

AGENDA ITEM

**REPORT TO EXECUTIVE
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

19 JANUARY 2021

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

**SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME 2021/22 – TASK AND FINISH REVIEW
– POLICE WARD MEMBER COMMUNICATIONS IN STOCKTON- ON-TEES**

SUMMARY

This report advises Executive Scrutiny Committee of a potential topic for the Scrutiny Work Programme 2021/22.

RECOMMENDATION

That the attached topic suggestion proforma be considered for inclusion in the Scrutiny Work Programme 2021/22 as part of the work programme setting process.

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. Following on from and 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 would 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. A topic suggestion pro-forma is attached.

4. Subject to this topic being added to the Scrutiny Work Programme, it is envisaged that the review would be carried out 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.

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