

London Borough of Enfield

[Committee Name]

Meeting Date

Subject: [S92 Policing Contract]
Cabinet Member: [Cllr Keazor]
Executive Director: [Tony Theodoulou]

Key Decision: [5416]

Purpose of Report

1. To seek approval for the continuation of the Council funded S92 agreement for additional policing services on housing estates, for a further year using funding from the Housing Revenue account for 2022/23.

Proposal(s)

2. To extend the S92 Policing Contract with the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime for a further year from April 2022 to March 2023

3. Reason for Proposal(s)

The current funded Policing Contract expires at the end of March 2022 and approval is sought to extend the contract for a further 12 months. This will enable wider consideration of community safety and crime reduction, funded through the Housing Revenue Account, following the conclusion of an independently commissioned review.

The Housing Management Service has recently restructured. Under the new structure estates with higher levels of crime will benefit from a more intensive housing management service with a focus on community safety. Additionally, focus on a place strategy will drive estate improvements including an emphasis on designing out crime.

The extension will ensure that residents continue to benefit from the additional policing resource while levels of future demands, preventative measures and options to meet new legislative requirements are considered.

The funding is provided from the Housing Revenue Account and approval will be required for the budget.

This is an important and valued service to residents on the estates and contributes to reduced crime levels and increased feelings of resident safety.

The Council's investment in the additional officers may be reviewed over time as the push for recruitment of more officers by the Metropolitan Police Service

is completed and restores levels locally without the need for this investment.

Additionally, the Council Housing Team working with Community Safety have commissioned an independent review of how aspects of anti-social behaviour are addressed in order to ensure the best value and quality for services for Council Housing Residents.

Relevant recommendations from this independent review include a number of measures which may assist in moving toward a more preventative approach over time.

- Housing community managers to develop local crime strategies for each of the priority estates in partnership with CSU including making sure residents know how to report issues and targeted communications.
- Build on the work with Youth Services to engender a sense of belonging with the community and improve the self-esteem and confidence of young people.
- Making estates safer and feel safer - by improved design, lighting, surveillance.
- Improved engagement - listening to residents and working with them on initiatives. Supporting local community groups
- Making full use of all the legal tools available to the council to help us to assist residents.

This will also be monitored through a new regulatory regime which requires Housing to regularly collect resident satisfaction data under the heading of 'responsible neighbourhood management'.

4. Relevance to the Council Plan

Supports the work of the Safer and Stronger Communities Board and the priorities around improving safety in the Council Plan.

5. Background

- 5.1 The Community Safety Team has managed a community policing service on high crime council housing estates since September 2016.
- 5.2 The current contract allows for the provision of 16 police officers and expires at the end of March 2022. The funding provides for 15 Police Constables and 1 Police Sgt
- 5.3 Regular contact between the Community Safety Team and the Dedicated Policing Unit has ensured that the team is tasked to higher crime areas on council housing estates and provide regular reports to indicate the outcome of those taskings. This work is also reflected at the Partnership Problem Solving

Group, which considers geographical areas for additional focus and which is attended by Housing officers.

Going forward, to ensure even greater links with Housing management the tasking process will be run jointly between the HoS for both Community Safety and Housing.

5.4 The contract has been successful and can demonstrate positive outcomes in the areas where the work has been prioritised. Listed below are some of the key beneficial outputs / outcomes:

- The Anti-Social Behaviour Figures for the prioritised estates reduced from 379-300 between Oct 2019- Sept 20 and the following 12 months from October 20-Sept 2021 – a reduction of 21%. This is compared with a reduction of 14% in the wider borough area.
- Crime levels across the borough have reduced by more than the prioritised estates, -1% reduction compared with 4% increase over the same period.

However, almost 11% of the crimes on estates are drugs crimes and this is more than double the % of drugs crimes recorded more generally in the borough.

- This is believed to reflect the result of the proactive work by the police to tackle drugs offences.
- The last Enfield Community Safety Partnership Strategic Assessment, reviewed crime and anti-social behaviour and the Partnership's current priorities. One such area that was highlighted was drugs crime.
- The majority of the SET's work has been around this crime type, drugs due to it being identified as a major crime attractor and driver for violent crime and ASB, not just on the estates but in the wider community.
- The effects of a small number of individuals can have a detrimental effect on the community and local residents and also adversely affects some vulnerable young people.
- Vehicle crime was another crime category that had risen dramatically in the borough, with Enfield being one of the London boroughs with the highest levels. This too is an area that the SET team are focussing on as we move on from the various lockdown periods.

5.5 The recent data from February to September 2021 demonstrates that there have been:

- 71 arrests
- 206 intelligence reports
- 91 stop and searches carried out with a positive outcome
- 14 warrants
- Almost 6000 separate officer patrols

There have been regular weapon sweeps on estates conducted by the teams and latterly a series of Community Days, engaging with local residents, supported by Housing, Community Safety and other council and central policing team resources.

Main Considerations for the Council

6. Community Safety is improved with additional targeted police patrols. The Council is a key stakeholder within the Safer and Stronger Communities Board, which fulfils the statutory obligation for a Community Safety Partnership.

7. **Safeguarding Implications**

The one year extension of additional policing resource at high crime council housing estates will ensure that residents continue to benefit from the additional policing presence, and as such, will maintain the reduced safeguarding risks for the year.

8. **Public Health Implications**

Being a victim of crime and the perception of insecurity lead to reduced wellbeing. Crime shares common causes with ill health, particularly poverty, and fear of crime is itself a major cause of mental ill-health. Violent crime can lead to both physical and mental ill-health.

Action to engender a sense of belonging within the community and improve the self-esteem and confidence of young people as anti-crime measures will also wider positive benefits for health and wellbeing.

9. **Equalities Impact of the Proposal**

The presence of additional police officers on Council Housing Estates will benefit all local residents, regardless of their protected characteristics, by reducing anti-social behaviour and crime. Furthermore, the continuation of Community Days, which engage with local residents, will help to foster good relations between residents who do and do not share a protected characteristic and between all residents and the police.

10. **Environmental and Climate Change Considerations**

The proposals will deliver a policing presence in areas with local environmental issues, including criminal activity which impacts on our communities, so will have a positive benefit for residents.

In terms of carbon emissions, there will not be an impact on the Council's direct emissions (Scope 1 and 2). There will be some impact on wider emissions through delivery of the service, for example via staff being based at sites within the borough and through the use of vehicles. However, given that the provider is a functional body of the Greater London Authority, which has committed to reach net zero by 2030, over time these will reduce in line with the Council's own targets.

11. Risks that may arise if the proposed decision and related work is not taken

There is a risk that crime levels will increase in the areas currently patrolled by the service.

12. Risks that may arise if the proposed decision is taken and actions that will be taken to manage these risks

None identified

13. Financial Implications

The cost will be funded from HRA resources and are included in the HRA 30-year business plan.

14. Legal Implications

The S92 Policing Contract must be extended in accordance with its terms and conditions, if such an extension option exists within the current S92 Policing Contract. Should the current S92 Policing Contract not include options to extend, then legal advice must be sought to ensure the proper legal process is observed and the correct legal documentation is drawn up and put in place to give effect to the one-year extension proposal that is the subject of this report.

There must be adequate budgetary provision to service the proposed extension of the S92 Policing Contract.

The Council, under s.111 Local Government Act 1972 has power to do anything which is calculated to facilitate, or is conducive or incidental to, the discharge of any of its functions.

The Council also has a general power of competence under s.1(1) Localism Act 2011 to do anything that individuals generally may do, provided it is not prohibited by legislation and subject to Public Law principles.

The Council must comply with the Council's constitution. The award of the S92 Policing Contract is required to be taken as a key decision and as such all procedures for the taking of key decisions must be followed.

(Legal Implications provided by SM on 20th January 2022 based on a report circulated on 14th January 2022).

15. Workforce Implications

There are no workforce implications associated with the proposal to extend the contract.

16. Property Implications

None.

17. Other Implications

18. Options Considered

Not to extend without appropriate alternative measures would increase risk of crime. MOPAC as the commissioners of the Metropolitan Police Service are the only provider of these services.

Conclusions

- 19.** To recommend the continuation of the service for a further 12 months to allow for further consideration.

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Appendices

Appendix 1 – Part 2 (Confidential) Relating to extension of S92 Policing Contract

Background Papers

The following documents have been relied on in the preparation of this report:

N/A