

Meeting: Housing Sub-Committee

Date: 25 January 2016

Title: Crime and Disorder Priorities

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Service: Law and Governance

Wards affected: All

1. Purpose of Report

To inform the sub-committee of its role in relation to scrutinising crime and disorder issues and to prepare for a meeting with the Police and Crime Commissioner.

2. Recommendations

The sub-committee is recommended to consider the information provided in the report and identify some key issues relating to crime and disorder that will be discussed with the Police and Crime Commissioner at the meeting of the sub-committee on 22 February 2016.

3. Details

- 3.1 The Housing sub-committee has been designated as the Council's crime and disorder committee. This has been part of the sub-committee's terms of reference since it was established in June 2014. The requirement for the Council to have a scrutiny committee designated to scrutinise crime and disorder originates from the Police and Justice Act 2006. The committee must meet at least once a year to consider crime and disorder issues. In past years, the responsible sub-committee has dedicated one meeting a year to looking at crime and disorder. This municipal year, the meeting of Housing sub-committee on 22 February 2016 has been set aside for this purpose.
- 3.2 As in previous years, the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC), Vera Baird, has been invited to attend the meeting to give an update on the delivery of the 2013-18 Police and Crime Plan. Representatives of Safer North Tyneside will also be in attendance at the meeting in February to provide an update on the delivery of the priorities in the Community Safety Strategy. The meeting provides the sub-committee with the opportunity to review and scrutinise the work of the PCC and the Safer North Tyneside Partnership. Some information and background context to the role of the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Safer North Tyneside partnership is provided below.

Police and Crime Commissioners

- 3.3 Police and Crime Commissioners are elected to make sure that local police meet the needs of the community. The PCC is the voice of the people and holds the police to account. Their aim is to cut crime and deliver an effective and efficient police service within their force area. The main role of the PCC is to:
- Secure an efficient and effective police for their area;
 - Appoint the Chief Constable, hold them to account for running the force, and if necessary dismiss them;
 - Set the police and crime objectives for the area through a police and crime plan;
 - Set the force budget and determine the precept;
 - Contribute to the national and international policing capabilities set out by the Home Secretary; and
 - Bring together community safety and criminal justice partners, to make sure local priorities are joined up.

- 3.4 Northumbria Police and Crime Panel (the Panel) scrutinises the work of the PCC by acting as a critical friend – assisting through independent challenge. The Panel has a number of powers and responsibilities, including:

- Reviewing the draft Police and Crime Plan to ensure local priorities have been considered;
- Scrutinising the Commissioner's annual report;
- Reviewing and scrutinising decisions and actions of the PCC;
- Reviewing, and potentially vetoing, the Commissioner's proposed policing precept (the part of Council Tax collected for policing);
- Holding confirmation hearings for the proposed appointment of a Chief Constable, and
- Reviewing PCC's proposed appointment for Chief Executive, Chief Finance Officer and Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner.

The Panel consists of 2 councillors from each of the 6 local authorities in the Northumbria area plus 2 independent members. Meetings take place in public on a bi-monthly basis.

- 3.5 Due to the vast area that is covered by the Police and Crime Plan and the wide range of issues that encompass crime and disorder, it is acknowledged that it is worthwhile for Members to do some preparation work to identify key issues to be discussed with the Police and Crime Commissioner. This process was undertaken last year and helped to create a more focused discussion on issues that Members know to be of importance to residents.

The issues identified by the sub-committee in the previous year to focus on were:

- 1) The prevalence of hate crime in the Northumbria area and how Northumbria Police deal with it;
- 2) Tackling drug related crime; and
- 3) Cyber crime, in particular how Northumbria Police deal with complaints regarding bullying and harassment on social media.

- 3.6 The Police and Crime Plan 2013-18 is appended to this report to help Members identify specific crime and disorder issues to discuss at the meeting on 22nd February 2016. The public consultation undertaken to shape the plan resulted in the following top 5 priorities: violence against women and children; alcohol or drug related crime, violent crime, anti-social behaviour and burglary. This led to five police and crime objectives of putting

victims first; dealing with anti-social behaviour; domestic and sexual abuse; reducing crime and community confidence.

- 3.7 As well as considering the priorities contained within the Police and Crime Plan, Members may also wish to draw on experiences of undertaking ward work which has highlighted particular crime and disorder issues known to be a current concern. Following the discussion on current crime and disorder priorities, the sub-committee is urged to agree 3 specific topics/issues to raise with the Police and Crime Commissioner. Members are encouraged to select topics that are strategic and impact on a wide range of people rather than isolated examples of crime and disorder.

Safer North Tyneside

- 3.8 Safer North Tyneside is a multi-agency partnership that includes North Tyneside Council, Northumbria Police, Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service, Northumbria Probation Trust and North Tyneside Clinical Commissioning Group. The partnerships aim is to improve community safety, identify local community safety priorities and to reduce crime, disorder and offending.
- 3.9 The Council, together with its partners, is required to prepare and implement a strategy for the reduction of crime and disorder in the area, including anti-social and other behaviour adversely affecting the local environment. The Safer North Tyneside Strategy 2014-19 is attached as Appendix A.
- 3.10 At the meeting on 22 February 2016, officers from the Community Safety team will present performance information against targets, which demonstrates the progress made by Safer North Tyneside in delivering the priorities of the Community Safety Strategy.

4. Appendices

Appendix A - Police and Crime Plan 2013-2018

Appendix B – Safer North Tyneside priorities

5. Background Information

Police and Crime Plan 2013-2018

Minutes of Housing sub-committee – 23 February 2015