

SAFER AND STRONGER COMMUNITIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MONDAY, 30 SEPTEMBER 2013

PRESENT:- Councillors Brian Ford (Chair), Robert Wright, Abdul Amin, Mary Friend, John Haines, Ann Richards, Joe Tray, Julie Wright, Andrew Bennett, Neil Heavens, Vera Tomlinson, Michael Bray, Donachie and Richard Hurley

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Alan Bishop and Peter Heaton-Jones.

101. Minutes

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 24th June 2013 be confirmed and signed.

102. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest

103. Public Question Time

There were no public questions

104. Question & Answer Session - Police and Crime Commissioner

Angus Macpherson, the Swindon and Wiltshire Crime Commissioner gave a presentation concerning his role and how it relates to Swindon. He outlined the primary responsibilities of his office and his key objectives for 2012 to 2016 which were:

- Maintain front line officer strength to combat ASB and local crime funded by exploiting collaborative opportunities with local authorities on sharing premises and back office functions.
- Strengthen neighbourhood teams and their operational links with partner agencies, embedding them in the communities they serve.
- Put victims at the heart of the criminal justice process and improve services to both victims and witnesses.
- Work with other agencies to protect the most vulnerable in our society.
- Regularly consult the public and ensure effective communication with the public which both the PCC and the police serve.

Mr Macpherson answered questions from the Committee about his role as Swindon and Wiltshire Police Commissioner.

105. Question and Answer Session - Neighbourhood Watch and Streetwatch

Phil Thomas tabled a revised report concerning Neighbourhood Watch and

Streetwatch. He noted that, although the number of Streetwatch areas that had been created (one) was disappointing, the Streetwatch pilot in Park South is very effective and is well respected by the community it serves.

Resolved – That a Task Group comprising of Councillors Tomlinson, Donachie, Haines, Amin and Richards be set up to look at the issue of Streetwatch and that this matter be considered at a future meeting of the Committee.

106. Question and Answer Session - Violent Crime

This item was deferred.

107. Question and Answer Session - Wiltshire Police

Officers from Wiltshire and Swindon Police answered questions put by Councillors on the following matters:

- Fly-tipping
- Taxi – Private Hire
- Under 12's drinking
- Cyber-crime
- Re-offending
- Community confidence
- Domestic Violence