

**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE**

6.00 P.M.

15TH NOVEMBER 2023

PRESENT:- Councillors Brett Cooper (Chair), Jack Lenox (Vice-Chair), Martin Gawith, Chris Hanna, Paul Hart, Abi Mills and Sue Penney

Also in Attendance:- Councillor Caroline Jackson, Inspector James Martin

Apologies for Absence:-

Councillor Suhir Abuhajar

Officers in attendance:-

Alex Kinch	Chief Officer - People and Policy
Stephen Metcalfe	Principal Democratic Support Officer
Kirstie Banks-Lyon	Resilience and Community Safety Officer
Jenny Kay	Civic & Ceremonial Democratic Support Officer

31 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 25th October 2023 were signed as a correct record by the Chair.

32 ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS AUTHORISED BY THE CHAIR

There were no Items of Urgent Business.

33 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest.

34 LANCASTER DISTRICT COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

The Chair welcomed Councillor Caroline Jackson, Inspector James Martin, the Chief Officer People and Policy and the Resilience and Community Safety Officer to the meeting.

It was reported that since the last Crime and Disorder meeting last November, the Serious Violence Duty had come into force and amendments had been made to Section 6 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to ensure that preventing and reducing serious violence was a priority for all Community Safety Partnerships. Serious violence consisted of the following crime types : - Homicide, Knife Crime, Gun Crime, Assault resulting in injury, rape, robbery, aggravated burglary, domestic abuse and violence, child exploitation (criminal and sexual.)

Data produced for the Lancaster District Needs Assessment indicated that Lancaster District had the 5th highest rate of serious violence in Lancashire, with Lancaster City Centre having the highest volume within the district.

It was noted that the current priorities from the Strategic Needs Assessment were Domestic Abuse, Violence, Anti-Social Behaviour, Road Safety, Serious & Organised Crime and Exploitation (Criminal and Sexual). The Lancaster District Community Safety Partnership had identified three issues to concentrate on - Anti-Social Behaviour, Violence and Road Safety.

The Committee was informed that anti-social behaviour data provided by both Lancashire Police and Lancaster City Council indicated a decrease in the number of ASB incidents reported over the last 12 months, however Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service continued to experience an increase in deliberate secondary fires.

It was reported that the Lancaster District Public Space Protection Order that had been made in December 2021 was working well.

Members were given details of several funding streams that have been used to address local issues such as CCTV on the Cycle path between Morrisons in Morecambe and Lancaster City Centre. Funding had also been successfully gained by the Community Safety Partnership across the district. In Poulton Ward, a bid to the Police Crime Commissioner's Safer Neighbourhood Fund for £10,000 had been successful with match funded by Morecambe BID to install additional CCTV cameras covering areas that have been identified as hot-spot locations for both incidents of antisocial behaviour and serious violence.

The Committee went on to discuss Community Triggers and how they worked.

Members of the Committee went on to ask a number of questions covering many issues including the Public Space Protection Orders, Anti-Social Behaviour and the work of the Community Safety Partnership.

A discussion on the use and legality of E-bikes and E-scooters took place as there had been issues with fake batteries setting on fire. It was reported that it was not illegal to sell these items and also the law regarding such vehicles was in need of updating.

The Chair thanked Inspector Martin for the Police presence at the Cenotaph in Morecambe prior to Remembrance Sunday amid concerns of vandalism.

Resolved :-

That Councillor Caroline Jackson, Inspector James Martin, the Chief Officer People and Policy and the Resilience and Community Safety Officer be thanked for their attendance at the meeting.

35 WORK PROGRAMME REPORT

There were no issues raised from the previous agenda item.

36 FORTHCOMING KEY DECISIONS

The Forthcoming Key decisions were noted.

Chair

(The meeting ended at 7.27 p.m.)

**Any queries regarding these Minutes, please contact
Jenny Kay, Democratic Support - email jkay@lancaster.gov.uk**