

**CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE**  
**HOUSING, CRIME AND PARTNERSHIPS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**  
**HELD ON WEDNESDAY 21 MARCH 2018 AT 3:00 P.M.**  
**IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, BEECROFT ROAD, CANNOCK**

**PART 1**

**PRESENT:**

Councillors

	Pearson, A.R. (Chairman)	
	Allt, Mrs. A.	Johnson, T.B.
	Buttery, M.S.	Lea, C.I.
	Crabtree, S.K.	Molineux, G.N.
	Hoare, M.W.A. (substitute)	

Also in attendance:

- Inspector M. Ward, Cannock Local Policing Team (for agenda item 4);
- Councillor F.W.C. Allen, Housing Portfolio Leader (observing).

**18. Apologies**

Apologies for absence were submitted for Councillors D.J. Snape and Mrs. P.Z. Stretton.

Councillor M.W.A. Hoare was in attendance as substitute for Councillor D.J. Snape.

Apologies were also noted for Chief Inspector S. Wainwright, Cannock Local Policing Team.

**19. 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.

**20. Minutes**

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 23 November, 2017, be approved as a correct record and signed.

**21. Cannock Local Policing Team Update**

Inspector Ward provided Members with the following updates:

### Police Transformation Programme

The Programme was due to be formally rolled out across Staffordshire over the coming months, with an expected go live date of 4 July for the southern part of the County. Cannock Police Station would be one of the 'Hub' centres, which would likely increase the number of policing vehicles operating within the District. Additionally, the local neighbourhood policing levels would be improved through an increased provision of PCSOs.

### Drugs Issues

A considerable amount of work had been undertaken (with support from the Community Safety Hub) to tackle the problem of persons from outside the District coming into the area and dealing/supplying drugs. Linked to this were incidents of Modern Day Slavery whereby vulnerable 16 and 17 year olds were being used to sell Class A drugs. Furthermore, a persistent offender had earlier this week been sentenced to seven years imprisonment.

### Local Policing Team Changes

The presence of PCSOs within Cannock Town Centre had been increased, and part of their remit was to try and help those persons identified as being homeless.

The Team's 'digital presence' was also being increased as an additional means of providing support and help generally.

### Hate Crime

An article published in the Express & Star newspaper this week reported that recorded incidents of hate crime had increased over the last twelve months, to which the Chief Inspector provided a response. Whilst this was the case, over the last six months the number had actually decreased. This in part coincided with the Syrian families moving out of the District. The CACH (Communities Against Crimes of Hate) partnership also provided a vital role in supporting hate crime victims.

In respect of the Syrian families, a meeting recently took place at the County Council to understand lessons learnt and provide feedback from the first phase of relocation, and to improve planning for the second phase.

### Anti-social Behaviour (ASB)

The number of reported incidents had decreased following a peak in August last year which happened mainly due to issues in Brereton. As a result of this, the Brereton Million partnership had worked to host a series of community events to discourage people from engaging in ASB activity.

Issues had been reported regarding parking problems within the Hednesford area. The County Council's Highways team was working to resolve these in liaison with local PCSOs.

Going forward, street drinkers and issues associated with the lighter evenings would be targeted through the increased PCSOs provision.

### Other Matters

The development of the Mill Green Retail Outlet Village was on the Team's radar as work had just commenced on site. Factors such as protection for the developers, presence of plant equipment on site and potential for ASB had to be accounted for.

There had been a major decrease in the number of burglaries happening (approximately down by 30%). This was particularly pleasing as it contrasted with the regional and national position. Conversely, there had been an increase in overall recorded crime which reflected the national trend. This increase was mainly in violent crime cases (including domestic violence) and measures to better deal with perpetrators, especially repeat offenders, were being actively looked into.

In conjunction with Pubwatch, work was happening on how to reduce crimes occurring as a result of the night time economy.

*(Councillor M.S. Buttery arrived at the meeting at the conclusion of this item.)*

## **22. Corporate Anti-Social Behaviour Policy**

The Head of Housing and Partnerships advised that although a draft policy had been produced, discussions were ongoing about how best to move this matter forward. Accordingly, it was not possible at this stage to present a document to Members for consideration.

## **23. Quarter 3 2017/18 Housing, Crime and Partnerships Priority Delivery Plan Performance Update**

Members considered and noted the latest performance information for the Housing, Crime and Partnerships Priority Delivery Plan (PDP) 2017/18 (Item 6.1 – 6.9 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

*(Councillor M.W.A. Hoare arrived at the meeting during the consideration of this item.)*

The following updates were then provided on specific targets/actions as detailed in the progress report:

### Housing Targets

At the end of Q3, 136 affordable housing units had been built. Conversely, no affordable housing had been secured via S106 agreements so far this year as no such agreements had yet been made.

### Moss Road Estate Redevelopment

A completion event was held in late February and it was still expected that the full scheme would be completed by the end of Q4.

A Member offered congratulations to all those involved with the redevelopment scheme and the improvements it had made to the area.

### Garage Sites Redevelopment

11 properties had been completed by the end of Q3, and at this stage it was intended that the full scheme would be finished by the end of September 2018.

### Improvement Works to Council Properties

The programme of works was on track to be achieved, in particular the installation of double glazed windows which was due to end in this financial year.

### Crime Statistics

As an aside to the data contained in the report, Members were advised that the Community Safety Hub was receiving on average approximately 230 case referrals per month.

### CCTV Charging and Provision

Work had been delayed due to the relocation of the CCTV Team and Control Room, procurement of new equipment and decommissioning of the old premises.

### Community Trigger

Workshops had recently been delivered in Brereton and Norton Canes.

*(Inspector Ward left the meeting at the conclusion of this item.)*

*The meeting adjourned at 3:45pm for 15 minutes to allow time for other Members to arrive ready for the next agenda item.*

## **24. Re-thinking Social Housing Workshop**

*(Councillors S.K. Crabtree and T.B. Johnson arrived at the meeting prior to the start of this item.)*

Members were advised that the workshop was being held as part of a project organised by the Chartered Institute for Housing (CIH) to examine some fundamental questions about the role and purpose of social housing.

The purpose of the workshop was to give Members the chance to explore those questions in more detail and formulate views on the questions presented. The outcomes of the workshop would be fed back to the CIH.

Prior to the conclusion of the meeting Members' views were sought on potential work programme items for the Committee in 2018/19. A Member requested that "planned improvement works to the Council's housing stock" be included for consideration.

The meeting closed at 5:00 p.m.

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CHAIRMAN