

**CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE**  
**HOUSING, CRIME AND PARTNERSHIPS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**  
**HELD ON WEDNESDAY 19 JULY 2017 AT 4:00 P.M.**  
**IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, BEECROFT ROAD, CANNOCK**

**PART 1**

**PRESENT:**  
Councillors

Freeman, Miss M.A. (Chairman)  
Grice, Mrs. D. (Vice-Chairman)

Cartwright, Mrs. S.M.	Pearson, A.R.
Dean, A.	Snape, D.J.
Hoare, M.W.A. (substitute)	Snape, P.A.
Johnson, T.B.	Stretton, Mrs. P.Z.
Lea, C.I.	Witton, P.T.

Also in attendance: Inspector Mark Ward, Cannock Local Policing Team.

**1. Change in Order of Agenda**

The Chairman advised that agenda item 8 'Policing Team', would be brought forward and considered after agenda item 3 to allow Inspector Ward to leave the meeting at the conclusion of his update.

**2. Apologies**

Apologies for absence were submitted for Councillor G.N. Molineux and Chief Inspector Sarah Wainwright, Cannock Local Policing Team.

Councillor M.W.A. Hoare was in attendance as substitute for the seat formerly held by the late Councillor G. Burnett.

**3. Declarations of Interests of Members in Contracts and Other Matters and Restrictions on Voting by Members and Party Whip Declarations**

No declarations of interests or party whip declarations were received.

**4. Minutes**

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Housing Scrutiny Committee held on 28 March, 2017 and the Community Safety Scrutiny Committee held on 6 April, 2017, be noted.

## 5. Policing Team

Inspector Ward reported that the new Chief Constable for Staffordshire Police was working with the Staffordshire Police & Crime Commissioner (PCC) to undertake a review of the countywide force structure in order to align efficiency savings with required budget reductions. A number of options were being considered for restructuring of 'response policing' and individual directorates. It was anticipated that Cannock Police Station would be reclassified as one of four 'response hubs' across the county (2 based in the north and 2 based in the south), which would potentially lead to an increase in policing provision from the station and provide greater visibility to the public.

At a local level, Geoff Knight had recently retired as Chief Inspector of Cannock Local Policing Team (LPT) and Sarah Wainwright had been appointed as his replacement. Chief Inspector Wainwright had a background in detective policing and offender management, and would be undertaking a review of the local policing structure in line with the countywide review. The current structure was comprised of 1 Sergeant and 6 PCs in the response policing team, and 3 Sergeants, 7 PCs and 15 PCSOs in the neighbourhood policing team. Meetings were held on a daily basis with local officers and countywide colleagues to review incidents that had occurred over the preceding 24 hours and to establish current priorities and resource needs. Linked to this, weekly meetings of the Community Safety Hub also took place. Furthermore, meetings has been held with the Partnerships, Community Safety & CCTV Manager to review the protocol for dealing with unauthorised travellers' sites and rollout of a pilot project on behalf of the Force focussed on new ways of tackling serious and organised crime

At a countywide level, the Force had been actively engaged with supporting Operation Anoka and Operation Temperer as a result of the tragic attacks in London and Manchester, as well as dealing with several instances of 'cross-border' criminality in conjunction with other Forces across the Midlands. A number of issues had also been reported about usage of off-road motorbikes, mopeds and scooters for which appropriate remedial actions were being looked into. Support was requested from Members to help reduce complaints from the public about the perceptions of groups of youths congregating in parks after having been dispersed from shopping precincts and other such areas.

A Member queried if there had been an increase locally in the number of armed police officers. Inspector Ward replied that a number of armed officers were already in place, but that number was expected to increase over the next 18 months as training such officers was an extensive process.

Inspector Ward then sought Members' views as to how they wished to receive updates on the police performance data going forward. Members commented that it would be preferable to receive such data via email on a regular basis rather than detailed updates being given at each meeting of the Committee.

Inspector Ward left the meeting at the conclusion of this item.

**6. End of Year 2016/17 Cleaner and Safer Environments (Community Safety Section) and More & Better Housing Priority Delivery Plans Performance Update**

Members considered and noted the 2016/17 end of year performance information for the Cleaner and Safer Environments (Community Safety Section) and More & Better Housing Priority Delivery Plans (PDP) (Item 4.1 – 4.11 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

The Head of Housing and Partnerships reported that the target for provision of additional affordable housing units had not been achieved within the year due to delays with a specific housing development, but work on site had since commenced. The target for securing 18 affordable dwellings through the completion of section 106 agreements was missed due to one agreement unfortunately not being completed by the reporting deadline. Work on the Moss Road estate redevelopment scheme was on target to complete by the end of 2017/18, including the provision of new play areas. Work on redeveloping former garage sites was progressing well, and positive feedback had been received for sites where work was already underway.

**7. Community Safety Scrutiny Committee and Housing Scrutiny Committee Annual Reports 2016/17**

Consideration was given to the report of the Head of Housing and Partnerships (Item 5.1 – 5.7 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

The Head of Housing and Partnerships advised that the draft neighbourhood estate management plans referred to in the Housing Scrutiny Committee Annual Report would be circulated to Members in advance of the next meeting of the Committee once they had been finalised.

RESOLVED:

That the reports be approved and submitted to Council on 30 August 2017 for information.

**8. Prevent Action Plan**

Members received a verbal update from the Partnerships, Community Safety & CCTV on the Prevent action plan, an updated copy of which had been circulated in advance of the meeting.

The Partnerships, Community Safety & CCTV Manager reported that as part of police work on counter-terrorism, a local counter-terrorism plan had been produced, feedback on which would be provided to the Committee once the plan had been updated. In respect of 'WRAP', plans were being developed to provide training for security officers based at 'In-Shops' in Cannock town centre and licensed door staff working at pubs etc. across the District.

## **9. Voids Action Plan**

Members received a verbal update from the Strategic Housing and Tenancy Services Manager on the Voids action plan, an updated copy of which was tabled at the meeting.

The Strategic Housing and Tenancy Services Manager reported that the number of void properties for the most recent reporting period included a number of two-bedroom properties which were becoming increasingly difficult to let. It would therefore be necessary to review the Allocations Policy to determine what appropriate action could be taken. The Head of Housing and Partnerships noted disappointment with the performance of void lettings and reported that Officers were researching alternative ways of advertising such properties and were going to analyse why people were moving out in the first place.

## **10. Housing, Crime and Partnerships Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2017/18**

Consideration was given to the Report of the Head of Housing and Partnerships (Item 9.1 – 9.30 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

Members then held a discussion on proposed work programme items and agreed the following:

RESOLVED:

That

(A) The following items be approved for inclusion on the 2017/18 work programme:

- End of Year PDPs performance data for 2016-17;
- Annual Report on Work of the Community Safety and Housing Scrutiny Committees for 2016-17;
- Prevent Action Plan and Voids Action Plan – verbal updates;
- Cannock Policing Team – verbal update;
- Housing, Crime and Partnerships PDP 2017/18 Progress Reports;
- Anti-social Behaviour Policy review – working group;
- Locality Policing review – working group.

(B) Membership of the working groups be as follows:

- Anti-social Behaviour Policy – Councillors Dean, Hoare, Pearson, P. Snape and Mrs. Stretton;
- Locality Policing – Councillors Mrs. Grice, T. Johnson, Lea and D. Snape.

The meeting closed at 5:30 p.m.

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CHAIRMAN