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<b>REPORT TO:</b>	<b>FINANCE AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE</b>	<b>AGENDA ITEM:</b> 13
<b>DATE OF MEETING:</b>	<b>18 FEBRUARY 2003</b>	<b>CATEGORY:</b> <b>DELEGATED</b>
<b>REPORT FROM:</b>	<b>HEAD OF COMMUNITY SERVICES</b>	<b>OPEN PARAGRAPH NO:</b>
<b>MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:</b>	<b>STUART BATCHELOR EXT 5820</b>	<b>DOC:</b> s:\cent_serv\committee reports\finance and management\18 feb 2003\community safety officer.doc
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>COMMUNITY SAFETY OFFICER</b>	<b>REF:</b> SB/LJW
<b>WARD(S) AFFECTED:</b>	<b>ALL</b>	<b>TERMS OF REFERENCE:</b> FM05

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### **1.0 Recommendations**

1.1 The Community Safety Officer post is made permanent on Scale SO/PO1 with the 33% cost of the post to the Council being included in the budget from 2004/5.

### **2.0 Purpose of Report**

2.1 To provide Members with background information on the work of the Community Safety Officer and outline how the Police, County Council and District Councils wish to mainstream the post and its work.

### **3.0 Detail**

3.1 In April 2001 Derbyshire signed a Public Service Agreement which committed the Derbyshire Local Authorities and Police to achieving the following reductions in crime:

- To reduce vehicle crime by 33% by 2004/5
- To reduce domestic burglary by 30% by 2004/5

3.2 The Public Service Agreement secured initial funding to contribute towards the appointment of Community Safety Officers in eight District Partnerships, funded on short-term contracts until 31 March 2004.

3.3 The short-term nature of these contracts has been instrumental in two Community Safety Officers recently finding new posts.

3.4 Consequently, the County, Police and Districts wish to prevent the further loss of Community Safety Officers by offering them permanent contracts. The partners feel that it is imperative that the Community Safety Officers stay in post to help the crime reduction work to achieve the Public Service Agreement targets.

- 3.5 In terms of crime figures, there has been an increase in burglary and auto crime across the County. However, South Derbyshire has levels of both which are below the same period for 2001/02 and in the case of auto crime is meeting the crime reduction target.
- 3.6 The County Council, Police and District Authorities have looked at the role of the Community Safety Officer and reviewed the job description and also recommended a slight increase in salary grade in recognition of the strategic role the postholders are operating at.

#### **4.0 Financial Implications**

- 4.1 The current funding agreement for the Community Safety Officer post is that the Council will contribute up to £16,000 per year until 31 March 2004.
- 4.2 The proposal for April 2004 onwards is to fund the Community Safety Officer post three ways with the Police, County and District Authorities paying 33% each. This would mean a cost to the District of approximately £11,000 per year.
- 4.3 Clearly the mainstreaming of the post will require the Council to fund £11,000 from 2004/5 but in return will have a dedicated post working for the Authority and supporting the Crime and Disorder Partnership with the majority of the costs being met by the partners.
- 4.4 The current budget proposals being considered by Finance & Management do not provide for any costs associated with this post beyond next year (2003/4). In total the proposals will add approximately £22,000 to these costs over the three-year planning period. These will reduce projected balances to approximately £900,000

#### **5.0 Corporate Implications**

- 5.1 The Community Safety Officer post has already proven to be a valuable asset to both the Council and Crime and Disorder Partnership. The post is assisting in the mainstreaming of community safety in the everyday working of the Council, Best Value Review of Community Safety and securing external funding for Council services.
- 5.2 The post contributes directly to achieving the Council's aim of improving the quality of life of local people by providing a safer community.

#### **6.0 Community Implications**

- 6.1 MORI polls across the County continually identify low crime as being the number one priority for the place they live. The work of the Community Safety Officer within the District Council and Crime and Disorder Partnership is intrinsic to achieving that for South Derbyshire and the post has already started to achieve real progress such as, Linton Youth Facility, Burglary Reduction Project, Street Lighting Schemes, Neighbourhood Risk Assessments and QDOS Theatre Company.

#### **7.0 Personnel Implications**

- 7.1 The revised salary scale has been assessed by the partners based on the adapted job description and the need to attract CSO's of the appropriate experience and ability.

7.2 The current CSO was appointed to the South Derbyshire position in December 2001 by a joint interview panel of District and Police officers. This ensured that the funding partners were involved in the process and an officer recruited who would met each organisations demands.

## **8.0 Conclusions**

8.1 The proposal by the Police and County Council to fund two thirds of the post is an illustration of the progress that has been made in partnership working in community safety and represents an ideal opportunity for securing a valuable post on the Council's establishment.

