

SELECT COMMITTEE

11th April 2018

Present –The Vice-Chairman (Councillor Whitaker) in the Chair, and Councillors Brown, Mason, Mercer, Moorby, Pighills, Shuttleworth and Sutcliffe. Also in attendance the Council's representative on the North Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel, Councillor Madeley.

Officers – Committee Officer.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Graham, Solloway, Staveley and Thompson.

Start: 6.30pm

Finish: 7.33pm

Minutes for Report

-Sitting as the Crime and Disorder Committee-

OS.403

NORTH YORKSHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

Further to Minute OS.373/16-17, the Chairman welcomed County Councillor Carl Les, Chairman of the North Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel, and Diane Parsons, Panel Secretariat, who had been invited to the meeting to brief the Committee, sitting as the Council's Crime and Disorder Committee, on the work undertaken by the Panel in holding the North Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner to account and other issues of interest since the last update presented in October 2016. Councillor Madeley as this Council's appointed representative to the Panel was also in attendance.

A briefing paper provided by Ms Parsons had been circulated to all Members of the Committee.

In presenting the paper and responding to Members' comments and questions thereon, County Councillor Les, supported by Ms Parsons, responded as follows

- the Commissioner had responded to concerns regarding performance of the Force's 101 non-emergency service, although the service was improving and a further £3 million was to be invested in the Force Control Room, more improvement was needed; the Panel would continue to scrutinise performance in the coming months.
- in approving the Commissioner's proposed precept for 2018/19, the Panel had received an assurance that officer numbers would be maintained, but not necessarily the number of warranted officers, for example those working on cybercrime did not need powers of arrest.
- a decision was still awaited from the Home Secretary on the Commissioner's business case for taking over the governance of the North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service; to date there had been no indication of when an announcement could be expected. Collaboration was already taking place under the existing arrangements (it was understand consideration was being given to moving the Fire Service's headquarters to space within the new Police headquarters, and the Fire and Police Stations in Ripon were now co-located), it was hoped that given the level of opposition the Minister would accept the arguments against a change in the governance arrangements.
- Each Police and Crime Panel currently received Home Office funding in the sum of £65,000; with no additional funding to be provided, capacity and the ability to resource the Panel's work should it have to become a Police, Fire and Crime Panel was a concern. The Panel could co-

opt persons with a particular expertise whom it considered would be of assistance to it in fulfilling its role. Members serving on the Panel were not in receipt of an allowance.

County Councillor Les indicated that as on previous occasions he would be happy to pursue through the Panel any concerns or issues Members may wish to raise. In response Members' requested

a. That the Panel ask the Commissioner to maintain a focus on rural crime, cybercrime and child sexual exploitation. In reply Councillor Les stated that he was happy to take this on board and in commenting indicated that he was aware that the Commissioner and Chief Constable were both very much aware of the threat posed by cybercrime. The Chief Constable and Commissioner were also both national leads for rural crime which could only be of benefit in addressing the issue in North Yorkshire. On the question of exploitation a Member also asked that the Commissioner be asked to provide an indication of whether work had been carried out to try and assess whether grooming / exploitation was a problem in Craven.

b. On the question of cybercrime and other similar crimes associated with cold calling, identity theft etc, a Member expressed the opinion that there was a need for strategic thinking on how best to encourage people to report that they had been a victim, how best to make people aware of who they should contact and who to contact for help. Means of how to educate and improve awareness also needed to be considered bearing in mind not everyone was computer literate. With regard to cold calling could the Commissioner be asked to obtain from Government its intentions. Councillor Les expressed the view that one resource was the Force's community messaging system, and it was important that Members and authorities sought to increase awareness and encouraged, through whatever means, for example, through publicity and attendance at parish council meetings, residents to sign up to the system.

Note : The Community Safety Officer to be asked to remind Members and parishes of the messaging system and for them to be encouraged to continue to promote and repeat the message about signing up to the system.

c. In light of the relatively recent murder of a woman in a Skipton supermarket could the Panel satisfy itself that the Commissioner or North Yorkshire Police are to carry out, or have carried out, a review of its approach to how it addresses complaints of domestic violence and the risks to individuals, and the adequacy of that review if undertaken.

In responding to a question regarding continuity in terms of the appointment / retention of an Inspector in Craven, Councillor Les stated that neither the Panel or Commissioner had a role or remit on such matters.

Cllr Madeley invited Members to contact him if they became aware of issues they would like him to raise on their / the Council's behalf, in between meetings with the Panel's representatives. He would also be willing to attend meetings of the Crime and Disorder Committee should it wish to invite him. In drawing the discussion to a close the Chairman thanked County Councillor Les and Diane Parsons for their attendance, and accepted Councillor Madeley's offer to attend future meetings of the Committee.

-Sitting as the Select Committee-

OS.404

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The minutes of the Committee's meeting held on 10th January 2018 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

OS.405

COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

The Committee was asked to give provisional consideration to its work programme for 2018/19. Details of items carried forward from the 2017/18 programme or raised as possible items for consideration, together with a summary of the position reached with the work of the Waste Management and Bereavement Services Working Groups were reported.

Members were reminded that the Committee could appoint up to two working groups at any one time for specific tasks, and that the default position, as agreed at Minute OS.363/16-17, was that all members of this Committee would be deemed to be members of each working group unless they indicated otherwise.

Committee Members were invited to suggest service areas / subjects, if any, they believed may merit review. Following a discussion, it was

Resolved – (1) That, in addition to the standing items and those items listed for possible inclusion in the draft programme now reported, in particular, ongoing work in relation to waste management and the proposed review of the new arrangements in respect of Disabled Facilities Grants, the following issues / areas are listed for possible inclusion in the Committee's 2018-19 work programme

- Attracting Families to Craven.
- Green Theme : The Council's current position in relation to the "green agenda" and plans for taking forward green / environmentally friendly initiatives. Note : The Audit and Governance Committee has indicated an intention to include an audit of the Council's environmental impact in the 2019-20 internal audit plan.
- Building Control Service
- Development Control Service : potential use of fee increases for reinvestment in the service.
- Vibrancy of Town Centres and Villages : What can be done to sustain town centres and villages across the District.
- Skipton Town Hall Project : To understand the financing and delivery of the Project, and the organisation and management of the Town Hall in terms of delivery of the aim of the Hall becoming a cultural hub.

(2) That further consideration is given to the work programme at the Committee's meeting provisionally scheduled for 6th June 2018.

Chairman.