

Notice of KEY Executive Decision

Subject Heading:	Contract extension of the HJTF (Havering Joint Task Force) Police team under S92 of the Police Act 1996
Decision Maker:	Andrew Blake-Herbert
Cabinet Member:	Councillor Barry Mugglestone, Lead Member for Environment
SLT Lead:	Barry Francis, Director of Neighbourhoods
Report Author and contact details:	Chris McAvoy – Head of Environmental Enforcement and Community Safety T: 01708 433588 E: chris.mcavoy@havering.gov.uk
Policy context:	This service will contribute to the Safer and Prouder corporate themes.
Financial summary:	Extension of the S92 contract for an additional three years (April 2023- March 26). If agreed, the contract will be corporately funded. The contract cost is £0.296m per annum. The total value of the contract over 3 years is £0.888m. The Local Authority will monitor and review the S92 officers contract on a regular basis. If funding ceases, so will the agreement.
Reason decision is Key	(a) Expenditure or saving (including anticipated income) of £500,000 or more (c) Significant effect on two or more Wards
Date notice given of intended decision:	October 2022

Key Executive Decision

Relevant OSC:	Peoples OSC
Is it an urgent decision?	No
Is this decision exempt from being called-in?	n/a

The subject matter of this report deals with the following Council Objectives

Communities making Havering	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Places making Havering	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Opportunities making Havering	<input type="checkbox"/>
Connections making Havering	<input type="checkbox"/>

Place an X in the [] as appropriate

Part A – Report seeking decision

DETAIL OF THE DECISION REQUESTED AND RECOMMENDED ACTION

This decision paper seeks approval to continue to fund the HJTF S92 Police Team.

The HJTF are an additional and specialist Police team of 5 constables which have been funded by the council for three years under the s92 scheme. In the last three years' the Metropolitan Police Service have supplemented this team with an experienced Sergeant, which has enabled a wide range of successful work to be undertaken across the Borough. The current funding lasts until March 2023, but the Council is required to give notice in September 2022 if the agreement is not to be extended.

A decision therefore needs to be made to extend the agreement from April 2023 until March 2026.

AUTHORITY UNDER WHICH DECISION IS MADE

Havering Council's Constitution, Part 3.3 Powers of Members of the Senior Leadership Team;

- (a) To incur expenditure within the revenue and capital budgets for their allocated portfolio as approved by the Council, or as otherwise approved, subject to any variation permitted by the Council's contract and financial procedure rules.

STATEMENT OF THE REASONS FOR THE DECISION

1. Background

The Council has funded a Metropolitan Police team under a S92 agreement (s92 of the Police Act 1996).

The Police team (hereby HJTF) are deployed via 'taskings' as defined in regular meetings with the Council's Enforcement and Community Safety Service and carry out a range of Public Protection, Environmental Enforcement, Community Safety and Safeguarding duties.

Due to the funding provided by the Council, the team are ring-fenced from other standard Policing duties and are therefore the only proactive police presence in Havering Borough, which are deployed according to specific Council concerns as well as priority police issues in the Borough.

As a result of the s92's presence and proactive approach, other (non-council funded) proactive Police teams (such as the tactical Spider teams and dog units) are often secured to join the HJTF for greater effect. Essex Police also regularly provide resources to support cross border work with the HJTF and great success is achieved

Key Executive Decision

in this way. Therefore, if the HJTF ceases to be funded by LBH, the borough would lose these other proactive resources, which would compound the effective loss of service.

By virtue of their unique composition and set up, the HJTF have been remarkably successful. In under three years, the team have arrested over 400 suspects for a variety of serious offences including drug dealing, violent assaults, robbery, burglary and car theft.

The team have recovered hundreds of stolen cars & associated property valued at over £2.5m. Many of these cars have been stolen from Havering residents via either keyless thefts or burglary. The team carries out a high volume of Stop and Search with a higher than average success rate. The team have some of the highest performance records in the Met.

The team are highly skilled and have vast experience and local area knowledge. Combined, they have arrested and charged more suspects than the rest of Havering Safer Neighbourhood Teams combined.

The HJTF won the East Police Area "Team of the Year" in 2021-22 due to their high level of impact and have been cited as a 'blueprint' for other similar council funded ventures.

The HJTF assists with the Council's statutory obligation under S17 Crime and Disorder Act 1998 of reducing Crime and Disorder in the Borough.

It is strongly suspected that if the team are no longer funded, the crimes that they target so effectively will be left unchecked and will rise in the Borough. The crimes specifically referred to are Burglary, Robbery, Assault with violence & Theft of Motor Vehicle.

2. Proposal

To corporately fund the HJTF for a further three years from April 2023 until March 2026.

3. Costs

The cost of funding the team as-is, is £296,000 per annum (at £57,000 per Constable, per annum) plus a contribution towards fleet and overtime associated (£11,000 per annum).

The cost of the HJTF management Sgt/Inspector is covered by the Tri-Borough Commander at no cost to the Council.

The cost of the supporting supplementary teams that come to assist the HJTF (Spiders / Dog units) are also of no cost to the council

Key Executive Decision

4. Project Management of the Tender Process

a) N/A

5. Procurement Approach

N/A as the decision is purely looking to extend the current arrangement by 36 months and the sole provider of this service is MOPAC/Metropolitan Police.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

1. Do nothing: This is not an option, the Council must advise MOPAC/Met Police of a decision either way.

PRE-DECISION CONSULTATION

The success of the HJTF is well known in Police, Council and public arenas. Everyone broadly supports the continuation of what is an extremely successful Police team.

Havering Councils' Cabinet, especially the Portfolio holder for Community Safety, are keen to see the HJTF team continue their good work.

Consultation has already taken place with Cllrs, Cabinet members and the Leader, as well as all Community Safety Teams who unanimously support the extension of the HJTF agreement for a further 36 months.

NAME AND JOB TITLE OF STAFF MEMBER ADVISING THE DECISION-MAKER

Name: Chris McAvoy

Designation: Head of Environmental Enforcement and Community Safety

Signature: *C McAvoy*

Date: 4th October 2022

Part B - Assessment of implications and risks

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

The Council has power to procure the contracts under the general power of competence contained in section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 which allows the Council to do anything that an individual may do subject to any statutory constraints on the Council's powers. None of the constraints on the Council's s.1 power are engaged by this decision.

The Council also has power to procure the contracts under s111 Local Government Act 1972 which allows the Council to do anything which is calculated to facilitate, or is conducive or incidental to, the discharge of any of its functions.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

The Council has Corporate funding set aside to fund this initiative. It is proposed that this funding is earmarked for a further three years for this purpose to March 2026. The current agreement runs to March 2023 and there is a requirement to give 6 months' notice for the cessation of the contract.

HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS (AND ACCOMMODATION IMPLICATIONS WHERE RELEVANT)

There are no implications or risks anticipated to council staff as the employees involved in the delivery of the pilot will be employed directly by the successful Provider.

EQUALITIES AND SOCIAL INCLUSION IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

The Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 requires the Council, when exercising its functions, to have due regard to:

- (i) the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Equality Act 2010;
- (ii) the need to advance equality of opportunity between persons who share protected characteristics and those who do not, and;
- (iii) foster good relations between those who have protected characteristics and those who do not.

Key Executive Decision

Note: 'Protected characteristics' are: age, sex, race, disability, sexual orientation, marriage and civil partnerships, religion or belief, pregnancy and maternity and gender reassignment.

The Council is committed to all of the above in the provision, procurement and commissioning of its services, and the employment of its workforce. In addition, the Council is also committed to improving the quality of life and wellbeing for all Havering residents in respect of socio-economics and health determinants.

The action undertaken in respect of this will include monitoring how the service meets the needs of the council and residents, including those from ethnic minority communities and the disabled.

Employing the HJTF to support Council enforcement functions and keep the borough safer will only serve to enhance the Council's compliance to this code.

HEALTH AND WELLBEING IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

Employing the HJTF to support Council enforcement functions and keep the borough safer will only serve to enhance the Council's compliance to this code.

A reduction in crime, and therefore victims, can only be a good thing with regards to Health and Wellbeing.

The team focus on violent and acquisitive crimes and therefore reduce harm to residents.

ENVIRONMENTAL AND CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

There are no environmental or climate change implications linked to this decision.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

APPENDICIES

Key Executive Decision

Part C – Record of decision

I have made this executive decision in accordance with authority delegated to me by the Leader of the Council and in compliance with the requirements of the Constitution.

Decision

Proposal agreed

Delete as applicable

~~Proposal NOT agreed because~~

Details of decision maker



Signed

Name: **Andrew Blake-Herbert**
Chief Executive

Date: 27th October 2022

Lodging this notice

The signed decision notice must be delivered to Democratic Services, in the Town Hall.

For use by Committee Administration

This notice was lodged with me on _____

Signed _____