

REPORT TO CABINET

REPORT OF: Chief Executive

REPORT NO. CEX305

DATE: 7th NOVEMBER 2005

TITLE:	Future of Policing in Lincolnshire
COUNCIL AIMS/PORTFOLIO HOLDER NAME AND DESIGNATION:	Councillor Peter Martin-Mayhew Community Safety
CORPORATE PRIORITY:	Anti-social Behaviour
BACKGROUND PAPERS:	None

Background

1. As members will be aware, the Home Secretary has announced a national review of police forces following a report from the HMIC entitled "Closing the Gap" which concluded that the arrangement of 43 police forces was not fit for current purpose.

Following this, the Council was invited to attend a Conference held by the Lincolnshire Police Authority on Friday 21st October to discuss the work undertaken to date and the proposals likely to be submitted to the Home Secretary by the conclusion of the consultation period in December.

2. At this Conference, Richard Crompton, Deputy Chief Constable for Lincolnshire Police Authority, outlined parameters for shaping this review. Critical for Lincolnshire, this excludes any options which would break up any existing police authority and any option which would straddle a regional boundary. This means that options to reinstate a Lincolnshire Police Authority on the original 1974 Lincolnshire boundaries (i.e. including South Humberside) would not be entertained.
3. The other principal criteria appeared to be the view taken that, to be a viable and sustainable police unit requires at least 4,000 serving police officers. The current establishment for Lincolnshire at the end of September was 1,218 full-time officers.

4. The Police forces of the East Midlands have been meeting to consider what proposals they should make and it is understood that they have narrowed the selection down to 2 options which meet the parameters set. These are:
 - a) a single police force serving the whole of the east midlands region,
and
 - b) two police forces in the east midlands region: one serving Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire and the other serving Northamptonshire, Leicestershire, Rutland and Lincolnshire.
5. After the meeting, there was a further discussion with the Police force led by Lincolnshire County Council where options for further investment in community policing were discussed. A proposal was put forward by the County Council which sought a contribution of £100,000 from each district council towards the establishment of up to 59 community units based on the successful model at the Earlesfield Estate in Grantham. It was recognised that this model depended upon the full engagement of district council staff such as the neighbourhood warden who is an integral part of the team at the Earlesfield. Following discussion it was explained that this contribution was in addition to the resources needed for their engagement in such teams.
6. In order to further explore this proposal, Peter Davies, the Assistant Chief Constable is making arrangements to visit each district council and meet the Leader and Chief Executive. Members will recall that the Cabinet have taken forward the sum of £60,000 for the current budget round specifically identified for meeting the prioritised requirement emanating from the Crime and Disorder Action Plan.

Recommendation

7. i) that the Cabinet consider whether they wish to make any formal response to the Home Secretary on the proposals for future policing in Lincolnshire
- ii) that the Cabinet determine whether it wishes to make provision for any additional contingency for further investment in Crime and Disorder in the light of the request from the County Council in its budget preparation.

Duncan Kerr
Chief Executive