

## COUNTY COUNCIL: 22ND OCTOBER 2024

### Agenda Item No. 10a) – Motion from Councillor Bulat

Proposed by                      Councillor Count                      Seconded by Councillor XXX

Additions in bold and deletions shown in strikethrough

The Council notes that:

- Everyone across Cambridgeshire deserves access to a properly funded police force and a well-coordinated local approach to tackling anti-social behaviour and Domestic Abuse, ensuring our residents feel safe in their communities.
- Cambridgeshire County Council has a number of statutory duties linked to community safety, including those contained within the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015, The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 and the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022.
- In Cambridgeshire our five District and City Councils lead the work of the multi-agency Community Safety Partnerships, including local Domestic Homicide Reviews, with officers from the County Council representing the organisation as key statutory partners.
- The Council provides services that support victims of domestic abuse through a team of Independent Domestic Violence Advisors and since 2018 the Council has held the nationally recognised White Ribbon accreditation, demonstrating the Council's commitment to preventing harassment, abuse and violence against women and girls. The Council's White Ribbon accreditation is now due for renewal.

The Council welcomes that:

- During recent national disorder events all partners across Cambridgeshire communicated regularly, working closely to mitigate local risks in order to keep communities safe. This included close contact with the Home Office.
- All our five district-led Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) are working hard to serve our communities and reduce crime and anti-social behaviour.
- The Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) Police and Crime Plan 2021-2024 prioritised ensuring that partners and the police are listening to the public and pledged to tackle the causes of crime and anti-social behaviour through partnership working.
- The new Government made community safety one of its five missions, pledging to crack down on anti-social behaviour and recruit 13,000 new neighbourhood police officers with crucial local knowledge to prevent and tackle crime.
- The Council is committed to supporting victims of Domestic Abuse and renewing its White Ribbon accreditation.

The Council expresses concern that:

- Cambridgeshire remains the fourth lowest funded police force in the country, which means we have significantly less spend per person compared to similar areas, while we experience one of the highest population increases. Meanwhile, local taxpayers fund around half of the police's budget in Cambridgeshire.
- Domestic abuse and sexual violence continue to be widespread problems in our country, with the national Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) estimating that as low as 1 in 6 crimes of this nature are reported. Applying national prevalence figures from the CSEW, local estimates are that there were 36,000 victims of domestic abuse in 2021/22 in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. This was calculated as part of the local Violence Against Women and Girls Needs Assessment in 2023.
- There is more to be done to raise the profile of the Council's White Ribbon status and the support available from across the organisation to support all victims of domestic abuse.

The Council is recommended to commit to:

- Ask the Chief Executive to write to the Home Secretary to ask for Cambridgeshire to have its fair share of the new neighbourhood police officers **and that they are fully funded by the central policing core grant**, including opportunities for local residents to train and fill those new roles.
- Ask the Chief Executive to write to all constituency MPs in Cambridgeshire asking them to lobby for a fairer funding deal for our county, through changes to the government's police grant allocation that better reflects current population data and local factors.
- ~~Ta~~Ask officers from the Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Service with:
  - Recruiting additional White Ribbon ambassadors from across the Council, ensuring there is representation from all council directorates and from elected members.
  - Developing a cross-council action plan to support the White Ribbon reaccreditation process.
  - Communicating the help and support available across Cambridgeshire to victims of domestic abuse through partner forums, Council communications (including social media channels) and through local publications such as Cambridgeshire Matters and the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Association of Local Councils newsletter.