



Cambridgeshire
Police & Crime
Commissioner



Creating a safer
Cambridgeshire

To: Business Coordination Board

From: Chief Constable and Chief Executive

Date: 25 February 2016

SPECIAL CONSTABULARY SUPPORT FOR RURAL CRIME

1. Purpose

1.1 The purpose of this report is to update the Business Coordination Board (“the Board”) on how the Special Constabulary support rural policing in Cambridgeshire.

2. Recommendation

2.1 The Board is recommended to note the contents of the report.

3. Background

3.1 Cambridgeshire Constabulary (“the Constabulary”) defines rural crime as follows:

“A crime or incident type which occurs in any geographical area ordinarily described as ‘rural’, and where the criminal activity is more prevalent in, or unique to, rural areas. The Constabulary recognise the following as constituting rural crime:

- If the offence occurred at a: farm barn, farm shop, farm building, farm yard, farm house, farm field, fish farm.
- Or the property involved is: agricultural machinery, agricultural tools, fencing, hay/straw, heating oil and red diesel, horses and or tack, horse boxes, livestock.
- **And** the offence is: burglary, robbery, theft, criminal damage, offences of public health offences (fly tipping) and wildlife offences, hare coursing and poaching.”

3.2 Further information about rural policing can be read in the report presented to the Board at the meeting in July 2015.

3.3 The Special Constabulary is a group of trained volunteers who work with and support the Constabulary. Special Constables come from all walks of life and they all volunteer a minimum of sixteen hours a month to the Constabulary, forming a vital link between the regular police and the local community. Once Special Constables have completed

their training, they have the same powers as regular officers and wear a similar uniform.

3.4 As of January 2016, there were 281 Special Constables in Cambridgeshire donating, on average, 21.6 hours each month.

4. Special Constabulary supporting rural policing

4.1 In Cambridgeshire, the Special Constabulary has been fully integrated into most areas of policing including Roads Policing Unit, Public Protection Department and the dog section. Special Constables are therefore an integrated part of the Constabulary's strategic and operational deployment plans.

4.2 Special Constables are tasked and deployed alongside their regular colleagues this includes policing rural crimes.

4.3 Special Constables have the same radio links as their regular colleagues as well as the same Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) which includes a baton and incapacitant spray. Special Constables also have access to the same support mechanisms as their regular colleagues.

4.4 Six Special Constables have established a rural tactical (TAC) team. This is a proactive team that work alongside the intelligence bureau to target rural crime across the county. They deploy in pairs or with their regular colleagues.

4.5 The Constabulary are piloting a Parish Constable role. This specialist role will support local parishes to proactively and reactively address issues in the local area. The pilot will initially be launched in East Cambridgeshire and South Cambridgeshire as they have a significant number of rural communities within their boundaries. One Special Sergeant will head up the team and two Special Constables have been selected for the specialist role. Clusters of parishes are being identified in the pilot areas and the Parish Constables will be in place by April 2016. The pilot will be fully evaluated six months after implementation.

4.6 External recruitment has also been launched for the role of Parish Constable.

5. Recommendation

5.1 The Board is recommended to note the contents of the report.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Source Document	Rural Policing – BCB Paper, 14 July 2015 - http://www.cambridgeshire-pcc.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/15-07-14-BCB-Agenda-Item-6.0-Rural-Crime.pdf
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