



Haringey Council

[No.]

Agenda item:

PROCUREMENT COMMITTEE

On 31 March 2009

Report Title: **Metropolitan Police Service Contract (Parkforce 'Model' – Open Space Supervision)**

Report of : **Mun Thong Phung, Director of Adult, Culture & Community Services.**

Signed : _____

Contact Officer : **Andrew Gill, Head of Parks & Bereavement Services**

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Wards(s) affected: **All**

Report for: **Key Decision**

1. Purpose of the report

- 1.1 This report arises as a consequence of the decisions by Cabinet on 18th November 2008 to approve and implement the Haringey Parkforce 'Model', through a more innovative partnership led approach aimed at maximising supervision and presence in Haringey's open spaces.
- 1.2 Cabinet agreed the proposal to create a "Core Response" team of Police Constables additional to the existing Safer Neighbourhood Team.
- 1.3 The officers will be employed by Haringey MPS and they will be deployable to parks and open space crime hotspots and/or joint park enforcement operations with other existing SNTs.
- 1.4 This report seeks approval to enter into a contact under section 92 of the Police Act 1996 with the Metropolitan Police Authority for the supply of 4 police constables, for a minimum of 2 years.

2. Introduction by Cabinet Member

- 2.1 It is important that we protect the improvements we have made by investing in our parks and open spaces by ensuring that we have effective supervision.
- 2.2 Good quality, accessible and well used open spaces clearly feature in our Greenest Borough and Wellbeing priorities and ambitions.
- 2.3 I recommend that the Council enters into a contract to allow the investment we have already agreed in enhancing the capacity of the Metropolitan Police Service through the Core Response Team of 4 Police Constables.
- 2.4 Clearly there is no alternative service provider in this case and the contract with the MPA is the standard method of engaging additional police officers within the borough.

3. State link(s) with Council Plan Priorities and actions and /or other Strategies:

- 3.1 Protecting and Improving the Natural Environment is an integral part of Haringey's Greenest Borough Strategy, which is also reflected in the Local Area Agreement priorities and targets. Establishing more effective open space supervision is a key component to realising these aspirations.
- 3.2 Similarly, the use of our parks through the provision of good quality, accessible and well supervised facilities and activities will make a significant contribution to our Wellbeing and Quality of Life priorities, and in particular increasing participation in sport and physical activity.
- 3.3 Parkforce was launched by CABI Space (Commission for Architecture and Built Environment) in September 2005. The initiative sets out to bring public perceptions about park staffing and supervision right up to date and to challenge and support public authorities to reinvent and take an innovative approach to the way they manage parks.
- 3.4 The Haringey Friends of Parks Forum are supportive of the review and expressed concerns over current limitations. Essentially they would like to see more on site supervisory presence in our parks and open spaces.
- 3.5 Improving on site supervision and engagement is essential to sustain the recent investment in parks regeneration and encourage more people to enjoy using their parks. There needs to be overall co-ordination and engagement to ensure our open space is achieving the optimum presence from a range of services and agencies in the delivery of Haringey's Parkforce.
- 3.6 The Parkforce 'Model' is based upon current Area Assembly /Ward areas to engage services and partners through the developing Area Based Working approach to local service delivery.

4. Recommendations

- 4.1 That the Committee is recommended to approve the proposed 2 year contract between the Metropolitan Police Authority and the London Borough of Haringey (Recreation Services), for the procurement to supply four Police Officers to patrol Haringey's parks and open spaces.

5. Reason for recommendation(s)

- 5.1 The Parkforce 'model' seeks to maximise onsite supervision/presence and harness the activities in open space, including the investment into Metropolitan Police community policing, under the 'Parkforce' umbrella to ensure best use of community resources.
- 5.2 The team of 4 Police Constables comprising the Core response Team will be additional to but complementary to the existing Safer Neighbourhood Team officers.
- 5.3 The Core Response Team will be rostered to work during the times when parks and open spaces are most used, i.e. afternoons, evenings and at weekends and during the longer days in spring and summer.

- 5.4 SNT teams will be encouraged to continue routine patrols in parks and open spaces and to work closely with the staff and volunteers involved in delivering Parkforce on the ground.
- 5.5 The proposed contract is a standard contract for the supply of additional Police Officers supplied by their employer the Metropolitan Police Authority under powers granted to the Commissioner by section 92 of the Police Act 1996 to provide additional policing resources to the Borough to meet specific policing objectives and provide an additional level of resilience to the Borough.
- 5.6 The additional officers are 'ring fenced' to operate within the borough's parks and open spaces and may only be redeployed in the event of emergency such as ;
- an act of war
 - an act of terrorism
 - a fire flood or other natural catastrophe
 - an accident of exceptional magnitude or severity
 - a riot or disturbance of exceptional magnitude or severity.
- 5.7 The contract term will be 2 years from 2009/10 to 2010/11.

6. Other options considered

- 6.1 In developing the Parkforce model during 2007 and 2008 Recreation Services considered various options for the 'Enforcement' element of the model (as shown in Appendix 1 Parkforce Cabinet Nov08 attached.).
- 6.2 The Metropolitan Police Service has the Duty of Care to keep the peace in all public spaces, including parks and opens spaces and is clearly the Council's key partner body in terms of crime, community safety and antisocial behaviour.
- 6.3 The Metropolitan Police Service is the only organisation which could provide this service in Haringey and therefore no alternative service provider has been considered.

7. Summary

- 7.1 This report arises as a consequence of the decisions by Cabinet on 18th November 2008 to implement the Haringey Parkforce 'Model', to align and redirect revenue resources and to dissolve the Parks Constabulary Service.
- 7.2 The report to Cabinet identified the opportunity to create a "Core Response" team of 2 or 4 Police Constables additional to the existing Safer Neighbourhood Team officers.
- 7.3 This report seeks approval to enter into a contact under section 92 of the Police Act 1996 with the Metropolitan Police Authority for the supply of these 4 police officers.
- 7.4 The officers will be employed by Haringey MPS and they will be deployable to parks and open space crime hotspots and/or joint park enforcement operations with other existing SNTs.
- 7.5 The key components of the proposed contract are;
- Deployment, Management and tasking of officers
 - Effectiveness of the Additional MPS Personnel
 - Responsibilities of the Commissioner
 - Responsibilities of the LB Haringey
 - Duration of Agreement
 - Confidentiality & Data Protection

8. Chief Financial Officer Comments

- 8.1 This report requests authorisation to award a contract to the Metropolitan Police Authority for provision of 4 Police Constables. The contract will commence on 1st April 2009, for a minimum of 2 years.
- 8.2 £75k of the total cost of the contract has been identified from within existing revenue budgets and the remaining £75k is allocated from the Area Based Grant.
- 8.3 The proposal is dependent upon the allocation of Area Based Grant of £75k in both 2009/10 and 2010/11.
- 8.4 Two year theme board allocations for 2009/10 and 2010/11 were approved by Cabinet at its meeting on 26 January 2009. The allocations made to the Better Places Partnership are £2.019m in each year. At its meeting on 26 February 2009 the Haringey Strategic Partnership delegated authority to the HSP Performance Management Group to approve the programme of activity to be funded as recommended by theme boards.
- 8.5 The proposed allocations for the Better Places Partnership were considered by the Performance Management Group at its meet on the 18th March 2009; these include £75k for the Parkforce proposal in both 2009/10 and 2010/11. The decision of the Performance Management Group in respect of the Parkforce proposal will be reported verbally.

10. Head of Legal Services Comments

- 10.1 CSO 6.05 of the Contract Standing Orders (CSOs) provides that except as otherwise provided under the CSOs contracts with an estimated value of more than £25,000 must be let following a competitive tendering process.
- 10.2 CSO 7.02 (a) provides that the Cabinet may waive the requirement to tender if the waiver is justifiable under CSO 7.03.
- 10.3 Under CSO 7.03 (a) a waiver may be agreed if the nature of the market for the services to be provided has been investigated and is demonstrated to be such that a departure from the requirements of the CSOs is justified.
- 10.4 The contract to which this report relates is a Part B service for the purposes of the Public Contract Regulations. There is therefore no requirement to tender in the EU.
- 10.5 The Cabinet also has power to approve the award of the contract under CSO 11.03 (contracts valued at over £250,000).
- 10.6 The Head of Legal Services sees no legal reasons preventing the Cabinet Member from approving the recommendations set out in paragraph 4.1.

11. Head of Procurement Comments

- 11.1 This contract is being awarded in compliance with Public Contract Regulations and Council Standing Orders
- 11.2 A Part B OJEU notice will need to be recorded at the European Commission and this can be arranged via Corporate Procurement.

- 11.3 Details of the contract must be recorded on the Councils Contract Register and a contract manager assigned to monitor performance and value for money.
- 11.4 The Head of Procurement is satisfied with the recommendations to award this contract.

12. Equalities and Community Cohesion Comments

- 12.1 Increasing use of parks by all sectors of the community is a key outcome of the Parkforce 'Model and will have a positive impact in improving community cohesion.
- 12.2 The proposed Parkforce 'Model' is based upon current Area Assembly /Ward area engagement with users.
- 12.3 Increasing engagement with users and non users including black, ethnic minority groups is a key focus of Parkforce which we aim to achieve via the LAA pump priming grant and proposed Parkforce Volunteers in Parks.
- 12.4 Development of the proposed 'Model' with key services (Safer Communities Unit) and agencies (Metropolitan Police) will establish training and support mechanisms for onsite staff to recognise suspect behaviour of potential perpetrators and know how to support, report and refer on any victims. This approach has been agreed with the MPS Chief Inspector in charge of the Borough's SNT team.
- 12.5 We will continue to work with the Metropolitan Police to design out and try to eliminate potential crime locations which will result in increased use by women and young people.
- 12.6 Dedicated onsite staff and increased presence has shown to improve the safety of people using parks. The Parkforce 'Model' seeks to establish cross service and agency interaction resulting in several avenues for engagement with differing sectors of the community.

13. Consultation

- 13.1 Initial consultation was undertaken with staff, Haringey Friends of Parks Forum, Metropolitan Police Service (MPS), Safer Communities Unit and Neighbourhood Management during 2007 and before the Parkforce model was presented to Cabinet in April 2008.
- 13.2 In line with the Consultation and Development Plan submitted with the original cabinet report, since April 2008 further consultation has been undertaken with key stakeholders and groups.
- 13.3 No specific consultation has been done on the proposed contract with MPS as it is an action arising from the implementation of the Parkforce model. Recreation Services will consult the Friends of Parks Forum on the content of the Joint Operational protocol which covers the operation of the Core Response Team.

14. Service Financial Comments

- 14.1 Cabinet approved the redirection of subsidy and resources as outlined in the table below;

Proposed Activity	Amount (£)
BTCV Community Outreach officers (nature conservation, etc)	£125k
MPS Core Response Team	£ 150k

Onsite Supervision and Gate locking	£ 200k
Community involvement/engagement	£30k
Total	£505k*

*The full cost is £44.3k p/a per Police Constable. The local authority contribution per PC is £37.5k p/a and must be for a two year contract. The MPS pay the remaining £6.8k per PC p/a.

14.2 The £505k is made up of re-directed subsidy £430k (as explained under section 8.4 in the November Cabinet Report) and an additional new ABG funding of £75k.

15. Use of appendices /Tables and photographs

15.1 Appendix 1 Standard Additional Officer Contract with MPA

16. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

16.1 Background documents

- a. Report to Cabinet and appendices (18 November 2008)
- b. Standard Additional Officer Contract with MPA

16.12 Item 17. 1 is **not for publication** as it contains exempt information under the following categories;

Exempt information under Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, namely:

Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).