



# Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner

**REQUEST FOR POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER DECISION - (N° 014/2016)**

**TITLE: Vulnerable Localities Index (VLI) Project**

**Executive Summary:** (Précis not more than 100 words)

The VLI is a method which can help to identify residential neighbourhoods that require prioritised attention for community safety.

As part of the 'community cohesion' agenda in the UK, the police were given a new responsibility to identify areas with community tension and respond to them accordingly. This required a method to be devised which helped policing agencies to systematically classify communities into prioritised areas. Since then, the VLI has become a popular strategic analytical tool to assist targeting of community safety work.

Cumbria Constabulary, in partnership with Barrow and Copeland district councils, Community Safety Partnerships and other stakeholders is seeking to pilot the VLI approach through targeted work a ward level in Ormsgill (Barrow) and Mirehouse (Copeland).

**Recommendation:**

That the PCC supports the VLI project and approves £100,000 (£50,000 per pilot area) to support targeted community interventions and revenue contributions towards capital costs.

**Police & Crime Commissioner**

I confirm that I have considered whether or not I have any personal or prejudicial in this matter and take the proposed decision in compliance with the Code of Conduct for Cumbria Police & Crime Commissioner. Any such interests are recorded below.

I hereby approve/~~do not approve~~ the recommendation(s) above

**Police & Crime Commissioner / ~~Chief Executive~~ (delete as appropriate)**

**Signature:**

**Date: 09<sup>th</sup> March 2016**

## **PART 1 – NON CONFIDENTIAL FACTS AND ADVICE TO THE PCC**

### **1. Introduction & Background**

The Vulnerable Localities Index (VLI) is a popular analytical method used by police agencies in England and Wales to identify residential neighbourhoods that should be prioritised for attention. The VLI uses data on crime, deprivation and socio-demography to form a single composite index value for small geographic areas, which when mapped can assist in determining where to focus multi-agency activity in order to address the causes of crime and community breakdown.

The VLI has been successfully adopted in a number of regions, and has helped to prompt other public sector partners such as local government agencies to recognise the collaborative role that they could play with the police in helping to address mutual issues of public safety. These findings suggest that in the spirit of partnership working, potential opportunities exist in achieving mutually beneficial gains in improving public safety through the collaboration of fire, police and other local public service delivery.

### **Cumbria VLI Scores**

The VLI scores have been calculated for each Super Output Area (SOA) in Cumbria. Due to the relatively low population density, these have been aggregated into ward level figures. However, the dataset shows how many SOAs within the total have VLI outputs higher than 200, which is the recognised figure that indicates the area needs targeted partnership intervention.

Within each of the six districts of Cumbria, we have used this data to highlight which wards are evidencing a need for some targeted work at ward level.

This figure then needs to be assessed in line with the SARA (Scan – Analysis – Response – Assess) model. Local knowledge about the demographics and other aggravating features need to be included in the overall assessment before a recommendation is given.

The rationale for the moderating factors is as follows:

- Data has been aggregated to ward level to compensate for low numbers and low criminality in rural Cumbria
- A decision has been taken to target residential areas rather than town centre /shops/non-residential areas
- In addition to the VLI scores, other datasets have been reviewed and assessed against the same ward based parameters.
- From the data gathered, wards have been chosen to reflect a broadly similar overall number of VLI, IOM offenders/victims/ASB incidents/Crimes (Troubled families). The combined total of all incidents is approximately 1000, spread over one or more wards.

- The VLI has been discussed with neighbourhood policing teams, who have knowledge of the locations highlighted; who have confirmed the VLI and supporting data is targeting the right areas.

### **Links to Troubled Families (TF) work Programme**

The selected wards have been shared with the TF team to identify any collaborative opportunities to target some households who are the subject of the TF work.

### **Proposed target areas, with totals of all incidents:**

#### **Copeland**

- Mirehouse (271) 5 VLI, 4 IOM

#### **Barrow**

- Ormsgill (414) 7 VLI, 10 IOM

## **2. Issues for Consideration**

Significant partnership working has taken place between the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, Cumbria Constabulary, district CEO's and partners to ensure full engagement with the VLI pilot.

The delivery model for the Copeland VLI is through a co-located multi agency VLI/ Copeland Hub. The HUB will be located on the second floor of Whitehaven Police Station. To enable the development of the HUB this will involve a revenue contribution to capital for a proportion of the funding being sought.

Copeland Borough Council / Home Housing/ Cass have all visited the premises and are keen to take up the offer to co locate at Whitehaven police station when these works are completed. The works are likely to cost in the region of £30 k from the initial soundings.

## **3. Implications**

**(List and include views of all those consulted, whether they agree or disagree and why)**

### **3.1. Financial:**

3.1.1. The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner commissioning budget will support the VLI pilot with funding being drawn from the ASB strand of activity.

### **3.2. Legal:**

### **3.3. Risk:**

3.3.1. To mitigate against risks associated with slippage in the delivery of the pilot each district will have a project board which will report on progress through The Safer Cumbria Delivery Board and Community Safety Partnerships.

3.4. HR / Equality:

3.5. I.T.:

3.6. Procurement:

3.6.1. Grant agreements with Barrow and Copeland District Councils to deliver targeted interventions at ward level

3.7. Victims:

#### 4. Backgrounds / supporting papers

(List any relevant business case, EIA, PID, Media Strategy and append to this form; list persons consulted during the preparation of the report)

#### Public Access to Information

Information in this form is subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) and other legislation. Part 1 of this form will be made available on the PCC website within 3 working days of approval. Any facts/advice/recommendations that should not be made automatically available on request should not be included in Part 1 but instead on the separate Part 2 form. Deferment is only applicable where release before that date would not compromise the implementation of the decision being approved.

Is the publication of this form to be deferred? YES / **NO**

If yes, for what reason:

Until what date (if known):

Is there a **Part 2** form - YES / **NO**

(If Yes, please ensure Part 2 form is completed prior to submission)

#### ORIGINATING OFFICER DECLARATION:

I confirm that this report has been considered by the Chief Officer Group and that relevant financial, legal and equalities advice has been taken into account in the preparation of this report.

**Signed: Vivian Stafford.....**                      **Date: 07 March 2016.....**

**OFFICER APPROVAL**

**Chief Executive / ~~Deputy Chief Executive~~ (delete as appropriate)**

I have been consulted about the proposal and confirm that financial, legal and equalities advice has been taken into account in the preparation of this report. I am satisfied that this is an appropriate request to be submitted to the Police and Crime Commissioner / Chief Executive (delete as appropriate).

**Signature:     Stuart Edwards**

**Date: 7<sup>th</sup> March 2016**

**Media Strategy**

The decision taken by the Police & Crime Commissioner may require a press announcement or media strategy.

Will a press release be required following the decision being considered? YES / **NO**

If yes, has a media strategy been formulated? YES / NO

Is the media strategy attached? YES / NO

What is the proposed date of the press release: