

REPORT TO: Safer Policy and Performance Board

DATE: 9th February 2020

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director – Enterprise, Community and Resources

PORTFOLIO: Community Safety

SUBJECT: Crime Reduction Initiative - Hough Green Ward

WARDS: Borough wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 Following the recent Community Safety Partnership survey carried out in the Hough Green area of Widnes, this report outlines a new crime reduction initiative that will be taking place in Partnership with Cheshire Constabulary and the Police Crime commissioner.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That

- 1) **the report be noted; and**
- 2) **the Board considers the information presented and raises any questions of interest or points of clarification following the presentation.**

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 Hough Green is one of the more deprived areas of Cheshire and is subject to many cross border criminal activities. The Police carry out a considerable amount of crime disruption in the area and safeguarding measures are put in place for those involved.
- 3.2 Listening to community concerns, we recognised the necessity to make people safer and feel safer, so the Police and the Community Safety Partnership carried out a community safety survey which involved 3200 homes. During this survey, we identified many vulnerable people requiring further safeguarding and we engaged the Crime Reduction officer to view the area and come up with a design out project to improve the environment. For example, better lighting/CCTV, litter picking/fly tipping removal, landscaping and encouraged community engagement to create pride in the local area.

3.3 One key action was the identification of a doorbell CCTV project that will provide coverage of hard to monitor areas around the Arley Drive/Cherry Sutton estates providing reassurance by making residents feel safer. We have now identified a number of homes who are willing to have CCTV doorbells fitted and share any footage with us should incidents occur.

3.4 Residents felt that CCTV coverage of these areas will make them feel safer with the Partnership showing their support to the improvement and regeneration of the area; it will encourage and improve a greater level of community interaction and co-operation. This will ultimately have a reduction in criminal activity in the area which in turn will provide the residents the comfort and enjoyment for reinvestment into their properties and in enjoying the area in which they live.

In addition, should this facility be able to identify younger offenders, this will give us the opportunity to have an early intervention and provide the necessary education and provide the appropriate sign posting.

3.5 Funding has been agreed by the Police and Crime Commissioner and we will purchase the bells and these will be fitted by community safety partnership which consists of local authority, housing providers, fire, police and local volunteers. This will also be matched with funding from local authority in funding and time.

This scheme will also coincide with high profile policing patrols, litter picking, knife sweeps, court convictions, and mass engagement from fire and trading standards.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The policy implications of the review relate primarily to the Safer Halton priority. However, this is a cross cutting work area which has wider implications on other areas of council business.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 None.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Children and Young People in Halton

The Community Safety Service as a universal service impacts on the health, safety and well-being of young people.

6.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton

None.

6.3 A Healthy Halton

The Community Safety Service as a universal service impacts on the Health, safety and well-being of the residents of Halton.

6.4 A Safer Halton

The Community Safety Service as a universal service impacts on the Health, safety and well-being of the residents of Halton.

6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

None.

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

None.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

None.

9.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

9.1 There are no background papers under the meaning of the Act.