

Leicester  
City Council

**WARDS AFFECTED**  
All Wards

**FORWARD TIMETABLE OF CONSULTATION AND MEETINGS:**  
Cabinet

**25 April 2005**

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**Strengthening Community Safety**

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**Report of the Corporate Director of Housing**

**1. Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 To advise Cabinet of the implications of the Council resolution and referral back to Cabinet from it's meeting on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2005.

**2. Summary**

- 2.1 The resolution of Council is at Appendix A along with the original report to Cabinet and resolution of 7<sup>th</sup> March 2005. There are two areas to consider.
- 2.2 Firstly the implications for the Service Director post for Regeneration. The post is responsible for the growing high profile and high workload role of regeneration (including liveability), as one of the Council's top priorities delivered through partnership working, particularly the LSP and LRC, and which is a key requirement of the new CPA. The post is also currently responsible for the Community Safety team and CDRP support team. The proposal to add the Youth Offending Service (YOS) (comprising 90 staff and 90 volunteers), Drug and Alcohol Action Team (DAAT) both from Social Care and Health and the Anti Social Behaviour Unit (LASBU) from Housing, would in the opinion of the Corporate Director of Regeneration and Culture require a reorganization of other services in the division and their transfer within the Regeneration and Culture Department to create the headroom in the Regeneration Division to allow growth of over 100 staff. While the Corporate Director of Regeneration and Culture believes the reorganization possible, she does not recommend it at this time, as it may shift attention in the Regeneration Division from the key critical regeneration projects to be managed in the division in the coming year.
- 2.3 This also needs to be considered in the context of strengthening community safety, recommended in its inspection report, by the Audit Commission, which said "The Council should clearly identify a champion for the Community Safety function who has both the commitment and the capacity to support and direct the CDRP". Our response to this will be monitored by the Audit Commission and GOEM.
- 2.4 An alternative to both the Council and Cabinet resolutions would be, instead of a Service Director post being created, an officer would act up into this role at the same pay as a Service Director for a period of 6 months by which time the outcomes of the

Children's Act will be clearer. This post would be located in a new Adult Services department which may include a wider definition of adult services than adult social services, in accordance with recent indications from government.

- 2.5 Secondly the areas proposed for investment of the £100k uncommitted budget would assist in efforts to improve Community Safety and build community capacity. However these would be given a higher priority than bids for investment of the £100k provision shown at Appendix B in the original Cabinet report of 7<sup>th</sup> March 2005. The Council proposals total £110,000 which can be covered by the £100k budget along with the £17k CDRP underspend.
- 2.6 Cabinet may wish to reflect on the purpose of the £100k uncommitted budget provision for Community Safety. It is a relatively small provision compared with the committed frontline Community Safety budgets of the Council and partners. In this context Cabinet may consider it appropriate that such funding is best used to co-ordinate, enhance and get better value out of mainstream Community Safety services, whilst reflecting on the importance of adding an increment of provision to some existing services as resolved by Council.
- 2.7 The Chief Executive has delegated powers to expend the £100k uncommitted provision and deferral of the staffing matter by Cabinet would require action to put plans into place to expend the £100k this year. In such a context it is likely that none of the £100k would be reserved for the Service Director post, funding for area committees would be considered alongside their Review and may best be considered for 2006/07 and funding for alleyways and target hardening may proceed as indicated by Council with the balance meeting some of the bids in the Appendix B of the report to Cabinet on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2005. Alternatively Cabinet may wish to refer spending priorities to Scrutiny Committee.
- 2.8 The options before Cabinet would appear to be
  - (i) in respect of the Service Director post
    - a) adopt the Council resolution recognising officer concerns about Regeneration and Community Safety service delivery
    - b) confirm the Cabinet decision of 7<sup>th</sup> March 2005 and determine how to address the spending proposals referred from Council in the context of funding being reduced to £50k. A further £60k would need to be identified to fully fund the items at (b) in the Council resolution
    - c) defer the matter until the outcome of the Children's Act restructuring is known
    - d) not to create a permanent post and second an officer to act up into this new role of leading and coordinating community safety for a 6 month period at Service Director salary,
  - (ii) in respect of the possible areas for investment of the £100k provision and depending on which option at (i) is adopted, in terms of the remaining provision available

- a) note that the Chief Executive will allocate the funding under delegated powers as in paragraph 2.7
- b) refer it to Scrutiny Committee.

**3. Recommendations**

Cabinet are asked to determine which of the three options above or others it wishes to pursue.

**4. Financial and legal Implications**

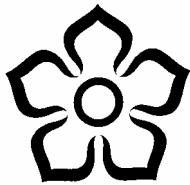
None other than those included in the original report and in the summary above.

**5. Report Author/Officer to contact:**

Mike Forrester  
 Corporate Director of Housing – Ext 6800

**DECISION STATUS**

<b>Key Decision</b>	No
<b>Reason</b>	N/A
<b>Appeared in Forward Plan</b>	No
<b>Executive or Council Decision</b>	Executive (Cabinet)



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**SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

**1. Report**

1.1 No additional information beyond the summary report.

**2. Other Implications**

OTHER IMPLICATIONS	YES/NO	Paragraph Within Supporting information	References
Equal Opportunities	<b>NO</b>		
Policy	<b>NO</b>		
Sustainable and Environmental	<b>NO</b>		
Crime and Disorder	<b>YES</b>	<b>2.3</b>	
Human Rights Act	<b>NO</b>		
Elderly/People on Low Income	<b>NO</b>		

**3. Background Papers – Local Government Act 1972**

3.1 Cabinet report 7<sup>th</sup> March 2005

**4. Consultations**

4.1 Chief Executive

Corporate Director of Regeneration and Culture