

LEICESTERSHIRE POLICE AUTHORITY

Meeting **CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE**

Date **THURSDAY 22 JANUARY 2009 – 2.00 p.m.**

Report of **CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

Subject **PROPOSALS FOR COUNCIL TAX QUESTIONNAIRE, COMMUNITY
CONSULTATION QUESTIONNAIRE AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S
QUESTIONNAIRE 2009**

Purpose of the report

1. The purpose of this report is to propose different versions of each of the Authority's questionnaires that are used as part of the consultation programme for 2009 for members' consideration.

Background

2. As part of the Authority's Statutory duty to consult with local people the Authority uses 3 questionnaires. The Council Tax Questionnaire is circulated to every household within Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland. The Community Consultation Questionnaire is distributed widely through consultation events and is usually undertaken face to face. The Young People's questionnaire is distributed at youth consultation events and in schools and colleges.

Issues for Consideration

3. The following versions of the 3 questionnaires have been amended following comments made by members at the last meeting of this Committee held 9 October 2008, as well as extracting information from the Home Office Guidance on statutory performance indicators for policing and community safety 2008/9.

Council Tax Leaflet Questionnaire (CTQ)

4. The two options proposed are contained in Appendices 1 and 2 respectively. Members' views are requested. Members should be mindful of the use to which the data resulting from these questionnaires is put. It is used to determine future local objectives. Thought needs to be given to the likely answers these questions will generate. For ease of reading, the font size is larger in this appendix than would appear on the final version of the leaflet.
5. Changes to both options from the last version are as follows. Both options have a box explaining that the Authority is not the Force. Both options abandon "prompted" answers to the questions that ask the recipient to justify their reply. There is a risk here that the amount of data inputting work will be considerable, but it is thought it can be delivered. Diversity questions have been extended to include ethnicity. This is supported by the Equality Impact

Assessment at Appendix 2 to Paper A on this agenda. A question has been introduced asking people to indicate two ways we could improve.

6. Option 1 provides an alteration to last year's question 1 by substituting the single top-down confidence question into the leaflet. This question is one that also occurs in the CRAVE survey. It is derived from the Home Office Guidance on statutory performance indicators for policing and community safety 2008/09.
7. Option 2 provides at question 1 a similar question to last year – but reverting to the language of "satisfaction" rather than "happiness".

Community Consultation Questionnaire

8. Appendices 3 and 4 provide two versions of the proposed Community Consultation Questionnaire. As with the CTQ both options include an introduction, so the respondent is aware of what the Authority is. The other changes follow the pattern in the CTQ.

Young People's Questionnaire

9. The report includes the Authority's amended Young People's Questionnaire. On both options the prize draw has been removed following recommendations made at the last meeting of this committee. The questions are aimed at young people's own experiences and therefore amended questionnaire asks only about the first person. Disability has been added to the monitoring section to keep this in line with the other questionnaires. There is also a section asking if the young person would like to join the Authority's consultation panel. Version 1 is attached as APPENDIX 5. Option 2 is the most changed with pictures being used to assist the young person. The answers at the safety question are much more simple with a direct yes or no answer and space for reasoning. Version 2 is attached as APPENDIX 6.

Financial Implications

10. The Police Authority allocated £10,000 for its consultation budget and it is expected that expenditure will be within that for the year 2009/10.

Recommendation

11. The Committee is RECOMMENDED to select the form of questionnaire to use as the Authority's Council Tax Questionnaire, Community Consultation Questionnaire and Young People's Questionnaire.

Implications

Financial: Para: 10. Legal: none. Diversity: Part of the consultation cycle, which is subject to an equality impact assessment. Risk Management: none.

Background Papers

The CRAVE survey questions, Home Office guidance mentioned in paragraph 7.

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