

Southend-on-Sea Borough Council

Report of Corporate Director of Place
to
Cabinet
on
15th March 2016

Report prepared by: Dipti Patel

Agenda
Item No.

6

**Reference back from Council 25th February 2016 – Notice of Motion – Southend
Borough Patrol**

**Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee
Executive Councillor : Councillor Gilbert**

Part 1 (Public Agenda Item)

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To consider the reference back of Cabinet minute 524 by Council on 25th February for further consideration of the response to the Notice of Motion on the Southend Borough Patrol.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 The Cabinet is asked to consider the reference back from Council.**

3. Background

- 3.1 On 10th December 2015, Council received a notice of motion (**Appendix 1**) in relation to the reintroduction of the Southend Borough Patrol, which was proposed by Councillor Assenheim and seconded by Councillors Terry, Kenyon and Endersby. The motion was referred to Cabinet in accordance with the Council's procedure rules.
- 3.2 At the meeting of Cabinet held on 5th January 2016, it was resolved:
- (i) That the Council explore, with Partner Agencies, an effective approach to ensuring the town remains a safe place to live, work and visit in the context of austerity measures on all public services within Southend.
 - (ii) That the Council continues to develop a combined response model as demonstrated with the recent cruiser events along the seafront during 2015.
- 3.3 At the meeting of Council on 25th February 2016, minute 524 in relation to the notice of motion was referred back for further consideration. Therefore the Cabinet now need to review the matter and make a decision.

- 3.4 In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 15e (ii), the call-in procedure does not apply to matters which have previously been the subject of call-in.
- 3.5 Chief Superintendent Luke Collison and Chief Inspector Simon Anslow attended Policy and Resources Scrutiny Meeting on the 3rd December 2015 and presented Essex Policing strategy for Southend in the context of the government's austerity measures.
- 3.6 The Borough Patrol was introduced in the mid to late 1990's. These officers had responsibility not too dissimilar to that of the current Street Rangers which are managed by Southend Business Improvement District (BID). There are currently three Rangers and their role is one of town guardianship and welfare patrolling the town centre areas during the daytime.
- 3.7 It is proposed to review the current contract and management arrangements of the Street Ranger team (managed by Southend BID) to explore opportunities for the Rangers to work alongside other personnel accredited through the Community Safety Accreditation Scheme (CSAS). This will enable the Street Rangers to deal with low level enforcement breaches and issue Fixed Penalty Notices (FPN). There are already existing front-line officers including the Police, Street Pastors and Council staff working towards keeping the town safe. However, there is the opportunity to collectively review the current arrangements across Partner Agencies in the context of austerity with an aim of co-ordinating and prioritising resources, and share intelligence more effectively to keep the town safe.
- 3.8 The Council would also encourage the recruitment of Special Constables in helping to police our communities primarily within the town. Additionally, the Council is exploring whether a reduction in Council tax is available to those Southend residents that are recruited as Special Constables.
- 3.9 It is proposed to review the current South Essex Homes warden patrol scheme (of the Borough's tower blocks), to determine whether the scheme could be integrated into a combined collective approach to community safety across the Borough.

4. Other Options

Members have the option to either agree the original recommendation or agree to an amendment following the discussion at Full Council.

5. Reasons for Recommendations

To respond to the request of Council.

6. Corporate Implications

6.1 Contribution to Council's Vision & Corporate Priorities

To reduce crime and disorder and ensure the town is safe is a key corporate priority

6.2 Financial Implications

The Council's finance team are exploring whether it is feasible to offer a reduction in council tax for Southend residents recruited as Special Constables. An additional revenue funding of £350,000 would be necessary to undertake the Borough Patrol.

6.3 Legal Implications

Legal comments have been incorporated within the report

6.4 People Implications

There are no people implications at this stage

6.5 Property Implications

There are no property implications identified.

6.6 Consultation

There has been no direct consultation with Southend communities on the proposed Motion.

6.7 Value for Money

The introduction of a Borough patrol consisting of 10 officers would have a financial implication of £350,000 per annum.

6.8 Community Safety Implications

The motion proposes an alternative approach to patrol and enforcement to contribute to security of the town.

6.9 Environmental Impact

The motion proposes that the patrol has a similar remit to before where environmental infringements were pursued. However the council environmental care team already undertake this activity across the town.

7. **Background Papers**

None

8. **Appendices**

Appendix 1 – Notice of Motion – Southend Borough Patrol