

**AGENDA ITEM**

**REPORT TO CRIME AND  
DISORDER SELECT  
COMMITTEE**

**11 FEBRUARY 2021**

**REPORT OF THE  
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR,  
ADMINISTRATION,  
DEMOCRATIC AND  
ELECTORAL SERVICES**

**TASK AND FINISH REVIEW – POLICE WARD MEMBER COMMUNICATIONS IN  
STOCKTON- ON-TEES**

**SUMMARY**

This report advises the Select Committee of an additional topic added to the Select Committee's work programme by Executive Scrutiny Committee.

**RECOMMENDATION**

That Crime and Disorder Select Committee establish a Task and Finish Group from their membership.

**DETAIL**

1. Cleveland Police and Crime Panel have established a Task and Finish Group to examine the existing communication methods of Cleveland Police with / between the public and other local stakeholders. The review is scheduled to report to the Cleveland Police and Crime Panel in Summer 2021. The main aims of the Police and Crime Panel review are to:
  - Establish the communication priorities of the Force and how these are being actioned
  - Understand the interplay between the OPCC and the Force in relation to communication
  - Examine the ability for the public and key partners to engage with the Force, and how the Force then acts on this (i.e. providing feedback)
  - Identify the ways and means in which the positive work of the Force can be communicated more widely and efficiently, which could aid both a future increase in the reporting of crimes and a reduced fear of crime
2. Complementing this Cleveland-wide review of the Police Communications Strategy, it is felt that a Stockton focused Task and Finish Review would be beneficial in order to examine information sharing and communications in Stockton-on Tees between neighbourhood police, local ward Councillors, local residents and key stakeholders. Discussions will need to take place with the Police about the timing of this piece of work to ensure that there can be appropriate support and facilitate a construction dialogue.
3. The review would seek to address concerns from local ward Councillors and ensure that appropriate information sharing mechanisms are in place with a view to strengthening effective partnership working in Stockton-on-Tees with evidence gathered from local

Ward Councillors and Neighbourhood Police Officers. The topic suggestion pro-forma is attached.

4. Executive Scrutiny Committee have agreed that the issue is added to this year's work programme to be conducted by a Task and Finish Group established from the Crime and Disorder Select Committee membership.

## **CONSULTATION**

5. Discussion has taken place with the Cabinet Member and Chair of Crime and Disorder Select Committee and the topic has been added to the Scrutiny Work Programme by Executive Scrutiny Committee.

## **FINANCIAL AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

6. The work programme is resourced within existing budgets. No legal implications are identified at this stage.

## **RISK ASSESSMENT**

7. There is a need to meet legislative requirements and for the Council to put in place internal mechanisms to ensure the safety and quality of key services in addition to deploying resources in the most effective way. The selection of appropriate topics for review can help to support service improvement; the selection of inappropriate topics will lead to the waste of Officer and Member time and resources.

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<u>Background Papers:</u>	None
<u>Ward(s) and Ward Councillors:</u>	Not Ward Specific
<u>Property Implications:</u>	None