

For Information	
Public/Non Public*	Public
Report to:	Police & Crime Panel
Date of Meeting:	28th April 2014
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Agenda Item:	9

POLICING PRE- PLANNED EVENTS

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To inform the Police and Crime Panel of the current working arrangements of Nottinghamshire Police regarding policing pre-planned events.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Panel notes the content of the report.

3. Reasons for Recommendations

- 3.1 To inform the Panel of recent changes to practise regarding policing pre-planned events, which will ensure that the resources of Nottinghamshire Police are focused on key priorities of cutting crime and keeping the public safe, increasing public trust and confidence and spending money wisely.
- 3.2 To inform the Panel of the current arrangements for policing pre-planned events.

4. Summary of Key Points

4.1 Background

- 4.2 At the Nottinghamshire Police Force Executive Board 20th January 2014, a decision was made to cease policing pre-planned events that do not fit the ACPO criteria outlined in the document 'Guidance on Public Safety Policy' (see 4.19). The only exception to this rule being those events that are deemed to have national significance and/or importance and/or there are security issues e.g. Events such as Remembrance Day, Armed Forces Day or the Olympic Torch Relay.
- 4.3 At the same meeting, it was also decided that the process of engaging with event organisers be formalised, ensuring that specified Points of Contact were used for all events – these Points of Contact are City & County Planning Teams, plus Operational Support Planning.

4.4 Supporting background information

- 4.5 Prior to the decision for change, Nottinghamshire Police had been occasionally inconsistent in their approach to policing events; some events would be policed but other events not, therefore there was a lack of consistent decision making with regard to events policing.
- 4.6 It was recognised that there is very little legislation that supports the policing of events; the majority of legislation for events planning sits with the District Council or Traffic Authority.
- 4.7 Event organisers and partners are being encouraged to make better use of existing legislation, structures, advice and guidance. Nottinghamshire Police will continue to police such events that fit the criteria as detailed at 4.19 below.
- 4.8 Each year Nottinghamshire Police receives approximately 1,000 requests to police pre-planned events. The vast majority of these requests are dealt with by City Planning or County Planning teams. The Planning Teams provide tactical advice and guidance to event organisers in order to satisfy themselves that the event is being organised and is to be run safely. The advice may be contained within a letter, operational order or other documentation. Approximately 700 (or 70%) of these events are held without the need to deploy resources, in essence these events are self sustaining and police free. The police will only attend police free/self sustaining events in a community engagement capacity.
- 4.9 Nottinghamshire Police assists with policing events that fit the criteria laid down by ACPO (see 4.19); the types of events tend to be sport related (Championship League football, county or international level cricket or high profile boxing matches) or very large scale public events (Goose Fair, Armed Forces Day and the Olympic Torch Relay). If the Force deploys resources to events such as these, it is usually able to recoup some of the costs.
- 4.10 The police can recover costs for policing an event only when an official request for Special Police Service (SPS) is made. Where no SPS request is made but we go on to police an event, we cannot recover any of the costs of deploying resources. The Force would not seek to recoup the costs for events that have national significance and or importance, and or if there are security issues, events such as Armed Forces Day, Olympic Torch Relay or Remembrance Day.
- 4.11 Nottinghamshire Police has occasionally been inconsistent in its approach to event policing. Some events have been policed and others not. Some events have been policed when there is no need for them to be - this situation usually occurs when one of the Planning Teams has provided tactical advice about how an event can be safely run without police resources, and the event organiser has gone on to make a direct approach to a local officer requesting a favour. On some occasions Members of Parliament, the clergy or a local dignitary have contacted a senior officer to request that a Planning Team

decision be overturned - recent examples of when this has happened was a Scout Jamboree and a parade in Southwell.

- 4.12 Event planning/organisation is a business and as such established businesses who organise events such as the Robin Hood Half Marathon are paid to do so. When the Force is requested to assist with such events but do not recoup the cost, we do so at the expense of the public.
- 4.13 In order to meet the priority needs of communities Nottinghamshire Police will withdraw resources from the majority of pre-planned events and encourage event organisers and partners to manage such events themselves, utilising existing legislation, structures, advice and guidance.
- 4.14 Legislation
- 4.15 The public perception is that the Police are the lead agency for approving all public events including those which take place on the public highway. In reality, the Police have no authority to either approve or ban such events and in fact, Police powers to regulate traffic for planned events are extremely limited.
- 4.16 Legislation exists to authorise a road closure, but this is only open to the District Council and the Traffic Authority to use. The Town Police Clauses Act 1847 enables the District Council to authorise a road closure for events involving processions, rejoicing, illuminations or thronging (events such as carnivals and Remembrance Day). The Traffic Regulation Act 1984 empowers the Traffic Authority (or an agent) to authorise a road closure for sporting and leisure events on the highway (events such as cycle races, triathlons and running races).
- 4.17 The police have general powers to direct and/or stop traffic. Section 163 of the Road Traffic Act 1988 allows a constable in uniform or a traffic officer to stop a mechanically propelled vehicle being driven, or a cycle being ridden, on a road; and Section 6 of the Traffic Management Act 2004 confers power to a traffic officer when engaged in the regulation of traffic in a road, to direct a person driving or propelling a vehicle to stop the vehicle, or to make it proceed in, or keep to, a particular line of traffic. The police do not have a general power to order a road closure, other than to assist in an emergency.
- 4.18 Advice and guidance
- 4.19 ACPO has issued guidance regarding police involvement in pre-planned events. The guidance forms the backbone of Nottinghamshire Police's policing response to all pre-planned public events. As per the guidance, Nottinghamshire Police's involvement will only be when one of the four points listed below relate to an event:
- 1) Prevention and detection of crime
 - 2) Preventing breaches of the peace
 - 3) Traffic regulation where a road closure application had been made

4) Activation of a contingency plan.

- 4.20 Further advice and guidance is available to event planners/organisers through the Safety Advisory Group (SAG). SAGs chaired by the Local Authority have now been formed and provide the opportunity for experts from a wide range of backgrounds to meet with potential event organisers and provide a best practice guide to their individual event. SAG panel members include representatives from ALL emergency services (including Nottinghamshire Police City & County Planning Teams), council representatives from Highways, Licensing, Health & Safety and Environmental Health, and Traffic Management companies.
- 4.21 SAGs meet periodically throughout the year and deal with multiple applications at each meeting ranging from a large scale pop concert to a small charity 'Bed Push' by the Scouts. The advice provided to all organisers is based on national best practice, e.g. HSE Purple Event Safety Guide.
- 4.22 There is a raft of advice and guidance available to event organisers and can be easily accessed via the internet from the Health and Safety Executive's website and or Nottinghamshire County Council's website (amongst others).
- 4.23 Past reviews
- 4.24 Nottinghamshire Police has in recent years commissioned 2 internal reviews into events planning. These reviews resulted in the formation of City and County Planning Teams, the adoption of ACPO guidance, entitled 'Guidance on Public Safety', the adoption of a notification process for all county-wide events, and adoption of agreed processes, procedures and working practises, plus closer working relationships with partners. The reviews have also had an impact on the formation and creation of SAGs.
- 4.25 The reviews have brought about incremental but not wholesale change. It is recognised that there are still gaps in the current system.
- 4.26 Summary
- 4.27 It is acknowledged that there has been occasional inconsistency in the way Nottinghamshire Police deals with and responds to pre-planned events.
- 4.28 There was a need for a force-wide consistent approach to events planning.
- 4.29 Structures, advice and guidance exist outside of the Police Service, which enable event planners / organisers to safely plan events.
- 4.30 Legislation exists, which enables partners to authorise road closures.
- 4.31 Very little legislation exists for police to use with regard to event planning.
- 4.32 The police can only recover costs when a SPS request is made to assist with an event.

- 4.33 Policing events that fall outside of the ACPO guidance does not support our 3 policing priorities; Priority 1: to cut crime and keep you safe; Priority 2: to spend your money wisely; Priority 3: to earn your trust and confidence.

5. Financial Implications and Budget Provision

- 5.1 Nottinghamshire Police already has structures and personnel in place to effectively manage and plan events. There are no financial implications arising from this report.

6. Human Resources Implications

- 6.1 Nottinghamshire Police already has structures and personnel in place to effectively manage and plan events. There are no human resources implications arising from this report.

7. Equality Implications

- 7.1 There are no equality implications arising from this report.

8. Risk Management

- 8.1 Organisationally Nottinghamshire Police has reduced the exposure to risk and liability.
- 8.2 Nottinghamshire Police is now in a position to guide event organisers via the SAG.

9. Policy Implications and links to the Police and Crime Plan Priorities

- 9.1 The policy adhered to by Nottinghamshire Police is the ACPO Guidance on Public Safety Policy. Full event planning details are available on the intranet and have been communicated to all officers and staff.

10. Changes in Legislation or other Legal Considerations

- 10.1 There are no changes to legislation required. Relevant legislation has been detailed within this report.

11. Details of outcome of consultation

- 11.1 Formal consultation was not thought necessary in this case.

12. Appendices

- 12.1 There are no appendices to this document.

13. Background Papers (relevant for Police and Crime Panel Only)

ACPO Guidance on Public Safety Policy

HSE Purple Guide for Events

HSE Green Guide for Sporting Events

Home Office Good Practice Safety Guide