

C&E O&S Review 2017/18 - Draft Recommendations

The Executive:

- 1. Continue to support that, neighbourhood policing be gradually re-introduced and give consideration, with partners, to a physical base being provided, where required;**

REASON: It was acknowledged that in some areas when Neighbourhood Policing had been removed, anti-social and criminal behaviour had increased. Members were pleased to note and support that in some areas it was being reintroduced gradually to areas, where there is an evidence base for the requirement. It was the Panel's opinion that a physical building and personnel presence was a deterrent to anti-social behaviour and provided a face for the Community to approach at any time.

- 2. Lobby the Police and Crime Commissioner how proceeds from crime could be used locally to address ASB and serious crime.**

REASON: Members asked if discussions could be held with the Police and Crime Commissioner as to how proceeds from crime could be used towards addressing local issues across South Yorkshire, for example for local CCTV schemes or towards projects such as the off-road motorcycle project run by South Yorkshire Police.

- 3. Chief Constable be lobbied to look at how resources can be used to continue the South Yorkshire Police Off-road Motor Cycle Unit.**

REASON: Members learnt that the off-road motor cycle unit was a temporary unit that would be reassessed at the end of March. Members acknowledged how hard the officers work to make a positive impact across Doncaster borough and South Yorkshire and hoped that the resources for this service could continue and possibly be more permanently resourced.

- 4. Support funding for the continuation/roll out of Youth Programmes for example, the EPIC Youth Crime Prevention currently running in Conisbrough.**

REASON: The Panel was made aware by a local ward Member that the EPIC Youth Crime Prevention programme in Conisbrough, was providing excellent services and highlighting the difference it was making to young people's lives.

It was stressed that there were a lot of great children and young people across the borough but a small few could easily turn to behaving in an anti-social manner without positive activities. Members were aware of current local authority resources but expressed their wish for the continuation/roll out of such

schemes where possible with support from the local Alliance to provide this service and assist with funding bids.

The Panel also expressed general concern that in some areas there were not enough volunteers, or it was always the same people in communities supporting projects of this nature and suggested that all Members and officers working in communities encourage people to undertake volunteer work, where appropriate.

5. Support the continued use Enforcement Mechanisms as a tool to combat crime and disorder.

REASON: The Panel acknowledged that sometimes simple enforcement steps could be taken to assist with reducing wider criminal acts and wished to see this continue and speedily within legal timeframes. There was an example that wooden shutters were provided on empty properties and if damaged having to be replaced with metal shutters. It was hoped that selective licencing schemes introduced would address this with landlords and that properties be secured quickly.

6. At every opportunity encourage people to report crime through raising awareness and considering alternative ways for them to do so in confidence and without fear.

REASON: The Panel noted that there had been difficulties with people being apathetic towards reporting crime, as it was the opinion that no action was being taken. It was felt that opportunities needed to be found for people to report crime without fear. It was stressed that communities needed to be made aware of information collation and that this must be encouraged, no matter how small the piece of information was. It was added that relationships with Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) and Neighbourhood Response Team (NRT) should be built upon, as knowledge and understanding was key, rather than just relying on intelligence from systems. Members were informed that improvements had been made to the South Yorkshire Police 101 number and the average waiting time was now 2 to 3 minutes. Members expressed a wish to be kept up-to-date about key issues around this area.

7. Support that there should be clearer and stronger engagement with local community groups and key community representatives in respect of local community safety issues. This could be reflected in current Council policies and plans such as the developing Community Engagement Framework and Community Safety Strategy.

REASON: From the case study used, it was shared that community leaders felt that they were not being listened too and not treated as professionals when they had valuable knowledge, a strong position within the community and often experts themselves in essential frontline services. Opinion was that there was not enough support from the Local Authority to help them support their own communities.

- 8. To ensure performance figures are reported accurately between partners and collated effectively across all reporting mechanisms.**

REASON: Community representatives felt that there was a lack of shared intelligence resulting in blockages. There were perceptions that data protection was sometimes used as a way of preventing information being shared effectively when all groups and partners are trying to work to the same goal. Concern was also expressed that reports of crime to the 736000 and 101 numbers were still not being brought together as one set of statistics, therefore not providing the true picture both in terms of evidence.

- 9. Ensure that key groups within the communities and partners, are clear and understand how CCTV can be used in an effective way and in line with relevant legislation and the Council's CCTV strategy.**

REASON: Members wished to ensure that the Local Authority has a CCTV strategy that meets best practice, supports community requirements and that supporting systems are up to date, whether actions be reported whilst officers are out on patrol or back in the office.

General Issues

- 10. Partnership Working – To share and learn from best practice from neighbouring authorities.**

REASON: It was recognised that partnership working is essential with crime prevention and therefore needs to work effectively in all areas. It was suggested that Doncaster could share and learn from best practice from neighbouring authorities such as Barnsley MBC (neighbourhood model) and Birmingham CC (crime expertise). Members were particularly interested in what they learnt from looking at the Barnsley model where Police and Neighbourhood Teams all worked alongside each other out of its own hub.

Monitoring - Reviewing Recommendations

- 11. That the Panel reviews progress on recommendations and issues raised as part of the 2017/18 workplan.**

REASON: The Panel would like a progress report to be within the next 12 months on each of the above recommendations including what impact has been made as a result

General Comment

- During discussions Members raised whether the Local Authority had a strategy to pursue compensation for damage to DMBC property and if so, sought assurance on how it worked.
- Seek assurance that there is a council strategy to pursue compensation for damage to DMBC property and how the process is undertaken.
- Partnership Working – Members were also interested to hear from the Fire Service who felt that they have the potential to have a greater role at a community level and by sharing information and data.

