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Tel : Bideford (01237) 428700

Date: 22 November 2023
Quorum: 6

MEETING OF EXTERNAL OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

On:	Thursday 30 November 2023	At:	10.00 am
Venue:	Barum Room - Brynsworthy		

NOTICE OF MEETING

The meeting will be filmed for live or subsequent broadcast via the YouTube channel - <https://tinyurl.com/TorrigeYouTube>

To:	Councillor C Cottle-Hunkin (Chair) Councillor A Brenton (Vice-Chair) Councillors: L Bach, J Craigie, S Harding, C Hawkins, P Shepherd, D Smith and H Thomas Non elected Members: Vacancy
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Members are requested to turn off their mobile phones for the duration of the meeting

AGENDA

PART I - (OPEN SESSION)

1.	Apologies For Absence To receive apologies for absence from the meeting.
2.	Confirmation of Minutes (Pages 3 - 7) Confirmation of the minutes from the meeting held on Wednesday 01 November 2023.
3.	Action List (Pages 8 - 9) To review the action list.

4.	<p>Declaration Of Interests</p> <p>Members with interests should refer to the agenda item and describe the nature of their interest when the item is considered.</p>
5.	<p>Agreement Of Agenda Items Part I and II</p>
6.	<p>Urgent Matters Brought Forward With the Permission Of The Chair</p>
7.	<p>Consideration Of The Forward Plan (Pages 10 - 11)</p> <p>To review the forward plan.</p>
8.	<p>Update on the North Devon and Torridge Community Safety Partnership (Pages 12 - 17)</p> <p>Report by the Chair of the North Devon and Torridge Community Safety Partnership.</p>
9.	<p>Exclusion Of The Public</p> <p>The Chair to move:- That the public be excluded from the remainder of the meeting because of the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">Meeting Organiser: Democratic Services</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">Centre for Public Scrutiny – website http://www.cfps.org.uk/</p>

TORRIDGE DISTRICT COUNCIL

EXTERNAL OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY MEETING

Caddsdow Business Support Centre - Caddsdow Bideford EX39 3BE

Wednesday, 1 November 2023 - 6.00 pm

PRESENT

Councillor C Cottle-Hunkin (Chair)

Councillor A Brenton (Vice-Chair)

Councillors L Bach, S Harding, C Hawkins, P Shepherd, D Smith, C Hodson (substitute for L Bach), W Lo-Vel (substitute for H Thomas) and P Pennington

ALSO PRESENT

S Dorey

- Head of Legal & Governance (Monitoring Officer)

P Morrish

- Technology and Customer Support Manager Condition Monitoring Technology Group (CMTG) Torrington

T Hart

- General Manager Harland & Wolff Appledore

T Cole

- Training Manager Harland & Wolff Appledore

K Brown

- Economic Development Manger

K Hewlett

- Democratic Services Officer

- Electoral and Democratic Services Officer

214. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Thomas and Councillor Bach.

Councillor Lo-Vel was present as substitute for Councillor Thomas and Councillor Hodson was present as a substitute for Councillor Bach.

215. MINUTES

It was proposed by Councillor Harding, seconded by Councillor Smith and

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 13 September be agreed as a correct record.

(Vote: For 5, Abstentions 3)

216. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None received.

217. ACTION LIST

Members reviewed the action plan.

Members restated their concern regarding bus services in the local area. It was agreed to contact Stagecoach and request they attend a future Committee to discuss consultation and bus routes. It was also suggested that North Devon could be made aware of the meeting.

It was proposed by Councillor Brenton, seconded by Councillor Lo-Vel and Resolved:

To invite Stagecoach to future Committee.

(Vote: Yes, 5, abstention 1)

During an update on actions relating to the Link Centre provision members queried if the petition would be heard at Full Council and it was confirmed it was on the forward plan.

Following discussion on the Link Centre provision in Holsworthy and the previous venue for the Link Centre it was agreed that Cllr James and Cllr Shepherd would be asked to report back on their meeting.

Cllr Bach joined the Committee at 18:16. Following a query regarding substitution at Committee meetings it was explained that Councillor Hodson would continue as the substitute and take part in any votes.

218. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Members were reminded that declarations of interest should be made as and when the specific agenda item to which they related was under discussion.

219. AGREEMENT OF AGENDA ITEMS PART I AND II

There were no Part II items.

220. URGENT MATTERS BROUGHT FORWARD WITH THE PERMISSION OF THE CHAIR

Chair provided members with an update on the Mobile Library service and highlighted concerns regarding access to childcare provision, which had been raised with her by a constituent. Members discussed the issues regarding access to provision and national policy and it was agreed the issue may feed into the future committee schedule.

Councillor Brenton arranged to contact the Children's Centre in Bideford for some perspective.

221. EDUCATION & EMPLOYMENT IN TORRIDGE

Chair welcomed the panel members who had been invited to speak and provided apologies for PETROC.

The panel then introduced themselves to committee:

- Peter Morrish, Technology and Customer Support Manager Condition Monitoring Technology Group (CMTG) Torrington
- Tom Hart, General Manager Harland & Wolff Appledore
- Tony Cole, Training Manager Harland & Wolff Appledore
- Chris Fuller, Economic Development Manger – regarding Northern Devon Futures

The Training Manager for Appledore Shipyard (Harland and Wolff) provided a presentation for members, along with a short video which had been created by young people from PETROC and helped to show the role of apprenticeships at Appledore.

More detail was provided regarding recruitment processes and the timetable for applications. The induction programme was explained, along with the general scope of the apprenticeship and how those taking part were supported to find their preferred skills.

Following the presentation from the Training Manager at Appledore Shipyard a question and answer session took place.

There was discussion regarding retention and take up of apprenticeships at the shipyard and the General Manager and Training Manager provided members with statistics regarding the take up for the last 3 years. It was explained it would be 18 months before retention rates would be available as this would be when the first group of apprenticeships complete.

Members discussed how the apprenticeship worked for the person taking part, and the role of PETROC was highlighted in supporting the learning journey of apprentices. The process of matching someone's skills to the needs and future plans of the company was explored and explained for members.

Discussion moved onto qualifications and speakers confirmed the expected grades and reflected on the changes in apprenticeship model and how the grading compared to University qualifications.

It was stated that apprenticeship salary rates were comparable with minimum wage. All speakers confirmed that mature apprenticeships were also taken on.

Chair passed over to Peter Morrish who provided a summary of his background and the work of CMTG. He reflected on the ethos of the company to provide

lifelong learning and explained this in terms of apprenticeships - detailing the types apprenticeships that have been completed at the company.

The importance of the work of PETROC locally was restated and they were explained as a vital cog in the plans for the area moving forward.

A question and answer session followed, using the questions submitted by members prior to the meeting.

Members discussed gender balance. It was explained this was a local and national issue within the industries present at Committee and there was acknowledgment of the barriers experienced by women, as well as those from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Access to childcare provision, mentioned during an earlier agenda item, was recognised as one of those barriers. It was suggested that national figures on apprenticeship take-up may provide an answer.

The Economic Development Manager highlighted work with Maritime UK South West to raise profile of the sectors and challenge the potential imbalances and the Crown Estate was also mentioned in terms of their work recognising diversity.

The impact of reduced public services, such as transport were highlighted as having a major impact for those from disadvantaged backgrounds and for those under 18 with no personal transport. Reliable bus routes to outlying areas were felt to be important to promote opportunity in those areas.

Throughout the meeting discussion returned to the importance of good local infrastructure. This was felt to be a key challenge for business productivity, alongside the lack of affordable housing for employees.

There was lengthy discussion regarding the need for more collaborative working, and opportunities to work together and share practice across the variety of sectors within the district.

The challenges of being based in a rural location were noted and the Economic Development Manager highlighted the scope and opportunities coming from Levelling Up fund and how this was supporting the narrative coming from the meeting.

Possible solutions suggested during the meeting were community / workforce transport, as well as the development of business breakfast clubs and webinars for local businesses in the area to network. As well as more partnership work between business and education to promote and tailor apprenticeships.

The Committee reflected on how to support small growing businesses in the local area and improve connectivity, and the Economic Development Manager highlighted work taking place to develop a local makers map. Members were interested to find out more about this work.

Whilst discussing housing needs and Community Land Trusts the Head of Legal and Governance (& Monitoring Officer) provided an update on the recruitment process for an Enabling Officer.

There was a suggestion that Westward Housing Association be called in regarding their service provision and stock. It was agreed this would be added to the Forward Plan suggestions.

The following actions were summarised:

- Look to see if there are figures regarding gender equality. Whether there is any benchmarking on national level regarding apprenticeships.
- Action on bus service and transport links and community transport.
- Extend an invitation to PETROC to find out about the work taking place on apprenticeships and the aim for University Status.
- Update on the makers map of local businesses.
- Look at future of the Chamber of Commerce for the local area.

Members and the Chair thanked all who attended.

222. CONSIDERATION OF THE FORWARD PLAN

Chair reviewed the forward plan with members.

Members were also advised that a date for the joint Community Safety Partnership Update with North Devon District Council was being considered and would be confirmed shortly. Provisional suggestions were for 30th November.

An update was provided regarding plans to arrange a joint meeting with North Devon on Dentistry.

The following additions were suggested:

- 6 December 2023 – Invitations to PETROC or Lendology
- 31 January 2024 – Invitation to Stagecoach.
- 13 March 2024 – Active Torridge. Councillor Cottle-Hunkin declared a personal interest as a member of the Active Torridge Board.
- 24 April 2024 – Invitation to Pickwell Foundation.

The meeting commenced at 6.00 pm and closed at 8.20 pm

ACTION LIST

Overview & Scrutiny (External) Committee – 01 November 2023

Minute No.	Raised by	Action	Allocated To	Progress Update	Status
195.	Cllr Cottle-Hunkin	Look into reorganising the Police bitesize training for members / wider Council.	Dem Services	<p>Emailed North Devon and D&C Police for more information. Nathan Walker (Community Safety Sargeant) responded to advised there is not currently the resource to put together a programme.</p> <p>Request at Committee on 31 July that this be raised at the Community Safety Partnership meeting in October.</p>	Complete
199.	Cllr Cottle Hunkin	Work with North Devon District Council and consider joint committees on Dentistry and Agriculture.	Dem Services / Chair	<p>ND Committee to meet Thursday 14 September to discuss joint Committees with TDC, to feedback following the meeting.</p> <p>13-09-23 – Awaiting update from North Devon District Council. Forward plan provisionally updated for the December meeting.</p> <p>18-10-23 – Proposed dates in November being considered by North Devon Council on dentistry. Awaiting confirmation, then to be circulated to Committee Members.</p>	Ongoing
212.	Cllr Craigie	A letter to be sent to DCC and the invitation to attend External Committee regarding Link Centre provision and proposed provision for	Dem Services	16-10-23 Letter emailed to DCC, copies forwarded to Manager of Link Centre and Geoffrey Cox MP.	Complete.

		Torrige be left open. Letter to also advise of the Committees support for the petition to reopen referral routes and reinstate the provision.			
212.	Cllr Cottle-Hunkin	Look to arrange a visit to the Link Centre for Sir Geoffrey Cox MP and Cllr McInnes.	Cllr Cottle-Hunkin		Ongoing
212.	Cllr Hodson	To speak with the Leader for TDC regarding what provision is in place following the closure of the Link Centre in Holsworthy and what options are being considered for the building where the Link Centre was housed.	Cllr Shepherd	Update requested at 01 Nov meeting	Ongoing
217.	Cllr Brenton	Invite Stagecoach to Committee to discuss bus timetables and routes in Torrige.	Dem Services	Emailed 14/11/23	
220.	Cllr Brenton	Contact Bideford Children's Centre and request feedback in relation to childcare provision and the impact of reported childcare crisis locally.	Cllr Brenton		
221.	Cllr Hodson	Invite PETROC to attend to discuss apprenticeships and university status.	Dem Services		
221.	Cllr Cottle Hunkin	Investigate figures regarding take up of apprenticeships and gender equality.			
221.	Cllr Cottle Hunkin	Update on the makers map once completed.	Chris Fuller		
221.	Members	Consider the future of the Chamber of Commerce locally.			

EXTERNAL OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – FORWARD PLAN 2023/2024

Cycle 1 13 June 2023 10am	Cycle 2 31 July 2023 6pm	Cycle 3 13 September 2023	Cycle 3 12 October 2023 10am Rearranged for 30 November 2023 10am	Cycle 4 1 November 2023 6pm	Cycle 5 6 December 2023 10am	Cycle 6 31 January 2024 6pm	Cycle 7 13 March 2024 10am	Cycle 8 24 Apr 2024 6pm
Scrutiny Training	North Devon Plus	Mental Health Provision	Community Safety Partnership	Education and Employment in Torridge District	Lendology	Stagecoach? / PETROC	Active Torridge	Pickwell Foundation

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To be invited 2024-25

Westward Housing

Funded by TDC & date last attended External O&S:

- Active Torridge 1 February 2023
- Burton Art Gallery 7 December 2022
- Citizens Advice Bureau 19 January 2022
- North Devon + 31 July 2023
- North Devon Biosphere
- One Northern Devon
- TTVS 20 January 2021

Suggestions from Committee dated 13-06-23:

- Environment Agency invite regarding flood defences work and partnership working
- Pickwell, who work with the refugee community in the area.
- Health and Social Care within the Torridge area – the extent of child poverty and food poverty rates. Head of Legal and Governance (& Monitoring Officer) advised that TDC are working closely with TTSV, Encompass and Navigate on the household support fund and would be happy to attend.
- Invitation to local Housing Providers regarding the issues being experienced in terms of help for homelessness, housing issues.
- Invitation to DWP and the impact for those who are not in employment or education.
- North Devon Plus.
- Encompass.
- Citizens Advice

Agenda Item 8

INTRODUCTION

The North Devon & Torridge Community Safety Partnership (CSP) is a statutory body set up under sections 5-7 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. It is made up of representatives from several agencies involved with crime, disorder, and community safety. There is a joint CSP board between North Devon and Torridge which meets on a quarterly basis. The current Chair of the board is Superintendent Toby Davies of Devon and Cornwall Police. Meetings are attended by the following agencies:

- Torridge District Council
- North Devon District Council
- Devon and Cornwall Police
- Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue
- Police and Crime Commissioner representative
- DCC Public health
- Together (drug and alcohol support services)
- Leesar (domestic and sexual violence support services)
- Probation services
- TTVS/NDVS (voluntary services)
- North Devon Healthcare Trust
- Elected members from TDC, ND and DCC

The current priorities of the CSP are:

Priority one: Serious violence and Violence Against Women and Girls

The first of our priorities focusses on the CSP's work with our statutory partners to reduce all crime including serious violence, this includes knife violence / crime, sexual violence, domestic violence and abuse, and will include violence against women and girls (VAWG).

Following the publication of the Serious Violence Strategy, the Serious Violence Bill was announced in December 2019 and enacted on 16 December 2022. Specified Authorities have until January 2024 to put their plans in place.

Officers attend Devon level working groups where this project is developed – it is likely that the focus will be on trauma and interventions to address this and prevent later violence.

Discussions are being held at a county level with regards how the HM Government funding will be distributed to CSP areas. It is anticipated that funding will be held at a county level to commission county wide activities (Safer Devon Partnership), with smaller pots of funding coming to each CSP.

Our CSP recognises that domestic abuse, drug supply and early intervention of youth should be areas of focus to reduce the risk of Serious Violence

Priority two: Safer Streets & Anti-Social Behaviour

We continue to monitor, identify, and address the anti-social behaviour issues impacting our communities and seek to identify and support local preventive projects- with an ASB Steering Group. We co-ordinate responses to community level anti-social behaviour by using innovative ways to work with our partners to build and sustain community resilience.

One of the most significant projects relates to the Safer Streets funding for Barnstaple Town Centre ward which has led to significant reductions in crime and disorder across the reporting year.

Anti-social behaviour patrols continue across both districts and individuals are escalated through Anti-Social Behaviour process in a prompt manner, often resulting in court appearances and prosecutions.

We are continuing to seek opportunities to work with the health sector to actively address and monitor risks and changes relating to substance misuse locally. We promote and utilise a partnership approach to identify, support and tackle alcohol and drug related issues within our communities. By working in partnership with specialist drug and alcohol agencies (both commissioned and voluntary), service users and their families receive a range of options to help reduce dependency, harm and support their recovery.

Priority Three: Emerging threats.

To allow the CSP to respond quickly and effectively to new concerns, we review emerging issues in our communities and where necessary, set up a specialist group from within our partners to work on a specific problem.

We continue to deliver key messages through partnership communications to focus on community tensions, extremism, the online space, modern slavery, and human trafficking.

At the Community Safety Partnership Meeting on 9 November 2023, it was agreed that **Hate Crime** will be a CSP priority for the next year. This is against a backdrop of an increase in offences and incidents such as the distribution of racist material in our area. A working group will be established to formulate an action plan. It is anticipated that a focus of this work will be to increase awareness and reporting amongst the public in general and to more diverse communities.

Any of our partners can bring matters to the board for consideration and action. Our CSP is represented on the Safer Devon Partnership Executive Management Group through our Chair. Some statutory functions of the CSP are delivered at regional level, such as the production of a Crime and Disorder Strategic Assessment, regional reoffending strategy development, and the management of Domestic Homicide Reviews. At a local level, the role of the board consists of setting and monitoring local priorities and maintaining an overview of issues affecting community safety in both districts.

2. REPORT

The Community Safety Partnership has been very active since our last report to the Scrutiny Committee and the following provides an outline of activities carried out:

- A significant focus of the partnership and local policing looks at identifying and analysing activities related to organised crime groups. We continue to promote the sharing of vital intelligence with our policing colleagues through the Devon & Cornwall Police's Partner Agency Information Sharing Form. In this regard North Devon & Torridge Community Safety Partnership continues to be the top partnership for all intelligence submissions to the Police's Force Intelligence Unit which evidences how well we promote community safety as a partnership.
- We have continued to focus on our trauma informed vision for Torridge and North Devon. The CSP is now actively involved in a 'Devon Trauma Network' which has been set up across Devon to share best practice and promote consistency in its application. Members of our CSP have also delivered presentations at the Trauma Network on 'Trauma Informed Practice in Northern Devon'
- High Flow is a partnership initiative across all services with the CSP working in conjunction with One Northern Devon. All partner agencies identified and agreed the top 13 individuals putting most demand on our services and then sought to find a way to break that cycle. It leads to a High Flow casework providing additional support and putting a 'Team around the Person' to avoid the silo approach of agencies working alone. It has also seen dramatic reductions in demand and some outstanding stories of individuals turning their lives around, whilst also providing learning on how we can deal better with others in the future.
- Northern Devon Sexual Violence and Domestic Abuse Forum – This forum consists of wide representation from the CSP, wider partners and the local community. Our work continues to focus on raising awareness of domestic abuse in the workplace, introducing community and youth bystander projects, working together to support safety campaigns, focusing on young people, and promoting healthy relationships in schools. We are supporting and link in with the Domestic Abuse Act, via the Devon Domestic Abuse Partnership Board to support our work locally and thus providing strategic direction with a grass roots focus on preventing sexual violence and domestic abuse in our local communities. Both the Devon service, Fearfree, and local provider, North Devon Against Domestic Abuse, regularly attend and contribute to CSP board meetings and sub-groups.
- Our joint ASB Steering Group continues to develop and focus on ASB prevention and addressing local ASB issues across Northern Devon. The multi-agency meetings take place monthly and look in detail at individuals and areas of reported issues, with an emphasis on hotspots and emerging issues. This approach has been particularly well received in relation to the street drinking issues in Bideford and Barnstaple. The terms of reference of this group has recently been reviewed, membership has been extended to a wider

diversity of statutory partners including elected members at district and town levels. This diversity adds value through much more representative conversation around this key CSP priority. Member involvement also brings a really useful community perspective.

- In North Devon, an increased Officer presence has been introduced to address and prevent Anti-Social Behaviour. The Council's ASB Officer has a daily presence in the town centre and issues advice, warnings and notices when required. A security operative is available should the Officer require additional assistance. The team work closely with the Barnstaple CCTV room and are linked by radio, allowing prompt action when required.
- Street Marshals continue to be active in Barnstaple following funding being agreed with North Devon Council. The marshals, provided by a local security company, are patrolling the town on a daily basis. They helped to increase feelings of reassurance amongst both the public and businesses and dealt with incidents as and when they occurred. A similar scheme has been introduced in Ilfracombe and preparations are being made in Bideford for a similar scheme during the Christmas period.
- The CSP played a significant role in Barnstaple's successful bid to HM Government's Safer Streets Fund. The Town Team consisting of Street Marshals, antisocial behaviour (ASB) and CCTV officers, CEOs and the Police neighbourhood team provided public reassurance and de-escalated situations that could lead to anti-social behaviour, leading to increased public reassurance. Additionally, a Safe Space has been established in Barnstaple Town Centre, providing a base for agencies to offer help, advice and support.
- The Safer Streets initiative also provided for interventions in local schools. This included activities including a theatrical production and self-defence lessons for students.
- The CSP engaged with a local training provider to develop and provide training to 8 local primary schools to increase resilience in their pupils - topics included relationships, social media, dealing with emotional development and confrontation. The course provided an improved understanding of self, self-management strategies, better relationships, recognition of impact of behaviour and self and others.
- North Devon CSP took part in a Barnstaple action days as part of the ongoing effort to address Anti-Social Behaviour. Action included visits to businesses to offer reassurance, engagement with the public and a general clean-up of the town.
- In Torrington officers have continued to enforce the Public Spaces Protection order in the town to tackle antisocial behaviour associated with the consumption of alcohol or other intoxicating substances. These patrols are carried out in partnership with the local Neighbourhood Policing Team at Bideford. To further assist TDC officers are authorised under the Community Safety Accreditation Scheme (CSAS). Authorised Local Authority Officers are

focussed on engagement, education, and enforcement of our PSPO. We were able to challenge and disrupt street drinking in Bideford town centre and provided high visibility assurance to our community and local businesses.

- Torridge have been working jointly with the local neighbourhood policing team to tackle anti-social behaviour in Jubilee Square. To help achieve this objective Torridge have offered the police free use of office space on Jubilee Square. The local neighbourhood policing team are keen to utilise this space and it is currently with police estates for consideration. The use of this space has recently received verbal support from the acting Chief Constable during his visit to Bideford on 15 November 2023.
- In North Devon, Public Space Protection Orders have been renewed and two small areas that have been subject to Anti-Social Behaviour have been added to the map due to an increase in incidents. The new order will be effective from January 2024.
- Community Safety at Torridge have just taken over the running of the towns CCTV system. This move is going to further strengthen the PSPO and help to reduce ASB within the town by more closely linking the means to identify those responsible and the Community Safety team. Those identified will be escalated under ASB legislation and the CCTV evidence will support this.
- The Public Spaces Protection Order is due to be renewed in the spring of 2024, prior to this it will go out for consultation. Torridge and the police will be recommending the dispersal time will be extended to 24hrs to bring it in line with ND and other local authorities across the County.
- Our CSP has representation on the Devon Suicide Prevention Strategic Group. Devon has adopted the Preventing Suicide in England – National Strategy which outlines two principal objectives: to reduce the suicide rate in the general population and to provide better support for those bereaved or affected by suicide.
- CSP representation on the Devon Anti-Slavery Partnership (DASP) and continued contribution to and monitoring of intelligence relating to local modern slavery concerns and practices across both districts. Involvement in partnership action against local businesses implicated in modern slavery practices.
- CSP representation on both the Devon and Torbay Prevent Partnership and the Prevent and Education group, as well as individual representation of both districts on 'Channel panels' on cases within our own communities. Channel is a multi-agency programme which identifies and supports individuals at risk of radicalisation and extremism, and which delivers the strategic aim of the Prevent programme. Having identified an individual at risk, the Channel panel will assess the nature and extent of the risk, and subsequently develop the most appropriate support plan for the individual concerned. The standing inclusion of District Council representatives on this panel is a new requirement.

- We continue to work with our local Devon & Somerset Fire and Rescue Community Safety and Engagement Teams to promote and raise awareness of free Home Fire Safety Visit Programmes to support some of the most vulnerable individuals within our community.
- Police Officers continue to be embedded in North Devon Council Offices, an arrangement unique to when compared with other peninsula CSPs

At The CSP Board Meeting on 9 November 2023 it was agreed that the chairing arrangements of the partnership will change. Responsibility will revert to both Local Authorities after a successful period of police chairmanship by Superintendent Toby Davies. This change brings our CSP in to line with the other Devon partnerships who all have non-police chairs.

Over the last year there have been significant staff changes at both local authorities and the police. These new appointments offer new perspectives to the work of the CSP and will bring fresh impetus to our work.

3. CONCLUSION

The CSP area remains as one of the safest areas in the UK. Crime per head of population remains very low. That said there are still areas within our CSP that experience higher levels of crime and disorder, and themes we are keen to address. The CSP remains committed to work with communities, other partners, and elected members in helping to identify and target those community issues.

The reporting year has seen a significant turnover in Local Authority Community Safety leads- a completely new team within TDC and new faces on the NDDC side too; as well as new Police Community Safety supervisors and officers. That transition did lead to a missed CSP meeting (July 2023) and understandably it has taken a little time for new staff to bed in. The good news is that each area now have community safety staff fully in place, and a clear structure of administration and leadership for the next reporting year.

The North Devon & Torridge Community Safety Partnership remains active and committed to monitoring, supporting, and promoting activities in a wide range of areas that impact on community safety in our districts. This is against a backdrop of dealing with the loss of valuable annual funding from the OPCC and the ever-reducing resources across all agencies as well as managing the changing threats and issues faced by our communities.

However, these challenges empower the partnership to maintain our work in an efficient and effective joined up manner. The CSP provides a basis for this approach, and this is pivotal for community safety across Northern Devon.