

Crime and Disorder Select Committee

A meeting of Crime and Disorder Select Committee was held on Thursday, 17th June, 2021.

Present: Cllr Pauline Beall (Chair), Cllr Paul Weston (Vice-Chair), Cllr Kevin Faulks, Cllr Clare Gamble, Cllr Barbara Inman, Cllr Steve Matthews, Cllr Stephen Richardson, Cllr Mrs Sylvia Walmsley, Cllr Alan Watson

Officers: Marc Stephenson (CS); Gary Woods (MD)

Also in attendance: None

Apologies: None

CD 1/21 Evacuation Procedure

The evacuation procedure was noted.

The Chair welcomed new Committee Members, Councillor Steve Matthews and Councillor Alan Watson, who were attending their first meeting, and also asked for thanks to be recorded to previous Committee Members, Councillor Tony Riordan and Councillor Andrew Sherris, for their valued input.

CD 2/21 Declarations of Interest

There were no interests declared.

CD 3/21 Minutes of Meeting Held on 15th April 2021

Consideration was given to the minutes of the Crime and Disorder Select Committee meeting which was held on the 15th April 2021 for approval and signature.

AGREED that the minutes of the Committee meeting held on the 15th April 2021 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

CD 4/21 Scrutiny Review of Police Communications in Stockton-on-Tees (Task & Finish)

Consideration was given to the draft scope and project plan for the Scrutiny Review of Police Communications in Stockton-on-Tees (Task & Finish).

The main aim of the review would be to seek to ensure that appropriate information-sharing mechanisms were in place (with a particular focus on the communications between Cleveland Police and local Ward Councillors), with a view to strengthening effective partnership-working within the Borough. The findings and any subsequent recommendations would also feed into a piece of work being undertaken by a Task and Finish Group of the Cleveland Police and Crime Panel which was looking into the overarching Cleveland Police Communications Strategy.

Key contributors would be Cleveland Police (including frontline Officers) and

local Ward Councillors, and it was envisaged that the Task and Finish Group's final report would be presented to Cabinet in November 2021.

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

**CD
5/21**

Scrutiny Review of Public Space Protection Orders

Prior to the consideration of the scope and project plan for the Committee's next in-depth scrutiny review regarding Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs), a background briefing was provided by the Council's Community Protection Service Manager in relation to the following key aspects involving this scrutiny topic:

- Legislative background
- When can an order be introduced?
- What can an order cover?
- Potential limitations
- Consultation and communication
- Further reading and resource (website link)
- Legislation (website links)

Members were reminded that the existence and ramifications of PSPOs was briefly touched-upon during the Committee's Councillor Call for Action (CCfA) investigation into obstructive and illegal parking around Whitehouse Primary School (<http://www.egenda.stockton.gov.uk/aksstockton/images/att37952.pdf>) during 2019, and remain a tool that can be used as a measure to improve community safety.

It was proposed (and subsequently agreed) that the briefing note provided be used as a template during the course of the review which would be built-on to reflect the evidence the Committee received – this would ultimately give Members a composite picture of PSPOs.

In preparation for the first evidence-gathering session in July 2021, the Committee was encouraged to familiarise itself with the Local Government Association 'Public Space Protection Orders – Guidance for Councils' document (link included within the briefing note).

Consideration was then given to the draft scope and project plan for the Scrutiny Review of Public Space Protection Orders. The main aims of the review would be to:

- Understand the requirements of introducing a PSPO and the process which needs to be followed.
- Explore further what a PSPO can be used for and whether the introduction of a PSPO in Stockton-on-Tees would have a benefit in reducing anti-social behaviour and crime in the Borough.
- Ascertain the benefits and potential challenges of introducing a PSPO within the boundary of Stockton-on-Tees, including benefits to the Council's wider partners (i.e. Police, Fire).
- Investigate any new and innovative ways of using a PSPO to improve community safety and address key issues in our communities.

Whilst many of the identified contributors to the review were various Council departments, it was also proposed to seek views from those partners who were most likely to be affected by this scrutiny topic, namely Cleveland Police and Cleveland Fire Brigade. Learning from other Local Authorities who had adopted PSPOs was a further important feature, and depending on the issues raised, there may be a need to involve specific interest groups. It was expected that the Committee's final report would be presented to Cabinet in February 2022.

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

**CD
6/21**

Work Programme 2021-2022

Consideration was given to the Crime and Disorder Select Committee Work Programme for 2021-2022. The next Committee meeting was scheduled for the 22nd July 2021 and would involve the first evidence-gathering for the Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs) review, consideration of the draft Action Plan in relation to the agreed recommendations (endorsed by Cabinet in May 2021) following the Committee's recently-completed review of Fraud Awareness (Personal), and the first progress update on the agreed actions following the previously-completed Councillor Call for Action (CCfA): Obstructive and Illegal Parking around Whitehouse Primary School investigation.

AGREED that the Crime and Disorder Select Committee Work Programme for 2021-2022 be noted.

**CD
7/21**

Chair's Update

The Chair had no further updates.