

 Employment Committee 23 June 2008		Agenda Item No.
Title	Community Safety Officer	
For further information about this report please contact	Pete Cutts, Community Safety Manager	
Service Area	Community Safety	
Wards of the District directly affected	All	
Is the report private and confidential and not for publication by virtue of a paragraph of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, following the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006	No	
Date and meeting when issue was last considered and relevant minute number	Employment Committee June 25 th , 2007 Agenda Item 6 - Minute 171	
Background Papers	Report to the above committee	

Contrary to the policy framework:	No
Contrary to the budgetary framework:	No
Key Decision?	No
Included within the Forward Plan? (If yes include reference number)	No

Officer/Councillor Approval		
With regard to officer approval all reports <i>must</i> be approved by the report authors relevant director, Finance, Legal Services and the relevant Portfolio Holder(s).		
Officer Approval	Date	Name
Strategic Director	28/05/08	John Dubber
CMT	29/05/08	
Section 151 Officer		
Legal	20/05/08	Simon Best
Finance	20/05/08	Mike Snow
Portfolio Holder(s)	03/06/08	Cllr Felicity Bunker
Consultation Undertaken		
Please insert details of any consultation undertaken with regard to this report. n/a		
Final Decision?	Yes	
Suggested next steps (if not final decision please set out below)		

1. **SUMMARY**

- 1.1 This report outlines the need to change this full time post from fixed term to permanent and confirms that funding is in place to do so.

2. **RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 To agree that the above full time fixed term post be made a full time permanent post.

3. **REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATION**

- 3.1 Efforts to recruit to a fixed term post proved unsuccessful 12 months ago.
- 3.2 The Warwick Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnership no longer receives a direct allocation from the Home Office and the new restrictions under the LAA Safer Block have increased uncertainty with fixed term post only guaranteed funding for 12 months. This has further undermined the recruitment process.
- 3.3 The Community Safety Budget (4360) was increased by £50,000 in 2008/09 in order to make this post and the post of Anti-Social Behaviour Officer permanent.

4. **ALTERNATIVE OPTION CONSIDERED**

- 4.1 The alternative option considered 12 months ago was for a fixed term post until March 2010 but, as outlined in 2.2, we failed to recruit and if we were solely reliant on Home Office Funding, only a one year post could now be advertised.

5. **BUDGETARY FRAMEWORK**

- 5.1 The community safety budget in 2007/08 was £34,100. The budget in 2008/09 is now £85,100, reflecting an additional £50,000 recurring funding agreed within the Estimates. There are other commitments in the region of £5,000.
- 5.2 The post has been graded E1 by the HAY panel (£22,122 - £24,545 subject to pay award). At top of scale, the total cost of the post including salary on costs is £30,500 assuming a 2.6% pay award as allowed for in the Estimates.

6. **POLICY FRAMEWORK**

- 6.1 Community Safety is a stated priority in the Corporate Strategy 2008 -2011 under Communities – *to make neighbourhoods feel safer*.

7. **BACKGROUND**

- 7.1 Community Safety is the generic term for the statutory responsibilities placed on this authority within the Crime & Disorder Act (1998). The duty is to work in partnership with the Police, County Council, Police Authority, Fire & Rescue Service and Primary Care Trust to undertake audits and to develop and implement strategies to tackle crime and disorder and the misuse of drugs in their area.
- 7.2 The service is over reliant on the only mainstreamed post. This is the lowest staffed community safety service in Warwickshire.

- 7.3 The demands on community safety have increased considerably with the advent of Crime & Disorder Act Review, the new hallmarks, a planned merger of the South Warwickshire Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnerships, a shared service and action planning required by the Home Office to address three year British Crime Survey performance.
- 7.4 When the contract for the Building Safer Communities Project Manager ended in June 2005 his financial and project management duties had to be picked up by the Community Safety Manager. There is no Partnership Support Post at present.
- 7.5 These fixed term posts are partnership posts and it is not possible to pass any of the corporate workload to them which again erodes the time available to the Community Safety Manager. When the Community Safety Manger is away from the office there is no cover for his duties.

Community Safety Structure

