

CABINET ITEM COVERING SHEET PROFORMA

AGENDA ITEM

REPORT TO CABINET

12 MARCH 2015

REPORT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY SELECT COMMITTEE

CABINET DECISION

Housing and Community Safety – Lead Cabinet Member – Councillor Nelson

Scrutiny Review of Neighbourhood Policing

1. Summary

The attached report outlines the findings of the review of neighbourhood policing. The review was undertaken by Housing and Community Safety Committee. The review considered the impact of the ongoing budget reductions and recent Cleveland Police restructure on the operation of neighbourhood policing in Stockton Borough. A number of the recommendations are for Cleveland Police.

2. Recommendations

The Committee recommend that:

1. That as part of its overall consultation and engagement strategy, Cleveland Police and the Council should ensure a consistent approach to communications, including:
 - a) a consistent approach to the use of social media by local neighbourhood teams, using the good practice that exists in the Force;
 - b) the Council's Community Safety Manager and Police keep under review information sharing with the Council to ensure it remains effective and any changes in key contacts are communicated in a timely manner;
 - c) a recommendation to all Members that they should keep up to date with changes in their local areas, including by accessing Cleveland Police's 'My Neighbourhood' website. A link to this should be included on the Council's intranet.
 - d) and that following the election, all Members consider what, if any, additional, appropriate methods of communicating with their local police team are required.
2. Cleveland Police should provide annual updates on the policing of Stockton Borough to all Members, and this should take place using the existing update session when the Police and Crime Commissioner consults all Members on his Budget and Plan;

3.
 - a) the increased range of responsibilities of Integrated Neighbourhood Teams be noted, and that work to define and explain the revised role of neighbourhood policing be supported;
 - b) that all Members recognise the recent changes, and use their key role in communities to explain the role and capacity of local police teams.
4.
 - a) the Committee notes and values the work of the Community Safety Team, and Members should continue to receive regular ASB patrol updates from the community safety team and maintain links with their local ASB officer;
 - b) the Committee notes and values the work of the Safer Stockton Partnership, and the importance of maintaining representation from all appropriate bodies.
5. the excellent partnership working between the Council and Cleveland Police be recognised and supported.
6.
 - a) Cleveland Police should regularly monitor and share with partners the Public Confidence Survey results and other related consultation feedback;
 - b) That work be undertaken by the Police and Crime Panel to further understand changes in public confidence, expectations, and fear of crime issues.

3. Reasons for the Recommendations/Decision(s)

The report presents the findings of the scrutiny review that took place as part of the agreed work programme for 2014-15.

4. Members' Interests

Members (including co-opted Members with voting rights) should consider whether they have a personal interest in the item as defined in the Council's code of conduct (**paragraph 8**) and, if so, declare the existence and nature of that interest in accordance with paragraph 9 of the code.

Where a Member regards him/herself as having a personal interest in the item, he/she must then consider whether that interest is one which a member of the public, with knowledge of the relevant facts, would reasonably regard as so significant that it is likely to prejudice the Member's judgement of the public interest (**paragraphs 10 and 11 of the code of conduct**).

A Member with a prejudicial interest in any matter must withdraw from the room where the meeting considering the business is being held -

- in a case where the Member is attending a meeting (including a meeting of a select committee) but only for the purpose of making representations, answering questions or giving evidence, provided the public are also allowed to attend the meeting for the same purpose whether under statutory right or otherwise, immediately after making representations, answering questions or giving evidence as the case may be;
- in any other case, whenever it becomes apparent that the business is being considered at the meeting;

and must not exercise executive functions in relation to the matter and not seek improperly to influence the decision about the matter (**paragraph 12 of the Code**).

Further to the above, it should be noted that any Member attending a meeting of Cabinet, Select Committee etc; whether or not they are a Member of the Cabinet or Select Committee concerned, must declare any personal interest which they have in the business being considered at the meeting (unless the interest arises solely from the Member's membership of, or position of control or management on any other body to which the Member was appointed or nominated by the Council, or on any other body exercising functions of a public nature, when the interest only needs to be declared if and when the Member speaks on the matter), and if their interest is prejudicial, they must also leave the meeting room, subject to and in accordance with the provisions referred to above.

AGENDA ITEM

REPORT TO CABINET

12 MARCH 2015

**REPORT OF HOUSING AND
COMMUNITY SAFETY SELECT
COMMITTEE**

CABINET DECISION

SCRUTINY REVIEW OF NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING

SUMMARY

The attached report outlines the findings of the review of neighbourhood policing.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommend that:

1. That as part of its overall consultation and engagement strategy, Cleveland Police and the Council should ensure a consistent approach to communications, including:
 - a) a consistent approach to the use of social media by local neighbourhood teams, using the good practice that exists in the Force;
 - b) the Council's Community Safety Manager and Police keep under review information sharing with the Council to ensure it remains effective and any changes in key contacts are communicated in a timely manner;
 - c) a recommendation to all Members that they should keep up to date with changes in their local areas, including by accessing Cleveland Police's 'My Neighbourhood' website. A link to this should be included on the Council's intranet.
 - d) and that following the election, all Members consider what, if any, additional, appropriate methods of communicating with their local police team are required.
2. Cleveland Police should provide annual updates on the policing of Stockton Borough to all Members, and this should take place using the existing update session when the Police and Crime Commissioner consults all Members on his Budget and Plan;
3.
 - a) the increased range of responsibilities of Integrated Neighbourhood Teams be noted, and that work to define and explain the revised role of neighbourhood policing be supported;
 - b) that all Members recognise the recent changes, and use their key role in communities to explain the role and capacity of local police teams.

4. a) the Committee notes and values the work of the Community Safety Team, and Members should continue to receive regular ASB patrol updates from the community safety team and maintain links with their local ASB officer;

b) the Committee notes and values the work of the Safer Stockton Partnership, and the importance of maintaining representation from all appropriate bodies.
5. the excellent partnership working between the Council and Cleveland Police be recognised and supported.
6. a) Cleveland Police should regularly monitor and share with partners the Public Confidence Survey results and other related consultation feedback;

b) That work be undertaken by the Police and Crime Panel to further understand changes in public confidence, expectations, and fear of crime issues.

DETAIL

1. The attached report outlines the findings of the review of neighbourhood policing. The review was undertaken by Housing and Community Safety Committee. The review considered the impact of the ongoing budget reductions and recent Cleveland Police restructure on the operation of neighbourhood policing in Stockton Borough. A number of the recommendations are for Cleveland Police.
2. Following consideration by Cabinet an action plan will be submitted to the Select Committee setting out how approved recommendations will be implemented detailing officers responsible for action and timescales.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3. There are no financial implications.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

4. There are no significant legal implications.

RISK ASSESSMENT

5. This review of neighbourhood policing is categorised as low to medium risk. Existing management systems and daily routine activities are sufficient to control and reduce risk.

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY IMPLICATIONS

6. The review addresses the following Council Plan 2014-17 themes/objectives:

- Reduce crime and the fear of crime

EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT

7. This report is not subject to an Equality Impact Assessment.

CONSULTATION INCLUDING WARD/COUNCILLORS

8. The Committee has discussed the issues with: Police and Crime Commissioner, Chief Superintendent responsible for Neighbourhood Policing across Cleveland, Chief Inspector in charge of Neighbourhood Policing in Stockton, SBC Community Safety, and Chair of Safer Stockton Partnership.
9. Cleveland Police Public Confidence Survey data has been received from Cleveland Police.
10. A discussion group was hosted by Thornaby Police Station and attended by an Inspector, Sergeant, PCs and PCSOs from Thornaby and Stockton police teams.
11. All Members have been surveyed to determine their level of engagement with their local police teams.
12. The Corporate Director of Development and Neighbourhood Services, and Cabinet Member for Housing and Community Safety were consulted on the findings and recommendations.

Name of Contact Officer: Peter Mennear

Post Title: Scrutiny Officer

Telephone No. 01642 528957

Email Address: peter.mennear@stockton.gov.uk

Education related? No

Background Paper None

Ward(s) and Ward Councillors:

Property Not applicable