

#askSGB – Questions and Answers

2:33

The Strategic Governance Board meeting has now began.

This first half an hour is an open forum for communities to ask questions.

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The commissioner thanks everyone for attending

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Question from Mr Bridges by Email

Question for the PCC, please could you clarify the Chief Constables Mr Goodman words to the Derby Telegraph about local neighborhood teams, a quote from Mr Goodman "Can we continue with both police constables and police community support officers? We need to make the choice of one or the other."

SNTs are a hugely important assets to the community, gathering intelligence and liaising with the community on local matters, reducing these teams to officers with no arresting powers, will sent the wrong message to local criminals, we need strong SNTs made up of police constables and police community support officers.

Please could you clarify and reassure me and the public that we will not lose our already depleted SNTs from our communities.

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Commissioner Dhindsa – Safer Neighbourhood Teams are important in the policing family and the choices are massive due to the reduced funding. I have been raising awareness and working for a larger grant from the Government through my fairer funding campaign.

Demands are changing and increasing which also included policing the streets and online. I am working with the Chief Constable to keep the good record that Derbyshire has obtained as one of the safest places to live in the country.

We need strong neighbourhood teams and we are also looking at the powers of PCSO's

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Comment from the Chief's team – Chief Constable Goodman is a strong believer in SNT's and wants them to remain in Derbyshire. Clearly there are many financial pressures facing the force and we have a responsibility to ensure we police Derbyshire as well as we can. It is agreed that SNT's are a significant asset to the community and their presence is vitally important. As yet there is no decision on how SNT will be made up in the future but we as a force regularly review the powers given to PCSO's to ensure our neighbourhood teams are equipped to do their job.

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Question from Mr Byford in the audience - Given the attacks this year in Manchester and London I am rather surprised at the lack of information being brought forward to make the public aware of what to look out for in order to spot potential terrorists particularly through the Neighbourhood Watch network and this is in sharp contrast to what appears to Rural Residents to be a disproportionate focus on Wildlife Crime as opposed to Rural Crime.

Perhaps too much attention is being paid to Focus Groups?

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Commissioner Dhindsa – The terrorist attacks in Manchester and London are important. It is essential that we don't dilute the national message of 'Run, Hide, Tell' There are good links on the police website for more information.

Rural crime in Derbyshire is a high profile and to this end the Rural Crime Team was established to focus on rural, wildlife and heritage crime. They use social media and Derbyshire Alert to put information out to the farming communities and they are making good inroads with them.

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Assistant Chief Constable Bill McWilliam – Terrorism is a priority and everyone should report anything suspicious straight away and it is important that the public is given the proper information about what is suspicious.

Rural Crime deserves policing and the necessary resourcing.

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Mr Byford said he was happy with what he heard and would like to talk with the Rural Crime Team. This will be arranged

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Deputy Chief Constable Gary Knighton – We are responsible to all communities across Derbyshire and have to balance the budget with the issues they have.

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No more questions were received or raised.

The online element of today's SGB has now concluded.

The next meeting will take place on January 21 2018.