

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
COMMUNITY SAFETY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
HELD ON THURSDAY 6 APRIL 2017, AT 4.00 P.M.
IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, BEECROFT ROAD, CANNOCK

PART 1

PRESENT:

Councillors

Johnson, T.B. (Chairman)

Lea, C.I. (Vice-Chairman)

Dean, A.

Snape, P.A.

Dudson, Miss M.J.

Stretton, Mrs. P.Z.

Martin, Mrs. C.E.

Sutherland, M.

Smith, C.D.

Witton, P.T.

Also in attendance:

- Councillor C. Bennett, Crime & Partnerships Portfolio Leader (Observer).
- Chief Inspector Geoff Knight, Commander, Cannock Local Policing Team.
- Inspector Mark Ward, Deputy Commander, Cannock Local Policing Team.
- Sergeant Jamie McArthur, Neighbourhood Supervisor, Cannock Local Policing Team.
- Duncan Rollo, Vulnerability & Partnerships Manager, Staffordshire Police.

22. Apologies

Apologies were submitted for Councillors Miss M.A. Freeman, Mrs. D. Grice and G.N. Molineux.

23. 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.

24. Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 13 December, 2016 be approved as a correct record and signed.

25. Police Performance Report and Update on Local Policing Changes

Local Policing Changes

Chief Inspector Knight reported that a new Chief Constable was due to start with Staffordshire Police in the coming months, therefore any final decisions on the local policing structure for Cannock Chase and Staffordshire would not be made until after the new Chief Constable was in post and had had the opportunity to review all available options.

Crime and Anti-social Behaviour Data

Chief Inspector Knight talked Members through the data for each individual recorded category of crime and anti-social behaviour (ASB) for the previous 12 months, and gave reasons as to why some categories had seen a more noticeable increase or decrease of incidents recorded. Overall recorded crime for the 2016/17 had increased by 825 incidents compared to 2015/16, which equated to an increase of 14.7%. Staffordshire wide there had been 13.9% increase for the year. Whilst the level of increase was disappointing, it was important to note that this had occurred due to the public being more proactive in reporting incidents, and police officers doing more to target offenders and make arrests. In respect of ASB, the number of recorded incidents decreased by 10% compared to the year before. Staffordshire wide there had been a 6.5% increase in ASB incidents.

A Member asked where the particular crime hotspots were in the District given the near 15% increase in recorded incidents. Chief Inspector Knight responded that there were not any hotspots as such as incidents were spread across the District.

The same Member then commented that the public's perception of the Police appeared to have improved as there was now a greatly willingness to report incidents then had been the case previously. Chief Inspector Knight responded that a lot of work had been done to improve community engagement and build up contacts within local groups and organisations to encourage more reporting and gain better intelligence on local issues.

Another Member then queried if offenders were from specific areas within the District or elsewhere. Inspector Ward replied that whilst some were locally based, the majority were from outside of the District

Inspector Ward, Sergeant McArthur and Duncan Rollo all reported on initiatives and projects undertaken locally to try and reduce incidents of crime and ASB.

Chief Inspector Knight reported that due to the number and types of recording categories currently in use for crime and ASB, there had been some instances where incidents had been logged incorrectly. Training had been undertaken with control room staff to ensure incidents were logged correctly. As previously reported, it was still intended to reduce the number of recording categories for ASB incidents from 17 down to 7, but this process was having to go through the appropriate channels before it could implemented.

A Member raised concerns he had reported at previous meetings regarding a lack of a visible policing presence within Cannock town centre. Inspector Ward replied

that the number of on-beat PCs and PCSOs had been increased in Cannock town centre on Saturdays, and it was also intended to do the same in Hednesford and Rugeley town centres. Chief Inspector Knight further replied that the physical presence of officers in the town centre was reassuring for shoppers, and also gave people the opportunity to come and talk with officers and raise concerns.

Members requested that they be provided with local level crime and ASB data so they could better understand what incidents were happening within their wards.

The Partnerships, Community Safety & CCTV Manager reported that the Council was working with the Police, voluntary sector and Staffordshire County Council to provide a range of events for young people during the Easter and Summer schools holidays as these were times of the year when incidents of anti-social behaviour typically peaked.

Members were also advised that the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) had money available from his 'People Power' and 'Proceeds of Crime' funds to provide grant funding locally for community safety initiatives which met the needs of the Community Safety Partnership and priorities of the PCC. Information about these funds would be circulated to Members via the Senior Committee Officer. Chief Inspector Knight commented that he would be happy to give support to any applications made locally.

Police Satisfaction Survey

Chief Inspector Knight reported on the results from the latest police satisfaction survey, which showed for Cannock Chase:

- 77.1% of respondents agreed that the police dealt with what mattered;
- 90.8% of victims of crime were either satisfied or very satisfied with the police response (total for Staffordshire was 88.9%);
- 82.1% of victims of ASB were either satisfied or very satisfied with the police response; and
- 81.3% of hate crime victims were either satisfied or very satisfied with the police response.

26. Quarter 3 Performance Report 2016-17 – Cleaner and Safer Environments Priority Delivery Plan (Community Safety Section)

Members noted the latest performance information (Item 5.1 to 5.5 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

The Head of Housing and Partnerships reported that documents for the procurement of new CCTV systems had been finalised. There was however an issue with the relocation of the CCTV Service as the current equipment would need replacing once the Service had moved, but funds were not available at present to do so. In respect of the PREVENT training, a further session had been arranged for employees in the Housing Maintenance team.

The Partnerships, Community Safety Manager & CCTV reported that the Chase Community Partnership website had been updated and was now live.

27. Review of the Work Undertaken by the Committee in 2016-17

The Chairman reported on the main work undertaken by the Committee during 2016-17, which included:

- Receiving a presentation on the work of Communities Against Crimes of Hate (CACH) and understanding how CACH worked with partners to reduce instances of hate crime within the District;
- Receiving regular updates on the progress of the Police Transformation Project and the Police crime and anti-social behaviour data for the District;
- Receiving a presentation on the work of the Staffordshire Police 'PREVENT' Team and Strategy.
- Reviewing the quarterly performance data for the Priority Delivery Plan.

28. Forward Agenda Items for the 2017-18 Municipal Year

The Committee agreed for inclusion the following items on the 2017/18 work programme for the Housing, Crime and Partnerships Scrutiny Committee:

- CCTV Service Relocation and Procurement;
- Anti-social Behaviour Policy;
- Hate Crime Policy;
- Domestic Abuse Policy.

The meeting closed at 5:20pm

CHAIRMAN