

Policy & Resources Scrutiny Committee – 12th April 2018
Public Questions

Question from Mr D Webb to Portfolio Holder for Culture, Tourism & the Economy: Cllr Ann Holland

Question 1

“From the data from the Southend Public Meeting with Roger Hirst, Police and Fire and Crime Commissioner 23rd January violence with injury has increased by 7.1%, violence without injury has increased by 12.6%, stalking and harassment has increased by 32.4%, Sexual Offences has increased by 32.5%. Does the portfolio know how many of the extra 150 police force coming forward will come to Southend and how will this make an impact on decreasing these horrific crimes that is happening daily in Southend and what is the Conservative Council going to do to tackle these crime in 2018?”

Answer

A total of 12 extra police officers are designated for Southend in 18/19 following police training college in summer 2018. 6 will be assigned to the Police Local Policing Team (LPT), and a further 6 assigned to the Community Policing Team (CPT).

The additional Community Policing Team resources will be embedded into Southend’s Community Safety Hub, which is a co-located multi agency Unit. The new resources will work in partnership with local council teams and a range of partners to tackle low level crime, town centre issues and to help solve problems in areas that are affected by anti social behaviour and crime. They will be in uniform, and their presence on patrol, will act as a further visible deterrent for would-be perpetrators and opportunist criminal activity. Furthermore, the new resources will add strength to Southend’s overall policing response on high footfall days such as Bank Holidays and public events.

Question from Mr D Webb to Portfolio Holder for Corporate & Community Support Services

Question 2

“When a resident of Southend sends an email you receive an automated email stating you will get a reply in a set number of days. This makes you feel that the council is listening. Why can’t this system be set up for all councillors emails because I have sent emails and some have them for example Mark Flewitt and some councillors respond quickly like Ann

Holland, Councillor Charles Willis but some just ignore your email including some portfolio holders making you feel they are not listening to the residents who voted them in and paying their wages?"

Answer

Thank you for your question Mr Webb.

It is up to the political groups and individual Councillors to decide whether they wish to introduce a standard e-mail response confirming when a reply will be forthcoming.

My own view is that standard replies are just automated responses and can unintentionally mislead residents, since different types of enquiry take different times to respond to. What is more important is that each Councillor gives a timely response to each enquiry giving an indication of what he/she is doing to resolve the specific query and an approximate timescale for a detailed response.