

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

CABINET

SCRUTINY REVIEW OF NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH IN NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

- 1.1 The Places Scrutiny Panel Scrutiny has undertaken a review into the effectiveness of Neighbourhood Watch. Their report was published in June 2012.
- 1.2 Cabinet considered the report in July 2012. They asked for an action plan to take the recommendations within the report forward.
- 1.3 The Scrutiny Panel made eight recommendations for improvements.
- 1.3 This report and accompanying action plan sets out the response to those recommendations.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 The Places Scrutiny Panel undertook a review of Neighbourhood Watch. The review started in January 2012. The findings of the review were set out in a report that was published in June 2012. The review examined the following issues.
 - That following the end of HANWag, is the current Neighbourhood Watch provision in North Lincolnshire fit for purpose?
 - To learn the views of Neighbourhood Watch groups and their co-ordinators on the council run service.
- 2.2 The Scrutiny Panel's report was considered by Cabinet on 10 July 2012. They asked that the Cabinet Member for Customer Services, Sport and Leisure and the Director of Places consider the contents of the report and prepare an action plan in response to the recommendations for submission to a future meeting of cabinet. An action plan for consideration by Cabinet is attached in response.

3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

- 3.1 The proposed action plan is set out at Appendix 1. It details actions and timescales for responding to each recommendation. Cabinet has the option of agreeing to the actions and timescales or suggest alterations. Officers will

provide the Cabinet Member for Customer Services, Sport and Leisure with regular updates on progress in taking the action plan forward.

4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

- 4.1 The action plan deals with the recommendations of the Scrutiny Panel in full. Approving the action plan allows progress in response to the recommendations. Cabinet is therefore recommended to approve the action plan.

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCIAL, STAFFING, PROPERTY, IT)

- 5.1 Financial:

The review of management and co-ordination of Neighbourhood Watch will help to improve the value the council obtains from the service.

- 5.2 Staffing:

Part of the review will look at how Neighbourhood Watch is managed and co-ordinated. This will include examining the role of existing staff. Any proposed changes will be managed in line with the Council's Human Resources Policies.

- 5.3 Property & IT:

None

6. OTHER IMPLICATIONS (STATUTORY, ENVIRONMENTAL, DIVERSITY, SECTION 17 CRIME AND DISORDER, RISK AND OTHER)

- 6.1 The implementation of the Action Plan in response to the recommendations, will contribute to the reduction of Crime and Disorder in North Lincolnshire and ensure the Local Authority meets its Section 17 responsibilities.

- 6.2 There are no other implications to consider.

7. OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION

- 7.1 This Scrutiny Panel consulted widely during their review. Their report and recommendations reflect the outcomes from this. Officers will undertake further consultation in taking forward the action plan. The issues arising from the review have been discussed with the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Scrutiny Panel. Their comments have informed the content of the action plan presented for consideration by Cabinet.

8. RECOMMENDATION

- 8.1 That Cabinet approves the action plan to take forward the recommendations of the Places Scrutiny Panel review of Neighbourhood Watch in North Lincolnshire.

DIRECTOR OF PLACES

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Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

- Places Scrutiny Panel Report - Neighbourhood Watch in North Lincolnshire June 2012
- Minute 982 (8) of the Cabinet meeting held on 10 July 2012

SCRUTINY REPORT ACTION PLAN – NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH IN NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE

RECOMMENDATIONS		ACTION(S) TO BE TAKEN	LEAD RESPONSIBILITY	TARGET DATES
1.	That the Places Scrutiny Panel places on record its appreciation to all Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators and Group members for the work they do within communities tackling local crime related issues.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All Neighbourhood Watch Groups to receive a letter informing them of this recommendation and communicating the appreciation of their work expressed by the Scrutiny Panel. 	Head of Safer Neighbourhoods	September 2012
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All Neighbourhood Watch Groups to be invited to a review session to outline the findings of the report and meet with Scrutiny Panel members. 	Head of Safer Neighbourhoods	October 2012
2.	That the appropriate officer write to all Coordinators with a new personal details contact form with the intention of a) updating all Co-ordinators' details, and b) informing them that relevant officers and elected members will have access to their details for appropriate community safety use only.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New Form and appropriate letter to be drafted and agreed by legal and the Scrutiny Panel prior to despatch. 	Head of Safer Neighbourhoods	October 2012
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All Neighbourhood Watch Groups to be invited to a review session to outline the findings of the report and meet with Scrutiny Panel members. 	Head of Safer Neighbourhoods	October 2012
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Letter and new form to be sent out to all NWG to confirm changes 	Head of Safer Neighbourhoods	November 2012
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Responses to be collated and new database to be established. 	Head of Safer Neighbourhoods	December 2012

	RECOMMENDATIONS	ACTION(S) TO BE TAKEN	LEAD RESPONSIBILITY	TARGET DATES
3.	<p>That the Customer Services, Sport and Leisure Cabinet Member conducts an immediate review into the operation and management of Neighbourhood Watch in North Lincolnshire, to be concluded within three months of Cabinet receiving this report, with the aim of determining the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The council's definition and minimum number of properties that constitutes a Neighbourhood Watch Group. • The exact number and location of all Neighbourhood Watch Groups in North Lincolnshire. • Which groups are active in North Lincolnshire, and, where a Group is deemed to be inactive, what remedial measures will be put in place to resurrect the Group. • Whether the current management of the Neighbourhood Watch infrastructure is providing value for money. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Terms of reference for the review to be drawn up and presented to the Cabinet Member for approval. • New Neighbourhood Watch Operating Procedures to be drawn up and presented to the Cabinet Member for approval. 	<p>AD Technical & Environment Services</p> <p>Head of Safer Neighbourhoods</p>	<p>October 2012</p> <p>December 2012</p>
4.	<p>That the council implement a one-council approach to tackling neighbourhood issues. The current duplication of problem solving by both Neighbourhood Watch and Neighbourhood Action Teams is not an efficient use of Safer Neighbourhoods resources.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SNAP Review and Operating Procedures for Problem Solving and Common Tasking be revisited to take account of this recommendation. 	<p>Head of Stronger Communities</p> <p>and</p> <p>Head of Safer Neighbourhoods</p>	<p>December 2012</p>

RECOMMENDATIONS		ACTION(S) TO BE TAKEN	LEAD RESPONSIBILITY	TARGET DATES
5.	That the Neighbourhood Watch Development Officer writes to all Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators advising them of the contact details of their local Neighbourhood Policing Teams.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Neighbourhood Policing Team maps and contact details be updated and sent to all Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators. A process of review and validation for Neighbourhood Policing Team contact details to be introduced. 	<p>Neighbourhood Watch Officer</p> <p>Head of Safer Neighbourhoods</p>	<p>September 2012</p> <p>October 2012</p>
6.	That the Stronger Communities team ensures that all attendees at Neighbourhood Action Teams sign in at the meeting, stating specifically in what capacity/organisation they are representing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A new procedure for recording attendees to NAT's be drawn up and rolled out across all 17 Wards. 	Head of Stronger Communities	October 2012
7.	That the Neighbourhood Watch Development Officer ensures that personal contact is made with every Co-ordinator at least once a year and that all contacts are logged to ensure that an audit trail exists of the contact.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agreed process for contacting all groups to be drawn up and a new spreadsheet to record "significant" contacts to be developed. 	Neighbourhood Watch Officer	October 2012
8.	That this report be re-visited in six months of its receipt by Cabinet to allow members to review what progress has been made and any further questions to be answered.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A timetable for review of the progress be set out and agreed by the Cabinet Member. 	AD Technical & Environment Services	March 2013