

SAFER POLICY AND PERFORMANCE BOARD

At a meeting of the Safer Policy and Performance Board on Tuesday, 9 February 2021 held remotely

Present: Councillors Thompson (Chair), N. Plumpton Walsh (Vice-Chair), Baker, E. Cargill, Dourley, V. Hill, P. Lloyd Jones, K. Loftus, Logan and Ratcliffe

Apologies for Absence: Councillor Zygadlo

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: M. Andrews, C. Patino, G. Ferguson, S. Ashcroft and M. Cotgreave

Also in attendance: One member of the press

ITEM DEALT WITH UNDER DUTIES EXERCISABLE BY THE BOARD

Action

SAF21 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair made the following announcements:

- The Cheshire Police budget for 2021/2022 had been agreed and the Police Force was one of the 10 lowest precepts in the country; and
- The Cheshire Chief Constable was due to retire in the Spring 2021. The new Chief Constable would be announced shortly.

SAF22 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 17 November 2020 were taken as read and signed as a correct record.

SAF23 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

It was reported that no questions had been received.

SAF24 EMERGENCY PLANNING

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Enterprise, Community and Resources, which provided an update on the work undertaken by the Emergency Planning Team during 2019-2020.

Members received a presentation which highlighted the Teams statutory duties to comply with the following legislation:

- the Civil Contingencies Act 2004;
- Control of Major Accident Hazard Regulations (COMAH) 2015; and
- Major Accident Hazard Pipeline (MAHP) Regulations 1996

Members noted that Halton had a number of Emergency Plans in place with the aim to ensure resilience. These Plans were regularly updated and tested. The Board was advised of examples of local risks, details of the exercises that took place at COMAH sites in the Borough, information on Emergency Centres and the work the Emergency Planning Team carried out with partner agencies, both within Cheshire and cross border and as part of Cheshire Resilience Forum.

Details of the role of the Team supporting the Authority's response to Covid-19 internally and externally alongside partner agencies was also noted.

Arising from the discussion, the following issues were raised and it was agreed that a written response would be provided to the Board:

- Cllr Peter Lloyd-Jones raised a question regarding the main water pipeline which travels from Wales to Merseyside and a possible threat from terrorism;
- Cllr Thompson asked for further information regarding the plans for the decommissioning of the Fiddlers Ferry Site; and
- Cllr Thompson raised a question regarding gas monitoring in the quarry area of Weston Village.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

SAF25 COVID 19 - UPDATED WORKING

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Enterprise, Community and Resources, on the range of services that Halton Community Safety Partnership had put in place during the Covid-19 Pandemic to support the community. The report provided an update on:

- Widnes and Runcorn Policing;

- Operation Pandas – an internal major response stood up by Cheshire Police which covered the response, management and coordination of all aspects of Coronavirus;
- School Liaison work;
- Domestic Abuse services, raising awareness, press releases, webchat, refuge facilities and MARAC meetings;
- Licensing issues;
- ASB Victim and Witness Support Services;
- Counter Terrorism and Channel Policing during lockdown; and
- Digital Safety resources during Covid-19

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

SAF26 CRIME REDUCTION INITIATIVE - HOUGH GREEN

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Enterprise, Community and Resources, which provided an update on the new crime reduction initiative that would be taking place in the Hough Green area in partnership with Cheshire Constabulary and the Police and Crime Commissioner.

Following a community survey of 3200 homes, carried out by the Police and the Community Safety Partnership, the Crime Reduction Officer had designed a project to improve the environment. This included, better lighting/CCTV, litter picking, fly tipping removal, landscaping and encouragement of community engagement to create local pride in the area.

As part of the improvements, a doorbell CCTV project that would provide coverage of hard to monitor areas around the Arley Drive/Cherry Sutton estates was proposed and a number of homes identified. The Police and Crime Commissioner had agreed funding, match funded by the local authority and the bells would be fitted by Community Safety Partnership.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

SAF27 DOMESTIC ABUSE AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE

The Board received an update report on the activities being supported across the Borough in response to domestic and sexual violence. It was noted that the new Halton Domestic Abuse Service, integrated family model had been awarded to WHAG, a specialist domestic abuse

provider. The new model would focus on the whole family and would provide support services and advocacy to adult victims, children affected by domestic abuse and support services would be offered to those who harm.

The new service began operations in Halton on 4th January 2021. Further information would be sent to Board Members to attend a future lunch and learning session.

In addition, further reports would be submitted to a future Board meeting on the Public Protection Unit and on the 'Engage' initiative.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

Meeting ended at 8.15 p.m.