

LISBURN & CASTLEREAGH CITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Policing Committee of Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council Policing and Community Safety Partnership held in the Council Chamber and via Zoom on Tuesday 15th November 2022 at 6.30 pm

PRESENT

Councillor J Gallen (Chairman)
Alderman A Ewing
Councillor N Anderson (Zoom)
Councillor R Carlin (Zoom)
Councillor A Gowan (Zoom)
Councillor M Guy (Zoom)
Councillor John Palmer (Zoom)
Councillor A McIntyre (Zoom)
Councillor S Skillen (Zoom)
Mr J Bentley
Ms G Conroy
Mrs Y Craig (Zoom)
Mr P Dean
Mr D McBurney
Ms P Leeson
Ms A Playford
Mrs P Yellamaty (Zoom)

ALSO ATTENDED:

The Worshipful Mayor, Councillor S Carson
Alderman S Martin
Councillor A Swan
Councillor U Mackin

IN ATTENDANCE:

PCSP Support Officers (SA and JB)
Member Services Officers (BF & EW)

Designated Organisations

Superintendent J Mullan, PSNI
Chief Inspector I McCormick, PSNI

Commencement of the Meeting

The Chairman, Councillor J Gallen, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. **Apologies**

An apology was reported on behalf of Councillor H Legge, Ms A Landa and the Acting PCSP/Member Services Manager.

2. **Declaration of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Quarter 2 PSNI Report on Policing of the District

A number of Members welcomed the revised format of the report, which was based on an outcomes-based accountability.

Burglary

Superintendent J Mullan reported that burglaries – which included robberies – had reduced by 52.7%, which equated to 39 fewer burglaries when compared to the same period last year. Residential burglaries had fallen by 55.55%, which represented a drop of 30 burglaries. However, ‘cold calling’ remained a problem and was priority for the PSNI across the district and eighteen ‘No Cold Calling’ zones now existed across the Council area, with 105 neighbour watch schemes in existence, representing 255 co-ordinators and 9,500 homes across the district. During the period there has been a 42.86% decrease in burglaries in over 60 age bracket and residential burglaries were down by 55.5%, with a decrease in commercial burglaries of 56.25%.

Managing Offenders

It was reported that during the second quarter, the Repeat Offender Unit had managed seven priority offenders. The Superintendent outlined the work which was undertaken on a multi-agency basis to address repeat offending across the district.

Drug Offences

In the second quarter, there had been 212 drug seizures, which represented an increase of 30.06%. Seizures of cannabis remained the most common drug uncovered and neighbourhood officers continued to make use of social media to engage with young people and other members of the public leading to intelligence submissions.

Police sought also to maintain high-visibility vehicle and foot patrols at hotspot areas and sought to deal with first-time offenders through non-criminal justice solutions by issuing community resolution notices and referral onwards drugs awareness courses. Police had searched 360 people had been stopped and searched under the Misuse of Drugs Act and 22 house searches had been carried out during the quarter.

In response to a query regarding the prevalence of heroin usage in the Council district, the Superintendent indicated that there had been no apparent increase, but that officers would remain vigilant in this regard. The Partnership discussed also the extent and influence of paramilitaries in the selling of drugs across the district.

Domestic Violence/Hate Crime

Across the district, there had been a reduction of 45 (9.32%) of reported incidents of domestic violence Overall, the financial year had seen a decrease of 87 recorded offences which was reduction of 23.39%. There had been a 14.71% increase in overall hate crime incidents in the quarter compared to the same period last year but have seen a reduction in faith/religious, homophobic and racist offences with no change in transphobic incidents.

Antisocial Behaviour

Tackling anti-social behaviour remained a priority across the district in partnership with other statutory and voluntary agencies recognising that collective and community-based solutions were preferable. The Superintendent highlighted a number of successful case studies, such as measures which had been introduced to address antisocial behaviour in the Barnfield Road, Roselawn Cemetery and Moira Demesne.

The PSNI's social media messaging remained focused on anti-social behaviour and sought to address areas where a spike in cases had been recorded. Such messaging focused on the work of colleagues in the neighbourhood teams and what they were doing to tackle ASB in the local community.

Further to the above, Councillor S Skillen referred to a recent incident of antisocial behaviour which had occurred in the Dundonald area and, in response, Mr S Addley, Partnership Officer, indicated that the matter had been brought to his attention and that officers in Dundonald were pursuing enquiries.

It was noted that during the 12th of July period the parades in the district took place without incident and the period had been described as the most peaceful in recent times. With the passing of Queen Elizabeth II, the PSNI participated in Operation Shamrock, which oversaw the response across the district to the monarch's death and the ceremonial occasions which took place in Royal Hillsborough.

The Worshipful Mayor, Councillor S Carson, paid tribute to the PSNI for their work in supporting the delivery of Operation Shamrock and the assistance, in particular, offered to the Council by Sergeant Garry King.

On behalf of the Partnership, the Chairman thanked Superintendent J Mullan and Chief Inspector I McCormick for their attendance.

The Partnership noted the information provided within the report.

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 7.33 pm.

Chairman