**REPORT**

**DATE: 15th August 2015**

**BY: Simon Manning & Jasmine Backhouse**

**TOPIC: Suffolk Police Review**

**PURPOSE: For information**

**STATUS: Non urgent**

**CLASSIFICATION: Open Document**

**RESPONSE: At meeting**

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**INTRODUCTION**

Suffolk Police is currently under review and a part of this process is a series of consultation meetings with interested parties, one of these being Parish Councils. Jasmine [JB] and I [SM] attended one such meeting on 14/07/15 along with representatives of 4 other local Parish Councils.

The meeting and presentation was led by a Superintendant accompanied by an Inspector.

**BACKGROUND**

The main themes were :-

1. Improving the service through better management and prioritising threat, harm and risk.
2. Explaining the current and future cutbacks to central funding, how this would be identified and the consequent impact on service levels.

To help answer these and inform the public of current and proposed change the police were :-

1. Involving the public in a survey, this was advertised to local groups e.g. Parish Councils.
2. Improving partnership work.
3. Sharing to a greater extent the changes with the community.

**CHANGES [CRIME]**

There have been increases in Suffolk in the following areas of crime :-

1. Child Protection issues [CP]
2. Domestic Violence [DV]
3. Cyber Crime [CC]
4. Sex Crimes [SC]

There has also been an increase in the number of times police have been called to deal with mental health issues. This is in part due to their action being associated with ‘point of crisis’ issues.

These variations have led to changes in demand and as a result future planning will identify key issues and localities. This in turn will enable far greater pro-active policing which will entail initial changes leading to the police operating differently in the future.

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**CHANGES [FINANCIAL]**

The Police like other bodies in the country is facing a shortfall in funding from central government.

1. In 2010 the government announced that funding would fall by 20% and these reductions would be fully in place by 2014. Suffolk Police managed to reduce expenditure by £16.7 million by the end of the financial year 2014.
2. The current spending review has a identified a further savings target of £20.5 million – this has to be achieved by the end of the financial year 2020. This represents a total budget reduction/saving of £37.2 million in 10 years. So far a saving of £15 million has been identified, a part of this will be achieved staff reduction, most of which is ‘natural wastage’

This work entailed –

1. Reviewing processes.
2. A better understanding of demand.
3. Working more effectively with partners and other agencies.
4. Making better use of technology.
5. Ensuring the service can meet future demands.
6. Saving money.

**LOCAL POLICE SAVINGS.**

Stage 1.

Complete £3.3 million savings already identified.

Linked to this is the development of plans to achieve £2.1 million savings by April 2016.

Stage 2.

To identify a further £5 million savings by 2017/18 with plans to clarify savings of £2.9 million by the end of 2017 financial year.

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**CURRENT POLICING**

Currently there are 18 police stations providing front counter services, these are –

Tier 1 –

Bury St Edmunds, Ipswich & Lowestoft

Tier 2 –

Beccles, Felixstowe, Halesworth, Haverhill, Leiston, Mildenhall, Newmarket, Stowmarket, Sudbury & Woodbridge.

Tier 3 –

Brandon, Capel St Mary, Eye, Hadleigh & Ixworth.

An overview of the current position shows –

1. A decrease in footfall at counters
2. The nature of significant amounts of demand is not police focussed
3. There is a clear need to better exploit technology
4. There are opportunities to work with wider partnerships and integrated teams, but these should be enhanced

Neighbourhood Teams

These deal with –

1. Parking
2. Lost & found items
3. A generic approach to speeding
4. Developing communication

Organisation –

This can be sub-divided into 4 discrete elements –

1. County – this deals with –
2. Planning Suffolk functions
3. Niche specialist teams
4. Command & control
5. Community safety

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**CURRENT POLICING continued -**

1. Area [there are currently 3 area teams] dealing with –
2. Pro-activity
3. Safeguarding
4. Managing scheduled appointments
5. Investigation support
6. Locality – dealing with -
7. Emergency approach
8. Safer neighbour teams
9. Multi-agency integrated teams
10. Micro teams - dealing with –
11. Specific areas with a high level of demand

**THE FUTURE –**

Some key points –

1. Neighbourhood policing will remain the ‘bedrock’ of the service
2. Suffolk Police will work closely with communities and partners to protect vulnerable people
3. Suffolk Police will prioritise greatest threat risk and harm and respond with appropriate resources.

This can be shown thus – Threat/harm/risk & vulnerability.

People –

* Urgent care
* Repeat service issues
* Case management

Neighbourhood team

Places –

* Business crime
* Rural crime
* Schools
* Community relations

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Changing roles.

Within any organisational change there will be changing roles, for Suffolk Police these will be –

1. Focussed engagement based on area priorities
2. Reviewing priority setting
3. Development of ‘micro-beats’ based on identified locations of crimes
4. Managing threat, harm & risk
5. Simplifying structures
6. Reviewing workforce mix
7. ‘Connect’ – Integrated teams that will be focussed on specific needs of an identified area/s
8. ‘Neighbourhood Teams’ – to be developed which will be –
9. Unique to the needs of the community
10. Made up of community groups, e.g. – voluntary sectors, shops, GP practices & community pharmacies
11. ‘Integrated Neighbourhood Teams’ to be further developed which will –
12. Consist of staff from different teams & professions, e.g. – social care for adults, children & families, health, police, mental health, district & borough teams along with the voluntary sector. Team members will remain employed by their own organisation but have regular multi-agency meetings to discuss individual cases for effective resolution, case management, which in turn will lead to demand reduction.

**CONCLUSION.**

At the end of the briefing we were asked the following questions –

1. Given a reduced budget, what are you prepared to see Suffolk Police do less of?
2. What do you think should be the top priority of the police?
3. Commitments to meetings will have to change, how can Suffolk Police communicate differently with the public and interested parties in the future?

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**CONCLUSION continued -**

JB and I offered no answers to the final questions as –

1. We are new to the area and any opinions we had would probably be based on previous experiences
2. We felt that any answers/responses should be formulated by the Parish Council as the representative body for Darsham
3. The presentation was very professionally delivered and all comments made by delegates were noted and will be included in the consultation analysis.

As we are both new to the area and Parish Council work the meeting proved very informative at a personal level.

1. I feel it crucial that as a Parish Council we should have a Police Liaison Councillor, and with support from JB I would take on this role.

I hope the content of this short report highlights the current areas of funding reductions and how Suffolk Police are approaching this and gives a brief resume of their plans.

**S C R Manning**

Vice Chairman

Darsham Parish Council

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