

Meeting: Housing Sub-Committee

Date: 27 February 2017

Title: Crime and Disorder Priorities

Author: Emma Fagan

Service: Law and Governance

Wards affected: All

1. Purpose of Report

To remind the sub-committee of its role in relation to scrutinising crime and disorder issues.

2. Details

- 2.1 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.
- 2.2 The Police and Crime Commissioner for Northumbria, Vera Baird, will be in attendance at the meeting, alongside Chief Constable Steve Ashman. The sub-committee will be provided with an overview of the current priorities for the Commissioner, as well as an update on the latest financial position, including new initiatives that have been brought in to bring about efficiencies and the success of these.
- 2.3 In preparing for the meeting, the Chair and Deputy have also requested that some information be delivered on the objectives of the Prevent agenda and how it is enforced and monitored. Information has also been requested in relation to the armed police presence at the Christmas Markets in Newcastle. Chief Constable Ashman will be in attendance to discuss such operational issues with the sub-committee.

Police and Crime Commissioners – background information

- 2.4 For information, 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.

2.5 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. Appendices

N/A