

# RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

Agenda Item No.

meeting date: 11 JUNE 2013  
 title: RIBBLE VALLEY COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP - UPDATE  
 submitted by: CHIEF EXECUTIVE  
 principal author: BILL ALKER – COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

## 1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To give Members an update on the current work programme and budget of the Ribble Valley Community Safety Partnership (RVCSP).
- 1.2 To look at how the CSP links with other bodies to ensure that Ribble Valley remains one of the safest places in the United Kingdom.
- 1.3 Relevance to the Council's ambitions and priorities:
  - Community Objectives – The future success of RVCSP will impact upon the
  - Corporate Priorities – Council's ambition to keep Ribble Valley a safe and healthy place to live and work.
  - Other Considerations –

## 2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 RVCSP has now been operating for 14 years. Its principal aim is to combat crime and disorder in the district.
- 2.2 It provides its component agencies (RVBC, LCC, Police, Lancashire fire & Rescue Service, Probation Service and Public Health) with the ability to work together to combine scarce resources to help reduce crime in the district.
- 2.3 Over the years, the CSP has been responsible for a number of initiatives aimed at crime reduction:
  - CCTV in Clitheroe, Whalley and Longridge.
  - one to one mentoring scheme for young people.
  - Castle grounds project – tackling drugs and alcohol.
  - use of Smartwater liquid in remote rural areas.
  - 'Wasted Lives' campaign – aimed at teenage drivers.
  - Skate park development at Longridge.
- 2.4 Funding originally came via the Home Office through Government Office North West. With the demise of regional government, this was then transferred to Lancashire County Council for them to administer.
- 2.5 Lately, funding has been restricted to second homes funding and other small pots of money. Recently all Lancashire CSP's have been allocated £10k by the Police and Crime Commissioner.
- 2.6 Even with diminishing resources, both financial and staffing the Ribble Valley has consistently been one of the safest places in the country in terms of reported crime.

### 3 ISSUES

- 3.1 Community Safety Partnerships are recognised as a tried and tested vehicle for delivering multi agency initiatives in increasingly difficult economic times.
- 3.2 Ribble Valley CSP has just announced that it will have a budget of around £40,000 of which £10,000 has been provided by the Police and Crime Commissioner to spend on its priorities for 2013/2014. These priorities have recently been agreed as follows:
- Road safety – particularly young drivers aged 17-24.
  - Serious acquisitive crime.
  - Other stealing (metal theft and stone theft).
  - Substance misuse (drugs and alcohol).
  - Violent crime, including domestic abuse.
- 3.3 A small working group chaired by the Chief Executive will allocate funding to these initiatives which fall into one or more of the above criteria.
- 3.4 It is important to note however that this funding may be for one year only. There is no guarantee of future years funding from the Police and Crime Commissioner and future savings also cannot be relied upon.
- 3.5 Amongst the initiatives the Community Safety Partnership will be considering are as follows:
- Continuation of the Community Alcohol Network – tackling underage drinking and substance abuse.
  - Friday night football initiatives.
  - Increased use of Smart water liquid.
  - Improvements to Longridge CCTV system.
  - Extending the scope of the Wasted Lives Campaign.
- 3.6 The Community Safety Partnership is currently chaired by Marshal Scott and also has Councillor Kevin Horkin as its Ribble Valley Borough Council representative.
- 3.7 In addition, other agencies who are regular attendees include the Police, Lancashire Fire & Rescue Service, Lancashire County Council, Ribble Valley Homes, The Police and Crime Commissioner and Victim Support.
- 3.8 With the demise of Primary Care Trusts, there is an urgent need to engage with the new Clinical Commissioning Group which has replaced part of the PCT to ensure that health continues to have a voice on the CSP.
- 3.9 This is particularly important as we start to work on a more strategic model along with our neighbours at Blackburn and Hyndburn.
- 3.10 Violent crime has been identified recently as the key scene which needs to be addressed across the three areas.
- 3.11 Violent crime includes domestic abuse and alcohol related crime and the aim is to reduce accident and emergency admissions particularly on Friday and Saturday nights.
- 3.12 This could then trigger funding from the health sector which could be put towards initiatives aimed at these reductions.

3.13 I also understand that the Police are in consultation with local businesses with the aim of setting up a 'Business Watch' scheme linked to both the Clitheroe Town Centre radio scheme and local CCTV. An update will hopefully be given at the meeting.

#### 4 RISK ASSESSMENT

4.1 The approval of this report may have the following implications:

- Resources – Ribble Valley Community Safety Partnership has managed to pull together a budget of £40,000 for this year only but is aware that this funding may not continue into future years.
- Technical, Environmental and Legal – No significant risks identified.
- Political – None identified.
- Reputation – None identified.
- Equality & Diversity – No significant risks identified.

#### 5 CONCLUSION

5.1 Ribble Valley Community Safety Partnership continues to act as the co-ordinating body for its various component agencies and to work towards reducing crime in the Ribble Valley.

5.2 Future funding is, as ever, a concern but we will continue to use available resources to their best advantage.

5.3 Future update reports will be submitted to this meeting as and when appropriate.

BILL ALKER  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

MARSHAL SCOTT  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

#### BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Eastern Division Community Safety Plan 2012-2015
2. Police Commissioner's Funding notification – 15 March 2013.

For further information please ask for Bill Alker, extension 4412.

REF: BA/EL/160513/POLICY & FINANCE