once a day.**

This decision seeks agreement to continue partially funding the pre-existing arrangement for the period from 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025. It is proposed that future funding for this post will be considered as part of the intended wider review of external grant funding to be undertaken through 2024/25.

#### **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

**It is recommended that the Cabinet agree:**

- (a) to continue the arrangement to part-fund a Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) deployed in the Harwich & Dovercourt area for a period of 12 months from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024 until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025, the cost of which to be met from the associated funding identified as part of the Q3 Financial Performance 2023/24 that was considered by Cabinet on 19 April 2024; and.**
- (b) that the continuation of this arrangement post 31 March 25 will be considered as part of the future funding review of external posts and the options available during 2024/25 will be presented to Cabinet.**

#### **REASON(S) FOR THE RECOMMENDATION(S)**

The continued employment of a PCSO assists in delivering the service, as the PCSO will carry out engagement and reassurance patrols, conduct vulnerability visits, attend community events and work in conjunction with the Council’s Community Ambassadors and Anti-Social Behaviour Officers.

#### **ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

Although the Council could choose not to part fund this post, this would mean that 50% of the funding may not be available, and therefore, this could have an impact on the continuation of this post, which in turn may influence crime and the perception of crime, e.g., anti-social behaviour. In addition, this role helps deliver the Corporate Plan priorities.

## PART 2 – IMPLICATIONS OF THE DECISION

### DELIVERING PRIORITIES

This post contributes to the Corporate Plan priority of working with partners to improve quality of life. Additionally, it will aid in achieving the strategic priorities of the Community Safety Partnership, as well as broader county and national priorities, such as:

- Tendring District Council – Corporate Plan 2024 - 2028
- Community Safety Partnership Strategic Assessment 2024
- Community Safety Partnership Delivery Plan 2024 – 2025
- Police and Crime Plan 2021 – 2024 (to be renewed post PFCC Election in May 2024)
- Tendring District Council – Corporate Enforcement Strategy

The role will also assist the Community Safety Partnership, as it is required to be cognisant of various pieces of legislation, including:

- Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003
- Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014

Priorities identified in the Community Safety Partnership’s annual Strategic Assessment (2024), are listed below, the PCSO plays a significant role when tackling these issues by providing a visible presence and working with Council Officers and other partners to conduct joint patrols and attend events.

Tackling ASB and the root causes (including Hate Crime)

High Harm Violence (Domestic Abuse, VAWG, Drug driven violence)

Emerging Threats and Trends (Speeding, possession and trafficking of drugs)

Prevent Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour

Understand and Tackle Hate Crime

Improve Community Confidence in the Multi-Agency response to Community Safety Issues

### OUTCOME OF CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

This post continues to be employed by Essex Police. TDC’s role is to jointly fund the position with a view to supporting the Council’s partnership working arrangements under the Community Safety Partnership.

The Ward Members for the Harwich and Dovercourt area have been consulted on this proposal and the feedback received is that this PCSO performs an important role within the policing of the Harwich and Dovercourt area, and therefore, members are fully supportive of the recommendation to continue the arrangement to part-fund a PCSO in the Harwich & Dovercourt area for the period 1st April 2024 until 31st March 2025 (12 months).

### LEGAL REQUIREMENTS (including legislation & constitutional powers)

Is the recommendation a Key Decision (see the criteria	NO	If Yes, indicate which by which criteria it is a Key Decision	<input type="checkbox"/> Significant effect on two or more wards <input type="checkbox"/> Involves £100,000 expenditure/income
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stated here)		And when was the proposed decision published in the Notice of forthcoming decisions for the Council (must be 28 days at the latest prior to the meeting date)	<input type="checkbox"/> Is otherwise significant for the service budget
<p>Local authorities have a statutory duty to consider the impact of all their functions and decisions on crime and disorder in their local area, under Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) crime and disorder in its area (including anti-social and other behaviour adversely affecting the local environment);</li> <li>(b) the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances in its area;</li> <li>(c) re-offending in its area; and</li> <li>(d) serious violence in its area.</li> </ul> <p>Although there is no legal requirement for the Council to fund this post, it supports the Council's Corporate Priorities and supports the Community Safety Partnership to deliver its priorities by providing extra resources.</p> <p>There are no subsidy control implications of providing funding to continue to provide a PCSO, as the activities undertaken by the officer will not constitute the activities of an enterprise that provides goods and services on the market.</p> <p>It is proposed to consider future funding for this post in the intended wider review of external grant funding.</p>			
<b>X</b>	<b>The Monitoring Officer confirms they have been made aware of the above and any additional comments from them are below:</b>		
<p>Although there are no further comments over and above those set out elsewhere in this report, it is worth drawing attention to the need to comply with the previous decision of Cabinet to consider the longer term position of this post through wider external funding review currently underway. Future decisions should be made in a timely manner, especially noting the impact on the post holder and partnership working.</p>			
<b>FINANCE AND OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS</b>			
<p>Tendring District Council and Harwich Town Council have each contributed 50% of the posts funding to date</p> <p>The costs to TDC relating to this post for 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024 – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025 are:</p> <p>£24,650.00 for the year (£2,054.17 per month) (£8,216.67 per quarter).</p> <p>A sum of £24,650 was set aside as part of the Q3 Financial Performance Report 2023/24 that was considered by Cabinet on 19 April 2024, that remained subject to this separate / follow-up report.</p>			

<b>X</b>	<b>The Section 151 Officer confirms they have been made aware of the above and any additional comments from them are below:</b>
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Although there are no further comments over and above those set out elsewhere in this report, it is worth drawing attention to the need to consider the longer term position, which is planned to be reviewed as part of the wider external funding review currently underway.

<b>USE OF RESOURCES AND VALUE FOR MONEY</b>
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The following are submitted in respect of the indicated use of resources and value for money indicators:

A) Financial sustainability: how the body plans and manages its resources to ensure it can continue to deliver its services;	The longer term position will be considered as part of the wider external funding review mentioned elsewhere.
B) Governance: how the body ensures that it makes informed decisions and properly manages its risks, including; and	The Council has previously part funded this post and therefore understands the contribution this post can make based on feedback and reports submitted monthly from Essex Police.
C) Improving economy, efficiency and effectiveness: how the body uses information about its costs and performance to improve the way it manages and delivers its services.	Essex Police provide regular updates on performance and activities undertaken by the PCSO, and this work includes working with the Council's Community Ambassadors and Anti-Social Behaviour Officers.

<b>MILESTONES AND DELIVERY</b>
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Essex Police provide a monthly report on the work undertaken by the PCSO, which includes the anti-social behaviour and vehicle nuisance incidents that have been attended. The report also highlights the resolution of any other criminal matters or incidents.

The specific targets and key performance indicators associated with the role, as identified within the agreed priorities, are also reported.

Delivery can therefore be monitored during the year-long post, and invoices are paid quarterly following successful work.

A monthly report is provided and details various calls attended to, events and meetings attended ie:

- Nuisance (Public calls to Police)
- Concerns for welfare
- Abandoned 999 calls
- Suspicious circumstances (incidents)
- Dangerous dogs (Public calls made to police)
- Disturbance (ASB)
- Requests for Information (Public calls made to police)
- Theft
- Criminal Damage
- Alarms activated

Also, the PCSO will attend any Emergency Planning issues or flood alerts issued. Patrol hours and Street meets are recorded.

There is a list of powers (Appendix 1) that the Chief Constable of Essex Police has authorised

PCSO's to undertake on behalf of Essex Police such as issuing Fixed Penalty Notices for cycling on a footpath or for littering. (there are 36 functions that PCSO's can perform under Schedule 4 - Police Reform Act 2002).

**ASSOCIATED RISKS AND MITIGATION**

Regular reporting from Essex Police demonstrates the successful delivery of this post over an extended period, which is a continuation of previous work.

Regular reporting through the continuation of the project allows the Council to monitor progress and request changes as necessary if delivery is not what the Council requires.

Essex Police, who employ the post, are also a trusted partner of the Council and integral to the Community Safety Partnership with the Council and wider partners.

There is no risk of redundancy to the Authority because Essex Police hold the post.

**EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS**

Essex Police (*who employ this post*) have a strong drive to deliver equality and have an inclusive approach. They have officers who are neighbourhood officers and directly community facing and the PCSO will work closely with these officers to ensure an inclusive service is provided to the community.

**SOCIAL VALUE CONSIDERATIONS**

The social value implications in terms of wider financial and non-financial value created by actions that include the wellbeing of individuals and communities, social capital, and the environment in particular focus on how the role can help support the development of resilient communities. This is where individuals and the community feel safer in their place and can access the assets in their community, as they are not subject to crime or the fear of crime.

**IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S AIM TO BE NET ZERO BY 2030**

No direct implications.

**OTHER RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS OR IMPLICATIONS**

**Consideration has been given to the implications of the proposed decision in respect of the following and any significant issues are set out below.**

<b>Crime and Disorder</b>	All Community Safety / ASB activities are carried out in line with the Community Safety Partnership Strategy. The Council and partners receive a regular update regarding Community Safety at the Community Safety Partnership/Health and Wellbeing Board.
<b>Health Inequalities</b>	All Community Safety priorities are in line with the objectives of Community Safety and Health and Wellbeing Boar, as well as positively contributing to the work to improve the wider determinants of health within our community.
<b>Area or Ward affected</b>	Wards in Harwich and Dovercourt.

### PART 3 – SUPPORTING INFORMATION

#### PREVIOUS RELEVANT DECISIONS

There are no previous relevant decisions for this year's funding. However, there have been previous decisions to fund this post.

06.12.2022 – Funding for 01.03.2022 – 31.03.2023

14.09.2023 – Funding for 01.04.2023 – 31.03.2024

#### BACKGROUND PAPERS AND PUBLISHED REFERENCE MATERIAL

None.

#### APPENDICES

PCSO Powers – Appendix 1

#### REPORT CONTACT OFFICER(S)

<b>Name</b>	<b>Leanne Thornton</b>
<b>Job Title</b>	<b>Community Safety &amp; Safeguarding Manager</b>
<b>Email/Telephone</b>	<b><a href="mailto:lthornton@tendringdc.gov.uk">lthornton@tendringdc.gov.uk</a> 01255 686353</b>

## Police Community Support Officers

### Schedule 4 - Police Reform Act 2002

1. To issue fixed penalty notices for cycling on a footpath
2. To issue fixed penalty notices for littering
3. To require name and address
4. To require name and address for antisocial behaviour
5. To require name and address for road traffic offences
6. To require persons drinking in designated places to surrender alcohol
7. To require persons aged under 18 to surrender alcohol
8. To seize tobacco from a person aged under 16
9. To seize drugs and require name and address for possession of drugs
10. To enter and search any premises for the purposes of saving life and limb or preventing serious damage to property
11. To seize vehicles used to cause alarm
12. To remove abandoned vehicles
13. To stop cycles
14. To control traffic for purposes other than escorting a load of exceptional dimensions
15. To carry out road checks
16. To place signs
17. To enforce cordoned areas: under section 36 of the Terrorism Act 2000
18. To stop and search in authorised areas: powers under the Terrorism Act 2000
19. To photograph persons away from a police station
20. To issue penalty notices in respect of offences of disorder
21. To issue fixed penalty notices for truancy
22. To issue fixed penalty notices for dog fouling
23. To issue fixed penalty notices for graffiti and fly-posting
24. To issue a fixed penalty notice for relevant bylaw offence
25. To enforce bylaws
26. To detain: power to detain a person whom a PCSO has reason to believe has committed a relevant offence who fails to comply with a requirement under paragraph 1A(3) to give name and address or who gives an answer which the PCSO reasonably suspects to be false or inaccurate, for up to 30 minutes for the arrival of a police officer (or to accompany that person to a police station if he or she elects to do so on request).
27. To deal with begging
28. To enforce certain licensing offences
29. To search detained persons for dangerous items or items that could be used to assist escape
30. To disperse groups and remove persons under 16 to their place of residence
31. To remove truants to designated premises
32. To search for alcohol and tobacco
33. To seize drugs and require name and address for possession of drugs
34. Limited power to enter licensed premises
35. To stop vehicles for testing
36. To Disperse persons from a specified area