

DESCRIPTION OF OPTION

This option proposes budget savings in the reduction of the operational cost of the Community Patrol and Closed Circuit Television Control Room Service. The proposal is that the premium payments for shift work is removed and pay for all shifts other than those for bank holidays would be at plain time.

RATIONALE FOR SAVINGS

As part of the Joint Community Safety Team Community Patrol Service provides 24 hour response and security service for the council and through a service contract to schools and Wirral Partnership Homes. Supporting this role is the Closed Circuit Television Control Room.

Wirral Community Patrol is Wirral Council's service that is tasked to providing security for all of its premises 24 hours a day 7 days a week. The team consists of officers dedicated to "Helping make Wirral a safer place to live, work and visit." Wirral Community Patrol operates 24 hours a day 365 days a year including ALL holidays. The service employs 18 full time equivalents who work a shift system.

Staff in the Control Room are responsible for the monitoring of the Wirral CCTV system, the Emergency repairs calls for MBW, Alarm handling, calls relating to Wirral Community Patrol and radio support for these officers. Additional responsibilities include school emergency activation; emergency plan telephone, parking machine alarms and recording all calls and logging all information are all undertaken in this unit. The Control Room Operates operates 24 hours a day 365 days a year including ALL holidays. It employs 11 staff who work a shift system.

Currently staff working shifts are paid at time x 1:1/2 for Saturday and Sunday for nights during Monday to Friday at time x 1:1/3.

The proposal is made in order to realise savings. This would be £150, 000 and this averaged over 29 staff involved is a loss of £5200p.a.

IMPACT

The full savings can only be achieved if the necessary statutory steps can be taken to allow implementation in the new financial year.

This option would affect 29 staff and on this basis equates to an average loss per staff of £5200 p.a.

MITIGATION

The services provided by this service are provided by external contractors in other local authorities. The approximate saving that has been quoted in other boroughs is 10-15% on costs. This option provides a saving of 11% of staff costs. The service could be included into a wider facilities management outsourced contract.