



COMMUNITY OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY PANEL AGENDA

Date: Monday, 23 March 2020

Time: 2.00 pm

Venue: The Council Chamber, Moorlands House, Stockwell Street, Leek

13 March 2020

PART 1

1. Apologies.
2. Notification of Substitute Members, if any.
3. To Approve the Minutes of the Previous Meeting. **(Pages 3 - 8)**
4. Report of the Chairman of the Police and Crime Panel. **(Pages 9 - 14)**
5. Declaration of Interests:
 - Disclosable Pecuniary Interests
 - Other Interests
6. Questions to Portfolio Holders, if any.
(At least two clear days notice required, in writing, to the Proper Officer in accordance with Procedure Rule 15).
7. Matthew Ellis, Staffordshire Commissioner - Police, Fire and Rescue Annual Update.
8. Early Outcomes Fund Project. (Presentation)
9. Your Housing 6 Monthly Update.
10. Work Programme **(Pages 15 - 16)**
Any additional items to be added to the Work Programme:
 - Chair's Items
 - Members' Items

MARK TRILLO
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND MONITORING OFFICER

Membership of Community Overview & Scrutiny Panel

Councillor D Shaw (Chair)

Councillor J Aberley

Councillor G Heath

Councillor K Hoptroff

Councillor B Johnson

Councillor K Martin

Councillor P Roberts

Councillor P Taylor

Councillor P Wood

Councillor T McNicol (Vice-Chair)

Councillor G Bentley

Councillor I Herdman

Councillor B A Hughes

Councillor J T Jones

Councillor T Riley

Councillor L Swindlehurst

Councillor R Ward

Councillor N Yates

STAFFORDSHIRE MOORLANDS DISTRICT COUNCIL

COMMUNITY OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY PANEL MEETING

Minutes

MONDAY, 3 FEBRUARY 2020

PRESENT: Councillor D Shaw (Chair)

Councillors J Aberley, G Bentley, K Hoptroff, B A Hughes, B Johnson, J T Jones, K Martin, T McNicol, T Riley, P Roberts, L Swindlehurst, P Taylor, P Wood and N Yates.

ALSO PRESENT: Councillor M Bowen, M Gledhill, L A Malyon, I Plant, J Porter and S E Ralphs MBE.

APOLOGIES: Councillors I Herdman and R Ward

168 **TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING.**

DECIDED: That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Panel held on the 2nd December 2019 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair, subject to, Councillor Johnson's apologies being recorded.

169 **NOTIFICATION OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS, IF ANY.**

There were no substitute members.

170 **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS:**

Agenda No.	Member Declaring Interest	Nature of Interest
Agenda Item 8 – Flyposting, banners and advertisements	Cllr B. Johnson	Other – Director of a business which produces 'A' boards

171 **QUESTIONS TO PORTFOLIO HOLDERS, IF ANY.**

No questions to Portfolio Holders had been received.

172 **LOCAL POLICING TEAM ANNUAL UPDATE.**

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Chief Inspector Mark Thorley was in attendance accompanied by Sergeant Rob Peacock, to provide the annual Policing Team update.

Overall, crime was down by 15% compared to 10% nationally. Policing in the wake of austerity continued to be a challenge, however the Moorlands Policing Team continued to work hard, found new and innovative ways to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour, work ever closer with partners for the benefit of the community, with some notable successes but also the occasional spike in acquisitive crime.

The following statistical information was provided:

- Less serious violent crime with injury, 40% reduction (290 less crimes)
- More serious violent crime with injury, 34% reduction (21 less crimes)
- Burglary residential, 12% reduction (19 less offences)
- Criminal damage, 21% reduction, (160 less offences)
- Theft from motor vehicles, a 40% increase (45 more crimes)
- Theft of motor vehicles, a 9% increase which had increased since October (6 more crimes)
- Police visibility was at 73%, compared to 63% nationally
- Public space violence had reduced by 13%, compared to 15% nationally
- Anti-social behaviour, 6% reduction (115 less incidents)
- 2% reduction in collisions classed as killed or seriously injured

The past year had again seen travelling criminals target the Moorlands, the nature of the geography would always mean that this was a vulnerability, but the recently created Force Road Policing Unit would now support the Local Policing Team, by patrolling and targeting the road networks to identify and apprehend those travelling criminals, using intelligence led tactics to provide a tailored and effective response.

As well as the challenge to deter travelling criminals the team had seen the actions of a small number of local criminals impact heavily on vehicle crime offences.

Most notably in the Cheddleton and Leek areas where two separate offenders, during the summer months targeted insecure vehicles parked overnight. Both were identified, one recalled to prison, the other after a number of court appearances, was remanded in custody.

Prior to and upon release from prison, the Police continued to work with prolific offenders to ensure the motivation to commit crime was removed or reduced. To date neither had yet re-offended.

Staffing levels remained the same for the area, apart from a Civilian Vulnerability Co-ordinator who would be in post shortly, to work within the harm reduction hub at Leek.

The Chair complimented the officers who were involved with a problem which concerned teenagers in the Werrington area, which was successfully resolved, and congratulations were passed on to the officers in Leek for the work they had carried out to reduce crime. The excellent work of the PSCOs in Biddulph was also mentioned.

A member of the Panel explained that he and a number of constituents were concerned about the level of drugs Page 4 in the area. Chief Inspector Thorley advised

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that the matter of drugs was high on the agenda and that Sergeants reported to him on a fortnightly basis. Should anyone wish to report any specific concerns then these could be emailed to the Chief Inspector or directly to Staffordshire Police.

Discussion took place around the area outside schools being dangerous due to a lack of school crossing patrols and a high volume of cars. Members also raised a recent problem with theft from walls and enquired about the speed of Armed Response Officers locally. These concerns were shared by the Officers and the Panel was advised that PCSOs were tasked to patrol outside schools. There hadn't been a great deal of theft from walls reported and members were encouraged to report any issues. The Armed Response Unit could be deployed where necessary, 24 hours a day and provided good response times to the area. Other neighbouring Forces could also be called upon should the need arise.

Alleged exploitation of young people, the use of drugs and gases in Cheadle was debated by the Panel. Warrants, Stop Searches and work in schools had been carried out but should any member be of the opinion that matters were not being addressed, then they should report this directly to Chief Inspector Thorley. In the meantime, he would contact the Sergeant for this area. It was also explained to the Panel, that some gases could be purchased legally, it was the use of the gases that was the problem. A request was made for a Police presence in Caverswall, as a similar issue with gas cylinders had been identified at this location.

Further discussion took place around dangerous dogs, theft of pets, recruitment of special constables and the use of the new Staffordshire Smart Alert system. A member queried how the Police visibility was measured and it clarified that this was a record of the time Officers' radios were outside of the Police Station.

DECIDED:

- 1) That the update be noted;
- 2) For statistics on the number of convictions be provided at the next annual update.

173 **CHILDREN'S MEALS IN HOLIDAYS. (VERBAL UPDATE)**

Further to this matter being debated at Full Council in October 2019, Councillor Ralphs updated the Panel on the work she had undertaken on this important issue. Over the last few months, meetings had taken place with various people which included, head teachers and heads of governing bodies, with a view to provide school meals from a school hall during the school holidays, on a trial basis. The next stage of the process was to investigate how this trial could be funded, and to look into the viability of this being linked to the SPACE Programme.

Members welcomed this challenging task and offered their support. A request was made for the children in the rural areas to be accommodated and members highlighted the need to meet with various local schools, in relation to the logistical arrangements for the provision of meals during the holidays.

A member of the Panel advised that some of the most vulnerable children did not attend school and suggested that the foodbanks were also contacted.

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DECIDED:

- 1) That the update be noted;
- 2) For the Leader to be invited to attend a meeting of the Panel in 6 months time.

174 FLYPOSTING, BANNERS AND ADVERTISEMENTS. (PRESENTATION/VERBAL UPDATE)

At the request of the Panel, Ben Haywood, Head of Development Services and David Smith, Principal Officer Communities and Partnerships, provided a presentation on flyposting, banners and advertisements.

The presentation covered the following topics:-

- Definition of an advertisement
- Control of adverts
- Consent of adverts
- Examples of adverts which do not require consent
- Adverts with deemed consent
- Adverts which require consent
- Advertisement consent
- Other consents
- Enforcement

Officers were given examples of advertisements on trailers, outside football grounds and on railings and asked if these required consent. A trailer would require consent if it has been adapted principally for advertisement and this was also the case for adverts on the exterior of a football ground.

Councillor Atkins was particularly concerned about the number of banners and amount of flyposting around Leek town centre, which made the area look unsightly. She didn't object to the advertisement of temporary events, but felt that the Council should adopt a proactive policy which enabled the Council to remove such advertisements and prosecute repeat offenders. The number of 'A' boards situated in the town centres were also mentioned as they were a potential hazard. There seemed to be a similar problem in Werrington outside the shops, close to the junction with the main road, therefore, officers agreed to look into the issues raised. The Officers advised that 'A' boards were not included within the policy for flyposting and were generally classed as an obstruction to the highway. A member of the Panel had a different opinion on the use of 'A' boards, as he thought that these were beneficial to the businesses on the high streets.

DECIDED:

- 1) That the presentation be noted;
- 2) For the presentation and advertisement guide be emailed to members;
- 3) For the Enforcement Team to take a look at the advertisement banners and 'A' boards in Leek and Werrington;
- 4) For the Flyposting policy to be reviewed.

175 DOG FOULING ORDER

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The Panel gave its consideration to a report which detailed proposed changes to the Dog Fouling Order, which was due to cease to have effect on 20th October 2020.

Staffordshire Moorlands was currently covered by four Orders which made it an offence if a person in charge of a dog at the relevant time did not:

- remove dog faeces forthwith if the dog defecated;
- put and keep a dog on a lead if required to do so by a Council Officer to prevent the dog causing annoyance or disturbance to any other person or the worrying or disturbance of any animal or bird;
- keep a dog on a lead in specified areas;
- stop a dog from entering specified areas.

The Orders would cease to have effect and thus need to be extended or replaced if the Council wished to continue to have the power to take action in respect of dog fouling and nuisance behaviour.

The latter two orders (Dogs on a Lead Order and Dog Exclusion Order), had not been used since their introduction in 2011. It was proposed that these Orders be allowed to expire in October 2020. The Panel had concerns in relation to this proposal and did not want these orders to expire.

DECIDED:

The Panel **RECOMMENDED CABINET:**

- 1) **NOT** to allow the (Dogs on a Lead Order and Dog Exclusion Order) to expire;
- 2) **AGREE** to carry out public consultation on the draft Order appended to the report;
- 3) Subsequently **APPROVE** the draft Order by Delegated Decision unless the responses from the consultation necessitate material changes to the draft Order;
- 4) In the event of a new order being approved prior to 20th October 2020, formal notice of discharge of the existing Orders should be published simultaneously with the introduction of the replacement Order.

176 **WORK PROGRAMME**

At this point of the meeting, members discussed the possibility of a Your Housing Group Drop-in session being arranged, prior to the next meeting of the Panel. This would enable members to discuss specific tenant issues with a member of staff, rather than discussion taking place during the scrutiny meeting.

Members raised queries in relation to air quality monitors and were advised that they could liaise directly with Daniel McCrory, Senior Pollution Officer for such matters.

DECIDED:

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- 1) That the Panel's Work Programme for 2019/20 be agreed;
- 2) For the Your Housing Drop-in session to be arranged.

The meeting closed at Time Not Specified

_____ Chairman _____ Date

Staffordshire Police, Fire and Crime Panel

Report of the Chairman of the Police, Fire and Crime Panel

To All Member Authorities

This report summarises issues considered at the Staffordshire Police, Fire and Crime Panel meeting on 10 February 2020, particularly the Commissioners proposed Budgets and Precepts for the Policing and Fire and Rescue Services for 2020/21.

(NB For each Precept the Commissioner is required to submit his proposals to the Panel. The Panel has the power to veto that Precept if they consider it to be too high or too low. The veto has to be approved by two-thirds of the Panel membership (ie 8 of the 12 members). If the veto is exercised a process set out by Regulation has to be followed for the submission/consideration of alternative proposals).

Proposed Police Service Precept 2019/20

The Home Office Grant Settlement for Staffordshire has been set at £131.479million, an increase of £10.5million on the previous year. The total policing requirement was £212.402 million with the Commissioner proposing to part fund the balance from an increase in Precept of 3.94% (£8.53 pa per Band D property). The Commissioner acknowledged that this figure was marginally below the Referendum limit of £10 but felt that it struck a balance between what could reasonably be asked of Council tax payers and the investment required in local policing.

The Home Office Settlement was noted to include £2.532million ring fenced for the recruitment of 90 additional officers by 31 March 2021. This is Staffordshire's target number for the first phase of the 20,000 additional officers promised in the Governments manifesto. Receipt of the ringfenced funding is dependent on the 90 officers being recruited however the sum available would not fully fund that number of posts. More details on the funding and conditions attached were awaited therefore the Commissioner was unable to answer queries raised by panel members as to whether it might be awarded on a pro rata basis should it not prove possible to recruit 90 officers in one year. The Commissioner was confident that the target could be met with a recruitment programme being developed.

For the remainder of the increased funding the Commissioner's proposals included: investment in the Special Constabulary to enhance their role in the community, investment in ANPR (Automatic Number Plate Recognition) to support the further growth of the Team and it's capability in terms of tracking offenders throughout the County and beyond, further expenditure on technology and digital capability in order to maximise their benefits (eg. purchasing the most up to date mobile devices), and investment in IT software to assist with demand management and prioritising the deployment of resources.

The Panel noted that the Settlement was for one year only in view of Government's Capital Spending Review and acknowledged the increased level of risk built into the 2020/21 Budgets due to uncertainty around future funding.

The Commissioner submitted an updated MTFS for the period 2020/21 – 2023/24 which showed a reduced budget deficit of £3.328m by 2024.

The Policing Precept proposals were supported by Treasury Management and Capital and Reserves Strategies, the key points of which were the intention to reduce the level of borrowing by funding a number of developments from cash reserves and the gradual increase in the level of Reserves with the General Reserve to be maintained at £5.9m and the Earmarked Reserve fluctuating during the next 5 year period and forecast to be around £2.9m by 2024.

The Panel unanimously agreed to support the proposal to increase the Policing Precept by 3.94% for 2020/21.

Fire and Rescue Authority Precept 2020/21

The Service was reported to need a total net revenue budget of £42.404m for 2020/2021, of which £14.618m was Settlement funding made up of Revenue Support Grant, 1% allocation of local business rates and a top up of Business rates by Government. Of note was the first, albeit relatively minor, increase in central Government funding since 2012/13. The balance (£27.785M) was to be met from the Precept hence the Commissioner intended to apply the full 1.99% permitted increase (ie £1.51pa for a Band D property). The Commissioner explained his wish to build an element of flexibility into the Fire and Rescue Budget to help accommodate a number of uncertainties such as the final pay award to firefighters compared to the 2.5% assumption built into the budget, and the outcome of ongoing legal challenges around Firefighters' pensions.

The £0.3m budget gap for 2020/21 was acknowledged with assurances given that measure would be implemented to achieve the necessary savings. The MTFS predicted a widening budget gap to £1.5m by 2024/25 reflecting the anticipated outcome of the next Comprehensive Spending Review and the effect which the Fair Funding Review might have on the Staffordshire's funding position.

Of note was the anticipated savings which would result from the Police and Fire and Rescue shared use of Fire Stations at Hanley and Tamworth, which had not been factored into budgets for 2020/21, and the re-investment of savings realised from Shared Service arrangements into three new fire safety audit roles within the Prevent Team. We will monitor the effect on future years' budgets of the new Governance arrangements for the Fire and Rescue Service.

The proposed Precept was supported by the Treasury Management, Reserves and Capital Strategies for the Service. Main points to note included the gradual reduction in the overall debt position over recent years and the fact that no additional borrowing would be required during 2020/21. The Treasury Management and Capital Strategies were unchanged from the current year.

The Panel unanimously agreed to support the 1.99% increase in the Fire and Rescue Authority Precept for 2020/21.

Other issues discussed:

The Commissioner's Annual Report – As this was the Commissioner's last meeting with the Panel/last Annual Report, the Report summarised the progress made throughout his period in office on initiatives under each of the 5 themes of his Strategy. He highlighted a number of projects which he considered to have made a major impact on policing, the public's confidence in policing, and support to the community. These included the implementation of mobile technology across the Force, raising awareness of Domestic abuse and improved support for its victims, changes to the way in which individuals with mental health issues were dealt with/assisted by the Police, the Cadets Scheme, including the Junior Cadets initiative, and the revival of the SPACE scheme and its proven effect on reducing Anti-Social Behaviour during the periods when it is in operation.

The Panel is required to formally report (and publish) its views on the Commissioner's Annual Report. As the Commissioner reported to Panel considerably earlier that would be the 'norm' I will be consulted on the Final version prior to its publication.

Termination of IT Transformation contract with Boeing – The Panel sought more information on a published decision of the Commissioner to terminate the IT Transformation Project entered into with Boeing in 2016 originally for a ten year period. Boeing had been appointed to modernise, develop and deliver IT services to Staffordshire Police. The Commissioner reported that over time the Force requirements and aspirations had changed. This had coincided with Boeing reviewing their Business model therefore both parties had mutually agreed to terminate the contract. Boeing have an involvement in the implementation of the Niche Project which is due to go live in April 2020 (bringing together 11 different IT database systems) and would honour their commitment to that project. We have requested details of the spend and achievements of the Project during the period that the contract ran.

HMICFRS Review of Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) 2018/19 – Following a new Inspection Regime, Her Majesty's Inspectorate carried out its first inspection of the SFRS with the brief- to assess how effectively and efficiently the Service prevents, protects the public against and responds to fires and other emergencies, and assesses how well it looks after the people who work for the Service.

The Inspection had judged the SFRS to be 'Good' in all 3 core questions (Effectiveness, Efficiency and People), 'Good' in 10 of the 11 elements of those 3

core questions, and 'Outstanding' at the 11th element – promoting the right values and culture.

Whilst welcoming the favourable outcomes of the inspection the Commissioner stressed that he and the Chief Fire Officer would work to maintain those standards, seek improvements where needed and explore options for developing the service, maximising any benefits which collaborative working with the Police and other agencies might provide.

For more information on this meeting or on the Police and Crime Panel in general please contact Julie Plant (01785 276135 e mail Julie.plant@staffordshire.gov.uk) or Helen Phillips (01785 276143 or helen.phillips@staffordshire.gov.uk)

Details of Panel meetings are issued to contact officers in each of the District/Borough Councils in the County and Stoke-on-Trent City Council for posting on their own web sites.

Stephen Sweeney

Staffordshire Police, Fire and Crime Panel Chairman

Staffordshire County Council

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Community Overview & Scrutiny Panel - Work Programme 2019/20

Date	Items for Agenda
3 June 2019	Overview & Scrutiny Briefing/Councillor Community Leadership Programme Councillor Community Initiative Scheme
15 July 2019	Meeting Cancelled
30 September 2019	Air Quality Management Order Your Housing Group – 6 Monthly Update
2 December 2019	Cheadle CAB – Annual Update
3 February 2020	Local Policing Team Annual Update – Chief Inspector Mark Thorley Flyposting, banners and advertisements – David Smith & Ben Haywood Dog Control Orders Children’s Meals in School Holidays
23 March 2020	Matthew Ellis, Staffordshire Commissioner – Police, Fire and Rescue Annual Update Your Housing – 6 Monthly Update Early Outcomes Fund Project

Key Organisations to Invite/ Schedule Annually

Staffordshire Commissioner Annual Update - confirmed
Local Policing Team Annual Update – confirmed
Your Housing – 6 Monthly Update
Fire & Rescue Service Annual Update – invited
Citizens Advice Bureau Annual Update –confirmed
Rural Bus Service – Update from Cllr Ralphs
State of Staffordshire Wildlife Report – Staffordshire Wildlife TBC
Children’s Homes – Gail Edwards, Mark Thorley & Ben Haywood TBC
Update on School Meal Trial – Aug 2020

Regular Updates and an Annual Status Report on the Levels of Pollution and the Air Quality Action Plan
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Assets of Community Value

Syrian Resettlement
