

Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council

To: Leisure & Development Committee

PCSP Update

11th August 2015

For Information

Report to Committee

Linkage to Interim Corporate Plan	
Strategic Themes	Transition and Transformation Prosperity Health & Wellbeing Cohesive Community
Lead Officer	Richard Baker - Director of Leisure & Development Julie Welsh – Head of People & Culture
Cost: (If applicable)	N/A

The purpose of this report is to provide Councillors with information on the updated position in respect of Causeway Coast and Glens Policing and Community Safety Partnership budget 2015 -2016.

PCSP Budget

On 9th June, Councils were notified that, due to financial pressures in Stormont, all Department of Justice Discretionary Spend has been stopped and the outcome of June monitoring will dictate where, within the Department's budget, cuts will fall. The Department is currently considering what re-assurance can be given in relation to spend but this does not include anything that isn't inescapable.

There is still a legislative commitment to fund PCSPs but the extent of the funding is as yet unknown.

This is a difficult context and there is no timeline for the outcome of June monitoring.

The indicative PCSP budget notified to Causeway Coast and Glens in January 2015 equates to £346, 359. On 3rd July, further correspondence was received informing of a decision to offer up to 50% of the original budget offer, equating to up to £173, 179.50 to fund contractual or inescapable commitments only, as discretionary spend is still suspended. Staff costs and running costs are considered contractual obligations.

In addition to this 50% budget, a further budget has also been allocated for members' expense payments, also equating to 50% of the full allocation i.e. 10 meetings per member and 15 meetings per Chair and Vice-Chair.

To date, we are working on the basis that this is a budget review rather than a budget cut as there has not been a reduction.

Impact

The PCSP staff team has been appointed and Causeway Coast and Glens PCSP constituted on 25th June 2015. Project planning is underway but initiatives that were due to commence at the beginning of the summer have all been postponed. Programme delivery in Year 1 will now be undertaken across a six rather than twelve month period.

The Partnership can meet and will be a hub of information and knowledge exchange but will have limited ability to respond to issues without a budget to enable local actions.

Work will continue around the key themes of engagement and community consultation, across the council area, as well as the statutory function of monitoring police performance and agreement of priorities for consideration in the development of the Local Policing Plan.