

CITY OF
WOLVERHAMPTON
COUNCIL

Climate Change, Housing and Communities Scrutiny Panel

19 October 2023

Time 6.00 pm **Public Meeting?** YES **Type of meeting** Scrutiny

Venue Committee Room 3 - 3rd Floor - Civic Centre

Membership

Chair Cllr Anwen Muston (Lab)
Vice-chair Cllr Wendy Dalton (Con)

Labour

Cllr Mary Bateman
Cllr Greg Brackenridge
Cllr Sally Green
Cllr Jeszemma Howl
Cllr Linda Leach
Cllr Barbara McGarrity QN
Cllr Rohit Mistry
Cllr John Reynolds

Conservative

Cllr Stephanie Haynes
Cllr Andrew McNeil

Quorum for this meeting is three Councillors.

Information for the Public

If you have any queries about this meeting, please contact the Scrutiny Team:

Contact Earl Piggott-Smith
Tel/Email earl.piggott-smith@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Address Scrutiny Office, Civic Centre, 1st floor, St Peter's Square,
Wolverhampton WV1 1RL

Copies of other agendas and reports are available from:

Website <http://wolverhampton.moderngov.co.uk/>
Email democratic.services@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Tel 01902 555046

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Agenda

Part 1 – items open to the press and public

Item No. *Title*

MEETING BUSINESS ITEMS

- 1 **Apologies**
- 2 **Declarations of interest**

DISCUSSION ITEMS

- 3 **Council 2028 Net Zero Progress Review (report to follow)**
[David Pattison, Chief Operating Officer, to present report]
- 4 **Fly Tipping Update** (Pages 3 - 18)
[Steve Woodward, Head of Environmental Services, to present report]
- 5 **Climate Change, Housing and Communities Scrutiny Panel draft work**
programme 2023 - 2024 (Pages 19 - 22)
[Martin Stevens DL ,Scrutiny Team Leader,to present report]

Fly Tipping Update

Climate Change, Housing and Communities Scrutiny Panel

19 October 2023

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Agenda Item No: 4

Presenters:

Steve Woodward

Head of
Environmental
Services

Claire Walters

Environmental
Place Based
Development
Manager

Liz Grimshaw

Environmental
Project Manager

Thomas Hawkins

Section Leader:
Fly Tipping

Current Situation

- There have been 1583 reports of fly-tipping since January 2023 on Council owned land, not including Wolverhampton Homes.
- This is a 17% reduction compared the same period of 2022
- 98% of reported fly-tipping is collected within 5 working days
- All rapid response officers operate on the Confirm system, via an in-cab tablet, allowing jobs to be immediately assigned to the team from Customer Services, the Love Clean Streets App or directly from the Environmental team.
- Fly-tipping remains a constant challenge for the city, an ever-evolving issue and one which there is no simple remedy for.

Shop a Tipper (SaT) Project Overview

- Across the city fly-tipping varies significantly in terms of material fly-tipped, size of deposit and location. In developing interventions, it is important to understand this variance and use an evidence-based approach to understand why people are fly tipping and review systems, processes and communication material in response to this.
- Identifying areas in the City where flipping is most persistent, the Shop a Tipper project has targeted with an education and information campaign educating residents that fly tipping is a crime and information how to dispose of waste legally.

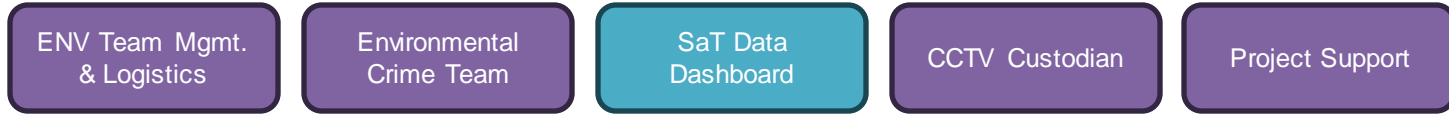
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If this information and education does not make an impact on the amount of fly tipping in these areas, CCTV is deployed both as a further deterrent and to try and identify those responsible.

- In December 2022 we deployed the first Shop a Tipper Posters using the images captured from this CCTV. This campaign has been devised to help tackle the issue that CoWC is facing of residents fly tipping on foot.
- Unless there is evidence in the waste, we have no way of identifying who is doing this, and thus no way to enforce and use this enforcement as a deterrent. As the issue is fly tipping on foot, the assumption is that the residents live nearby.
- We use the images we have captured on posters in the local area asking residents to identify the culprits. If a FPN is issued and paid, there is a reward for the information.

Shop a Tipper (SaT) Project Overview

Project Team



Working closely with Trade Waste, Street Cleansing, Environmental Health and Trading Standards

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Stage 1 - Education

- Letter 1 sent to all residents and businesses identified as having a persistent issue with fly-tipping
- Bin Stickers installed on public litter bins in the area

Stage 2 - Intervention

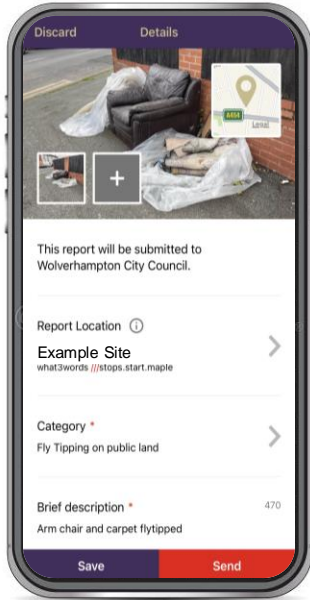
- Letter 2 sent to all residents and businesses
- CCTV is installed
- Monitoring of all connected streets to ensure any reduction is not caused by displacement

Stage 3 - Enforcement

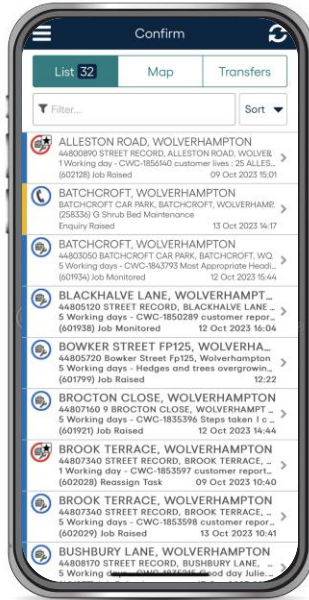
- Captured images passed to the enforcement team
- SaT posters created from captured images & installed
- Enforcement officers follow up on evidence and action FPN process

Shop a Tipper (SaT) – Confirm Connect Process

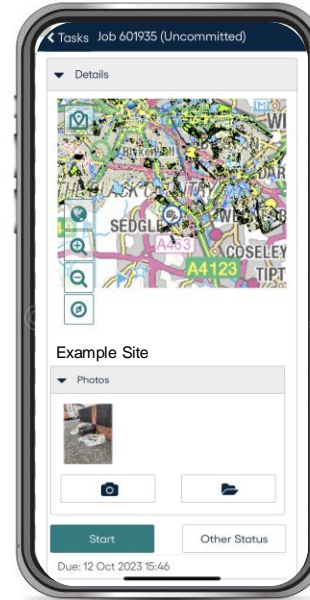
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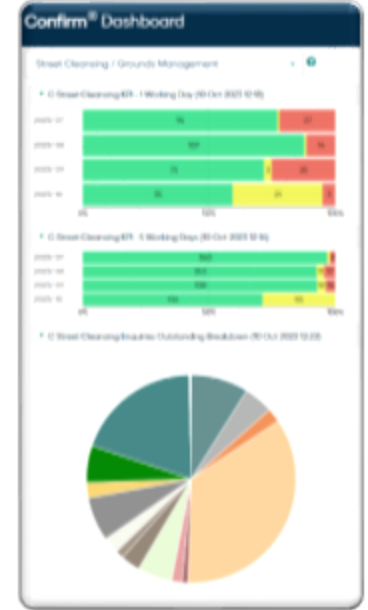
1. Enquiry raised via
love clean streets



2. Job is received directly via
Confirm Connect on a mobile
device every 15 mins



3. Info, and original enquiry
received by the operative. Job
Completed and logged in the
system, which in turn updates the
customer enquiry status



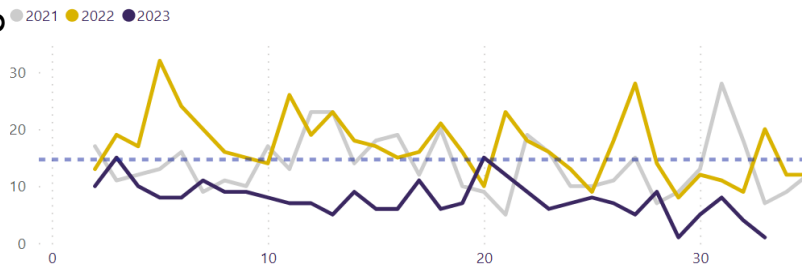
4. Operational Managers can
monitor progress and overall
workloads live via Confirm
Dashboards.

Shop a Tipper – Phase 1 Results

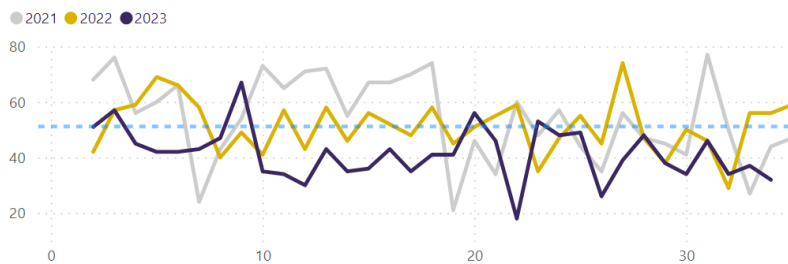
- Since January this year, compared to the same period last year, the campaign has resulted in a 53% decrease in the number of fly tips removed in the targeted 21 streets.
- The first road that had targeted interventions saw a 53% reduction in fly tips reported and removed compared to the same time last year. Fly tipping has decreased by 18% across the city during the same period.

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Top 21 Streets Trend



City Wide Trend



- The dashed straight line represents the average for fly tipping in these area for the 3 years shown, for which our top 21 streets have consistently remained below for this year.

Shop a Tipper – Phase 1 Results

- As part of Phase 1, CCTV was placed at hot spots across the city. Repeated incidents of fly tipping were caught on camera at locations in Whitmore Reans and Blakenhall earlier this year, for which images were shared on SaT posters to help identify the culprits.
- CCTV captured footage of 2 residents believed to have been connected to the incidents and following a report from the posters and further investigation by the team, they were issued with hand delivered notices under the Environment Act 1995.



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Neither resident attended or replied, which prevented the council pursuing its investigations. As a result, the council then prosecuted them for failing to cooperate and comply with the notices. They each faced a charge of breaching Section 110 of the Environment Act 1995.

- One ordered to pay a victim surcharge of £26 and £600 towards the council's costs.
- The other was fined £660 and ordered to pay a £264 victim surcharge. The council was awarded full costs of £1,755.08.
- The costs awarded to the council will be reinvested back into the environmental crime service, helping to bring people to justice who fail to dispose of their waste correctly.

Shop a Tipper / Fly Tipping – Resident Survey Feedback Results

- With resident satisfaction levels on the Councils approach to fly-tipping historically low, due to the amount of fly tipping rather than the speed of removal, we asked for feedback on how to reduce fly tipping. Respondents were asked whether they agreed with the following:-

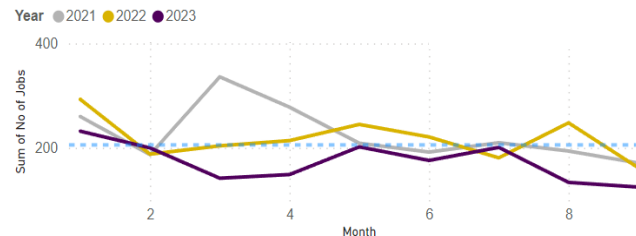
Question	Yes	No
CCTV is a deterrent	67%	33%
Displaying images is a deterrent	61%	39%
Would be willing to report a fly tipper	92%	8%

- Other notable feedback given was:
 - “CCTV a deterrent if there is enforcement action taken and prosecutions publicised.”
 - “CCTV cameras need to be visible to deter fly tipping.”
 - “it makes it more real to people if they see the faces of those caught and fined.”
 - “lets people know they have been spotted.”
 - “publicise illegal waste disposal businesses.”
 - “if waste is regularly collected from a certain spot people will continue to put waste there thinking that it is a collection point.”

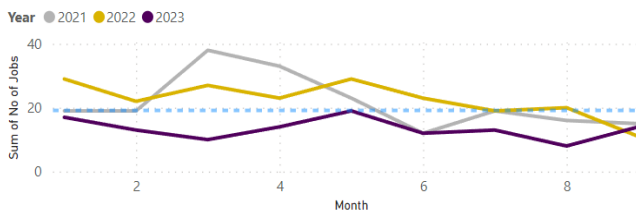
Shop a Tipper – Phase 2

- Following the success of Phase 1 with a 53% reduction in fly-tipping, the streets in focus as part of the project have been renewed. The Top 15 now consists of:
 - 7 new streets to the project
 - 8 previously targeted streets requiring further action, with only on average a 13% decrease in fly tipping so far.
 - Streets for inclusion are based on data from number of jobs completed, volume of waste collected, and the number of enquiries received.
 - The project team also reviews reports from residents & council staff on persistent issues.
- Switching to a monthly view of the trend data, it is easy to see the effect of the peaks in the phase 2 sites on the rest of the City, and Phase 1 and therefore the potential impact we could have on our city-wide stats if reduced further.

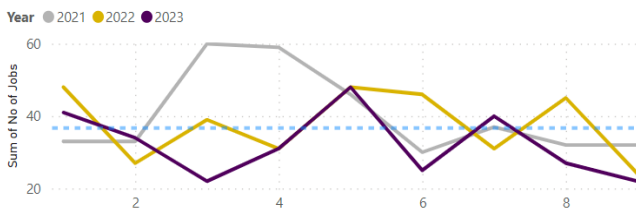
City Wide Trend (Jobs)



Phase 1 Sites



Phase 2 Sites

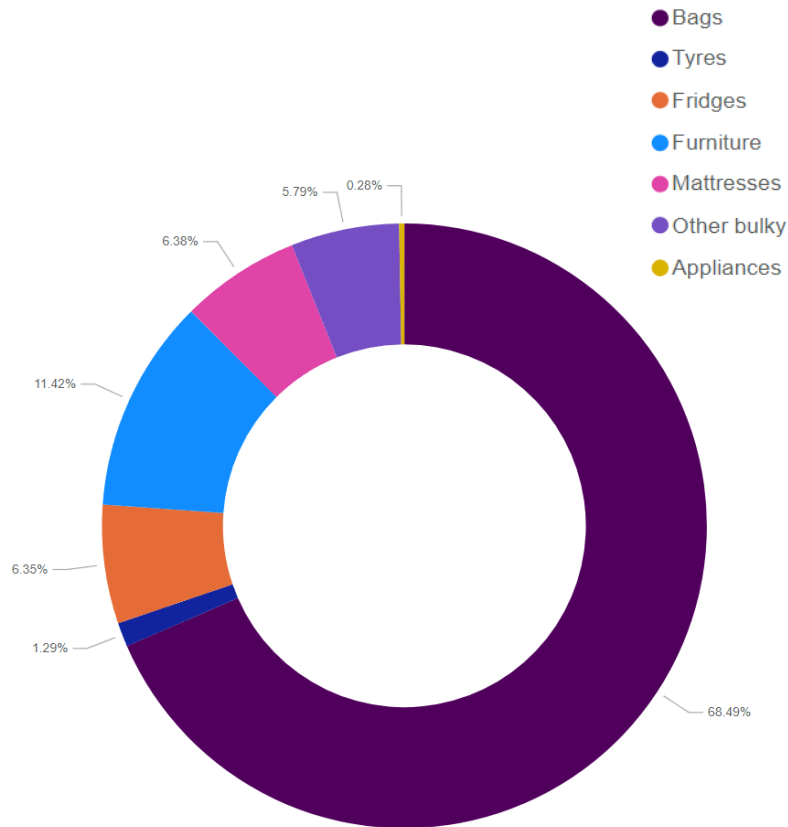


Shop a Tipper – Phase 2

New Developments

- Phase 2 will also look to assess areas, not only singular streets where fly-tipping is more widespread to ensure we do not simply displace from one street to the next in more persistent areas.
- Nearly 70% of fly-tipping in the city consists of bagged waste, we will therefore be mapping fly-tipping incidents to bin collection dates, to access where further domestic waste disposal education is required.
- Introduction of Smart City technology including smart CCTV.
- Phase 2 will run until February 2024, with a fortnightly review as part of the SaT Project Group.

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New Developments

Smart CCTV

- The current cameras we have are hard wired into a power source, such a streetlight, which limits where we can place them securely, and does not give the team the surveillance they often need.
- A delay is also caused by the requirement for the street lighting team to install.
- Currently the cameras that we have are not agile or SMART enough for us to be responsive to emerging fly tipping hot spots.
- We are therefore procuring 4 new sets of Smart CCTV cameras, which also use AI to identify when fly tipping is happening to capture it and alert us to enable a quick response – increasing our evidence gathering opportunity.



[Smart CCTV Kingston Council fly-tipping case study video, which resulted in an 80% reduction in fly-tipping.](#)

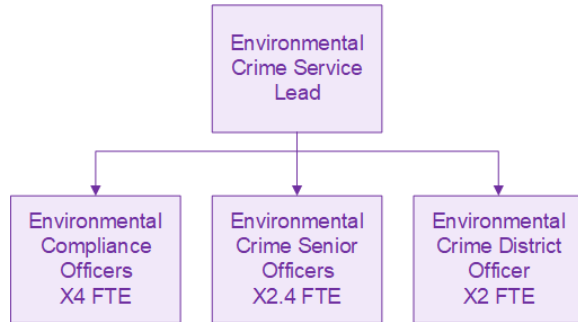
New Developments

Environmental Crime Restructure

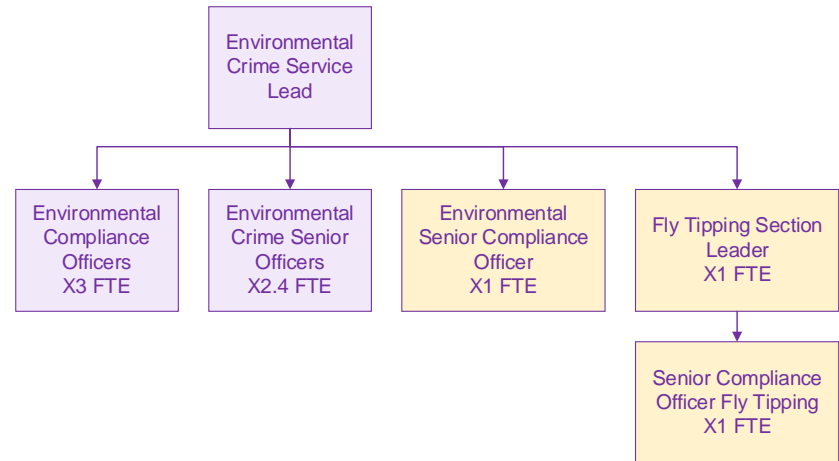
- Following a reconfiguration of roles within the environmental crime team, from November 2023 there will be two full time dedicated resources in the Environmental Crime team to address and enforce against Fly Tipping.

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Previous Structure



New Structure



Further Considerations

Our Approach to Fly Tipping

Areas to be addressed	Action
There is an expectation that fly-tipped items will be collected quickly and without repercussions – the suggestion is that existing systems and processes are creating unintended consequences.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To continue to publicise fines and prosecutions Further capacity in the legal team required to follow up investigations and unpaid fines.
Increasing the number of fines paid	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of an online payment system for FPN's.. Further research into educational courses on the effects of fly-tipping for low level incidents, currently operated by several councils experiencing very high levels of fly-tipping.
Government introduction of statutory instrument to increase fine limits for fly-tipping from £400 to £1000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consideration to use a sliding scale for FPNs, based on volume and commercial activity, provided the threshold for higher and lower penalties can be established.
There is a lack of understanding of what behaviours constitute fly-tipping	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued education as part of shop a tipper, identifying streets where fly-tipping is caused by excess household waste. Working with colleagues in communities to establish key languages to translate Shop a Tipper messages and letters. Sharing of shop a tipper through infographics. Working with colleagues in waste to map fly-tipping following bin collections
Residents use public litter bins to dispose of excess waste when their wheelie bin is full.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Further roll out of fly-tipping infographic stickers on Council public litter bins. Pilot of communal bins in worst affected areas.
Fly-Tipping on abandoned and orphaned land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We are seeking funding from the Government's Fly-tipping Intervention grant, for capital funding for preventative infrastructure such as gates, bollards and permanent signage for areas such as this.
Fly Tipping in public alleys ways	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The introduction of Smart CCTV will allow the team to place cameras where previously we have lacked infrastructure, or elements such as tree cover have limited our surveillance options.



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Climate Change, Housing and Communities Scrutiny Panel - 2023 - 2024

Chair: Councillor Anwen Muston

Vice Chair: Councillor Wendy Dalton

Scrutiny Support: Earl Piggott-Smith

Remit, Function and Measures

- Work together to deliver new homes
- Ensuring safe and healthy homes for all
- Ensuring access to a secure home
- Ensuring clean, green neighbourhoods and public space
- Well-connected businesses and residents
- Number of new builds completed in the city
- Net additional dwellings in the city
- % of dwelling stock that is vacant in the city
- Housing affordability ratio
- Total crime recorded per 1000 population
- % of planning application decisions made with 13 weeks or agreed timescales
- Number of homeless support in the community to prevent further harm
- Number of domestic abuse cases referred to Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC)
- WV Active membership numbers with breakdown by- long term health conditions, disabilities, low socioeconomic groups, minority ethnic groups
- % Domestic Abuse related incidents and crimes

Item	Description	SEB Lead	Officer Report/Author Lead	Date of Meeting	Publication Date	Status
Rough Sleepers Update	Presentation on the Councils homelessness team and up to date information on rough sleepers	John Denley	Anthony Walker	27 June 2023	19 June 2023	Completed
Improvement of Housing Standards through Licensing (exempt report)	Report on Housing Standards in the private rented sector with particular focus on licensing.	John Roseblade	Chris Howell & William Humphries	27 June 2023	19 June 2023	Completed
Safer Wolverhampton Partnership Strategic Priorities Consultation	Officer request.	John Denley	Hannah Pawley	27 June 2023	19 June 2023	Completed
Wolverhampton Homes – Building Safety Strategy (particular focus on Fire Safety)	Member requested at a previous meeting.	Shaun Aldis	Simon Bamfield/Ian Gardner (WHM)	28 September 2023	20 September 2023	Completed
West Midlands Local Transport Plan Status	Panel received a report last year and asked them to come back in the future.	John Roseblade	Alex Greatholder/Marianne Page (TfWM)	28 September 2023	20 September 2023	Completed

Wolverhampton Homes Customer Engagement Strategy - briefing	At Chair's request.	John Roseblade	Shaun Aldis/ Julie Haydon	28 September 2023	20 September 2023	Completed
Council 2028 Net Zero Progress Review	Chair requested.	David Pattison	Perminder Balu/Oliver Thomas	19 October 2023	11 October 2023	Programmed
Fly Tipping	Member requested at Scrutiny Board.	John Roseblade	Steve Woodward	19 October 2023	11 October 2023	Programmed
Community Safety Police Session 1	Panel requested more items on the police after a previous successful meeting with the Police. Provisional idea – Violent Crime and combatting Drugs	John Denley	Supt Martin Hurcomb – West Midlands Police	16 November 2023	8 November 2023	Programmed
Budget and Performance Update	Standard item received each year.	Claire Nye	Alison Shannon	16 November 2023	8 November 2023	Programmed
Community Safety Strategy Consultation – final	The panel agreed to review the recommendations of the consultation	John Denley	Hannah Pawley	22 February 2024	14 February 2024	Programmed

Combatting Anti-Social Behaviour	Item ties in with the Police and Community collaboration theme and enables Panel full overview with a partnership approach	John Denley	tbc	22 February 2024	14 February 2024	Programmed
Community Safety Police Session 2	To include Rehabilitation of offenders and services for reintegration into community post-sentence	John Denley	Lynsey Kelly	22 February 2024	14 February 2024	Programmed

To be scheduled

- Aids and Adaptations - concern about delays in assessments - possible joint work with Adults Scrutiny Panel
- Homelessness Strategy
- One Public Estates Project - Ballal Raza - Regeneration Programme Manager
- City Centre Public Space Protection Order Proposals
- Invite to Police and Crime Commissioner and West Midlands Chief Constable
- Update on West Midlands Local Transport Plan - February 2024
- Update Wolverhampton Homes Customer Engagement Strategy - March 2024