

## **Meeting: Housing Sub-Committee**

**Date: 26 February 2018**

**Title: Crime and Disorder Priorities**

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**Service: Law and Governance**

**Wards affected: All**

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### **1. Purpose of Report**

To remind the sub-committee of its role in relation to scrutinising crime and disorder issues and to prepare for a meeting with the Police and Crime Commissioner.

### **2. Recommendations**

The sub-committee is recommended to consider the information provided in the report and identify some key issues relating to crime and disorder that will be discussed with the Police and Crime Commissioner at the meeting of the sub-committee on 26 March 2018.

### **3. Details**

3.1 The Housing sub-committee has been designated as the Council's crime and disorder committee. This has been part of the sub-committee's terms of reference since it was established in June 2014. The requirement for the Council to have a scrutiny committee designated to scrutinise crime and disorder originates from the Police and Justice Act 2006. The committee must meet at least once a year to consider crime and disorder issues.

3.2 As in previous years, the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC), Vera Baird, has been invited to attend the meeting of sub-committee on 26 March 2018 to give an update on the delivery of the Police and Crime Plan and an outline of current key initiatives.

#### **Police and Crime Commissioners**

3.3 Police and Crime Commissioners are elected to make sure that local police meet the needs of the community. The PCC is the voice of the people and holds the police to account. Their aim is to cut crime and deliver an effective and efficient police service within their force area. The main role of the PCC is to:

- Secure an efficient and effective police for their area;
- Appoint the Chief Constable, hold them to account for running the force, and if necessary dismiss them;
- Set the police and crime objectives for the area through a police and crime plan;

- Set the force budget and determine the precept;
- Contribute to the national and international policing capabilities set out by the Home Secretary; and
- Bring together community safety and criminal justice partners, to make sure local priorities are joined up.

3.4 Northumbria Police and Crime Panel (the Panel) scrutinises the work of the PCC by acting as a critical friend – assisting through independent challenge. The Panel has a number of powers and responsibilities, including:

- Reviewing the draft Police and Crime Plan to ensure local priorities have been considered;
- Scrutinising the Commissioner's annual report;
- Reviewing and scrutinising decisions and actions of the PCC;
- Reviewing, and potentially vetoing, the Commissioner's proposed policing precept (the part of Council Tax collected for policing);
- Holding confirmation hearings for the proposed appointment of a Chief Constable, and
- Reviewing PCC's proposed appointment for Chief Executive, Chief Finance Officer and Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner.

The Panel consists of 2 councillors from each of the 6 local authorities in the Northumbria area plus 2 independent members. Meetings take place in public on a bi-monthly basis.

3.5 Members are invited to highlight any areas contained within the Police and Crime Plan that they would like to discuss with the Police and Crime Commissioner. The current Police and Crime Plan is appended to the report to help members identify priority areas to discuss. Members are reminded that the role of the Police and Crime Commissioner is to set policy objectives for the police force and therefore topics selected should reflect this and not focus on operational policing matters.

#### **4. Appendices**

Appendix A - Police and Crime Plan 2017-2021

#### **5. Background Information**

Police and Crime Plan 2017-2021