

STOCKTON-ON-TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET RECOMMENDATIONS

PROFORMA

Cabinet Meeting20th January 2022

1. Title of Item/Report

Crime and Disorder Select Committee - Scrutiny Review of Police Communications in Stockton-on-Tees (Task & Finish)

2. Record of the Decision

Consideration was given to the final report that presented the outcome of the Crime & Disorder Select Committee Scrutiny Review of Police Communications in Stockton-on-Tees (Task & Finish).

RESOLVED that:

1) Any scheduled reviews of Cleveland Police's 'Community Engagement Strategy 2020-2025' document factors in the key findings and recommendations from this review;

2) As part of the future communications protocol / agreement between Cleveland Police and Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council (SBC) Ward Councillors:

a) Cleveland Police promotes the need for regular and Ward-specific engagement with SBC Ward Councillors amongst its internal workforce (including the provision of information to Elected Members which is relevant to their particular Ward);

b) Cleveland Police and SBC use their various public-facing communication platforms to raise the profile of Force-Councillor partnership-working (highlighting examples of positive engagement leading to direct action and good outcomes);

c) Expectations around the physical visibility of police officers (i.e. Ward Surgeries, partnership-meetings, resident meetings) be re-established between Cleveland Police and all SBC Ward Councillors;

d) PCSO contacts for each Ward be reinforced to all SBC Ward Councillors, along with relevant escalation points if a PCSO is unavailable for any reason;

e) Consideration be given to using available platforms to raise the profile of PCSOs and their crucial part in the policing function (providing clarity on what they can and cannot do, including their use of social media as a communication tool);

f) Cleveland Police provides a response to concerns raised within the SBC Ward Councillor survey (undertaken as part of this review), with specific reference to what it is doing to promote better engagement in those Wards where Councillors have expressed dissatisfaction with existing communications arrangements;

3) Cleveland Police ensures robust mechanisms are in place for victims of crime / ASB which:

a) provides clarity on the expected communication process between Force and victim;

b) ensures updates are provided (as regularly as agreed with each individual victim) regarding the progression of investigations, even when there have been no developments;

4) The SBC Ward Councillor survey is repeated in approximately 12 months to gauge developments around Cleveland Police-SBC Ward Councillor communications arrangements.

3. Reasons for the Decision

This topic was included on the Scrutiny Work Programme for 2021-2022. The review is now complete, and the recommendations have been endorsed by the Crime and Disorder Select Committee for submission to Cabinet.

4. Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

None

5. Declared (Cabinet Member) Conflicts of Interest

None

6. Details of any Dispensations

N/A

7. Date and Time by which Call In must be executed

Midnight - Friday 28th January 2022

Proper Officer
24 January 2022