Subject: Proposed Changes to City Police Structure

Corporate Director(s)/Director(s): Candida Brudenell, Strategic Director/Assistant Chief Executive

Portfolio Holder(s): Councillor Nicola Heaton, Portfolio Holder for Community Services

Report author and contact details: Philip Broxholme, Policy Officer, Nottingham Crime and Drugs Partnership
0115 8761126 philip.broxholme@nottinghamcity.gov.uk

Key Decision Yes ☐ No ☒ Subject to call-in ☒ Yes ☐ No

Reasons: ☐ Expenditure ☒ Income ☒ Savings of £1,000,000 or more taking account of the overall impact of the decision

☐ Revenue ☐ Capital

Significant impact on communities living or working in two or more wards in the City ☒ Yes ☐ No

Total value of the decision: Nil

Wards affected: All Date of consultation with Portfolio Holder(s): 10 March 2016

Relevant Council Plan Key Theme:
Strategic Regeneration and Development ☐
Schools ☐
Planning and Housing ☐
Community Services ☒
Energy, Sustainability and Customer ☐
Jobs, Growth and Transport ☐
Adults, Health and Community Sector ☐
Children, Early Intervention and Early Years ☐
Leisure and Culture ☐
Resources and Neighbourhood Regeneration ☐

Summary of issues (including benefits to citizens/service users): A Strategic Alliance between Nottinghamshire, Leicestershire and Northamptonshire police forces was announced in December 2015. The proposals outlined would involve significant rationalisation of the leadership across the three forces.

This report informs Executive Board of the proposals.

Exempt information: None

Recommendation(s):
1 To note the report.
2 To note that a Leaders Key Decision will be taken to outline the Council’s position on the proposals.

1 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS
1.1 To inform Executive Board of recent developments.

2 BACKGROUND (INCLUDING OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION)
2.1 Under the proposed structure for Nottinghamshire Police the City Division would cease to exist and the most senior officer in the city would be at the rank of Superintendent. This has clear implications for future policing capacity in the city. Reductions will also be made in the numbers of Chief Inspectors, Inspectors and Sergeants.

2.2 There are currently no plans to make further PCSOs compulsorily redundant. This will maintain the commitment to neighbourhood policing in the city.
2.3 Both the Leader of the City Council, Jon Collins, and Chief Executive, Ian Curryer, have expressed their concerns over these proposals to the Chief Constable, Chris Eyre, and the Police and Crime Commissioner, Paddy Tipping.

2.4 Nottingham has made significant progress in reducing crime in the last ten years, however, the city still suffers from proportionately higher levels of crime than a number of other Core Cities. A significant reduction in policing capacity in the city has the potential to seriously exacerbate this problem.

2.5 Equally, the City Council and police have made significant progress in breaking new ground in how local authorities and police forces can work together through Project Aurora. The City Council has invested substantial sums in this approach and this has allowed citizens to feel the benefit of more cohesive and seamless services. These arrangements came about primarily because of the level of crime and demand faced by Nottingham as a Core City. The proposed changes to the policing model put these achievements at risk and may place significant stress on the existing partnership arrangements.

2.6 To date the City Council have not been involved in the re-design of the local policing arrangements under the Strategic Alliance. Genuine involvement would provide the opportunity for the two organisations to work together to co-design the structures, processes and resources required to provide adequate policing for the citizens of Nottingham. Ian Curryer has addressed this issue with the Chief Constable and Assistant Chief Constable Simon Torr has stated that he is willing to discuss the proposals with the City Council.

2.7 In the context of being one of England’s largest cities and thus one of the largest economies outside London, the policing needs of the city are significant. This means that the needs of the city will need to be considered in their own right. The proposal that the new ‘City Command’ be led by a lower ranked post as opposed to a Divisional Commander does not recognise Nottingham’s Core City status or its ongoing problems in relation to crime.

3 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED IN MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 No other options were considered as the report is for information only.

4 FINANCE COMMENTS (INCLUDING IMPLICATIONS AND VALUE FOR MONEY/VAT)

4.1 N/A

5 LEGAL AND PROCUREMENT COMMENTS (INCLUDING RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES, AND INCLUDING LEGAL, CRIME AND DISORDER ACT AND PROCUREMENT IMPLICATIONS)

5.1 N/A
6 STRATEGIC ASSETS & PROPERTY COMMENTS (FOR DECISIONS RELATING TO ALL PROPERTY ASSETS AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE)

6.1 N/A

7 SOCIAL VALUE CONSIDERATIONS

7.1 N/A

8 REGARD TO THE NHS CONSTITUTION

8.1 N/A

9 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA)

9.1 Has the equality impact of the proposals in this report been assessed?

No ☒
An EIA is not required because there is no impact on any individual or group

10 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS RELIED UPON IN WRITING THIS REPORT (NOT INCLUDING PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS OR CONFIDENTIAL OR EXEMPT INFORMATION)

10.1 N/A

11 PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO IN THIS REPORT

11.1 N/A

12 OTHER COLLEAGUES WHO HAVE PROVIDED INPUT

12.1 N/A