

Late Circulation:

AS PROVIDED FOR UNDER SECTION 100B(4)(B) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 THE CHAIRMAN IS OF THE OPINION THAT PAPER NO. 14-368 SHOULD BE CONSIDERED AS A MATTER OF URGENCY BY REASON OF SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES WHICH ARE THAT IT IS NECESSARY TO CONSIDER THE REPORT IN THE CURRENT CYCLE IN ORDER TO ALLOW FOR THE NECESSARY CONSULTATION TO TAKE PLACE ON PROPOSALS FOR A NEW SERVICE TO REPLACE A CURRENT CONTRACT ENDING IN MARCH 2015.

PAPER NO. **14-367**

WANDSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

**ENVIRONMENT, CULTURE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE – 1ST JULY 2014**

EXECUTIVE – 7TH JULY 2014

Joint report by the Chief Executive and Director of Administration and the Director of Housing and Community Services on the future policing of the Borough's parks, commons and open spaces.

SUMMARY

In November 2011 (Paper No. 11-841), the Executive approved proposals to enter into a three-year Agreement with the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) to provide a Safer Parks Team (SPT) of two Sergeants and 10 Police Constables from 1st April 2012 to the 31st March 2015.

The introduction of the SPT replaced the Council's Parks Police Service (PPS), but a team of five Attested Constables were retained as part of a new Events Support Service (ESS). The ESS provides policing for events in the Borough's parks and open spaces and carries out a range of additional duties, both in support of the SPT and in respect of duties that the SPT were not able to undertake as part of the Agreement.

The current Agreement with the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) comes to an end on 31st March 2015. Following MOPAC's confirmation of the new proposed charges for Wandsworth.

The Executive is recommended to approve, for consultation, proposals to discontinue, from end of March 2015, the agreement with the Metropolitan Police Service to provide a Safer Parks Team and the creation of a new police patrolling service (based on the existing Events Support Section) to provide, amongst other things, police patrols in parks and open spaces managed by the Council.

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee are asked to support the recommendation.

The Director of Finance comments that the approved annual budget for the Safer Parks Team in 2014/15 is £358,000. The Director of Housing and Community Services is

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offering an alternative solution at a reduced cost with a proposal that the SPT can be replaced with ESS officers without affecting any of the income generation services provided by the current ESS team. The proposal will generate revenue budget savings of £169,600 in 2015/16 and a full year if agreed following the consultation.

GLOSSARY

ESS	Events Support Service
MPS	Metropolitan Police Service
PPS	Parks Police Service
SPT	Safer Parks Team

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Environment, Culture and Community Safety Overview and Scrutiny Committee are recommended to support the recommendation to the Executive in paragraph 2. If they approve any views, comments or recommendations on the report, these will be submitted to the Executive for their consideration.
2. The Executive are recommended to approve, for consultation, proposals to discontinue, from the end of March 2015, the agreement with the Metropolitan Police Service to provide a Safer Parks Team and the creation of a new Parks and Events Police (based on the existing Events Support Section) to provide, amongst other things, police patrols in parks and open spaces managed by the Council (as set out in paragraphs 9-10).

INTRODUCTION

3. The Council has for many years supported policing in our parks to provide reassurance. Reported crime remains low and large numbers of our residents regularly frequent the borough's many parks and open spaces contributing to their health and wellbeing.
4. The introduction of the current Safer Parks Team (SPT) replaced the Council's Parks Police Service (PPS). However, a team of five 'Attested Constables' were retained as part of a new Council Events Support Service (ESS). The ESS' role is to provide policing for events in the Borough's parks and open spaces and to carry out a range of additional duties, both in support of the SPT and in respect of those duties that the SPT were not able to undertake as part of the Agreement. It was also acknowledged at that time that the retention of a small ESS would enable other options to be considered if, post April 2015, the charge for continuing a similar SPT increased beyond inflation – a scenario that was deemed likely.
5. The current SPT agreement with MOPAC comes to an end on 31st March 2015. In January 2014, new London-wide charges for the continuation of the "buy one get one free" scheme were announced by MOPAC to cover the two years from 1st April 2015 and these are provided later in this report.

SPT SERVICE LEVELS AND CURRENT AND FUTURE COSTS

6. The SPT of two Sergeants and 10 Constables provides a Borough-wide daily police patrol service of 3-5 patrolling officers for 12 hours a day within a bracket of 6.00am and midnight. Performance measure figures for the last two years and the current roles and responsibilities of the SPT and the ESS are attached as Appendix 1.

versus the PPS.

7. The agreed staff costs of the SPT for 2012/13 to 2014/15 are as follows:

SPT staff	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15
2 x Sgts (incl. 2 x matched PCs)	£128,000	£128,000	£130,000
10 x PCs (incl. 4 x matched PCs)	£204,000	£204,000	£208,000
Allowance for overtime	£20,000	£20,000	£20,000
Total Officers: 12	Total: £352,000	Total: £352,000	Total: £358,000

8. On the basis of the existing establishment of the SPT, and the new MOPAC prices, staff costs for the period 2015/16 and 2016/17 will increase significantly (by up to £82,000) as set out in the table below. Members were advised of this likely cost increase at the time of acceptance of the original 2012-2015 agreement with MOPAC.

SPT staff	2015/16	2016/17
2 x Sgts (incl. 2 x matched PCs)	£152,000	£156,000
10 x PCs (incl. 4 x matched PCs)	£260,000	£264,000
Allowance for overtime	£20,000	£20,000
Total Officers: 12	Total: £432,000	Total: £440,000
	Rise of £74,000 in comparison with 2014/15 costs	Rise of £82,000 in comparison with 2014/15 costs

A PROPOSAL FOR THE FUTURE POLICING OF PARKS AND OPEN SPACES

9. The increase in costs, coupled with the current financial challenge, means that the Council has to look closely at how a parks and open space patrolling function can be delivered. There have also been changes in local policing since the SPT was created - the Local Policing Model - which allows for a greater flexing of police resources to respond more quickly to developing issues. As such, a new more streamlined policing patrolling service is proposed which will be implemented in the following way:

- a) Provide notice to cease the current SPT service at the end of the current Agreement with MOPAC on the 31st March 2015;

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- b) Add 4.0 x FTE attested officers (4 x £42,100 each including on-costs + the existing allowance for overtime of £20,000) to the Councils' ESS establishment (currently 5 x FTE) to provide a total of 9.0 x FTE officers; and,
 - c) Provide a Borough-wide daily police patrolling patrol service of 2-3 patrolling officers for 8 hours / day within a bracket of 6.00am and midnight, with the added flexibility to address any seasonal/peak concerns.
10. This will deliver a revenue budget saving of £169,600 per annum against the current SPT costs of £358,000 (2014/15). Building capacity into the Council's existing ESS service and creating a new smaller team under single management means improved operational efficiencies to ensure that:
- a) A Borough-wide daily police patrol service for parks and open spaces will be maintained, and still one of the few local authorities with a policing service
 - b) The ability to enforce bye-laws and park regulations, and mount targeted operations, will be retained;
 - c) Coverage of events in all parks and the associated income this generates for the council will be protected.

CONSULTATION AND NEXT STEPS

11. Subject to the recommendations in this report being approved, Officers will consult with a range of user groups and stakeholders regarding these proposals including, but not limited to, the following organisations:
- a) Metropolitan Police Service;
 - b) Safer Parks Monitoring Panel;
 - c) Friends of Battersea Park;
 - d) Tooting Common Management Advisory Committee;
 - e) Friends of Tooting Common; and,
 - f) Wandsworth Common Management Advisory Committee
12. A report will be brought to the September cycle setting out the outcome of the consultation and making a final recommendation on a new service to the Executive, for implementation from 1st April 2015.

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

13. The Equality Act 2010 requires that the Council when exercising its functions must have "due regard" to the need to eliminate discrimination, to advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it and to foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it. As such an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) has been undertaken on the proposals in this paper and this is attached as Appendix 2 to this report. This initial EIA has identified no adverse impact, however to ensure no impact has been missed the EIA will be included as part of the consultation.

STAFF MUTUAL

14. Members are reminded that under proposals to date for a Leisure and Culture Staff Mutual, ESS officers will remain Council employees, in order to maintain their status as Attested Constables of a local authority, but all aspects of their management would be seconded to the Mutual with effect 1st October 2015.

COMMENTS OF THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

15. The Director of Finance comments that the approved annual budget for the Safer Parks Team in 2014/15 is £358,000. The Director of Housing and Community Services is offering an alternative solution at a reduced cost with a proposal that the SPT can be replaced with ESS officers without affecting any of the income generation services provided by the current ESS team. Any additional income generation will fall within the agreed terms of the Staff Mutual. The proposal outlined above will generate a revenue saving of £169,600 in 2015/16 and a full year, equivalent to a reduction in band D council tax of £1.45 if agreed following the consultation.

CONCLUSION

16. It is considered the proposals in this report provide a good basis for consultation as they maintain policing of the borough's parks and open spaces, protecting their amenity value for all to enjoy, through achieving levels of operational efficiency across the full range of related services currently covered by two separate teams.

The Town Hall,
Wandsworth,
SW18 2PU

PAUL MARTIN
Chief Executive and Director of Administration

BRIAN REILLY
Director of Housing and Community Services

25th June 2014

Background papers

There are no background papers to this report.

All reports to Overview and Scrutiny Committees, regulatory and other committees, the Executive and the full Council can be viewed on the Council's website (www.wandsworth.gov.uk/moderngov) unless the report was published before May 2001, in which case the Committee Secretary (David Jones-Owen tel: 020 8871 7032 or email djones-owen@wandsworth.gov.uk) can supply it if required.

Performance Measures and Roles and Responsibilities of the SPT and ESS

SPT

Performance Measures 2012/13		No.
Verbal Warnings		1519
Bye-law Prosecutions		13
Arrests		100
Performance Measures 2013/14		
Verbal Warnings		1157
Bye-law Prosecutions		72
Arrests		87
No.	Role / Responsibility	
1.	Routine patrolling of the Borough's parks and open spaces from 6.00am to 12 midnight daily (including bank holidays, Christmas Day etc)	
2.	Provision of a reactive response to incidents / emergencies in parks and open spaces, reported by staff or members of the public.	
3.	Enforcement of all Bye-laws and Dog Control Orders (DCO).	
4.	Enforcement of park regulations (including unauthorised games, pitch booking disputes, checking of event, filming & fishing permits etc).	
5.	Targeted operations to deal with specific issues/offences e.g. prostitution, cycling, dog offences and antisocial behaviour (ASB).	
6.	Daily police visits required as part of the process for the removal of travellers from parks and open spaces within 48 hours.	
7.	Reception and disposal of lost property items found/handed in from parks and open spaces.	
8.	Provision of policing resources (as distinct from stewarding) in support of the Council's annual programme of events managed by the Events Team / other Council Services e.g. Fireworks Display, at no additional cost to the Council or to organisers.	
9.	Provision of policing resources (as distinct from stewarding) in support of other large or community events in parks and open spaces, at no additional cost to the Council or to organisers.	
10.	Provision of input into individual park and open space management plans and general advice and assistance on creating safer parks.	
11.	Provision of reports and statistics on bye-law prosecutions etc for parks and open spaces (to be managed in conjunction with the Head of Community Safety).	
12.	Provision of responses (relevant to the MPS/where the MPS are the lead service provider) to service queries and complaints raised by MPs, elected Members and members of the public.	
13.	Provision of a reactive response to incidents/emergencies across the Borough as part of the Council's overall Emergency Response Plan.	
14.	Members of the Council's Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership providing input and delivering initiatives as required e.g. ASB linked with the Halloween and Fireworks season.	
15.	Members of various working groups e.g. ASB.	
16.	Provision of support and assistance to or other emergency service agencies	

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	as required, including the provision of resources (vehicles, dog handlers etc), joint operations and training.
17.	Attendance provided at Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) Ward meetings and other community initiated public meetings e.g. Friends of Battersea Park, Wandsworth and Tooting Common Management Advisory Committees etc.
18.	Provision of input to pan-London/Greater London Authority (GLA) / MPA initiatives as required e.g. the Safer Parks Scheme.
19.	Attendance provided at 'Let's Talk' and other Council initiated public meetings.
20.	Pan-Borough concordat reporting of litter, damage, graffiti, street lighting and other issues related to the Council.

ESS

Performance Measures 2012/13		No.
Verbal Warnings		729
Bye-law Prosecutions		36
Arrests		7
Performance Measures 2013/14		
Verbal Warnings		922
Bye-law Prosecutions		59
Arrests		1
No.	Role / Responsibility	
1.	Assistance in the enforcement of all Bye-laws and Dog Control Orders (DCO)	
2.	Assistance in the enforcement of Park Regulations (including unauthorised games, pitch booking disputes, checking of event, filming and fishing permits etc).	
3.	Assistance with targeted operations to deal with specific issues/offences e.g. prostitution, cycling, dog offences and anti-social behaviour (ASB).	
4.	The management and disposal of abandoned mopeds etc. in parks and open spaces.	
5.	Pre-planned protection of Council staff e.g. Children's Services Department Social Services at Welbeck House, attendance at Council meetings and during elections.	
6.	Provision of input into individual park and open space management plans and general advice and assistance on creating safer parks.	
7.	Provision of reports and statistics on bye-law prosecutions etc for parks and open spaces.	
8.	Provision of a reactive response to incidents/emergencies across the Borough as part of the Council's overall Emergency Response Plan.	
9.	Members of the Council's Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership providing input & delivering initiatives as required e.g. ASB linked with the Halloween and Fireworks season.	
10.	Members of various working groups e.g. ASB.	
11.	Provision of input to pan-London/Greater London Authority (GLA) / MPA initiatives as required e.g. the Safer Parks Scheme.	
12.	Pan-borough concordat reporting of litter, damage, graffiti, street lighting and other issues related to the Council.	
13.	Provision of support & assistance to the MPS or other emergency service agencies as required, including the provision of resources (vehicles, dog handlers etc), joint operations and training.	

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14.	Administration directly linked to the enforcement of Bye-laws and DCOs, including liaison with the Borough Solicitor for the preparation of cases and the processing of FPN payments etc.
15.	Preparation and serving of detailed legal documentation for the removal of travellers from parks and open spaces within 48 hours.
16.	Provision of reports and statistics on bye-law prosecutions etc for parks and open spaces.
17.	Lead service on the proposed future review of Borough-wide bye-law amendments.
18.	Administration directly linked to the provision of policing and stewarding resources including confirmation of staffing levels, providing quotes for/negotiating fees with clients, attending meetings with clients, booking of casual staff, preparation of Ops Orders, invoicing & follow-up of payments.
19.	Provision of policing and stewarding resources in support of the Council's annual programme of events managed by the Events Team/other Council Services e.g. Fireworks Display.
20.	Provision of policing and stewarding resources in support of community events in parks & open spaces.
21.	Provision of policing and stewarding resources in support of events and filming client bookings e.g. Chase Corporate Challenge & Christmas Parties. Includes the management and monitoring of event contractors/vehicles etc during build & take down, deployment and retrieval of equipment, cones and signs for events.
22.	Provision of policing and stewarding resources in order to manage Chelsea Flower Show and Decorex car parking.
23.	Provision of short term assistance requests to other Council services as required, e.g. weekend management of car parks in Battersea Park.
24.	Provision of training to other Local Authorities or interested parties.

Initial Equality Impact Assessment – Service Change

Department	Leisure and Culture Division of Housing & Community Services.
Service	Safer Parks Team
People involved	Jon Evans, Stewart Low, Jack Adam, Clare O'Connor

<p>1. What are the aims of the service and what changes are being proposed?</p> <p>It is proposed to not renew the agreement with the MPS and therefore to cease the current Safer Parks Team (SPT)</p> <p>The Council will instead add 4.0 x fte attested officers to the Events Support Service establishment. This will provide a team of 9.0 x fte officers which is a decrease of 3 fte on the current SPT.</p> <p>The ESS will be re-designated to become a new police patrolling service and will provide a Borough-wide patrol service for 8 hours / day between 6.00am and midnight , with the added flexibility to address any seasonal/peak concerns. This equates to 4 hours less a day than currently.</p>
<p>2. What is the rationale behind these changes?</p> <p>In November 2011, the Council entered into a three-year Agreement with the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) to provide a Safer Parks Team (SPT) of two Sergeants and 10 Police Constables from 1st April 2012 to the 31st March 2015. This was done as part of a “buy one, get one free” offer from the Metropolitan Police Authority (now known as the Mayor’s Office for Policing and Crime – MOPAC) whereby local authorities could purchase additional police officers at a discounted rate.</p> <p>The introduction of the SPT replaced the Council’s Parks Police Service (PPS), but a team of five Attested Constables were retained as part of a new Events Support Service (ESS), in order to provide policing for events in the Borough’s parks and open spaces and to carry out a range of additional duties, both in support of the SPT, and duties that the SPT were not able to undertake as part of the Agreement. It was also acknowledged that the retention of a small ESS would enable other options to be considered if, post April 2015, the charge for an SPT increased beyond inflation – a scenario that was deemed likely.</p> <p>The Agreement with MOPAC is due to come to an end on 31st March 2015 and in January 2014, new London-wide charges for the continuation of the “buy one get one free” scheme were announced to cover the period 2015/16 to 2016/17. These new charges will increase the cost to the Council of a Safer Parks Team and therefore the alternative option outlined above has been developed.</p>

3. What information do you have on the service and the potential impact of your service change in relation to the following?

	List information you have. Do not put what the information shows you
Race	Data on victims of crimes recorded by SPT is not broken down by protected characteristic

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	Usage of the areas patrolled by the SPT is not known.
Gender	Data on victims of crimes recorded by SPT is not broken down by protected characteristic. Usage of the areas patrolled by the SPT is not known. The data collated by the SPT shows that there is a higher rate of sexual offences in Tooting.
Disability	Data on victims of crimes recorded by SPT is not broken down by protected characteristic Usage of the areas patrolled by the SPT is not known.
Age	Data on victims of crimes recorded by SPT is not broken down by protected characteristic Usage of the areas patrolled by the SPT is not known.
Faith	Data on victims of crimes recorded by SPT is not broken down by protected characteristic Usage of the areas patrolled by the SPT is not known.
Sexual Orientation	Data on victims of crimes recorded by SPT is not broken down by protected characteristic Usage of the areas patrolled by the SPT is not known. The police have LGBT officers who offer reassurance patrols in PSE areas.

4. Thinking about each group below please list the impact that the service change will have.

	<u>Positive</u> impacts	Possible <u>negative</u> impacts
Race	A patrol service will be provided for 8 hours between 6am and midnight.	Emergency calls will need to be dealt with by the MPS via 101 & 999. This is already the case with SPT outside of current rota'd hours and the MPS has a Borough-wide responsibility to respond to emergencies wherever they are. However, as the number of hours patrolled by the new service is 4 hours less than currently provided this potentially means that more calls will have to be supported via this route.
Gender	A patrol service will be provided for 8 hours between 6am and midnight.	Emergency calls will need to be dealt with by the MPS via 101 & 999. This is already the case with SPT outside of current rota'd hours and the MPS has a Borough-wide responsibility to respond to emergencies wherever they are. However, as the number of hours patrolled by the new service is 4 hours less than currently provided this potentially means that more calls will have to be supported via this

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		<p>route.</p> <p>With the decrease in patrol hours of 4 hours a day there is potential for support for victims of sexual offences to be slightly decreased. In order to mitigate this, the new service will use up to date intelligence to ensure that patrols are effectively targeted. It should however be noted that responding to sexual offences in terms of calls reporting them, allegations, investigations and support of victims that these are all areas that are within the remit of the MPS who will continue work in this area.</p>
Disability	A patrol service will be provided for 8 hours between 6am and midnight.	<p>Emergency calls will need to be dealt with by the MPS via 101 & 999. This is already the case with SPT outside of current rota'd hours and the MPS has a Borough-wide responsibility to respond to emergencies wherever they are. However, as the number of hours patrolled by the new service is 4 hours less than currently provided this potentially means that more calls will have to be supported via this route.</p>
Age	A patrol service will be provided for 8 hours between 6am and midnight.	<p>Emergency calls will need to be dealt with by the MPS via 101 & 999. This is already the case with SPT outside of current rota'd hours and the MPS has a Borough-wide responsibility to respond to emergencies wherever they are. However, as the number of hours patrolled by the new police patrolling service is 4 hours less than currently provided this potentially means that more calls will have to be supported via this route.</p>
Faith and sexual orientation	A patrol service will be provided for 8 hours between 6am and midnight.	<p>The new service will not have designated LGBT officers, but all officers are trained in equality and diversity.</p> <p>With the decrease in patrol hours of 4 hours a day there is potential for support for victims of sexual</p>

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		offences to be slightly decreased. In order to mitigate this the new service will use up to date intelligence to ensure that patrols are effectively targeted. It should however be noted that responding to hate or sexual offences in terms of calls reporting them, allegations, investigations and support of victims that these are all areas that are within the remit of the MPS who will continue work in this area.
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5. Is a full EIA required? Yes

- Is the service a frontline service? Yes
- Is it clear what impact the service change will have on all the equality groups? Initial view documented above however consultation required in order to ensure no impacts have been missed.
- Overall will the change have a negative impact on any of the equality groups? TBC

Comments - Please give the rationale here for not undertaking a full EIA

Consultation will be undertaken on the option put forward by the Council. This EIA will form part of the consultation.

6. Through the initial EIA have you identified any actions that needed to be implemented to improve access to the service or monitoring of the service? (please list)

Consultation on EIA required.

Signed:

Date: 19th June 2014

Approved by: Clare O'Connor, Deputy Head of Policy