

**TO EACH MEMBER OF THE
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

06 February 2023

Dear Councillor

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE- TUESDAY 7 FEBRUARY 2023

Further to the Agenda and papers for the above meeting, previously circulated, please find attached the following:

Agenda Item	Description
7.	Gloucestershire Rural Community Council Presentation To receive a presentation from Gloucestershire Rural Community Council (GRCC) to understand how it fulfils the requirements of the service level agreement.
8.	Gloucestershire Police and Crime Panel Update To receive an update from the Council's representative on matters considered at the last meeting (3 February 2023).

Should you have any queries regarding the above please contact Democratic Services on
Tel: 01684 272021

Yours sincerely

Head of Democratic Services



GRCC

'supporting and empowering Gloucestershire's communities through change'

Tewkesbury Borough Council
OSC Presentation
February 2023

Barbara Piranty - CEO

Barbara Pond - Head of Operations and Business Development



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- Introduction to GRCC
- GRCC work and commissioned activity in Tewkesbury Borough
- Current and Future Plans



GRCC (Gloucestershire Rural Community Council)

- Independent, local charity with rural specialism, established in 1923
- Countywide coverage with offices in Cheltenham and Gloucester
- Mission - To help build strong, healthy, sustainable communities in Gloucestershire using our knowledge, experience and networks
- Working with individuals, communities of interest and geography, and across themes, in partnership with the Statutory, Voluntary and Private sector
- Involved in direct delivery e.g. Tewkesbury Community & Flood resilience scheme (2014) including 38 Flood Wardens, and ESHO Project (Employment Support)



- Infrastructure support – facilitation of training and networks to support and upskill the VCS
- 4 • Independence Trust merged with GRCC in 2020. IT offers individual countywide mental health support to adults via:
 - CALMHS (Community Advice, Links and Mental Health Support service)
 - CASA (Community Autism Support and Advice service)
 - CWS (Community Wellbeing Service – Social Prescribing)
 - Other bespoke projects



Our USP

- **Countywide, independent, neutral VCS organisation** – wealth of knowledge, experience and understanding of the ‘bigger picture’ and wider learning. 100 years of connecting through ‘twinning’ and peer support
- **Part of a national network** – one of 38 RCCs operating under the umbrella of ACRE (Action with Communities in Rural England) providing national examples of best practice and success
- **Translator of Policy** – sharing and translating policy change from central government and other agencies with communities i.e. what does this mean and how does it affect us? (COVID guidance, GDPR, Localism Act 2011)



Empowering and Enabling

- Helping communities to identify what is important to them
- Helping communities to identify projects, support start up, establish a legal entity and funding, and build a business plan
- Providing communities with the right tools to succeed through templates, resources and knowledge, e.g. CARS Toolkit (Community Approaches to Road Safety) and Emergency Planning Toolkit
- Empowering and enabling communities to take action for themselves



Community Consultation

Community Led Planning

- Parish Plans/Green Parish Plans
- Village Design Statements
- Emergency and Resilience Planning
- Neighbourhood Development Plans
- Parish Priorities – Section 106 and CIL
- Household Surveys



Facilitation

Networks

- VCS Network - 'Go to' organisation for support to the Voluntary Sector
 - ∞ including 'Know Your Patch' cross sector learning networks
- Service Village Forum

Public Consultation Events

- Identifying Housing Need and enabling Affordable Housing, including 'Community Led'
- Bespoke events e.g. Levelling Up



Supporting Volunteer Recruitment and Retention

- Flood Wardens
- Trustees
- Village and Community Halls
- Community Asset Transfer projects including Community Shops and Pubs
- Business planning, project planning, fundraising strategies, funding advice
- Project initiation and legal entity
- Grant programmes
- Development of Children's Centres



GRCC commissioned activity in Tewkesbury Borough

- Rotational VCS networks
- 10 • Training for Trustees
- Growth agenda including general one to one support e.g. community assets
- Community buildings advice and support
- Community Led planning
- Community and Flood Resilience



Current & Future Plans

- Enhanced Affordable Housing Offer
- Digital inclusion
- Health and Wellbeing
- Food Poverty
- Climate Change
- Traffic and transport

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Questions?



Contact Us

Barbara Piranty – CEO

barbarap@grcc.org.uk

Barbara Pond – Head of Operations & Business Development

bpond@grcc.org.uk

Sabrina Dixon – Community Capacity Builder

Tewkesbury borough

Sabrinad@grcc.org.uk

Tel: 01452 528491



Gloucestershire Police and Crime Panel (PCP) – 3 February 2023

Feedback Report to Tewkesbury Standards and Oversight Committee

Meeting attended by Councillor David Gray.

Proposed Gloucestershire Police Precept 2023/24

This item took up the great part of the meeting.

The Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) presented his report on his proposals for the uplift in the police precept for 2023/24, which ran to 41 pages and contains a wealth of detail on all aspects of the Gloucestershire Constabulary, its finances and operations.

This report is available in full via the weblink glostext.gloucestershire.gov.uk where agendas and related papers are available to the public, including full minutes of past meetings.

Highlights of the report included:

The results of the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) public survey.

Some 657 residents responded to the survey, including 113 from Tewkesbury. Speeding/dangerous driving and burglary/theft were the two topics that affected residents the most, with over 75% of respondents either being personally affected or being aware of the crime. In line with the result for the County, 72% of Tewkesbury respondents said that they did not believe that the Gloucestershire Constabulary has sufficient funds to address their concerns, and the most popular areas for allocating funds, if more were available, were visible policing and policing on roads.

Safer street Fund

The PCC highlighted the benefits that the Force has received following recent applications for Safer Street (SS) Fund. Prior to the current PCC's term in office no application had been made for such funding, but Gloucestershire has now received some £3.1m of SS funding in the last two years, and now has the highest per capita receipts of any Force in the South West.

The PCC outlined actions taken by the Police against his 6 stated priorities

- Creating safer communities
- Tackling violence against women and girls
- Strengthening your constabulary
- Targeting the causes of crime
- Supporting victims and reducing reoffending
- Empowering local communities

Additional officers and staff in the constabulary

In total some 312 fully funded full time posts have been added to the Force

- 115 extra police officers
- 19 extra PCSOs
- 178 extra police staff

Funding provided for 200 additional Special Constables and 100 volunteer PCSOs
60 external roles funded via OPCC in crime prevention and other related areas

The PCC highlighted that a number of the problems that had been highlighted by the Peel Report issued by the Inspectorate, which resulted in the Gloucestershire Force being placed into special measures, had required urgent action including devoting resources to fix the failings in the Force's recording of crime. The later was in the opinion of the PCC the "killer issue" that had to be addressed on his taking office.

The PCC proposed a £15 increase in the annual precept (based on Band D) or 5.36%. The uplift reflected the investments being made in expanding the Force and the significant inflationary pressures that the Force faces. The PCC said that past lower funding requests had "hollowed out" many of the activities of the Force and that this was not a sensible approach.

The Panel welcomed the PCC's report and raised a number of questions.

Two Liberal Democrat members of the Panel invited the PCC to apologise for not hitting his manifesto commitment to increase the number of full frontline police officers by 300.

The PCC noted that such plans had to change when faced by the results of the Peel review, which reported shortly after he took office, which made clear the pressing need to fix the major deficiencies in the recording of crime in the County; he suggested that the real test of his performance would be the effectiveness in addressing those areas and improving crime statistics and improving prevention. He noted that he was unaware of any Force that had added staff at a faster rate proportionally over the period of his office.

The PCC also defended the use of special constables and community support officers as effective ways to both reduce crime and improve intelligence on crime in communities.

The PCC noted that he has been lobbying for both more funding for the police from S106 and CIL type charges to housing developers, and for a change to allow the police to recruit non-graduates, who can offer valuable skills.

The Panel voted unanimously in favour of the suggested increase in the precept for 2023/24.

The next meeting of the Panel will be on 24th March 2023

Report ends.