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**Portsmouth  
CITY COUNCIL**

<b>Title of meeting:</b>	Cabinet Member for Community Safety
<b>Subject:</b>	Update on the provision of additional Community Wardens
<b>Date of meeting:</b>	31 July 2019
<b>Report by:</b>	Director of Housing, Neighbourhood and Building Services
<b>Wards affected:</b>	All

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**1. Requested by Cllr Lee Hunt - Cabinet Member for Community Safety**

**2. Purpose** - to understand the impact of the provision of additional community wardens and to update the Cabinet Member on the funding situation

**3. Information Requested**

**Background**

- 3.1. The council has 8 full-time equivalent (FTE) permanent community warden (CW) posts who provide a City wide service working shifts from 10am-10pm all year except for Christmas Day, Boxing Day, New Year's Day.
- 3.2. Additionally, the council employs a team of 8 FTE Community Wardens who have been in post since early 2019 and is fully funded until 31 March 2020. This team costs £312000 per annum and is funded from Environment and Community Safety (ECS) reserves, Flexible Supported Housing Grant (FSHG) and the Housing Revenue (HRA) account. As this is a revenue cost, the reserve funding element can only be funded in this way for 1 year. The FSHG grant will also end in March 2020. This team works shifts from 8am - 2am Mon- Fri and 9am-2am at weekends, all year except for Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day. These posts replaced the 4 x High Street Warden posts which were in place from early 2018 to early 2019. Their work also includes evening and weekend patrolling of local authority housing estates.

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- 3.3. Both of these shift patterns work together as a team to 'help keep the City safe, clean and tidy and to provide support and advice when needed'. This service is provided for 120 hours per week.
- 3.4. The team deal with a wide variety of demands from waste and fly tipping issues, to anti-social behaviour, rough sleepers, and unauthorised encampments.
- 3.5. The team is managed by 2 permanent Community Warden Managers (CWM).
- 3.6. Since the introduction of the additional 8 community warden posts, demand dealt with by the service has increased substantially (appendix a). Demand comes from reports from members of the public as well as that which is seen when on patrol by the team.
- 3.7. The team carry out targeted patrols across the City and on Housing estates based on demands that they receive and ongoing issues.
- 3.8. The team are part of the Neighbourhoods team and work closely with the waste management and environmental enforcement teams as well as the Housing options, area housing office, environmental health, parks and parking teams.
- 3.9. Additionally, they work with other agencies such as the Police, Society of St. James' and other outreach services to resolve issues together.
- 3.10. The team provide support and advice to try and resolve issues such as rough sleeping, ASB, waste issues, unauthorised encampments etc.
- 3.11. The team may also take enforcement action where necessary. This can be in the form of warning and banning letters, possession action, fixed penalty notices and community protection notices, etc.

**4. Impact of having additional resources.**

- 4.1. Since the introduction of the additional 8 community warden posts, demand dealt with by the service has increased substantially (appendix A). Demand comes from reports from members of the public as well as that which is seen when on patrol by the team. The team use the data gathered to understand where to place their resources most effectively.
- 4.2. Demand has increased because the size of the team has increased. This is because the team are able to carry out more proactive patrols to target known issues and monitor areas where issues have been resolved or are reported to be increasing. They also respond to reports made by members of the public.

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About two thirds of demands are picked up when proactively patrolling or attending to incidences of reported demands. 24% of demands jobs were passed to other departments such as Highways PFI, Recycling and Refuse, Housing, Parks etc. as well as external agencies such as the Police. As well as giving advice and support, the team gave out warning letters, fixed penalty notices and community protection notices.

- 4.3. The extended hours have enabled the team to direct resources to issues that were previously difficult to monitor and this has made the team more flexible and responsive.
- 4.4. In 25% of cases, the team find that on attendance to a reported incident or targeted patrol, that the area is clear. This data is continually analysed and targeted patrols are adjusted in line with the outcome of visits. This amount is up since the Housing Patrols began in April but is reducing as the team learn about what each area needs.
- 4.5. It is worth noting that 86.1% of the reported demand (i.e not found on patrol) is responded to on the same day with a further 11.1% being responded to the next day.

## **5. Future revenue cost**

- 5.1. The cost of continuing to provide the additional community warden team would be £312000 per annum. This cost includes staffing, uniforms and equipment and vehicle costs.
- 5.2. Based on the nature of the work the funding would need to be a combination of Housing Revenue Account, and General Fund or grant funding (see appendix B for current breakdown)

## **6. Conclusion**

- 6.1. The team has already been able to demonstrate an impact in terms of the volume of work that they are able to respond to, and find, as they patrol the City. Further funding is needed to secure this cover going forward.
- 6.2. If the team is not able to continue this means capacity to deal with the demands will also be reduced. Currently every community warden (16 CW +2 CWM) deals with an average of just over 1000 demands per year.

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- 6.3. A decision report will be completed for the October community safety decision meeting setting out the options to continue to provide an expanded community warden team.

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Signed by James Hill - Director for Housing, Neighbourhood and Building Services

**Appendices:**

- Appendix a - Demands  
Appendix b - Current funding split

**Background list of documents: Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972**

The following documents disclose facts or matters, which have been relied upon to a material extent by the author in preparing this report:

<b>Title of document</b>	<b>Location</b>