

To: Cabinet

Date: 16 November 2022

Report/Comments of: Scrutiny Committee

Title: Feedback from Scrutiny's meeting with the Police and Crime Commissioner

1. Introduction and Overview

The Scrutiny Committee met with the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) on 20 October 2022 for a question-and-answer session. This followed the Scrutiny Committee's session on Crime and Disorder at the meeting on 27 September 2022.

The PCC informed Members that he had spent the day in the Borough and had met businesses; visited Hoby Parish Council and Waltham-on-the-Wolds Parish Council; and met with the Portfolio Holder for People and Communities (Deputy Leader) and the Director for Housing and Communities (Deputy Chief Executive).

The PCC informed Members that the focus of his first year in Office was Rural Crime and that the focus for his second year would be Business Crime.

2. Summary of Feedback/Recommendations for Cabinet Consideration

- Members welcomed the initiative that Leicestershire Police would attend every property after a burglary had taken place.
- It was welcomed that the PCC recognises the link between drugs and anti-social behaviour and Members were pleased to hear that Leicestershire Police are doing everything within their powers and resource action to tackle drug networks and restrict the supply of drugs.
- Members welcomed the Police's efforts in educating young people on the effects of drugs.
- A concern was raised on whether the Police were doing everything they can to restrict the supply of drugs, the PCC couldn't comment on individual cases but he did state that as the Crown Prosecution Service evidence criteria is more stringent, then the Police now have to gather more evidence before a drugs raid is undertaken.

- Members queried how Police Officers are able to work from home. In response it was explained that, in some cases, a Police Officer would be allowed to clock on at home and then head to their beat, instead of being required to travel to headquarters first, especially if the headquarters is not located close to the beat. In addition, Police Officers are given time to complete paperwork and office-based tasks and are allowed to do this from home.
- A concern was raised in regards to Police Officers carrying warrant cards whilst off duty, especially in light of the Sarah Everard case. Members were informed that the PCC can see the benefit in the right circumstances. The PCC informed Members that Leicestershire Police do carry out regular internal checks and expel Officers when required.
- A comment was made that the Insulate Britain and Just Stop Oil activists are frustrating, especially when they prevent law-abiding people from going about their business. The PCC shares the frustration but informed Members that Police Officers must act within the law and that is why removing such protests can take a while.
- Leicestershire Police's Hate Crime Campaign was highlighted by Members, particularly the criticism the force received as a result of it. The PCC explained that the information was reviewed and taken down and that it is important that the accuracy of all information, including information provided by a third party is checked.

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