

# **STAFFORDSHIRE MOORLANDS DISTRICT COUNCIL**

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

### **Minutes**

**MONDAY, 26 NOVEMBER 2018**

PRESENT: Councillor A Banks (Chair)

Councillors B A Hughes, P Jackson, M A Lovatt, M M Lovatt,  
L A Malyon, T McNicol, J Redfern and P Wood.

ALSO PRESENT: Councillors M Bowen, A Forrester and J Davies.

APOLOGIES: Councillors K J Jackson, L D Lea and C Pearce.

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

There were no substitute members.

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

**DECIDED:** That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Panel held on the 1<sup>st</sup> October 2018 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

118 **MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING OF THE STAFFORDSHIRE POLICE,  
FIRE AND CRIME PANEL.**

**DECIDED:** That the Minutes of the Staffordshire Police, Fire and Crime Panel Meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> October 2018 be noted.

119 **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS:**

<b>Agenda No.</b>	<b>Member Declaring Interest</b>	<b>Nature of Interest</b>
Agenda Item 8 - Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) Annual Update	Cllrs J. Davies, M.M. Lovatt and P. Jackson	Other – Board members of the CAB.

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

There were none.

121 **JOINT GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS & ANNUAL UPDATE - MATTHEW ELLIS, STAFFORDSHIRE COMMISSIONER, POLICE, FIRE, RESCUE AND CRIME.**

## **Community Overview & Scrutiny Panel - 26 November 2018**

Matthew Ellis, Staffordshire Commissioner, explained to the Panel how crime had changed and, in particular, how cyber crime had now become so prevalent.

Key issues for the Commissioner were significant budget pressures in relation to the Police Pension Scheme, the expense of armed vehicles and rural crimes. The amount of funding required to cover the pension deficit would result in the investments planned for front line services not being able to be made. Members were very concerned about the pension funding gap and Matthew Ellis confirmed that he had lobbied the Government in relation to this matter.

A member of the Panel referred to the centralisation of the Policing Teams to the city centre and that members of the public had reported that a lack of response and loss of faith in the Police. He gave an example of a recent incident at which only 1 Neighbourhood Officer was available for the whole of the Moorlands on a particular day.

The Commissioner confirmed that police visibility had increased and a new model of working had been introduced but there should not be insufficient staffing levels as described by the Councillor. A review of the effectiveness of the new model of working, performance and staffing numbers was being undertaken for the Moorlands. The Panel would be updated on the outcome of this review once completed. The Councillor was asked to inform the Commissioner of the date this incident had taken place so it could be looked into further.

Other members of the Panel shared their experiences of quick responses received from the Police and discussion also took place around automatic number plate recognition in the area, the Control Room and a project for joined up CCTV.

The low numbers of retained fire fighters was a concern for a member of the Panel and the Commissioner gave assurance that recruitment was being looked at by the Deputy Commissioner, along with more effective training courses. It was reported that recently there had been an increase in applications for the Retained Fire Service.

Members queried how the Fire and Police Services were working together and if the Police Station in Leek was still occupied. The Panel was advised that savings could be made around the Support/Admin functions of both services which would enable there to be re-investment in front line services. A joint Transport Hub had recently saved a vast amount of money for front line services. An Estates Review was ongoing and accommodation costs could be reduced by the co-location of services. The Police Station in Leek wasn't empty at present. Councillor Davies requested details of any proposals for co-location in the Biddulph area to be sent to him.

The Chair thanked Matthew Ellis for attending the meeting.

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

### 122 **CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU - ANNUAL UPDATE FROM BIDDULPH, CHEADLE AND LEEK.**

Individual presentations for Biddulph, Cheadle and Leek Citizens Advice Bureaux (CAB) were considered by the Panel. Each presentation contained statistical information and case studies.

## Community Overview & Scrutiny Panel - 26 November 2018

Sam Hubbard, Generalist Services Manager, introduced the presentation on behalf of the Biddulph CAB, Dawn Keates represented the Cheadle CAB and Phillip Haddock gave the presentation for the Leek CAB.

The Panel was informed that the Cheadle and Leek CABs were going to merge into one CAB from April 2019.

Members complimented the CABs on the work they carried out and thanked the excellent staff and volunteers.

**DECIDED:** That the presentation be **NOTED**.

### 123 WORK PROGRAMME

The Panel considered its Work Programme and agreed the items listed, subject to an item on Foodbanks being added. During this part of the meeting, Councillor Pam Wood suggested that the Health & Community Panels should be one joint Panel which met more regularly. This was a matter for Annual Council which the Chair would look into.

**DECIDED:** That the Panel's Work Programme for 2018/19 be agreed, subject to an item on Food Banks being added.

The meeting closed at 3.50 pm

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