

## **Area North Community Safety and Neighbourhood Policing**

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   *Toni-Marie Lines, Beat Manager,*  
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### **Purpose of the Report**

The purpose of the report is to provide the basis for a short discussion, including an opportunity for questions to the Neighbourhood Policing team, or to refer issues for further discussion within SSDC or the Police.

*If councillors' require any clarification of information contained within this report, you are asked to contact one of the officers identified above prior to the meeting.*

### **Public Interest**

Promoting safer communities, through reducing crime and the fear of crime is a vital aspect of work by most public services in Somerset.

Sergeant Dean Hamilton and Beat Manager Toni-Marie Lines - Avon & Somerset Police, Steve Brewer - SSDC Community Safety Co-ordinator and Sara Kelly – Area Development Lead (North), will attend the Area Committee to take questions and support the discussion.

### **Recommendations**

- (1) Note and comment on the report.
- (2) Identify any local issues affecting local crime and anti-social behaviour for consideration by the appropriate services.

### **Background**

Background information on the Neighbourhood Policing team is included at Appendix A.

#### **Neighbourhood Police Report.**

Avon and Somerset Constabulary (ASC) maintain Neighbourhood teams in the four geographical areas of South Somerset.

Policing the neighbourhood identifies priorities and areas of weakness in respect of crime trends and are the primary focus for staff that is tasked to deal with issues as they arise. Whilst this is not new to Area North, staff from across the area will be used, if required, to assist in tackling particular problems, issues and trends as they arise.

## **Structure**

The Area Police Sergeant is directly supported by Police Officers and Police Community Support Officers. Area North is managed through the structure of three beat areas named; Somerton, Martock, South Petherton and the Hamdons. Further detail related to the Elected Members areas and Police structures can be found at appendix A.

## **Crime reports and trends**

SSDC Area North continues to remain a safe place for our communities to live, work and visit. Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) has reduced substantially over the past few years and remains average for the geographical type of area. The current figures released by the Constabulary and available at [www.police.uk](http://www.police.uk) are based on the three beat areas, as identified above. The most recent figures available at the time of writing this report are overviewed at appendices B, C, D and E. This shows that at September end, Area North is running at an 8% rise on the same time as last year, Martock Beat showing a 6% increase, South Petherton 5% and the Somerton Beat 3% rise.

## **Police Stations, Posts and Staffing**

The Police post at Martock based in the town Centre Market House continues to operate and is seen as a valuable resource to the community. Somerton police station remains as the area staff office housing the Beat Team, Speed Enforcement Officers and Response Officers.

## **Watch Schemes**

There are currently seven (7) Community Speed Watch Teams and one hundred and eighty eight (188) Neighbourhood Watch schemes operating across Area North. Lorry Watch is a new watch scheme initiative in the process of being set up in Langport.

## **The Safer Somerset Partnership.**

The Safer Somerset Partnership is seen as the lead for Community Safety in the County of Somerset. This is the top level group which directs the strategic lead for operations in the area. SSDC is represented by the Assistant Director, Helen Rutter and Elected Member, Tony Lock who has responsibility for Community Safety. The Group is made up of senior managers and elected members from each of the Local authorities and by senior managers from other relevant organisations including the Police and Fire services.

## **Local Action Groups**

Martock is currently the only Community Safety Local Action Group that regularly meet to look at community issues, deal with problems, manage projects and support the Police and other agencies with problem solving activities.

## **Financial Implications**

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

## **Corporate Priority Implications**

Health and Communities - Help keep our communities safe.

## **Carbon Emissions & Climate Change Implications**

None from this report

## **Equality and Diversity Implications**

Addressing causes of crime can help promote community cohesion.

***Background Papers:*** There are no background papers identified.

## **Appendices**

- A) North Structure
  - B) Crime Figures – Area North
  - C) Crime Figures - Martock Beat
  - D) Crime Figures – Somerton Beat
  - E) Crime Figures – South Petherton.
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