

Administration Motion 2 (20 March 2019): Police Funding

- *Build stronger relationships between councillors, communities and the police by developing new district working methods*
 - There have been significant changes in the overall operating environment since the Council introduced District working. As a result, the role of elected members and District Teams has become more challenging and complex and it has been necessary to understand what the role requires in the future and how elected members and District Teams can be supported to perform their roles.
 - The council conducted a District Review, looking at the effectiveness of District Executives, considering how elected members can be supported in their role as democratic leaders at a place-based level.
 - Following the conclusion of this review, the decision was taken to remove District Executives and their accompanying budgets. Individual councillor budgets have been increased from £5,000 to £6,000 and a new Local Improvement Fund totalling £500,000 has been introduced. This fund will be available to districts to bid into, allowing greater flexibility through a larger pot that can fund the kind of long-term, transformational projects that previous district-level budgets could not support.
 - Alongside the changes to budgets, officers are supporting districts to create new community engagement plans. Working with the council's communications team as well as officers in districts, councillors are now being supported to reach out to residents in a way that creates engagement on the issues that really affect local communities, far beyond the very small amount of engagement that took place under the District Executive model.

- *Work in and with communities to build understanding of the causes of and solutions to violent crime, taking a holistic approach similar to that which has seen success in Scotland*
 - Work is being carried out to review the range of ways in which the council and partners work with communities to address the causes of and solutions to crime.
 - Part of this work has seen the creation of a new portfolio for Social Justice and Communities, that puts particular emphasis on the importance of community-level working and engagement with young people to ensure all of our young residents have a stake in their own lives and their neighbourhood.
 - Funding is being sought to support this work, and the cabinet member for Social Justice and Communities will be bringing this forward shortly.