**To:** Business Coordination Board

**From:** Chief Constable

**Date:** 11 May 2017

**CITIZENS IN POLICING STRATEGY**

1. **Purpose**
   1. The purpose of this paper is to share the jointly commissioned Citizens in Policing (CiP) Strategy (the “Strategy”) for Cambridgeshire Constabulary (the “Constabulary”) and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) with the Business Coordination Board (the “Board”) for approval, and to obtain signatures to the joint Strategy at Appendix 1.
2. **Recommendation**

2.1 The Board is invited to note the contents of this report and approve the Strategy.

1. **National Picture**

3.1 In July 2016, the National Police Chiefs’ Council approved the new national CiP Strategy, along with a common standard for and the recording of the Special Constabulary into National Police Coordination Centre (NPoCC), and the CiP Initial Implementation Plan 2016-2019.

3.2 Since then, the delivery of three Police Innovation Fund (PIF) bids has continued, the first national CiP conference has been held and national leads have been identified for the Special Constabulary (SC), Police Support Volunteers (PSV) and Volunteer Police Cadets (VPC). Coordination with related projects across England and Wales is finding purchase, a national benchmarking exercise has provided the evidence for next steps, and an infrastructure and set of work streams has been agreed.

1. **Background**
   1. The contribution of volunteers to the voluntary and community sector, public services and to society as a whole is invaluable.
   2. Volunteering is defined as any activity that involves spending time, unpaid, doing something that aims to benefit the environment or someone (individuals or groups) other than, or in addition to, close relatives. Central to this definition is the fact that volunteering must be a choice freely made by each individual.
   3. Volunteering can include formal activity undertaken through public, private and voluntary organisations, as well as informal community participation and social action. Everyone has the right to volunteer and volunteering can have significant benefits for individuals, organisations and communities
   4. CiP is an umbrella term for volunteers who support the police service either directly or indirectly. It includes four distinct groups:

* Volunteers directed, trained and controlled by police forces, including Special Constables, Police Support Volunteers and Volunteer Police Cadets.
* Volunteers engaged with and partially supported by police forces including watch groups, chaplains, street pastors, witness services and Crimestoppers.
* Volunteers who hold the police to account or assist in the design of services including Independent Advisor Groups, Independent Custody Visitors and Appropriate Adults.
* External volunteers that are linked by wider social aims, for example youth and sports clubs, self-help groups and the voluntary sector.
  1. The CiP Strategy complements the Cabinet Office’s Social Action aims. Social action is about people coming together to help improve their lives and solve problems that are important in their communities. One of the Cabinet Office’s aims is to encourage the role of social action to be considered in the design of public services. The Strategy has three strategic priorities:
* Lift Volunteers’ Profile
* Widen Opportunities
* Develop the Services.

It gives all forces the opportunity to review their framework for volunteer engagement by considering the “5Cs” criteria: capacity; contributions; capabilities; consistency; connectivity.

* 1. In addition, the Policing and Crime Act 2017 will, for the first time, enable volunteers to be given powers without becoming a Special Constable. These measures enable Chief Officers to designate a wider range of powers on volunteers. It is hoped that these reforms will bring new skills and expertise to policing, freeing up police officers to concentrate on core policing tasks. Two new volunteer roles will be created that will support police in keeping their communities safe. The first will be a Police Community Support Volunteer, who will have the same powers that are currently designated to PCSOs. The second will be a PSV, whose role could include powers currently designated to Detention Officers or Investigating Officers.

1. **Current Picture in Cambridgeshire**
   1. The Constabulary and the Police and Crime Commissioner have a joint strategic volunteering vision. There are five aspirations:

* To set out clearly defined roles.
* To ensure there are clear pathways into volunteering.
* To match volunteers’ skills, knowledge, experience and personal interests to volunteering opportunities.
* Reward and recognise the contribution committed volunteers make.
* Fully integrate volunteers into Cambridgeshire’s policing culture.
  1. We want to create a fully inclusive and diverse PSV team who give their time across the Constabulary and OPCC supporting a variety of activities. Volunteers enable to us to provide an effective policing service which makes innovative use of existing resources and extends public involvement. Volunteers get a unique insight into the current challenges of delivering local policing; providing an independent voice on behalf of the communities we serve.
  2. We want to encourage new volunteers to join us to create safer, stronger and supportive communities; communities with low crime rates, low numbers of victims and high numbers of people willing to act as witnesses.
  3. While the Constabulary and the OPCC are separate organisations, the two work closely together in this aspect and it is logical that the two have a joint approach to CiP.

1. **Content of Strategy**
   1. The high level Strategy sets out the principles of how we will deliver an innovative and transformational approach to engaging volunteers to support policing, protect the vulnerable in our communities and attack criminality.
   2. We will seek to further develop and thereby maximise volunteering contributions in the areas of:

* Victims
* Offenders
* Communities
* Transformation.

**7. Implementation**

7.1 The PSV (CiP) Steering Group, chaired by Chief Supt Vicky Skeels, has oversight of the CiP Strategy. The Group includes representatives from the Constabulary and the OPCC.

7.2 The overarching CiP Strategy will be supported by individual plans and delivery plans with specific outcomes.

**8. Recommendation**

8.1 The Board is invited to note the contents of this report and approve the Strategy.

**BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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| **Source Documents** | Citizens In Policing Strategy |
| **Contact Officers** | Inspector Louise Angel, Partnerships and Operational Support, Cambridgeshire Constabulary  Vic Kerlin, Head of Special Constabulary, Partnerships and Operational Support, Cambridgeshire Constabulary |