

## **CABINET MEETING – 8 DECEMBER 2014**

### **AGENDA ITEM 3 – PUBLIC QUESTION TIME – ORDER IN WHICH THE CHAIRMAN WILL INVITE QUESTIONS BELOW RECEIVED IN WRITING IN ADVANCE OF THE MEETING**

- 1. From Mr Chester to the Cabinet Member for Housing**
- 2. From Mr Chester to the Cabinet Member for Community Services**
- 3. From Mr Chester to the Leader**

#### **QUESTION 1 TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING**

*If the Cabinet agrees that delegated authority be given to the Cabinet member for Housing and the Head of Finance and Property to dispose of land or properties in the housing revenue account, will any such decisions be advertised as Individual Cabinet Member decisions so that they can be called in if necessary?*

**Response** – Thank you for your question. You are referring specifically to recommendation (2) and yes, any decisions delegated to the Cabinet Member and taken by way of ICMs (Individual Cabinet Member Decisions) or, exceptionally by Cabinet, will be subject to the Call-In process. However, dispersals under £5,000 is an officer delegated matter and will not be subject to call-in.

#### **QUESTION 2 TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY SERVICES**

*Given continuing concern over anti-social behaviour in Littlehampton, the increase in crime in Arun highlighted by performance statistics in your agenda today, and the statement to the last Littlehampton Town Council Full Council by a Sussex Police officer that if cutbacks continue neighbourhood policing will be a thing of the past and the force will revert back to just responding to emergencies, will the Councils representative on the Sussex Police and Crime Panel support a proposed precept increase by the Police and Crime Commissioner to invest in frontline policing?*

**Response** – In the current challenging financial climate I am sure most Council Tax payers would prefer to see any increases in their Council tax bills be as low as possible. This requires all the organisations who make up the total bill doing all they can to help achieve most people's objective. It is recognised that it is becoming more difficult to deliver everything the public may want with ever reducing funding. The Police and Crime Commissioner has carried out a survey on the Chief Constable's priorities before she decides on the level of next year's budget.

The PCC's priorities proposed for 2014 and again in 2015 include:

- i. Visible front line policing – mobile policing
- ii. Responding to sexual violence
- iii. Child exploitation

iv. Cyber crime

Further detail on how any additional investment in next year's Policing budget would be used is set out on the PCC's website. An additional £1M investment is proposed on both items (i) and (iii) above.

Until greater detail is provided on the above proposals for the Police and Crime Panel on 23 January 2015 there is no answer to your specific question as what you mean by "Frontline Policing" and what the Chief Constable and Police & Crime Commissioner mean by the same phrase may be different. However, based on the above priorities there may not be any obvious increase in Neighbourhood Policing resources.

**QUESTION 3 TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**

*What work does Arun do with companies involved in major construction projects in the District to encourage them to work with local schools, colleges and job centres to provide apprenticeship opportunities?*

**Response -** Thank you for your question. The Council's approach is currently threefold. We use the Arun Business Partnership to encourage apprenticeships; we have our Development Charter which we again use to encourage apprenticeships but also encourage the letting of contracts with local firms; and finally we are working in partnership with the Department of Works & Pensions to assist with getting the long term unemployed back to work. A specific example to note is an apprentice was taken on as part of re-developing a small site for affordable housing. It is also good news that Rolls Royce Motor Cars will be recruiting 16 new apprentices in 2015, their highest number ever, and we will be promoting these opportunities to our local young people encouraging them to apply. Finally, Cabinet will be asked in the new year to consider a report regarding the use of some s106 financial contributions which are required to be used for business support. It is proposed to use some of this money as wage support for apprentices."