

Police & Crime Plan Update

Date: 21 October 2021

Report of: Head of Democratic Services

Report to: Scrutiny Board (Environment, Housing & Communities)

Will the decision be open for call in? Yes No

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? Yes No

What is this report about?

Including how it contributes to the city's and council's ambitions

- The Scrutiny Board (Environment, Housing and Communities) is allocated special responsibility to act as the Council's formally designated crime and disorder committee, as set out in section 19 of the Police and Justice Act 2006.
- As part of this responsibility the Scrutiny Board can review or scrutinise the exercise of crime and disorder functions by responsible authorities (as set out in S5 of Crime and Disorder Act 1998), as well as scrutinising any local crime and disorder matter raised by an elected member.
- Following the establishment of a Mayoral Combined Authority, the powers previously delegated to the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner transferred to the newly elected Mayor of West Yorkshire. West Yorkshire is now one of three regions to have this arrangement in place – the other two being Manchester and London.
- The Mayor of West Yorkshire, Tracy Brabin, nominated Alison Lowe to be the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime in West Yorkshire. This nomination received approval from the West Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel in June 2021 and the Deputy Mayor for policing and Crime formally began her role in August 2021.
- The Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime has been invited to meet members of the Environment, Housing and Communities Scrutiny Board to discuss priorities for policing and crime in the region, and the ongoing development of the Police and Crime Plan for West Yorkshire.
- This report sets out some initial background regarding the transfer of PCC functions to the West Yorkshire Mayor, the role of the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime and the ongoing development of a West Yorkshire Police and Crime Plan.

Recommendations

- a) Members are asked to note the contents of the report.

Why is the proposal being put forward?

- 1 The first Mayor of West Yorkshire was elected in May 2021. Upon election the Mayor also assumed the functions previously exercised by the region's Police and Crime Commissioner.
- 2 As Leeds City Council's designated Crime and Disorder Committee, the Scrutiny Board (Environment, Housing and Communities) has been keen to understand the Mayor's priorities for regional policing and crime early in her tenure.
- 3 Members also welcome the opportunity to discuss the development of the Police and Crime Plan for the region. It is anticipated this will complement the Board's recent discussions about the Leeds-specific Safer, Stronger Communities City Plan 2021-24
- 4 In line with the Council's Budget and Policy Framework the Scrutiny Board (Environment, Housing and Communities) was formally consulted on the draft Safer, Stronger Communities City Plan 2021-24, which will replace the previous Safer Leeds Strategy 2018-21, in September 2021.

Transfer of Police and Crime Commissioner Functions

- 5 In reaching a devolution deal with Government it was determined that transferring the powers of the Office of The Police and Crime Commissioner to the new Mayoral Authority would provide consistency in approach for the combined area and reflect the ambition for people to have a single point of direct accountability.
- 6 The legislative framework for the Mayoral Authority is clear that West Yorkshire Police remains a distinct and separate organisation.
- 7 Key Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) functions are:
 - Securing the maintenance of an efficient and effective police force and holding the Chief Constable to account
 - Issuing a police and crime plan
 - Appointing, suspending or calling on a chief constable to retire or resign.
- 8 Where the establishment of a mayoral authority provides for the Mayor to exercise PCC functions – as in West Yorkshire - the Secretary of State is also required to authorise the Mayor to appoint a Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime.
- 9 Alison Lowe was nominated as Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime for West Yorkshire by the Mayor of West Yorkshire. The appointment received approval from the West Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel in June 2021 and Alison Lowe formally took up her role in August 2021.
- 10 Where legislation allows, a Mayor can delegate most PCC functions to a Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime. However, several functions remain excisable only by the Mayor. Those are:
 - Issuing a police and crime plan
 - Calculating a council tax or budget requirement
 - Appointing, suspending or calling on a chief constable to retire or resign

- 11 Scrutiny of the discharge of PCC functions within the Combined Authority is carried out by the Police and Crime Panel. The Panel is empowered to scrutinise the actions and decisions of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime to hold them to account in public.

West Yorkshire Police and Crime Plan

- 12 In accordance with the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 the Mayor must produce a Police and Crime Plan, which sets out the strategic policing and crime priorities for West Yorkshire for the next three years and details how the Mayor plans to meet them.
- 13 Following the current period of consultation, it is intended that the new Police and Crime Plan for West Yorkshire will be launched in early 2022.

Consultation on West Yorkshire Police and Crime Plan

- 14 A public consultation is taking place to inform the development of the West Yorkshire Police and Crime Plan.
- 15 This includes an online survey, open until 17 October, that invites people to provide their views on the work of the mayor and police partners under four headings:
- Supporting victims and witnesses
 - Keeping people safe and building resilience
 - Safer places and thriving communities
 - Responding to multiple and complex need

- 16 The consultation further sets out that this work will be underpinned by three cross cutting themes – these are set out below as published in the Police and Crime Plan survey.

- 1) **Women and Girls** – Tracy’s Mayoral pledge of putting women and girls at the heart of this Police and Crime Plan, including safety in the public and private sphere, living free from harm and building strong emotional resilience.
- 2) **Diversity, Equality and Inclusion** – Celebrating the diversity of West Yorkshire and ensuring that the principles of equality and inclusion underpin all the work we do.
- 3) **Early Intervention and Prevention** - Championing and supporting the use of effective early intervention to improve the lives of children, young people and families at risk of experiencing poor outcomes.

- 17 Additional consultation is taking place through a series of face-to-face meetings between 1 September and 19 November.

What impact will this proposal have?

Wards affected:

Have ward members been consulted? Yes No

- 18 The discussion with the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime provides opportunity for Scrutiny Board members to explore regional mayoral priorities for policing and crime, and to engage and influence the development of the West Yorkshire Police and Crime Plan

What consultation and engagement has taken place?

- 19 Members have previously been consulted upon the Safer, Stronger Communities City Plan 2021-25, which sets out the strategic priorities for the city-specific Safer Leeds partnership.
- 20 Members may now wish to explore how those city priorities interact with the developing West Yorkshire Police and Crime Plan.

What are the resource implications?

- 21 This report has no resource implications.

What are the legal implications?

- 22 This report has no legal implications

What are the key risks and how are they being managed?

- 23 This report has no risk management implications

Does this proposal support the council's three Key Pillars?

- Inclusive Growth Health and Wellbeing Climate Emergency

Options, timescales and measuring success

a) What other options were considered?

- 24 Not applicable – this report sets out the background to a consultative discussion between Board members and the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime.

Appendices

- 25 Appendix 1: Public Consultation Document
- 26 Appendix 2: Partner Consultation Document

Background papers

- 27 None