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Southend-on-Sea Borough Council

Legal & Democratic Services

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29 November 2018

POLICY AND RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - THURSDAY, 29TH NOVEMBER, 2018

Agenda No	Item
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3.	<u>Questions from Members of the Public</u>
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Fiona Abbott
Principal Democratic Services Officer

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Policy & Resources Scrutiny Committee – 29th November 2018
Public Questions

Question from Mr Webb to Cabinet Member for Public Protection
Cllr Mark Flewitt

3

Question 1

‘Does the portfolio for public protection agree with Paul Thompson former Chairman of the Seafront Traders Association who was quoted in Friday 28th September Evening Echo - “The cops do a fantastic job under difficult circumstances but the town needs a dramatic increase in officers. The 15 is we have been offered is a drop in the ocean.” ‘

Answer

It is not rocket science that we need more Police number back on the streets. We acknowledge that counter-terrorism is a huge hidden issue, but that £160m more has been given to that as part of the last budget.

Next month sees the Home Secretary announce a Policing Budget, and I am optimistic that will reflect a further increase in Ordinary Police numbers.

Question 2

‘What is the aim, working hours and powers of the new 6 uniformed officers that are patrolling Southend High street and Leigh with the police?’

Answer

The Community Safety Officers currently in place work a 7 day week, covering the hours of 9am to 6pm.

The team remit is one of public reassurance and high visibility, and dealing with low level crime and ASB, through partnership approach and joint working with other key agencies.

The team has a Borough wide jurisdiction – not just Southend town centre and Leigh, although initially the main focus of the team has been supporting the actions from the High Street Action Plan, which does focus on the town centre and central seafront areas.

Currently, officers have limited formal powers; however, when permanent appointments are made, officers will undertake training to become ‘Designated Officers’ by the Council, which will provide certain powers, to allow them to issue Fixed Penalty Notices for breaches of

council bye laws and Public Space Protection Orders for example (should the Council adopt such a tool). They will also become Community Safety Accreditation Scheme (CSAS) accredited by Essex Police which will allow them closer working arrangements with police officers.