

28 September 2023

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West Midlands Police – update on Policing within Walsall

Ward(s):All

Portfolios: Councillor Garry Perry, Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Resilient Communities

1. Aim

The report and presentation will give an overview of current police issues and will allow for questions from scrutiny members.

2. Recommendations

The Scrutiny Overview Committee are asked to note the presentation and verbal update from the borough commander and consider any recommendations they feel appropriate.

3. Report detail – know

The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 gave local authorities and the police a duty to work together to develop crime and disorder audits and implement reduction strategies.

Section 5 of the Act sets out that the council and the police have joint responsibility for preventing and reducing crime and disorder in the area. They are 'responsible authorities' and have a duty to co-operate through a Community Safety Partnership (CSP). The Police and Justice Act 2006 further expanded CSP's to include Probation, Health and Fire.

The 'responsible authorities' have responsibility, under Section 6 of the Act, for formulating and implementing 'a strategy for the reduction of crime and disorder in the area'. The strategy takes into account the knowledge and experience of persons in the area, a review of the levels and patterns of crime and disorder in the area and of the level and patterns of the misuse of drugs in the area.' This is known as the Strategic Assessment.

In order to provide an update on policing matters within Walsall the borough commander and chair of the Safer Walsall Partnership Board, Chief Superintendent Phil Dolby will present to the Overview and Scrutiny committee an update on certain key issues including:

- New policing model and its early success
- Bloxwich / Blakenall current challenges
- Illegal off-road bikes
- Response to issues around the town centre night-time economy
- Road harm
- Response to high profile incidents
- The role of the Community Safety Partnership including CONTEST.

4. *Financial information*

There are no direct financial implications associated with this report.

5. *Reducing Inequalities*

Crime and anti-social behaviour have a direct impact on communities and places so the partnership work to reduce crime plays a key role. However, crime has wider impacts on mental health, employment and ill-health prevention and can have a greater adverse effect on deprived communities and minority groups.

6. *Decide*

The Scrutiny Overview Committee may wish to consider specific areas of focus or ask for a further general update in twelve months.

7. *Respond*

The report and presentation does not need to be taken to any other local authority forum for discussion or debate however if specific items raise themselves during the discussion a further paper could be considered for future meetings of the committee.

8. *Review*

The way in which policing is conducted within Walsall including priorities and resourcing are primarily the responsibility of the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner who has in place a mature governance system for scrutiny and accountability. On a more local level the council's Scrutiny Overview Committee receive an annual presentation from the borough commander and governance of key policing and community safety issues also occur via statutory partnership boards such as the Safer Walsall Partnership Board, Safeguarding Partnership Board and the Youth Justice Board.

Background papers

Author

David Elrington
Head of Community Safety and Enforcement
✉ david.elrington@walsall.gov.uk