

# South West Locality Committee

10.00am, Thursday, 28 March 2018

## Community Speed Watch

Item number 8.2

### 1. Executive Summary

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This report provides details of the Community Speed Watch scheme and the proposed pilot in the South West and South East Localities.



## **SW Locality Committee Community Speed-watch Briefing Paper**

### **What is Community Speed Watch?**

Community Speed-watch is a community operated feedback scheme designed to allow unpaid volunteers to officially monitor and report to the Police the details of speeding vehicles in specific areas where speeding is of concern to the Community. **Speed-watch is not enforcement.**

### **How does Speed Watch work?**

Trained volunteers work in a team of three, using a detection device to monitor the speeds of vehicles travelling through their local area. The registration number of speeding vehicles is recorded.

Warning letters are then sent out by the Police to the registered keepers stating that their vehicle has been reported as speeding. Locations for monitoring speed are selected from sites suggested by the community, based on where there is most local concern about speeding traffic, or the impact of speed. Sites will be risk assessed for suitability by a Community Policing Sergeant.

Speed-watch does not replace police enforcement action and Community Policing Teams will still undertake their own speed detection at identified sites and report drivers to the court as appropriate.

### **What training and equipment is required?**

The minimum requirements to safely undertake Community Speed-watch activity is be as follows:

- Sufficient authorised persons who form part of the relevant Community Council and who have undertaken and passed the vetting procedure and attended a 1 day Police training event\*.
- Genesis GHD Hand-held Radar Full List Price £994.50 – SPA CSW price £895.00
- High Viz CSW Class 3 Tabard style Vest £12.50
- CSW Driver Alert Tripod & Sign £69.00

\* A day of training will be required and provided by the Police to all volunteers. The training provided will cover an overview of the scheme and how it works, the operation of the detection device, how to record the data collected by volunteers, general data protection principles, personal safety and conflict management, in addition to health and safety awareness.

### **Pilot Proposition**

At this stage, the intention is to proceed with a pilot in South East and South West. Community Council's in each area will be invited to complete a short application form for consideration. One Community Council from each area will be chosen for the pilot. Application forms from unsuccessful areas will be held on file and considered if the scheme is subject to broader roll out.

It was previously agreed that only one Community Council would pilot the scheme for 3 months, with this being subject to review/assessment and then if deemed successful, the scheme opened up to the wider Community Councils.

For the purposes of the pilot, the intention is for Police Scotland to provide the use of an operational detection device, high visibility jackets, signage and equipment for the collection of data. Volunteers will only have to bring a working and fully charged mobile phone.

**N.B.** It should be noted that this would not be a sustainable option so funding will need to be considered/secured to allow any further roll out. Potential options include local sponsorship/grants to purchase a South West Community Speed-watch 'kit' which could be centrally held and rotated around the various Community Councils, similar to Pop Up Bob/Kirsty.

The scheme will be used as an additional method to police the 20mph areas as opposed to any higher speed limit provisions.

### **Current Position**

We are still planning this pilot and are almost in a position to approach community councils in South West and South East with application forms. A draft application form is presented at Appendix 1 and we would welcome any feedback prior to this being formalised.

For the scheme to function there is a requirement for public liability insurance cover to be in place. Enquiries have found that this cannot be sourced via Police Scotland as we self-insure and this does not extend to external initiatives / groups. Likewise CEC have confirmed that they are unable to provide insurance cover for the scheme or allow the scheme to be added to any existing policy.

Across the UK, the scheme is funded by a variety of different methods. A selection of responses canvassed across the UK include the following:

*Bedfordshire Police/West Mercia - Insurance cover through Force public liability. Schemes funded by Police and Crime Commissioners office.*

*Avon and Somerset - Insurance/schemes funded through Police and Crime Commissioner.*

*Fife Division - Insurance/funded through Fife Community Safety Partnership.*

Unfortunately these solutions are not currently available to us.

Other potential funding streams are currently being examined including grants, sponsorship and establishing charitable status for Community Speedwatch. Again, if any of you have suggestions or the ability to assist with this it would be grateful received.

***Unfortunately, without public liability insurance, the scheme cannot run so this is currently the main blocker to scheme launch.***

Subject to suitable insurance cover being sourced and agreed, the planned timescales would be for a Pilot launch in the summer of 2019 and if successful, a roll out the following spring 2020.

## APPENDIX 1

Dear Chairperson,

### **Community Speed Watch**

I am writing to you to extend an invitation for **[INSERT NAME]** Community Council to volunteer to take part in our pilot Community Speed Watch scheme.

The pilot will be the first time that Community Speed Watch has been operated in Edinburgh Division and we have selected your Community Council to volunteer for this pilot due to **[streets in your area as being identified as having high traffic volume/vehicles travelling at excessive speed/complaints from residents?]**.

I would hope to attend one of your future Community Council meetings with my Community Policing Team to provide a full overview of Community Speed Watch, but in the meantime, to allow you to discuss and decide if you would like to take part in this pilot scheme, I have included some information around the key questions about the scheme and its operation.

#### What is Community Speed Watch?

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#### How does Speed Watch work?

Trained volunteers work in a team of three, using a detection device to monitor the speeds of vehicles travelling through their local area. The registration number of speeding vehicles is recorded.

Warning letters are then sent out by the Police to the registered keepers stating that their vehicle has been reported as speeding. Locations for monitoring speed are selected from sites suggested by the community, based on where there is most local concern about speeding traffic, or the impact of speed. Sites will be risk assessed for suitability by a Community Policing Sergeant.

Speed Watch does not replace police enforcement action and Community Policing Teams will still undertake their own speed detection at identified sites and report drivers to the court as appropriate.

#### What training and equipment will be provided?

A **[full day/half day]** of training will be provided by the Police to all volunteers. The training provided will cover an overview of the scheme and how it works, the operation of the detection device, how to record the data collected by volunteers, general data protection principles, personal safety and conflict management, in addition to health and safety awareness.

*For this pilot scheme, Police Scotland will provide the use of an [operational detection device, high visibility jackets, signage and equipment for the collection of data. Volunteers only have to bring a working and fully charged mobile phone.]*

*What is the time commitment?*

*Aside from the mandatory training day, there is no minimum or maximum number of hours that volunteers need to complete. All we ask that is you let us know in advance the location and times the volunteers will be operating.*

*What next?*

*Should your Community Council be interested in taking part in this pilot scheme, could I please ask that you fill out the attached [application/volunteer] form and forward to either the email address or postal address at the top of this letter.*

*On receipt of this form a Community Policing Sergeant for your area will be in contact to arrange a suitable time to attend a meeting to provide a full overview of this scheme.*

*If you have any further questions about this scheme, please do not hesitate to contact me or my Community Policing Teams for your area on the following contact details.*