



Committee: OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date: WEDNESDAY, 23 NOVEMBER 2016

Venue: MORECAMBE TOWN HALL

Time: 6.00 P.M.

Councillors are reminded that as Members of overview and scrutiny they may not be subjected to the Party Whip, which is prohibited under the Lancaster City Council Constitution.

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be acting in its capacity as the City Council's designated crime and disorder committee in accordance with the Police and Justice Act 2006 and Crime and Disorder (Overview and Scrutiny) Regulations 2009.

AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence

2. Minutes

Minutes of the Meeting held on 19th October, 2016 (previously circulated).

3. Items of Urgent Business authorised by the Chairman

4. Declarations of Interest

To receive declarations by Members of interests in respect of items on this Agenda.

Members are reminded that, in accordance with the Localism Act 2011, they are required to declare any disclosable pecuniary interests which have not already been declared in the Council's Register of Interests. (It is a criminal offence not to declare a disclosable pecuniary interest either in the Register or at the meeting).

Whilst not a legal requirement, in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 9 and in the interests of clarity and transparency, Members should declare any disclosable pecuniary interests which they have already declared in the Register, at this point in the meeting.

In accordance with Part B Section 2 of the Code Of Conduct, Members are required to declare the existence and nature of any other interests as defined in paragraphs 8(1) or 9(2) of the Code of Conduct.

5. Discussions with the Chief Inspector Lancaster Police

All Members of Council have been invited to attend the meeting for this item.

6. Community Safety Partnership Review 2015-16 (Pages 1 - 3)

A Review note is attached.

7. Referral from Council: Review of Measures taken to counter Racism, Xenophobia and Hate Crime (Pages 4 - 5)

To consider the Council Motion relating to a diverse and tolerant society referred from the Council meeting held on 13th July 2016 (attached).

The officer briefing note provided for Full Council with the motion is also attached for the Committee's information.

8. Discussions with Councillor Brendan Hughes

Cabinet Member with responsibility for:

- Community Safety
- Clean and Green

Councillor Brendan Hughes has been invited to the meeting.

9. Consideration of any requests for Councillor Call for Action (in accordance with the process)

10. Consideration of any Petitions (in accordance with the process)

ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS

(i) Membership

Councillors June Ashworth (Chairman), Caroline Jackson (Vice-Chairman), Alan Biddulph, Tracy Brown, Brett Cooper, Rob Devey, Roger Mace, David Whitaker and Phillippa Williamson

(ii) Substitute Membership

Councillors Lucy Atkinson, Nigel Goodrich, Janet Hall, Geoff Knight, Abi Mills and Nicholas Wilkinson

(iii) Queries regarding this Agenda

Please contact Jenny Kay, Democratic Services - telephone (01524) 582065 or email jkay@lancaster.gov.uk.

(iv) Changes to Membership, substitutions or apologies

Please contact Democratic Support, telephone 582170, or alternatively email democraticsupport@lancaster.gov.uk.

SUSAN PARSONAGE,
CHIEF EXECUTIVE,
TOWN HALL,
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**LANCASTER DISTRICT
COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP**

Community Safety Partnership Review 2015/16

Over the last 12 months, the Lancaster District CSP have:

- Commissioned, overseen and approved a Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) within the district. The Independent Chair & Author have presented their findings to the CSP and the report is now awaiting approval with the Home Office Quality Assurance panel and will be seen in December 2016.
- Have focused on Domestic Abuse, Hate Crime & Community Cohesion, Road Safety and Burglary (Other than a dwelling) at the quarterly meeting. This involved frontline workers and experts in the area attending the CSP Exec Meeting to talk about their experiences and pressures faced.
- Approved £12,000 of CSP funding for Domestic Abuse targeting projects, £12,978 of CSP funding for projects targeting other CSP Priorities. The CSP have also allocated £4,600 of CSP funding for Hate Crime & Community Cohesion projects.

The current CSP Priorities are:

- Violence Against the Person (Violent Crime)
- Anti-social Behaviour
- Road Safety
- Domestic Abuse
- Burglary Other than a dwelling

CSP Performance:

Comparison October to September 14/15 & 15/16.

	2014/15	2015/16	Numerical change	Percentage change
ASB	7395	6743	-652	-8.8%
Violence against the person	2299	2712	+413	+18%
Sexual offences	228	272	+44	+19.3%
Domestic abuse	880	1007	+127	+14.4%

ASB

- All ASB across Lancashire has increased by 1.9%
- 10 of the 14 districts have shown an increase during this period.

- Lancaster has had the largest reductions – both numerically and proportionally.

Violence

- Violence against the person increased across Lancashire by 26.8%.
- All districts have shown an increase.
- There is nothing specific relating to the increase – more of a culmination. E.g increase in all assaults, domestic violence, harassment. Some of the increase are also due to changes in recording practices. This has been seen nationally as well as locally.

Sexual offences

- Sexual offences have increased across Lancashire by 31.5%.
- All districts are showing an increase.
- Proportionally – Lancaster has had one of the smallest increases within Lancashire.
- The number of sexual offences where the use of social media/mobile phones for the purpose of contacting the victim and requesting/sending of images has been increasing in recent years. Victims are usually under the age of 16 yrs.

Domestic abuse

- Domestic abuse has increased across Lancashire by 18.1%.
- All districts have shown increases.
- Proportionally – Lancaster has had one of the smallest increases across Lancashire.
- 87 of the 127 increase relates to domestic assaults, with 44 relating to harassment.

Road safety

The below relates to the number of casualties.

All casualties (adult and child)

	2014/15	2015/16	Change	% Change
All KSI's	100	84	-16	-14.6%
Fatal injury	4	5	+1	+25%
Serious injury	96	79	-17	-17.7%
Slight injury	407	356	-51	-12.5%

- All KSI's across Lancashire are showing a reduction of 26 (-3.2%).
- Lancaster has had the highest number of KSI's across Lancashire – unfortunately this has been the norm in recent years, but as can be seen the number are reducing.

Child casualties

	2014/15	2015/16	Change	% Change
All KSI's	10	7	-3	-30%
Fatal injury	0	0	=	=
Serious injury	10	7	-3	-30%
Slight injury	41	27	-14	-34.1%

- Child casualties have reduced across Lancashire by 15 (-14.3%).

Hate Crime & Community Cohesion:

Year to date, there has been **35** hate crimes recorded, compared to **31** at the same time last year. The monthly average currently stands at 7 offences per month. Since the beginning of June there have been 19 offences recorded.

In response to whether there has been any increases since the 'Brexit' vote – the number of offences has remained similar. None of the offences appear to contain language/statements which suggest they are linked to the vote.

The ethnic breakdown (where stated) of the victims for offences since April has been

- Asian – 4
- Black – 2
- Middle Eastern – 2
- White North European – 21

Referral from Council: Review of Measures taken to counter Racism, Xenophobia and Hate Crime

At the Council meeting on 13th July, a Motion relating to a diverse and tolerant society was considered and the Council made the following decisions. Resolution (3), in bold type, is for this committee to consider:-

(1) We are proud to live in a diverse and tolerant society. Racism, xenophobia and hate crimes of any description have no place in our country. We at Lancaster City Council condemn racism, xenophobia and hate crimes unequivocally. We will not allow such behaviour to become acceptable. We will work with other bodies, Community Safety Partnership, Communities together, Lancashire county council, Town and Parish councils to challenge such behaviour and prevent such crimes. Lancaster City council wishes to assure all of the Districts residents and visitors that they are valued members of our society.

(2) That the statement above is displayed on the city council website, that it also directs residents to www.istreetwatch.co.uk for anonymous reporting of hate crime and that a press release is issued to publicise the motion.

(3) That Council recommends the Overview and Scrutiny Committee review the current local and city council measures taken to counter racism, xenophobia, and hate crime and report back to Full Council as soon as practicable.

(4) That all councillors consider increasing their involvement with, and support for, those organisations which strengthen communities and increase tolerance and respect between peoples from different countries, cultures and faiths.

COUNCIL 13 JULY 2016

MOTION ON NOTICE – DIVERSE AND TOLERANT SOCIETY

To consider the following motion submitted by Councillors David Smith, Karen Leytham and Sam Armstrong:-

“We are proud to live in a diverse and tolerant society. Racism, xenophobia and hate crimes of any description have no place in our country.

We at Lancaster City Council condemn racism, xenophobia and hate crimes unequivocally. We will not allow such behaviour to become acceptable. We will work with other bodies, Community Safety Partnership, Communities together, Lancashire county council, Town and Parish councils to challenge such behaviour and prevent such crimes.

Lancaster City council wish to assure all of the Districts residents and visitors that they are valued members of our society.”

Officer briefing note:-

Community Leadership is one of the four priorities in the Council’s Corporate Plan. The Council is committed to bringing communities together and addressing the major issues affecting the district through working in partnership. The role of the council is summarised in the Corporate Plan and includes maintaining a cohesive community.

As a point of information for Members, Lancaster District Community Safety Partnership (CSP) is a collective of public, voluntary, community and private organisations who come together to do all that they can to make the district's communities safer. The CSP provides a co-ordinated response to community safety issues, drawing together organisations and people that can make a difference. Lancaster district CSP’s membership comprises:

- Lancaster City Council
- Lancashire Constabulary
- Lancashire County Council
- Lancashire Fire & Rescue Services
- Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner
- Cumbria and Lancashire Community Rehabilitation Company (Probation)
- Youth Offending Team
- North Lancashire CCG

Whilst hate crime isn’t one of the CSP’s current priorities, the Partnership receives information from the Constabulary on crime spikes and trends so it can review its priorities accordingly.

The Communities Together group has representation from many diverse religious and ethnic groups in the district as well as the community and voluntary sector, Lancashire County Council, Lancaster City Council, Lancaster University, University of Cumbria and Lancashire Constabulary.

Section 151 Officer’s comments:-

The Section 151 Officer has been consulted and has no further comments.

Monitoring Officer’s comments:-

The Monitoring Officer has prepared this briefing note in her role as Democratic Services Manager.