

To: Cabinet

Date: 12 October 2022

Report/Comments of: Scrutiny Committee

Title: Scrutiny Feedback to Cabinet – Crime and Disorder Annual Update

<b>SUMMARY OF REPORT CONSIDERED</b>	
<b>Report Title:</b>	Crime and Disorder Annual Update
<b>Purpose/Description of Report:</b>	The annual update report is presented to the Committee in order to assist them with the discharge of their Crime and Disorder responsibility.
<b>Key Decision:</b>	No
<b>Scrutiny Lead Member:</b>	Cllr R Child, Scrutiny Committee Chairman
<b>Relevant Portfolio Holder:</b>	Cllr Malise Graham, Portfolio Holder for People and Communities (Deputy Leader)

## **1. Introduction and Overview**

The Scrutiny Committee met on 27 September 2022 to consider a report and presentation on Crime and Disorder which provided Members with an update on a range of thematic areas including:

- Partnership Working and Collaboration
- CCTV
- Engaging with communities and young people
- Anti-social behaviour management in housing services
- Domestic Abuse

The following guests and Officers were in attendance to support the Scrutiny Community in their consideration of the Crime and Disorder topics on the agenda:

- Melton and Rutland Neighbourhood Policing Commander
- Portfolio Holder for People and Communities (Deputy Leader)
- Director for Housing and Communities (Deputy Chief Executive)
- Leisure, Culture and People Manager

- Neighbourhood Support Officer
- Safer Communities Lead
- Strategic Lead for Housing Options and Homelessness
- Tenancy Services Manager

## **2. Summary of Feedback/Recommendations for Cabinet Consideration**

- A comment was made that the majority of the discussion was focussed on the town of Melton Mowbray and that it is important not to forget that half of the Borough's population lives in the villages when considering Crime and Disorder. Officer and police representatives assured the committee of the work being done across the whole Borough including in rural areas.
- Concern was raised that the lack of youth services within the villages has led to an increase in petty vandalism. In response, it was explained that one of the priorities is rural crime and that every effort is made to engage with the local community when addressing issues. Officers referred to proactive engagement with Parish Councils. A Member suggested that Ward Councillors should also be involved in those discussions. The Director for Housing and Communities committed to feed back to colleagues to ensure that ward members are briefed on updates that are provided to Parish Councils.
- A Member questioned whether there had been an increase in shoplifting, however the Committee were informed that there had not been a recorded increase. Representatives noted that sometimes petty thefts are unreported and reiterated how important it is that people do report when crimes are committed.
- The Committee raised a concern over the coverage of the police in rural areas particularly in response to crime, however it was explained that rural crime remains a priority for the police and that rural areas are regularly patrolled. A number of examples of rural area specific policing operations were provided. In regard to response to crimes, if it is an emergency then 999 should be rung. There is a local number that can be used for non-emergency situations.
- A Member expressed how grateful they were for the job that the Police do.
- A comment was made that early intervention is important when addressing crime and disorder issues with young people. Members were assured that there is a considerable amount of early intervention work in the Borough and that there is engagement with all schools in the area.
- Members wanted reassurance that sufficient support is being given to people suffering from anti-social behaviour. Members were informed

that in order to deal with anti-social behaviour then it needs to be reported, and sufficient victim support can be given.

- A Member commented that they thought the presence of the police at the hunt is excessive, however it was explained that the visible presence is to support the rural community and is usually a routine patrol of the rural area.
- The comment was made that the Action for Melton Youth (AMY) should be engaging with other youth groups, e.g. Melton Young Farmers and Scouts. It was explained that AMY is in its infancy and that links with other groups will come as AMY grows from strength to strength and learns to communicate with those groups. Members noted that there are a range of groups of young people who would welcome interaction from the police, such as the Young Farmers. The police representative committed to follow this up and has since confirmed that arrangements are being made for police to attend young farmers meetings.
- Concern was raised on how the Council will practically support prison leavers. The homelessness process and how the council supports prison leavers was explained. The Council will liaise with other agencies to ensure that no prison leaver is homeless upon release, however there are some circumstances in which accommodation can not be provided, e.g. there is none available or the leaver is unwilling to engage.
- Concern was raised that some victims are not receiving timely updates on what is happening with their cases and this has left them feeling that no one cares. More updates would be reassuring to these victims. The Director for Housing and Communities thanked the committee for this feedback and committed to discuss with teams, as the importance of timely communication was recognised.
- The Scrutiny Committee thanked all guests and Officers for their attendance.
- It was also noted that the Scrutiny Committee will also be meeting with the Police and Crime Commissioner on 20 October 2022.

**Written by: Scrutiny Committee Chairman in consultation with Members of the Scrutiny Committee**