

REPORT TO: Safer Policy & Performance Board

DATE: 8 November 2022

REPORTING OFFICER: Operational Director – Community & Environment

PORTFOLIO: Community Safety

SUBJECT: Creation of a Community Safety & Protection Division.

WARDS: Boroughwide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To inform the members of the Board about the creation of a new Community Safety & Protection Division that will bring together a number of disparate activities into one service area answerable to one Portfolio holder.

2.0 RECOMMENDED: That the report be noted.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 At present there is a Community Safety section that sits within the Community & Environment Department. It has a number of statutory duties (including some that have only been imposed upon the council recently). Other related statutory duties are carried out elsewhere in the Council and do not sit within this section which makes it difficult to coordinate a strategic approach. The section also has responsibility for aspects of enforcement and it is responsible for partnership working with the police.
- 3.2 Other aspects of both safety (community and corporate) and enforcement sit within other parts of the Council which sometimes makes coordination difficult and has resulted in a lack of understanding by Members, as to who should be responsible for certain aspects of work.
- 3.3 In order to strengthen the Council's approach within this area of work the Operational Director of Community & Environment has proposed the creation of a Community Safety & Protection Division that would sit within his department. The new Division is to be a one stop shop for all aspects of community safety, corporate safety and enforcement. The division, under a Divisional Manager, would manage the CCTV section, enforcement officers, a new domestic abuse team and emergency planning. It would take the form shown in the table below.



3.4 The proposal was discussed with The Leader and the Portfolio Holder late last year and has been agreed at Senior Management level last month. It has been through the Management/Trade Union Steering Group and consultation opened with staff on Monday 22 August 2022 and is currently ongoing. Consultation will close on 21 September 2022 after which directly affected staff will be put at risk and the recruitment process will begin (there are enough jobs within the new Division for all of the directly affected staff in the current services).

3.5 The intention is to have the new Community Safety & Protection Division in place by no later than 1 February 2023. The Division will fall within the remit of the Safer Halton portfolio.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The creation of the new Division will help the Council to deliver on its policies around community safety, community protection, enforcement and emergency planning.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The creation of the new Division will deliver a £32k saving.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Children and Young People in Halton

The creation of the new Division will have a positive impact on this priority through the work that it will undertake to make neighbourhoods safer and through the work it will do around domestic abuse.

6.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton

The creation of the new Division creates new job opportunities within the service.

6.3 A Healthy Halton

The Divisions enforcement activities and its emergency planning function will contribute directly to ensuring a Healthy Halton.

6.4 A Safer Halton

The Divisions work with the police, its enforcement activities, its CCTV function and its emergency planning will contribute directly to a Safer Halton.

6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

The work of the Division will have an impact on Halton's Urban Renewal by making neighbourhoods safer and thereby creating confidence.

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

There are no risks associated with the proposal.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

There are no equality and diversity issues.

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

None under the meaning of the Act.