

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to the Executive for Decision 07 October 2019

Portfolio:	Health and Public Protection
Subject:	Improving Fareham Town Centre Security
Report of:	Director of Leisure and Community
Corporate Priorities:	Strong, Safe, Inclusive and Healthy Communities

Purpose:

This report seeks Executive approval of a 12-month trial of measures to improve Town Centre Security, to provide support to members of the public and reassurance to all town centre businesses and users.

Executive summary:

After listening to town centre residents and businesses over recent months, and at a recent Community Action Team Meeting, it is clear that a visual uniformed presence in the town centre to help make people feel safe and to provide a point of contact to which matters of concern can be addressed which may include anti-social behaviour, begging, drug taking, littering, and fly tipping, would be welcomed.

This would complement the conditions set out in the Public Spaces Protection Order and provide public reassurance and support. It would also provide an opportunity for community engagement, particularly by signposting those most in need to agencies who are able to help them.

Recommendation/Recommended Option:

It is recommended that the Executive:

- (a) approves a 12-month pilot of measures to improve Town Centre Security using a private security company to carry out this task; and
- (b) endorses a programme of public awareness raising.

Reason:

To help ensure Fareham's town centre remains strong, safe, healthy and inclusive and to provide assurance to the public that Fareham town centre is a safe and attractive place to work, shop and visit.

Cost of proposals:

The costs associated with this proposal are £70,000 which can be met from within existing community safety budgets.

Appendices: None

Background papers: None

Reference papers: None

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Executive Briefing Paper

Date:	07 October 2019
Subject:	Improving Fareham Town Centre Security
Briefing by:	Director of Leisure and Community
Portfolio:	Health and Public Protection

INTRODUCTION

1. Fareham's Community Safety Partnership works strategically with Police, Fire, Health, Clinical Commissioning Group, Hampshire County Council and Fareham Borough Council to produce a strategic assessment which delivers an action plan on how best to prevent and tackle three main priority areas. These priority areas are reducing anti-social behaviour, violent crime and crimes associated with drugs and alcohol.
2. After listening to town centre residents and businesses over recent months, and at a recent, well attended Community Action Team Meeting, it has become clear that there are concerns about anti-social behaviour and begging within the town centre, and the perception is that this is increasing.
3. The Council has been trying to address such issues through a variety of means, albeit that it is not the Council's sole responsibility to do so, which is why it has been working with the Police and other agencies to address public concerns, and implementing initiatives such as closing the Council's public car parks in the town centre at night and employing a security company to patrol the Osborn Road car park.
4. Due to the success achieved to date with the car park initiative, and in response to the more recent comments of residents and businesses, it is clear that a visual uniformed presence in the town centre would very much help to make residents, businesses and visitors to Fareham town centre feel safer, and would also provide an accessible point of contact to whom matters of concern could be reported to. Such matters are likely to include anti-social behaviour, begging, drug taking, littering, fly tipping etc.
5. If this were to be introduced, it would complement the conditions set out in the Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO), which was introduced in December 2016 to tackle begging, drinking alcohol and drug taking within the town centre, whilst providing public reassurance and support, and an opportunity for enhanced community engagement and signposting to agencies who may be able to help.

6. Fareham Borough Council is committed to working in partnership and would look to use the additional resource of a security company to enhance joint working with Fareham Police, Two Saints, who support the homeless, Inclusion Fareham, who support people affected by drug or alcohol misuse and local businesses.

PROPOSAL FOR CONSIDERATION

7. The proposal is to pilot, for a period of 12 months, a Town Centre Security Scheme which would see two uniformed security officers on foot within the town centre for 37 hours per week at various, flexible times.
8. Both officers will be in possession of Community Safety Accreditation Scheme (CSAS) certification. CSAS is a scheme under which Chief Constables can choose to accredit employed people already working in roles that contribute to maintaining and improving community safety with limited but targeted powers. The scheme creates a framework for public and private bodies to work in partnership with the Police, providing uniformed presence in communities and capitalising on the skills and information captured by those already engaged with the community.
9. The new powers that would be given to the CSAS accredited security officers by the Chief Constable are:
 - Power to require giving of name and address
 - Power to require giving of name and address for anti-social behaviour (including drug taking)
 - Power to require persons aged under 18 to surrender alcohol
 - Power to seize tobacco from persons under 16
 - Power to deal with begging
 - Power to require name and address for road traffic offences
 - Power to control traffic for purposes other than escorting a load of exceptional dimensions
10. While the officers will have these powers to address these issues, they will also be able to provide direction and information about the variety of support available for those in need. For example, they will be able to direct rough sleepers to the support provided by Two Saints.

OTHER MEASURES

11. While the measures proposed above will provide a physical presence to improve the security within the town centre, further measures are also being introduced to raise awareness of the support and advice that is available, the work that is being undertaken across agencies to support rough sleepers back into accommodation, and to promote the giving of donations to the various charities that help rough sleepers and beggars.
12. A Communications plan has been developed to do this, which will be managed by the Council and delivered in partnership with the other agencies involved.

RESOURCES

13. At the June 2018 meeting of the Executive, it was agreed that a private security company would be employed to patrol the Osborn Road multi storey car park to ensure that the car park was not misused, and this has proved to be very successful. The Council would like to use the same company to carry out the proposed 12-month pilot scheme in Fareham town centre.
14. The preferred company are the only local company to provide CSAS accreditation and due to their existing relationship with Fareham Borough Council can mobilise their teams quickly.
15. The proposal recommends the deployment of two people for a 12-month period at a budgeted cost of £70,000. This would provide an adequate period of time to review the success of the scheme, which can be funded from existing community safety budgets.
16. The pilot scheme enhances current partnership working with the Police and other agencies, and provides information, direction and peace of mind to members of the resident and business community, as well as signposting those most in need to agencies who are able to help them.
17. Intermittently and at the end of the 12-month period, the effectiveness of the scheme will be evaluated, and provide an evidence base to explore the future viability of it.

PROCUREMENT

18. Using the principles of the new Procurement, Contract and Procedural Rules it was established that a private security company was already an existing supplier to the Council. This company already possess the required CSAS accreditation, have an existing relationship with Fareham Borough Council, have an understanding and awareness of the issues Fareham Town centre are currently experiencing, are able to mobilise relatively quickly and provide value for money. It was therefore agreed that a direct award was the appropriate approach for this particular project.
19. The current value threshold for Heads of Service to approve a contract award is £100,000. A summary of the rationale as to the direct award approach was therefore prepared and approved by the relevant Head of Service.

CONCLUSION

20. Council officers have discussed the current town centre issues with the Police, Two Saints, Inclusion Fareham and the CCG, who are fully supportive of the proposal for the Council to employ a security company to patrol the town centre.

Enquiries:

For further information on this report please contact Narinder Bains (Ext 4496)