

Regeneration, Culture and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee

14 December 2023

Attendance by the Portfolio Holder for Community Safety and Enforcement

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Osborne, Portfolio Holder for Community Safety and Enforcement

Summary

This annual report provides an account of the role of the Portfolio Holder for Community Safety and Enforcement. It details their ambitions for their areas of responsibility, how they have and will undertake political challenge and leadership and what their priorities and ambitions are for the year ahead.

1. Recommendations

1.1. The Committee are asked to note the report.

2. Budget and policy framework

2.1 The areas within the terms of reference of this Overview and Scrutiny Committee covered by the Portfolio Holder for Community Safety and Enforcement are:

- Community Safety Partnership (CSP)
- CCTV
- Enforcement

Note: The following services fall within the Resources Portfolio, in relation to the CSP:

- Tobacco control, excluding smoking cessation services
- Community safety aspects of alcohol and drug misuse
- Public health aspects of promotion of community safety, violence prevention and response.

2.2 The CSP is made up of the following responsible authorities –

- Medway Council
- Kent Police
- Kent Fire and Rescue Service (KFRS)

- The Probation Service
- Integrated Care Board (ICB).

2.3 The nature of the work of the CSP means that several areas of work detailed in appendix 1 of this report although are all community safety initiatives, involve a number of different council departments who are the responsibility of a number of Portfolio Holders.

3. Background

3.1. I am delighted to have taken on Portfolio Holder responsibility for Community Safety and Enforcement and would like to start by expressing my thanks to staff for their enthusiasm, dedication and commitment to delivering exceptional service to the residents of Medway.

3.2. It is clear staff recognise the difficult financial situation the Council currently faces, and I have been both heartened and grateful to see the proactive way in which issues are being addressed.

3.3. Community Safety and Enforcement covers a wide range of services and teams which are listed in appendix 1 with an outline of activities carried out in the last year.

4. Providing political leadership and challenge

4.1. I meet regularly with the Deputy Director for Place and with the Head of Service for Community Safety and Enforcement where I am kept informed of performance, quality and any challenges they are facing. It also gives me the opportunity to understand the strategic direction of the teams within their remit and also to challenge where appropriate.

4.2. I am briefed on areas with my portfolio to understand the challenges faced by the teams, in particular have paid close attention to the operation of our CCTV infrastructure, and the work of our Environmental Enforcement and Community Safety Teams.

4.3. My political leadership has led to us negotiating a 0% inflationary uplift for the CCTV Partnership.

5. Championing the Interests of Medway residents

5.1. In delivering a range of community safety and enforcement services I am conscious there will always be a variety of opinions on how such services should evolve, and I receive a range of correspondence on numerous aspects. I am keen to encourage officers to engage fully with correspondents to ensure their views are heard, even if it is not always possible to accede to specific requests.

6. Support for key service areas

- 6.1 The range of services across community safety and enforcement is so diverse I have added appendix 1 which gives an overview of the work that has been carried out.

7. Conclusion

- 7.1 The services within my Portfolio play an integral part in making Medway a safe place to live and to visit. While recognising and seeking to address the current financial challenges, there are huge opportunities to provide long-term support for our residents as well as targeting those who come to the attention of our enforcement teams. I look forward to working with colleagues and partners to bring these to fruition.

Lead officer contact

Neil Howlett, Community Safety Partnership Manager, 01634 331183,
neil.howlett@medway.gov.uk

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Overview of the work of community safety and enforcement teams