

Cabinet

22 November 2017



Title	Proposed expansion of Joint enforcement team (JET)		
Purpose of the report	To note		
Report Author	Jackie Taylor Group Head of Neighbourhood Services		
Cabinet Member	Councillor Nick Gething	Confidential	No
Corporate Priority	Clean and Safe Environment		
Recommendations	To note the officers response in relation to the recommendation made at Overview & Scrutiny on 19 September 2017 not to expand the role of the Joint Enforcement Team		
Reason for Recommendation	To note the recommendation & proposal		

1. Key issues

1.1 At the Overview & Scrutiny meeting held on 19 September 2017 a recommendation was given as follows:-

- **Recommend to Cabinet that the Council give consideration to expansion of the JET team and further integration of the JET team with the police.**

1.2 The joint enforcement team (JET) are a collaboration between Surrey Police and Spelthorne Borough Council. Initially a scheme running in the London Borough of Newham, the idea was brought to Surrey by the police & crime commissioner to help the Police and the Councils work more efficiently.

The project was first proposed to Surrey Police and the local authorities in the county in 2013. Initially set up as a pilot project, Spelthorne Borough Council became the second local authority to take on the pilot.

The Joint Enforcement team sees council officers working together with the police to combat anti-social behaviour (e.g. noise and graffiti), and low-level crime (e.g. littering and fly tipping).

The team are intended to provide a fast and effective response, and to be a highly visible presence to deter any would-be offenders.

Over the course of the pilot the teams have been involved in dealing with a wide range of issues. From fly-tipping to targeted 'enforcement days', the

team has been very successful, and as more and more of the public have become aware of their existence, confidence in their abilities has gone up.

- 1.3 JET officers work within the Surrey Police Accreditation Scheme under Section 41 of the 2002 Act. The Chief Constable of Surrey Police has devolved some of the powers under this accreditation scheme to JET Officers to enable them to carry out certain community safety functions as detailed in the Act. These functions include the issuing of fixed penalty notices and the power to require names and addresses of those committing anti-social behavior.
- 1.4 The above Accreditation Scheme makes it clear the powers and role that have devolved to JET Officers. This is stated in 1.3 but not for more serious crimes or the process of someone being charged with the criminal offences not covered under devolved powers. The Act makes it clear the devolved powers to the local authority and those dealt with by Surrey Police.

2. Analysis & proposal

- 2.1 The Joint Enforcement Team (JET) are based at the depot and at no stage since being formed have they been co-located with the police in Knowle Green. As a result, the recent change in policing model and police officers moving out of Knowle Green did not have a detrimental effect on the ability of the JET to integrate with the police. Not being co-located has its merits as it has resulted in officers on both sides making a greater effort to communicate.
- 2.2 The Community Safety team (2 officers) are co-located at the Council Offices and this team are considered to be a vital link between JET and other outside bodies such as Surrey County Council & the Police.
- 2.3 JET officers have always integrated and worked well with the police and both have a mutual understanding of their individual roles, pressures and limitations and have a mutual respect for these. An indication of this in practice is the support given to JET during traveller incursions.
- 2.4 The individual officer commitment to JET and concentration on anti-social issues affecting resident's daily lives is paramount to the success of the team.
- 2.5 Officers do not consider that there is a benefit or a need for additional JET officers as the current team are performing very well and they are fully integrated with the police.
- 2.6 **It is therefore proposed not to expand the JET officers nor require existing officers to further integrate with the police.**

3. Financial implications

- 3.1 The JET was partially funded by the office of the Police & Crime commissioner in 2014. Due to the rapid success of the pilot, Spelthorne agreed to continue with this approach of dealing with anti-social behaviour for the foreseeable future. JET officer's temporary contracts were made permanent and costs were built into on-going revenue budgets.
- 3.2 The restructure of Neighbourhood Services in 2017 has created a far more resilient and effective JET/Community Safety team without incurring extra financial burdens.

3.3 Spelthorne faces ongoing cuts to funding, rising costs and increasing demand for key services which has created the need for the Borough to find savings across its services. The expansion the JET would create additional and on-going staffing and operational costs for the Council.

4. Other considerations

4.1 We should not lose sight of the reason behind the formation of the JET, which was to deal with the anti-social issues that most affected our residents i.e. fly tipping, dog fouling, littering, community protection issues, public open space incursions.. The role of the JET officer is not to perform a police function such as dealing with aggression, alcohol & drug misuse. These are just some of the criminal offences that have not been devolved.

Background papers: There are none

Appendices: There are none