

# **Management Committee**

## **17 April 2018**

### **Community Safety Accreditation Scheme**

#### **For Decision**

##### **Briefholder**

Cllr F Drake – Community Safety

##### **Senior Leadership Team Contact:**

S Hill, Strategic Director

##### **Report Author:**

G Duggan – Head of Community Protection

##### **Statutory Authority**

Anti-social Behaviour, Crime & Policing Act 2014

#### **Purpose of Report**

- 1 To detail the progress in establishing a Community Safety Accreditation Scheme for Weymouth and agree a funding contribution. The report also outlines other work to tackle anti-social behaviour in the town centre.

#### **Recommendations**

- 2 (i) Agree either option 1 or option 2 as detailed in the report, as the operating model for the Community Safety Accreditation Scheme and;  
  
(ii) Agree the appropriate funding contribution from the council for 2018-19.

#### **Reason for Decision**

- 3 To demonstrate that the council is working with its partners to reduce anti-social behaviour and crime and improve community safety in Weymouth town centre.

#### **Background and Reason Decision Needed**

- 4 Councillors remain concerned about anti-social behaviour (ASB) including rough sleeping and begging, in the town centre. Information from the Dorset Community Safety Partnership where Melcombe Regis is a priority location, shows that recorded instances of ASB have decreased recently but that the area still has the highest rate of crime and ASB in the Community Safety Partnership area. The statistical picture is clouded by Home Office changes in how crime and ASB is recorded but the national backdrop is one of an increase in recorded crime and ASB.

- 5 Information about crime and ASB in Melcombe Regis (which includes most of the town centre) is given in Appendix 1. It is understandable that as the main resort in Dorset (outside of the conurbation) and with the most developed night time economy, levels of crime and ASB will be proportionally higher than elsewhere. However, effective action must be taken to protect visitors, residents and businesses from the effects of crime and ASB and safeguard the reputation of the town.
- 6 In conjunction with partner agencies, a number of initiatives are already in place and working to reduce crime and ASB. These are detailed later in this report. However, the Melcombe Regis Board which has an aim (amongst others) to reduce the number of victims of crime and ASB, proposed a Community Safety Accreditation Scheme (CSAS) for Weymouth town centre which was approved in principle by the council in 2017. The Home Office accredited scheme would allow the council to conduct uniformed patrols in a designated area with officers having some powers authorised by Dorset Police. For example;
- Require surrender of alcohol in a designated area
  - Issue fixed penalty notices for begging & other offences
  - Enforce the rough sleeper protocol and quickly engage agencies with new rough sleepers
  - Deter street drug use and intimidatory gatherings
  - Require names and addresses in relation to witnessed offences
  - Be ambassadors for the town centre and 'eyes & ears' for problems
  - Have excellent communication with Dorset Police; CCTV; Shop & Pub Watch & Street Pastors.
- 7 The application for accreditation has been submitted to Dorset Police and a positive outcome is expected by early May 2018. The application includes certain Network Rail land up to and including Upwey Station. The scheme would run for a pilot period of two years. Two options for the operation of the scheme have been developed informed by crime and ASB data; councillor considerations and those of potential funding partners;

### **Option 1**

1 patrol consisting of 2 officers working flexible hours during daytime and early evenings with some cover of weekends and Bank Holidays – cost £60,000 pa.

### **Option 2**

2 patrols consisting of 2 officers each. Patrol 1 working daytimes (1000 - 1800). Patrol 2 working evenings (1800 - 0200) with some flexibility and coverage of weekends and Bank Holidays – cost £110,000 pa.

- 8 Potential funding partners are the Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner; Dorset Police; Dorset County Council; British Transport Police and Weymouth BID who have all been consulted. A commitment of up to £30,000 - £40,000 pa may be achieved for the pilot scheme with further funding subject to evaluation. Working at the lower contribution, this would mean council funding commitments of;

Option 1 – £22,500 for 2018-19 and £30,000 for 2019-20  
Option 2 - £60,000 for 2018-19 and £80,000 for 2019-20.

The lower amounts in 2018-19 reflect a commencement date of 1 June 2018. Because of Local Government Reorganisation your committee is only being asked to consider funding for 2018-19.

- 9 Evaluation criteria for the project will be agreed with funding partners before the scheme commences. The Melcombe Regis Board and council will receive reports on these in sufficient time to allow decisions to be taken on future funding arrangements and given Local Government Reorganisation.
- 10 The success of the scheme will largely be influenced by how effectively it dovetails with other crime and ASB town centre services and initiatives. Patrol officers will be trained by and work very closely with Dorset Police being based at Weymouth Police Station. Dorset Police continue to maintain policing the town centre as a high priority and welcome CSAS as contributing to the visible enforcement presence in the town centre. The force continues its focus on disrupting county drug lines and tackling public place violence. An update on town centre crime and ASB will be given at the meeting. The Street Pastors have expressed some concern about the scheme. Their experience and data shows an improvement in the town centre and they are concerned that uniformed officers may on occasion aggravate situations. Their feedback during the pilot project will be valuable.
- 11 By the time CSAS becomes operational, the ASB Public Space Protection Order will be in force and CSAS officers will be able to issue fixed penalty notices for offences including begging; feeding of gulls and unauthorised cycling on The Esplanade. They will be able to take action for problematic consumption of alcohol in public places. Officers will complement the environmental enforcement work currently being undertaken by 3GS Ltd whose main focus is littering and dog control (under the Dog Related Public Space Protection Order).. The 3GS service has been provided at no direct cost to the council.
- 12 The council's community safety officer and ASB caseworker continue to work with the Police and other partners to reduce crime and ASB and improve community safety in the Borough. The rough sleeper protocol; reducing drug related litter and tackling graffiti are all recent initiatives. Alongside this, they investigate serious cases of ASB with partners including registered social landlords and the Police. Officers are also instrumental in obtaining Criminal Behaviour Orders more usually to prohibit certain behaviours or ban individuals from entering Weymouth town centre. With cutbacks in youth and early intervention services at Dorset County Council, finding funding to help deliver projects to achieve more positive outcomes for vulnerable children and young people has become important. The Briefholders for Housing and Social Inclusion have been active in this area and may wish to update at the meeting.
- 13 The councils CCTV service maintains a watching eye on town centre activities. Staffed between 1600 and 0400 officers work closely with Dorset Police providing intelligence and evidence to keep the town centre safer

Officers can often spot 'trouble before it starts' having a detailed knowledge of repeat offenders and observing body language. Later this year, the service is due to re-locate from Weymouth Peninsula to Dorset County Councils Colliton campus in Dorchester. All options are being explored to re-establish a 24-hour active monitoring service as part of the centre becoming a CCTV hub for Dorset. Members may wish to consider this within their future funding priorities.

- 14 Weymouth town centre has varied and attractive day and night time offers for residents and visitors alike with an exciting program of events throughout the year. In recognition of this, the council and its partners in the Night Time Economy Group are applying for Purple Flag accreditation. This accreditation sets a benchmark and guide for achieving a safe and vibrant economy and will raise the national profile of the resort. It will give valuable peer feedback on developing the night time economy in ways which support our ambitions. The Town Centre Manager is leading on this initiative.
- 15 Appendix 2 shows enforcement activity in the town centre assuming that CSAS proceeds.

## **Implications**

### **Corporate Plan**

Contributing to Corporate Plan objectives;

- Supporting vulnerable people so that they can live healthy and independent lives
- Enhancing the quality of life of people living and working in the borough
- Providing services that are shaped and focused by the needs of our customers

### **Financial**

If funded from uncommitted reserves Members may need to re-prioritise other projects/initiatives.

A reserve is allocated to support the work of the Melcombe Regis Board and is currently being drawn upon to fund development of the potential housing selective licensing scheme. However, there is capacity in the reserve to contribute to the CSAS scheme.

The council is only being asked to consider funding for year 1 as with Local Government Reorganisation a commitment to year 2 cannot be given at this time.

### **Equalities**

People with protected characteristics are often more likely to be affected by crime and ASB. Improving community safety in the town centre will have a beneficial effect. An Equalities Impact Assessment will be completed before

the operation of the scheme commences and agreed with the Briefholder for Social Inclusion.

### **Environmental**

The town centre environment will be improved by the operation of the scheme and the service will complement that currently provided by 3GS Ltd. Patrol Officers will liaise with the town centre manager as 'eyes and ears' for issues.

### **Economic Development**

Less crime and ASB is conducive to sustainable businesses and business growth.

### **Risk Management (including Health & Safety)**

The scheme will be managed and delivered to enhance the reputation of the town centre and partners. The council and Dorset Police will ensure that Community Safety Patrol Officers are suitably trained and equipped.

### **Human Resources**

Council recruitment policy will be adhered to and Dorset Police will undertake appropriate vetting of applicants. Appointed officers will form part of the councils Community Safety team.

### **Consultation and Engagement**

Partners to the Melcombe Regis Board

### **Appendices**

Appendix 1 – Crime & ASB information

Appendix 2 – Enforcement activity timeline

### **Background Papers**

Melcombe Regis Board Strategic Plan 2017-21

Report to Management Committee 19 September 2017

### **Footnote**

Issues relating to financial, environmental, economic and equalities implications have been considered and any information relevant to the decision is included within the report.

**Report Author:** Graham Duggan, Head of Community Protection

**Telephone:** 01305 252285

**Email:** gduggan@dorset.gov.uk

**Date:** 3 April 2018