

## Crime and Disorder Select Committee

A meeting of Crime and Disorder Select Committee was held on Thursday, 3rd December, 2020.

**Present:** Cllr Pauline Beall (Chair), Cllr Paul Weston (Vice-Chair), Cllr Kevin Faulks, Cllr Clare Gamble, Cllr Barbara Inman, Cllr Stephen Richardson, Cllr Tony Riordan, Cllr Andrew Sherris and Cllr Mrs Sylvia Walmsley.

**Officers:** Stephen Donaghy (A&H); Craig Willows, Jimmy Jones (CS); Gareth Aungiers (Xentrall); Gary Woods, Peter Bell (MD).

**Also in attendance:** Cllr Steve Nelson (Cabinet Member for Access, Communities and Community Safety), Cllr Norma Stephenson OBE (Assistant Cabinet Member for Access, Communities and Community Safety), Cllr Mick Moore.

**Apologies:** None.

### **CD 24/20**      **Declarations of Interest**

There were no interests declared.

### **CD 25/20**      **Minutes of the meeting held on 5 November 2020**

Consideration was given to the minutes of the Crime and Disorder Select Committee meeting which was held on the 5th November 2020 for approval and signature.

AGREED that the minutes be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

### **CD 26/20**      **Scrutiny Review of Fly-Grazed Horses**

Consideration was given to the draft final report and recommendations in relation to the Committee's Scrutiny Review of Fly-Grazed Horses.

Attention was drawn to two specific aspects of the report:

- Page 20 (paragraph 4.19): a table outlining approximate costs incurred by Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council in relation to the removal of horses from Council land had been added.
- Page 33 (paragraph 5.8) (also replicated on page 10 (paragraph 1.14) as part of the Executive Summary): option a) requires a slight re-wording to reflect comments made at the end-of-review tri-partite meeting that was held after the Committee considered the summary of emerging findings in November 2020. Option a) will be amended to:

'Continue with the status quo that sees SBC fulfilling its responsibilities via its own in-house process for dealing with horses fly-grazed on Council land where necessary. However, to effectively manage this, a strategic framework needs to be developed with key partners (including Cleveland Police) to deal with trespass on land other than that which is Council-owned.'

Members thanked all those involved in pulling together the final report, and also noted the presence of horses on Queen Elizabeth Way (near Preston Park)

which Officers would follow-up on after this meeting.

AGREED that the final report be approved for submission to Cabinet, subject to the amendment identified above.

**CD  
27/20**      **Scrutiny Review of Fraud Awareness (Personal)**

Consideration was given to the scope and project plan in relation to the Committee's Scrutiny Review of Fraud Awareness (Personal). The main issues that would be covered by the review included:

- Understanding the process for reporting (personal) fraud offences, including the role of key stakeholders in the handling of cases.
- Establishing how the public are made aware of the required reporting mechanisms and how this is reinforced by local organisations, including work around reducing the risk of becoming a victim of fraud.
- Ascertaining the ways in which local victims of fraud are identified and supported.
- Identifying any local COVID-19-related fraud concerns and whether any targeted awareness-raising / support may be required.

Several contributors to the review had been identified, including Action Fraud, Cleveland Police, the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC), Victim Care and Advice Service (VCAS), the Local Authority and third-sector organisations such as Citizens Advice and Age UK. Two evidence-gathering sessions were proposed, with a final report to be presented to Cabinet in May 2021.

Members agreed this was a very pertinent review given the current climate and commented on the perceived increase in phishing scams that appeared to be circulating. Phone scams where people are duped into returning a call at huge cost were also highlighted.

AGREED that the draft scope and project plan of the review be approved.

**CD  
28/20**      **Work Programme 2020-2021**

Consideration was given to the Crime and Disorder Select Committee Work Programme for 2020-2021. The next Committee meeting was scheduled for the 14th January 2021 and would include the first evidence-gathering for the Fraud Awareness (Personal) review, as well as the latest progress update in relation to the outstanding recommendation from the previously completed Scrutiny Review of School Parking.

AGREED that the Crime and Disorder Select Committee Work Programme for 2020-2021 be noted.

**CD  
29/20**      **Chair's Update**

The Chair had no further updates.

In closing the meeting, Members and Officers were thanked for their contributions in what had been a very challenging year, and the Chair wished everyone a happy Christmas.