

Policy & Resources Scrutiny Committee – 25th January 2017
Public Questions

Question from Mr Webb to the Portfolio Holder for Corporate & Community Support Services: Cllr Andrew Moring

Question 1

“Do Southend Council find online questionnaire as an effective tool to collect data on the opinion from the residents of Southend?”

Answer

Effective consultation provides the Council with information about how we can meet the diverse needs of people living, studying, working and visiting Southend. By getting involved in local affairs, people can influence decisions about public services. This can result in improvements in the quality of life for local communities. Consultation also strengthens local democracy by encouraging a closer relationship between decision-makers, and the people affected by their decisions.

The Council aims to make consultations a success by ensuring they are conducted effectively. It does this by ensuring they are conducted at a time when proposals are still at a formative stage. That sufficient information is provided to allow people to make an intelligent input in the process. And that adequate time is given for consideration and response to the consultation. Each consultation is tailored to meet the respective circumstance and stakeholders, allowing an appropriate approach and methodology.

The Council uses online questionnaires as one method to gather feedback. In addition, access to paper copies and additional support to complete a questionnaire if needed is always available. The Council receives successful response rates to online consultations. Focus groups, workshops and other methods of engagement are used alongside online questionnaires.

Question from Mr Webb to the Portfolio Holder for Housing, Planning & Public Protection Services: Cllr Mark Flewitt

Question 2

“In September monthly performance report it showed in CP 1.1 that Southend Council aim to minimise the 10 crimes. However in August 2016 3,397 crimes reported compared to the target 3,102. This shows signs of slippage. How can Southend Council work with the Police to communicate ways to prevent vehicle theft, burglary?”

Answer

The BSC crimes are contained within the council’s MPR which are the responsibility of the Police to deliver. The Council is in the process of making the MPR contemporary and more relevant. The Council’s Community Safety Unit is based at Southend Police Station – within the multi-agency Hub.

Exchange of information and intelligence between the Council and local police based in the Hub works well and strongly supports a partnership approach to tackling crime and disorder in Southend. Also adding the new quarterly meeting with Members and Senior Police staff will help with better communication.

Current crime stats show Domestic Burglary has reduced by 25% (152 offences) from April to November 2016 compared to same period in 2015, and vehicle crime reduced by 12% (155 offences) compared to same period in 2015 (April / November).