

STAFFORDSHIRE MOORLANDS DISTRICT COUNCIL

COMMUNITY OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY PANEL MEETING

Minutes

MONDAY, 13 MARCH 2023

PRESENT: Councillor D Shaw (Chair)

Councillors I Herdman, T Holmes, K Hoptroff, B Johnson,
P Routledge, L Swindlehurst, P Taylor and N Yates

ALSO PRESENT: Councillors B Emery, E Fallows, P Roberts and R Ward

APOLOGIES: Councillors B A Hughes, T Riley and Z Routledge

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

Councillor Emery was substitute member for Councillor Zenobia Routledge and Councillor Fallows substituted for Councillor Hughes.

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

DECIDED:

That the minutes from the previous meeting held on 16 January 2023 be approved.

58 **URGENT ITEMS OF BUSINESS, IF ANY (24 HOURS NOTICE TO BE PROVIDED TO THE CHAIRMAN)**

None had been received.

59 **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS:**

No declarations of interests were made.

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

DECIDED:

The Panel noted the minutes of the meeting of the Police, Fire and Crime Panel held on 21 February 2023.

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

There were none.

62 **WORK PROGRAMME**

Councillor Swindlehurst updated members on the continuing work of AEDdonate in relation to the options for the on-going maintenance of defibrillators. The Chair gave

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an overview of 'Village Shot' a project due to be launched in Werrington in partnership with the primary school to help mitigate climate change.

DECIDED:

That the Work Programme be agreed for 2022-2023.

63 **LOCAL POLICING TEAM ANNUAL UPDATE (6.10PM)**

Deputy Commander – Darren McGrath was in attendance to provide the Annual Policing Team update.

The Local Policing Team had gone through major changes during the Summer months, with the launch of the new policing structure and the benefits of a Response Team based in Leek were now being realised.

The Moorlands also had its own Harm Reduction Hub, staffed with experienced officers who worked closely with partners to manage vulnerability.

There had been a 20% overall increase in crime in the last 12 months in the area. This figure was still being compared with Covid-19 related figures last year. The demand for service had reduced by 14%, with an average of 38 calls for service per day.

Members considered a report which gave statistical information around the different types of crime, outcomes of investigations, detail of road traffic collisions and Anti-social behaviour which had reduced by 14%. The report provided members with the current staff resource of the team.

Members were also advised of an online engagement event which was due to take place on 16th March 2023 at 6pm. Further to a request from a councillor, an engagement event would also be arranged in Cheadle.

Discussion took place around the call answering times for the 101 service, Community Speed Watch schemes, where anti-social behaviour continued to occur and methods to tackle antisocial behaviour. Members had seen a noticeable improvement in the policing of the area since the Response Team operated from Leek and thanked the officers for attending surgeries and for the rapid response to the removal of some graffiti.

Requests were made for a proactive response to anti-social behaviour in Biddulph, improved feedback to victims, businesses and town councils and for more safety camera vans in the Leek area. Increased police presence outside the schools in Caverswall and Kingsley was also requested along with regular patrols of Brough Park. Members were advised that each school had an assigned officer and prevention work carried out by the schools often improved the situation with car parking and the various methods to contact the Police were clarified.

The Cadets were complimented for their contribution to events held in Leek town centre.

DECIDED:

- 1) That the Annual Update be noted;

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- 2) For an overview of current issues in the area to be regularly supplied to councillors.

64 **FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE ANNUAL UPDATE (6.40PM) VERBAL UPDATE**

Station Managers - Jonathan Jackson and Ben Woodward provided the Panel with the Fire and Rescue Service Annual Update.

The last six months had been a difficult period due to the national pay dispute and the Service had to ensure adequate contingency was in place should strike action have taken place. A pay offer had recently been offered and accepted by the staff.

The Fire Service was currently refreshing its fleet and equipment and due to a funding gap, efficiency savings were being identified.

Overall, the latest HMICFRS report was positive however, 20 areas had been identified for improvement and each element was being addressed. A further inspection was scheduled in the Autumn.

The update also included statistical information on Safe and Well visits, number/types of incidents in the area, percentage of coverage and how the Service had been impacted by heatwaves and floods last year. Members were also provided with detail around staffing levels, which included the appointment of an On-call Support Officer and recruitment.

The Chair thanked the Officers for attending the meeting.

DECIDED:

- 1) That the update be received;
- 2) For recruitment campaign literature and fire safety information to be emailed to the Democratic Services Team for members to distribute further via social media etc.

65 **COMMUNITY LOTTERY - PHIL WRIGHT - GENERAL MANAGER, GATHERWELL (7:10PM) VIA TEAMS**

Members received a presentation on the introduction of an on-line Community Lottery to help raise funds for the local voluntary and community sector, and support good causes within the District.

The presentation included information of the following subject areas:

- Background to Gatherwell (an external lottery provider)
- Mission, regulation and success
- Ethical lottery management
- Types of lottery players
- Allocation of Funds
- Other local authority lottery schemes provided by Gatherwell

In response to queries, assurance was given in relation to the minimum age of 16 for participation in a local authority lottery and funding not being distributed to Australia.

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The Chair thanked the officer for the informative presentation.

DECIDED: That the presentation be received.

The meeting closed at 7.30 pm

_____Chairman _____Date