

## **Report of the Chairman on the work of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

This report gives an overview of the issues considered at the 20 September 2016 meeting.

### **1. Review of Community Safety**

- 1.1 The Committee noted the report from Keith McGroary, Community Safety Officer on a review of Community Safety over the past year and that all notifiable offences were down 5%.
- 1.2 The Committee was concerned to hear that the Surrey Police re-structure to bring in “Policing In Your Neighbourhood”, and their decision to vacate the Council offices had resulted in a significant reduction in communication and mutual exchange of information with the Council’s Community Safety Team.
- 1.3 Acting Inspector Parish of Surrey Police attended the meeting and responded to concerns raised by residents and councillors, including anti-social behaviour in Shepperton and Hengrove Park, Ashford. He explained the rationale behind the re-structure and told the Committee that the changes would give the police better resilience in future.
- 1.4 The Committee heard from Surrey Police and Crime Commissioner David Munro who outlined his role and told the Committee that his priorities included transferring as many funds as possible to frontline services and to improving non-emergency (101) services. He said he took on board the comments and concerns raised at the meeting and would undertake a thorough review to look at all the implications of the new policing model.

### **2. Joint Enforcement Team**

- 2.1 The Committee noted a report on the work of the Council’s Joint Enforcement Team (JET) and the successes it had achieved.
- 2.2 The Committee heard that since the police had moved out of the Council offices, communications with JET had deteriorated. The Committee raised concerns that this was affecting the exchange of information crucial to enable a speedy response to neighbourhood issues such as fly-tipping and graffiti.
- 2.3 A straw poll was taken of those present who overwhelmingly favoured the police reviewing their working practices to look at all of the implications of the new policing model, including making sure that vital communications channels are maintained.
- 2.4 The Committee thanked Jackie Taylor, Group Head for Neighbourhood Services and the JET for the work they were doing.

**Councillor Colin Davis**

*Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee*

**20 October 2016**