



Report to Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny & Policy Development Committee 20th October 2016

Report of: Policy and Improvement Officer

Subject: Written responses to public questions

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Summary:

This report provides the Committee with copies of written responses to public questions asked at the Committee's meeting on 22nd September 2016.

The written responses are included as part of the Committee's meeting papers as the way of placing the responses on the public record.

Type of item: The report author should tick the appropriate box

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|---|---|
| Reviewing of existing policy | |
| Informing the development of new policy | |
| Statutory consultation | |
| Performance / budget monitoring report | |
| Cabinet request for scrutiny | |
| Full Council request for scrutiny | |
| Community Assembly request for scrutiny | |
| Call-in of Cabinet decision | |
| Briefing paper for the Scrutiny Committee | |
| Other | X |

The Scrutiny Committee is being asked to:

Note the report

Background Papers: None

Category of Report: OPEN

Safer & Stronger Communities Scrutiny & Policy Development Committee
Thursday 22nd September 2016 - Public Questions

Response to the public questions raised by Mr Alan Kewley from Sheffield for Democracy at the meeting held on Thursday 22nd September 2016.

Question 1

How does the Safer & Stronger Communities Scrutiny Committee scrutinise the work of the Police & Crime Panel, whose meetings are held in Rotherham?

The Police & Crime Panel

Police Crime Panels (PCP's) were established with the statutory function to scrutinise and hold to account the Police Crime Commissioners, who replaced the now abolished police authorities. A PCP has the power to scrutinise the activities of the Commissioner, this includes the ability to review the Police & Crime Plan and Annual Report. The PCP can also veto certain decisions, request PCC papers and call the PCC and Chief Constable to public hearings. The PCP also rules over any complaints made against the PCC. In south Yorkshire there is a Memorandum of Understanding between the Panel and the Police and Crime Commissioner.

The South Yorkshire PCP includes elected members from each district of South Yorkshire (Barnsley, Doncaster, Rotherham and Sheffield) plus two co-opted independent members, making twelve panel members in total. Sheffield Council has four places on the PCP and one of the Sheffield representatives, Cllr Talib Hussain has been appointed Chair of the Panel for the 2016-17 municipal year.

In terms of the running of the PCP, local authorities need to choose a lead authority to hold central funding and provide scrutiny support, for South Yorkshire the appointed host authority is Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council.

Impact of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011

The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 did not change the legal remit of local authority Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committees; but it confirmed that they do not have the power to directly scrutinise the Police and Crime Commissioner because the appointed individual would not be a 'responsible authority' on the Community Safety Partnership. Under previous arrangements the Scrutiny Committees could scrutinise the South Yorkshire Police Authority. The South Yorkshire PCP will therefore carry out part of the role previously exercised by Local Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committees.

Joint Working Protocol

There is a Joint Working Protocol between the South Yorkshire PCP and the four South Yorkshire Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committees (Sheffield, Barnsley, Doncaster and Rotherham). In Sheffield the Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny Committee fulfils the role of the statutory Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee.

The Joint Working Protocol outlines the relationship between the South Yorkshire PCP and the four South Yorkshire Local Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committees to enable sharing of information and work programmes. Should any serious concerns arise during the year the Protocol includes provisions for the PCP to invite one or more Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committees Chairs to attend PCP meetings to provide input regarding an issue. The Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee Chairs can also request that items be put on the PCP agenda.

Safer & Stronger Communities Scrutiny Committee Work Programme

The Safer & Stronger Communities Scrutiny Committee plan to request updates on the work of the South Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel during the 2016-17 municipal year. These updates have been added to the Committee's Work Programme for its next meeting on 20th October 2016 and also 6th April 2017. The Committee may also choose to invite one or more of the Sheffield PCP representatives to attend a future meeting.

Response provided by: Diane Owens, Policy & Improvement Officer

Question 2

What action will SCC be taking in conjunction with the Police to re-establish some form of community based meetings?

From 3rd October 2016 Sheffield City Council and South Yorkshire Police have formed the Partnership Community Safety Team and closer working relations will be formed between Sheffield City Council and South Yorkshire Police at a strategic as well as operational level.

South Yorkshire Police are currently considering their community engagement structures and Sheffield City Council will follow their lead and support/work with them to find the best solution, bearing in mind the significant reduction in resources.

Response provided by: Maxine Stavrianakos, Head of Neighbourhood Intervention & Tenant Support

Question 3

Will the Safer & Stronger Communities Scrutiny Committee be undertaking a scrutiny exercise into the role and responsibility of the Safer and Sustainable Communities Partnership?

The Safer & Stronger Communities Scrutiny Committee has allocated its February meeting to look at the work of the Safer and Sustainable Communities Partnership; this meeting will take place on Thursday 16th February 2017, 4-7pm and will be open to the public. The exact focus of this scrutiny session has not yet been finalised.

Response provided by: Diane Owens, Policy & Improvement Officer

Responses sent by email on Friday 7th October

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