



EAST STAFFORDSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT COVER SHEET

Title of Report:	Chairman of the Scrutiny (Protecting and Strengthening Communities) Committee: Annual Report 2015/16
Meeting of:	Council
Date:	29 th February 2016
Is this an Executive Decision:	NO
Is this a Key Decision:	NO
Is the Report Confidential:	NO
If so, please state relevant paragraph from Schedule 12A LGA 1972:	N/A
<p>Essential Signatories:</p> <p>ALL REPORTS MUST BE IN THE NAME OF A HEAD OF SERVICE</p> <p>Monitoring Officer: Angela Wakefield</p> <p>Date Signature</p> <p>Chief Finance Officer: Sal Khan</p> <p>Date Signature</p>	

EAST STAFFORDSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to Council

Date: 29th February 2016

REPORT TITLE:	Chairman of the Scrutiny (Protecting and Strengthening Communities) Committee: Annual Report 2015/16	
PORTFOLIO:	Leader of the Council	
HEAD OF SERVICE:	Chief Executive	
CONTACT OFFICER:	James Abbott	Ext. No. x1244
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	Non-specific	

1. Purpose of the Report

1.1. To provide a summary of the Scrutiny activities undertaken by the Scrutiny (Protecting and Strengthening Communities) Committee during 2015/16.

2. Background

2.1. The Council's various Scrutiny Committees discharge the overview and scrutiny function under Section 21 of the Local Government Act 2000.

2.2. The Committees are tasked with:

2.2.1. Reviewing and/or scrutinising decisions made or actions taken in connection with the discharge of any of the Council's functions;

2.2.2. Reviewing and scrutinising the performance of the Council;

2.2.3. Serving as consultees in relation to executive decisions and key elements of service plans when required; and

2.2.4. Producing progress reports and recommendations to the Executive arising from the outcome of the scrutiny process or refer to the Executive entire reports produced as a result of the scrutiny process. However it is the decision of the Executive whether or not such a report is subsequently submitted to Full Council.

3. Contribution to Corporate Priorities

3.1. This report can contribute to all priorities to some degree (depending on the subject matter of the scrutiny review in question); however the remit of this particular Scrutiny Committee is to consider services within the corporate priority area of “Protecting and Strengthening Communities”.

4. Scrutiny Activities

4.1. Review of the Council's Safeguarding Policy

4.1.1. In addition to scrutinising the standing items of the Corporate Plan Performance Report and Executive Decision Records, the Committee undertook a review of the Council's Safeguarding Policy.

4.1.2. The Council's Families and Safeguarding Officer was invited to attend a meeting of the Committee to give Members an update on the Council's safeguarding policy.

4.1.3. Following these discussions the Committee concluded that the Council's Safeguarding Policy was robust.

4.1.4. The Committee recommended that it would look to review the policy again in the next 18 months to two years.

4.2. Changes to the CCTV Monitoring Service

4.2.1. The Committee is currently undertaking a review of the CCTV monitoring service in the Borough

4.2.2. This is an in-depth analysis of a range of factors relating to the arrangements for the monitoring and operation of the network of CCTV cameras run by the Council.

4.2.3. This review includes: analysis of the processes involved; the role of the operators; costs; and a range of technical and legal considerations, including camera recording format, data storage and the legislation that governs CCTV monitoring provision.

4.2.4. This review is ongoing with recommendations arising to be discussed at future meetings of the Committee.

5. Financial Considerations

This section has been approved by the following member of the Financial Management Unit: Lisa Turner

5.1. There are no financial issues arising from this Report.

6. Risk Assessment and Management

6.1. The main risks to this Report and the Council achieving its objectives are as follows:

6.1.1. **Positive** (Opportunities/Benefits):

6.1.1.1. None

6.1.2. **Negative** (Threats):

6.1.2.1. None

6.2. The risks do not need to be entered in the Risk Register. Any financial implications to mitigate against these risks are considered above.

7. Legal Considerations

*This section has been approved by the following member of the Legal Team:
Angela Wakefield.*

7.1. There are no significant legal issues arising from this Report.

8. Equalities and Health

8.1. Equality impacts: The subject of this Report is not a policy, strategy, function or service that is new or being revised. An equality and health impact assessment is not required.

8.2. Health impacts: The outcome of the health screening question does not require a full Health Impact Assessment to be completed. An equality and health impact assessment is not required.

9. Human Rights

9.1. There are no Human Rights issues arising from this Report.

10. Sustainability (including climate change and change adaptation measures)

10.1. Does the proposal result in an overall positive effect in terms of sustainability (including climate change and change adaptation measures)
N/A

11. Recommendation(s)

11.1. To note the report

12. Background Papers

12.1. None

13. Appendices

- 13.1. Appendix 1: Scrutiny (Protecting and Strengthening Communities)
Committee Reviews 2015/16

Appendix 1: Scrutiny (Protecting and Strengthening Communities) Committee Reviews 2015/16

Review of the Council's Safeguarding Policy

Background and Scope

On 30th June 2015 it was decided that the Council's Safeguarding Policy would be reviewed by the Committee.

The Council's Families and Safeguarding Officer) was invited to and attended the meeting to give Members an update on the Council's safeguarding policy.

Recommendations Arising

Members felt that the Council's Safeguarding Policy was robust enough and decided that the review was complete.

The Committee recommended that it would look to review the policy again in the future

Changes to the CCTV Monitoring Service

Background and Scope

On 16th June 2014 Cabinet considered a report on future CCTV provision for East Staffordshire. The report was a direct result of the CCTV review which was carried out in 2013. The report recommended that the system be changed to be more cost effective whilst remaining efficient in detecting and preventing crime. The report demonstrated that any potential for savings had to come from the monitoring element of the CCTV operation to be implemented before July 2015 (the current contract ended in July 2015). The original intention was to be able to identify whether the monitoring hours could be reduced at the time of the next contract renewal to reduce cost of monitoring.

In 2013 a significant saving was made by the elimination of hours spent monitoring bollards. This delivered a saving of 70 hours per week from the contract. The CCTV control suite was monitored 24 hours per day 7 days per week and was double crewed for the majority of this time equating to 245 staffing hours per week. It was proposed to reduce the monitoring hours to 98 hours per week through the cessation of double manned shifts and reducing the manning of the normal control room. The new shift pattern equates to 98 hours of staffed monitoring a reduction of 147 hours, and an anticipated budget saving of 90k per year. Provision would be made for additional monitoring to be facilitated on Sundays that precede Bank Holiday Mondays and for any specific events that require additional coverage. Whilst the control room is not manned there remains capacity to set the cameras on a predetermined tour and recording programmes. The above hours have been allocated by analysis of data available from the control room and in consultation with Staffordshire Police.

Background info

1 Briefly explain how the CCTV system works.

- 2 What is the CCTV system there for and why do we choose to provide the service?
- 3 What was the CCTV monitoring provision prior to the change of the manning hours?
- 4 What are the new CCTV monitoring manning hours?
- 5 How many hours is our CCTV unmanned?
- 6 Why were these changes implemented?
- 7 Did crime levels increase when no one manned the CCTV system?
- 8 Has it increased / decreased since the interim contractor took over?
- 9 Has it increased / decreased since the man hours changed?
- 10 Where are cameras situated within the borough?
- 11 How many cameras are in operation?
- 12 Who is the contractor in Tamworth that currently mans the CCTV control room?
- 13 How many hours staffing are currently being taken up by this contractor?
- 14 What contract length is the organisation in Tamworth currently signed up to?
- 15 Are there any cameras currently linked up to partner organisations (police etc.)?
- 16 The barriers in Burton and Uttoxeter are not currently manned, is this something that the Tamworth contractor could perform within their current contract?
- 17 Is the Borough running over budget using a contractor?
- 18 Do partner organisations contribute to the running and upkeep of the system?
- 19 If so how much do these partner organisations contribute?
- 20 What is the likelihood, and cost implication, of employing and manning our own Borough CCTV and Barriers?
- 21 What training and qualifications (particularly in terms of safeguarding issues) do the contractors hold when manning the CCTV system?
- 22 Do we, as the client, ask to see these qualifications?
- 23 What does the job role of an operator involve?
- 24 What skills does an operator require?
- 25 What training is provided for an operator? Is this ongoing?
- 26 Do the operators work towards a code of practice?
- 27 During a shift what is the maximum time an operator is allowed to spend looking at a screen in any one time?
- 28 Is the operator provided with any medical health checks (e.g. eye tests)?
- 29 How often do we change the monitoring / recording technology?
- 30 In what format do the cameras record the footage?
- 31 Where is the recorded data stored and how would it be used?
- 32 What are the laws that govern CCTV monitoring systems and what elements do they cover?

Recommendations Arising

This review is ongoing, with recommendations to be discussed at future meetings of the Committee.