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Chief Executive

## COMMUNITY OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY PANEL AGENDA

**Date: Monday, 19 March 2018**

**Time: 2.00 pm**

**Venue: The Dove Room, Moorlands House, Stockwell Street, Leek**

**9 March 2018**

### PART 1

1. Apologies.
2. To Approve the Minutes of the Previous Meeting. **(Pages 3 - 6)**
3. Report of the Chairman of the Police and Crime Panel. **(Pages 7 - 10)**
4. Notification of Substitute Members, if any.
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. Staffordshire County Council Managed and Delivered Libraries and the Mobile and Travelling Library Consultation - Catherine Mann, Libraries and Arts Manager. (Presentation).
8. Work Programme **(Pages 11 - 12)**  
Any additional items to be added to the Work Programme:
  - Chair's Items
  - Members' Items

**SIMON BAKER  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

Membership of Community Overview & Scrutiny Panel

Councillor A Banks (Chair)

Councillor J Bull

Councillor E Fallows

Councillor B A Hughes

Councillor P Jackson

Councillor M A Lovatt

Councillor L A Malyon

Councillor J Redfern

Councillor D Shaw

Councillor P Wood

Councillor T McNicol (Vice-Chair)

Councillor S Ellis

Councillor D Grocott

Councillor K J Jackson

Councillor L D Lea

Councillor M M Lovatt

Councillor C Pearce

Councillor T Riley

Councillor P Wilkinson

## **STAFFORDSHIRE MOORLANDS DISTRICT COUNCIL**

### **COMMUNITY OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY PANEL MEETING**

#### **Minutes**

**MONDAY, 29 JANUARY 2018**

**PRESENT:** Councillor A Banks (Chair)

Councillors C J S Atkins, B A Hughes, K J Jackson, L D Lea,  
M M Lovatt, L A Malyon, T McNicol, C Pearce, T Riley and P Wood.

**ALSO PRESENT:** Councillor M Bowen – Portfolio Holder for Communities, Leisure,  
Sport, Parks, Countryside & Housing  
Councillor D Ogden – Cabinet Support Member  
Councillor B Johnson  
Councillor I Lawson

**APOLOGIES:** Councillors A Forrester, D Grocott and P Wilkinson.

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

**DECIDED:** That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Panel held on the 20th  
November 2017 be approved as a correct record and signed by the  
Chair.

**78 REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL.**

**DECIDED:** That the report of the Chairman of the Police and Crime Panel dated  
1<sup>st</sup> November 2017 be noted.

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

There were none.

**80 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS:**

<b>Agenda No.</b>	<b>Member Declaring Interest</b>	<b>Nature of Interest</b>
Agenda Item 8  - Leek High School and Westwood College Update.	Cllr P. Wood	Other – A Governor at Westwood School.

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

There were none.

82 **POLICE FORCE OPERATIONAL ANNUAL UPDATE - MARK THORLEY,  
LOCAL POLICING TEAM COMMANDER.**

Inspector Mark Thorley provided members with a briefing note containing statistical information for the Moorlands area.

Force figures showed that crime overall had increased by 9% however, in the Moorlands the figure had reduced by 2%. The Inspector explained that last year there had been an increase of around 130% in reports of rape. This year the figures indicated a 49% reduction which equated to 29 fewer crimes which was a significant reduction.

Theft from motor vehicles had reduced by 21% which equated to 35 fewer offences and a 9% reduction had been seen in last 12 months of thefts of motor vehicles - 6 fewer offences. The category of Vehicle Interference had also seen a reduction of 42% which was 19 fewer offences.

There had been an increase of 69 residential burglaries (which now included sheds and out buildings) – up 43%. This crime category was changed in April 2017 so there wasn't comparative previous year's figures to compare against, this crime though had reduced since September and was now well below the average.

Inspector Thorley updated the Panel on a series of burglaries that had taken place in the summer of 2017 and the outcomes.

Visibility of the Force was down by 0.89% at 62% and in the Moorlands up by 0.2% at 71.5%.

In relation to Anti Social Behaviour (ASB) the statistics for the Moorlands indicated an increase of 13%. Since November this had reduced significantly and was running at an average number of incidents again. It was explained that there was a problem in Leek town centre in the summer due to youth related ASB. Use of dispersal notices, Community Protection notices and Ofsted quickly removed this issue completely.

The Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) in place at the Smithfield Centre had caused some displacement initially but was now effective and working well.

More recently groups of youths had caused a steep increase in ASB in Werrington and Cheadle. The issues in Werrington were now resolved and Cheadle heading the same way, due to good use of dispersal notices, dedicated resources and civil orders.

Instances of ASB in Biddulph had been a constant issue but wasn't currently with a PSPO in place along with the civil remedies.

To conclude, satisfaction in the Moorlands was at 90% compared to the Force at 86% and there hadn't been any significant reductions in officer or staff numbers since the previous update.

## **Community Overview & Scrutiny Panel - 29 January 2018**

Members were pleased with the recent figures around violence in Leek town centre being put into context and felt reassured that the Police dealt with matters quickly and effectively.

Discussion took place around late night opening of licenced premises, a spate of graffiti in Leek, homelessness and seating outside public houses. The officer gave assurance that any issues with late night premises would be reported immediately to the Council's Licencing Team and conditions could be placed on licences. The Leek graffiti artist had been identified and was in the process of being dealt with. Further details would be circulated to members after the meeting. The Local Policing Team had referred the known homeless people in Leek to partners to provide assistance and it was explained that seating outside public houses was a planning matter.

A recent incident which had involved a vigilante group in Biddulph was also discussed along with the good work of the Youth Club in the area which had sadly been affected by a small group of individuals.

Concerns were raised in relation to people carrying guns but were not actually part of an organised hunt. The advice given was to contact the Police (999) as soon as possible if people were in possession of a gun on unauthorised land.

Compliments were passed on to the PCSOs in Checkley and Forsbrook.

The Chair requested clarification of the statistical information that had recently been on the news which contradicted the figures supplied to the Panel. He was also interested in data relating to successful prosecutions. Inspector Thorley agreed to look into this and would report back after the meeting.

**DECIDED:** That the update be noted.

83 **LEEK HIGH SCHOOL & WESTWOOD COLLEGE UPDATE - ANDREW SHAW, EXECUTIVE HEAD, THE LEEK FEDERATION.**

Andrew Shaw, Executive Head, Leek Federation provided the Panel with an update on Leek High School and Westwood College.

It was explained that the Student Support Hub (Room 21) at Leek High School still operated in an affordable way, as grants which had previously been used to supply some of the services were no longer available and school budgets for social support had reduced. Children were experiencing social issues at a younger age and the number of exclusions had increased nationally. The Hub relied on the good will of staff and their commitment to the children. The Federation had piloted an Early Intervention Team which provided targeted support for troubled families which had proven to be a success.

It was hoped that the provision of a school nurse could be re-instated as it was felt that some clinical support was required across the schools.

The Executive Head was very concerned about the considerable gap in funding for the schools in Staffordshire compared to other areas and highlighted the need for baseline funding.

## **Community Overview & Scrutiny Panel - 29 January 2018**

Despite the need for funding, the performance of the schools was generally good and the schools had fantastic head teachers and staff which worked extremely hard. The Leek Education Partnership met regularly and for consistency followed an assessment system for 23 schools in the area. Members commented on the excessive testing of pupils and the affect this had on pupils and teachers.

Detailed discussion took place around funding and costs for schools. Members also shared their views and experiences of schools in the Moorlands.

**DECIDED:** That a letter be sent to the Secretary of State in relation to the funding of schools in Staffordshire.

### 84 **WORK PROGRAMME**

The Panel considered its Work Programme and agreed the items listed, subject to the following items being added:

- Location of the Job Centre Plus, following the roll-out of Universal Credit for the Moorlands in September 2018. (Nearest offices Glossop, Buxton or the Potteries)
- Fly-tipping

**DECIDED:** That the Panel's Work Programme for 2017/18 be agreed, subject to the above items being included.

The meeting closed at 4.10 pm

\_\_\_\_\_ Chairman \_\_\_\_\_ Date

## **Staffordshire Police and Crime Panel**

Report of the Chairman of the Police and Crime Panel

To Member Authorities

In accordance with agreed practice I am reporting on matters dealt with at a meeting of the Staffordshire Police and Crime Panel on 29 January 2018 in order to draw your attention to issues of wider interest and/or implications.

### ***Police and Crime Commissioner's Proposed Precept for the Policing Element of the Council Tax Bill and Medium Term Financial Strategy***

The PCC is required to submit his proposed Precept to Panel for approval. They have the right to veto the proposal if they think that the Precept is either too high or too low, and to require the submission of a revised Precept for consideration.

In submitting the proposed Precept the Commissioner reported that for 2018/19 and 2019/20 Government has given specific authority to PCCs to raise up to £12 per annum additional Precept per household, over and above the 2% increase limit already permitted. In announcing this increase Government also indicated that Home Office funding would remain 'cash flat' for the 2 year period. For Staffordshire that grant is £116.900million each year.

Working with the Chief Constable, the OPCC had considered a number options for the allocation of the potential £12 increase. The PCCs final budget proposes to increase the Precept by £11.40 in total giving a maximum increase of 6.29% in Council Tax Band rates. This equates to almost £5million additional funding for Policing and/or community safety priorities.

Combining the funding from Government and via the Precept, the PCCs proposed budget for 2018/19 is £183.449million (compared to £178.587m for 2017/18).

The PCC submitted a detailed report on the allocation of the funding , stressing that the primary aims of his proposals were to reinstate resources for neighbourhood policing and to better enable the Force to respond to the changing and increasingly complex nature of crime such as CSE, Domestic Violence and Cyber crime. The Forensic Service was identified as an area requiring a significant increase in budget allocation.

The Panel debated and questioned the PCC at length on neighbourhood policing with the PCC acknowledging that in recent years resource had had to inevitably be redirected from that area towards dealing with more 'sophisticated' crime. He was conscious of his pledge to maximise visibility/presence of the Force and referred to the provision in the budget for an additional 44 Police Officers in 2018/19 contributing to a total of 69 additional officers by 2020. The provision of additional resource was accompanied by stringent Performance Management measures to be implemented by the Chief Constable. The PCC acknowledged the Panel's comments

on the need to evidence to the public that their support for an increase in Precept had a positive impact in terms of improving policing presence.

The Panel discussed various other elements of the PCCs Budget/Precept report including the anticipated level of Capital Receipts, partly attributed to the imminent completion of the sale of the former Police HQ site and the target reduction of £750k in overtime payments as the Chief Constable addressed perceived inefficiencies.

The Panel decided to support the PCCs budget and proposed Precept for 2018/19.

### ***Proposed Changes in Police and Fire and Rescue Services' Governance in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent***

Having submitted his Business case to the Home Office for their assessment /consideration, the Commissioner was unable to provide any update on it's progress as he awaited further contact.

### ***Safer, Fairer, United Communities for Staffordshire***

The Commissioner submitted progress reports on the implementation of his overall SFU Communities for Staffordshire Strategy and on the recently included additional theme of 'Modern Policing'. Highlighting a few of the key elements the Commissioner referred to action to address Child Sexual Exploitation with the continued funding of a co-ordinator and a Missing Children Service, the latter being jointly commissioned with Staffordshire County and Stoke-on-Trent City Councils. A collaborative approach including the use of standard phraseology had been adopted and now provided a model for adoption nationally.

On the 'Modern Policing' Theme the Commissioner referred to the need to develop more effective specialist capabilities and maximise the use of new technology. The Chief Constable had drawn up a 'Blue Print for Change' containing various operational initiatives such as the development of a resolution centre to deliver a more informed and streamlined response to non-emergency service requests, thus reducing the demand on front line resources to enable them to be used more effectively.

### ***Other issues Discussed***

The remainder of the agenda gave the opportunity to discuss the PCCs wish to develop a 'Connected Staffordshire' with improved co-ordination and information sharing between public sector agencies, including Local Authorities; Rural Crime following recent press coverage of incidents reported in Staffordshire with the PCC reporting the existence of a dedicated Rural Crime team and the PCCs ongoing discussions at national level on processes to better manage the transfer of Looked After Young People outside their home Authority.

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](mailto:Julie.plant@staffordshire.gov.uk)) or Helen Phillips (01785 276143 or [helen.phillips@staffordshire.gov.uk](mailto: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.*

David Williams

Staffordshire Police and Crime Panel Chairman

Staffordshire County Council

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## Community Overview & Scrutiny Panel - Work Programme 2017/18

Date	Items for Agenda
3 July 2017	Grant Funding – Esther Jones Team Leader, Staffordshire Moorlands and ESF Voluntary Sector Advisor Biddulph Public Spaces Protection Order
11 September 2017	Safeguarding Annual Report Policy on enforcement of environmental crimes
20 November 2017	Your Housing Group CAB Annual Update – Biddulph & Cheadle confirmed
29 January 2018	Police Force Operational Annual Update - Inspector Mark Thorley Room 21 at Leek High School, funding, redundancy of teachers, impact and mental health support - Andrew Shaw, Executive Head, The Leek Federation
19 March 2018	Staffordshire County Council Managed and Delivered Libraries and the Mobile and Travelling Library Consultation – Catherine Mann, Libraries & Arts Manager

### Key Organisations to Invite/ Schedule Annually

Police and Crime Commissioner & Operational Annual Update
Fire Service Annual Update
Citizens Advice Bureau Annual Update
Items to be Scheduled
Possible Joint Governance of the Police & Fire Authority
Location of the Job Centre Plus, following the roll-out of Universal Credit for the Moorlands in September 2018. (Nearest offices Glossop, Buxton or the Potteries)

