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## KIRKLEES COUNCIL

### OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

**Friday 27th February 2026**

Present:

Councillor Itrat Ali  
Councillor Zarina Amin  
Councillor Andrew Cooper  
Councillor Jo Lawson

In attendance: Councillor Amanda Pinnock – Portfolio Holder, Communities and Environment  
Dale Gardiner, West Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Service  
Jill Greenfield, Service Director Communities and Access Services  
Lee Hamilton, Safer Kirklees Manager  
Rashid Mahmood, Head of Highways  
Sarah Mitchell, Head of Communities  
Warren Pitman, Superintendent, West Yorkshire Police  
Sam Rose, Kirklees Probation Service  
Jaqui Theaker, Data and Insight Enablement Lead  
Philip Waddington, Group Engineer, Highways and Streetscene  
Chris Walsh, Safer Kirklees Manager  
Martin Wood, Head of Public Protection

Observers: Councillor Imran Safdar

- 73 Election of Chair**  
**RESOLVED –**  
That Councillor Itrat Ali be elected Chair for the meeting.
- 74 Membership of the Committee**  
Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillor Cahal Burke.
- 75 Minutes of Previous Meeting**  
**RESOLVED –**  
That the Minutes of the meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2025 be approved as a correct record.
- 76 Declaration of Interests**  
No interests were declared.
- 77 Admission of the Public**  
All agenda items were considered in public session.

### 78 Deputations/Petitions

No deputations or petitions were received.

### 79 Public Question Time

No public questions were received.

### 80 Strategic Intelligence Assessment and Kirklees Communities Partnership Plan

The Committee received a report which provided:

- A high-level overview of the 2025 Strategic Intelligence Assessment (SIA) and an outline of the proposed Communities Partnership Plan priorities for 2026/7-29.
- An outline of an approach to develop the new Safer Kirklees Community Safety Plan (CSP) for 2026/7 –29.

The Portfolio Holder for Communities and Environment and the Chair of the Communities Partnership Board, Councillor Amanda Pinnock, introduced the item and Sarah Mitchell, Head of Communities and Jill Greenfield, Service Director, Communities and Access Services gave a presentation.

The following points were highlighted:

- The development of a new Community Safety Partnership Plan for 2026-2029.
- Crime rates had fallen in many categories in Kirklees, though it was acknowledged that public perception did not always reflect this and that this could impact on community confidence and wellbeing.
- The importance of partnership working, including collaborative working with the West Yorkshire Combined Authority, the Police, Fire Service, health partners, the Probation Service, victim support and community organisations. There was a strong established partnership in Kirklees.
- Engagement with ward councillors helped to provide detailed insight into local issues.
- The findings from the 2025 Strategic Intelligence Assessment (SIA) and the proposed high-focus priority areas for the next community safety plan, reflecting the data and insight from the previous SIA and that gathered from partners, ward councillors and communities.
- Key issues identified included neighbourhood crime, antisocial behaviour, exploitation, vulnerability and violence against women and girls.
- The plan aimed to be intelligence-led, focused on prevention and reflective of the lived experience of Kirklees residents, so that it continued to support safer, more resilient and more confident communities in every part of the district.
- The Committee's feedback would help to shape the final plan, which would be presented later in 2026.
- The intention was to move towards an approach which understood the connectivity, links and related factors that cut across the priorities and how things might be done differently, working alongside communities with the aim of becoming more effective and efficient, understanding what works and focussing resources.

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- The SIA showed no significant changes in crime trends compared with the previous year.
- Extensive engagement had taken place with officers, partners, communities, and ward councillors to inform the SIA. Perception within communities had also been considered.
- Alignment with the West Yorkshire Combined Authority and national policing policy remained central to the plan's development.
- There was an increased focus on place-based working with significant engagement within wards with local councillors and the development of a 'safe people safe places' approach.
- The high priority focus areas would be those where there was a statutory duty for the partnership, where there were current or emerging concerns or where it was having a significant impact on how communities were feeling or was escalating. These were:
  - Serious violence
  - Domestic abuse
  - Violence against women and girls
  - Anti-social behaviour and neighbourhood crime
  - Hate crime
  - Preventing extremism/ Safeguarding communities
  - Migration
  - Community impact and tensions
- Monitoring would continue of other areas where performance was more stable or improving or which connected partnerships may have in view.
- Underlying this was cross-cutting work in relation to issues/common factors such as reducing re-offending and alcohol and drug misuse and building inclusive communities.
- The importance of working alongside people, with partners and at place was noted and the need to ensure oversight with other safeguarding boards and to consider a range of issues such as deprivation and inequality, focussed use of funding, developing trusted relationships and mental health.
- The ongoing working with/alongside Councillors and the areas for development.

Partner representatives from West Yorkshire Police, West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue, Kirklees Probation Service, Highways and Public Protection were also in attendance to contribute and answer questions.

Martin Wood, Head of Public Protection and Dale Gardiner, District Commander for West Yorkshire Fire Service provided information on the partnership work undertaken in relation to Bonfire Night and fireworks, in response to a recent Council motion:

- The current regulations did not support the restriction of firework use that many communities wished to see.
- The Council, Police, and West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service undertook coordinated activities each year to promote safety, reduce nuisance and distress and support both enjoyment and community wellbeing, particularly during the period leading up to Bonfire night. The partnership worked closely together to respond to community concerns.

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- Joint work had included removing unsafe or clandestine bonfires, prevention work through schools and community engagement, targeting hotspots for anti-social behaviour, and encouraging attendance at organised displays.
- Trading Standards, Licensing, and the Fire Service carried out joint inspections to ensure lawful firework sales and identify counterfeit products and received intelligence from the Police.
- Reference was made to recent motions in Parliament seeking new regulation to increase the control of firework use. The current legal provisions were not considered to be 'fit for purpose'.
- The Annual Bonfire Plan had become well-established across the partnership and serious incidents continued to decrease due to effective joint partnership working.

Questions and comments were invited from Members, with the following issues being covered:

- The priorities aligned with expectations in relation to the issues raised at ward level. The work to be done on measurables was welcomed.
- The approach to engage with Ward Councillors was working well.
- It would be helpful for Ward Councillors to have a named contact officer from Safer Kirklees.
- The robust partnership working between Safer Kirklees, the Fire Service, the Police and other Council Services, which included responses to resident concerns, reassurance visits, coordinated action during Bonfire Night, hotspot checks and effective communication through officers and the Police Intelligence Portal was acknowledged and commended.
- The forthcoming formal training to support new council members was welcomed.
- In respect of how officers assessed hate crime without minimising a victim's experience, it was acknowledged that perception was an important issue. Significant work took place in terms of awareness-raising of what a hate crime was, alongside building trust in the response and encouraging reporting. The partnership approach included support from a Safer Kirklees victim support officer and a multi-agency panel to consider serious cases. Assurance was given that all reports to the Police were believed, recorded and investigated, with a recent partnership pilot indicating improved outcomes and satisfaction for victims.
- Assurance was sought regarding the positive impact in Ashbrow since the implementation of the partnership Clear, Hold, Build (CHB) model and how this would be sustained once the initial stages concluded.
- The success of the model was referenced, including national recognition in a recent inspection relating to serious and organised crime. The Neighbourhood Policing Team, Safer Kirklees and the wider partnership work would continue in this area. Thanks were expressed to the community and key stakeholders for their contribution to this initiative.
- The improvements in police engagement over recent years were acknowledged and appreciated and the positive impact of both past and current local leadership.
- It was noted that there was a need for national government involvement as a partner, in addressing legislative and funding barriers.

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- The importance of preventative road safety work was stressed and the increased budget for road safety work welcomed; it was hoped that this would encourage an area-based approach to investment.
- The view was expressed that there may be a need for stronger multi-agency planning in relation to Bonfire Night logistical arrangements such as access and parking, further to issues caused by congestion at a local organised event.
- The RTC (Road Traffic Collision) prevention work was highlighted and the ongoing engagement with young drivers through education providers and police-led activities, noting that this would have long-term benefits and acknowledging the challenges in reaching more experienced drivers.
- The work being undertaken to support care leavers in the transition to independence, and women and girls, was welcomed
- The Committee was advised of ongoing work across the safeguarding partnerships to understand what more could be done to support care leavers, within a whole partnership approach, which would include strengthening trauma informed support and involving housing, health and mental health services.
- A question was asked regarding the vulnerabilities of individuals and neurodiversity and if any correlation had been identified. Although no direct link had been identified locally, there was an awareness of national research having highlighted potential vulnerability among a variety of groups and this did inform local practice.
- In respect of the process for a Council response to be submitted to government consultations, such as the Home Office's earned settlement consultation, it was explained that consultation feedback was coordinated through various routes including the Policy Team. Efforts were made to ensure that responses were grounded in evidence-led insight and local experience.

### RESOLVED -

- (1) That the Cabinet Member, officers and partners be thanked for attending.
- (2) That the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) 'high focus priority areas' and the 'continue to monitor work areas' (as set out in Appendix 1 to the report) which would be shaped in the new CSP plan with clear delivery plans be endorsed.
- (3) That the further exploration of the cross-cutting themes (as set out in Appendix 1) as areas to discuss with wider safeguarding partnerships be endorsed
- (4) That the Committee endorse the approach to working with Councillors (as set out in Appendix 3)
- (5) That the following be noted:
  - The CSP will mobilise Community Safety Plan Development phase stakeholders (commencing March 2026 to end of summer 2026)
  - Progress to strengthen place-based and Town Centre working will take place March 2026 onwards
  - The annual Community Safety Partnership Report on progress.
  - The CSP will share CSP Plan with clear actions for 2026/7-29 with the Committee later in 2026

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### 81 **Lead Members Updates**

The Lead Members for each of the Scrutiny Panels gave an update in relation to the work currently being undertaken by their Panel:

- Children's
- Growth & Regeneration
- Environment & Climate Change
- Health & Adult Social Care

### 82 **Work Programme 2025-26**

The latest version of the Committee's Work Programme for 2025-2026 was submitted for consideration and noted.