

# MINUTES

**Meeting:** Devizes Area Board  
**Place:** Assembly Room, Needham House, Devizes, SN10 1FA  
**Date:** 11 September 2023  
**Start Time:** 6.30 pm  
**Finish Time:** 8.32 pm

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Please direct any enquiries on these minutes to:

Senior Democratic Services Officer - Ben Fielding, (Tel): 01225 718224 or (e-mail) [benjamin.fielding@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:benjamin.fielding@wiltshire.gov.uk)

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## **In Attendance:**

### **Wiltshire Councillors**

Cllr Iain Wallis, Devizes North (Chairman), Cllr Dominic Muns, The Lavingtons (Vice-Chairman), Cllr Simon Jacobs, Devizes South, Cllr Laura Mayes, Bromham, Rowde and Roundway, Cllr Kelvin Nash, Devizes East, Cllr Tamara Reay, Devizes Rural West, Cllr Philip Whitehead, Urchfont and Bishop Cannings

### **Wiltshire Council Officers**

Richard Rogers, Strategic Engagement Partnerships Manager  
Caroline LeQuesne, Area Board Delivery Officer  
Dominic Argar, Assistant Multimedia Officer  
Ben Fielding, Senior Democratic Services Officer  
Andy Brown, Director of Resources and Deputy Chief Executive

### **Town and Parish Councils**

Devizes Town Council

### **Partners**

Police and Crime Commissioner – Philip Wilkinson  
Wiltshire Police - Chief Constable Catherine Roper  
Wiltshire Police – Inspector Ben Huggins  
Opendoors – Noel Woolrych

**Total in attendance: 42**

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<u>Minute No.</u>	<u>Summary of Issues Discussed and Decision</u>
32	<p><u>Welcome</u></p> <p>The Chairman welcomed those in attendance to the meeting.</p>
33	<p><u>Apologies for Absence</u></p> <p>Apologies for absence were received from Graham Martin, Chairperson of Sustainable Devizes and Mike Cleaver, Dorset &amp; Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service.</p>
34	<p><u>Minutes of the Previous Meeting</u></p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held on 19 June 2023 were presented for consideration and it was;</p> <p><b><u>Resolved:</u></b></p> <p><b>To approve and sign as a true and correct record of the minutes of the meeting held on 19 June 2023.</b></p>
35	<p><u>Declarations of Interest</u></p> <p>There were no declarations of disclosable interest.</p>
36	<p><u>Chairman's Announcements</u></p> <p>The Chairman of the Area Board made the following announcements, which were contained in the agenda pack.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wiltshire Local Plan Review</li> <li>• Climate Emergency update - <a href="https://youtu.be/LP2FzC7rHSw">https://youtu.be/LP2FzC7rHSw</a></li> </ul>
37	<p><u>Partner Updates</u></p> <p>Updates were received from the following partners:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Wiltshire Police</b></li> </ul> <p>The Area Board noted a written updates attached to the agenda. In addition, Inspector Ben Huggins provided a verbal update which covered the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An outline of the current Neighbourhood Policing Team was provided.</li> <li>• An overview of performance was provided, including Hate Crime and call statistics for Devizes.</li> <li>• There had recently been a slight rise in burglary levels, with a good proportion of these taking place in businesses and hospitals, with work being done with these organisations to provide support and prevention</li> </ul>

	<p>advice.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community Speed Enforcement information was provided.</li> <li>• As per the report within the agenda supplement, an update was provided regarding the following local priorities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Youth Intervention</li> <li>○ Safer Public Spaces and town centre PSPO application</li> <li>○ Increase in police visibility</li> <li>○ Drug use/supply</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>After the verbal update, there was time for the following questions and points to be made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inspector Huggins and his team were thanked for their work during Devizes Carnival. Additionally, thanks were placed for the policing team having a more noticeable presence as well as gratitude towards speed watch.</li> <li>• A plea was made to speed up the process of establishing a new speed watch.</li> <li>• Reference was made to multi-occupancy spaces and the responsibility of licencing such premises, with it suggested that a management meeting take place to discuss a particular multi-occupancy space within Devizes.</li> <li>• Clarity was provided as to how many police officers cover the Devizes area and the wider make up of the units available.</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Dorset &amp; Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service</b> The Area Board noted a written updates attached to the agenda.</li> <li>• <b>Community First</b> The Area Board noted a written update attached to the agenda.</li> <li>• <b>Healthwatch Wiltshire</b> The Area Board noted a written update attached to the agenda.</li> <li>• <b>BSW Together (Integrated Care System)</b> The Area Board noted a written update attached to the agenda.</li> </ul>
38	<p><u>Chief Constable and Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) Update</u></p> <p>The Area Board received an update from Wiltshire Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC), Philip Wilkinson. The update covered the following matters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work had been done to improve the service provided to residents of Wiltshire, with progress made with residents having reported seeing more officers and Police interaction.</li> <li>• The Police operational model had been improved with more officers now on the frontline to improve outreach as well as that two mobile Police stations had been funded.</li> <li>• It was highlighted that for high harm violence crimes, Wiltshire had previously been one of the lowest performing forces with a 2% success</li> </ul>

rate, however this had now risen to 11% with the Chief Constable focused on driving performance.

- Regarding drugs and County Lines, collaborative work had taken place with all five Police forces across the Southwest, with all five of the forces now within the top ten performing forces nationally for County line disruption.
- It was outlined that the speed watch teams had been reorganised, with better use of data from SIDs now taking place, with 85 SIDs in 20 parishes, which allows for hotspots to be targeted. It was outlined that in 2021 Wiltshire Police had issued 192 speeding tickets, compared to this year where over 4,400 tickets had already been issued.
- The rural crime team had now been expanded to be double the size, with a piece of collaborative work with the other Southwest forces set to follow.
- More work was being done towards victim support, with the force looking to better engage with victims as well as preventative action.

The Area Board received an update from Wiltshire Police Chief Constable, Catherine Roper. The update covered the following matters:

- The responsibility of the Chief Constable was to deliver against the PCC plan, with Wiltshire Police placed into special measures “engage” in summer 2022.
- As part of being placed into “engage”, it was highlighted that Wiltshire Police had an insufficient strategic framework, they weren’t investigating to an effective standard and were not providing effective support for victims.
- As part of the work to rectify these issues, business as usual work was separated from the response to “engage”, as though the Police were busy, they had not driven things in the right way, with a need to get the fundamentals right and improve public trust, visibility and transparency.
- Business as usual prioritised to support to the PCC, working towards safer public spaces as well as violence and burglaries.
- Organisational priorities are now reviewed regularly as well as each Chief Officer having a performance improvement plan which is publicly available.
- To improve transparency the Chief also produces an open letter to the PCC to provide an update of what work has been completed.
- A recruitment campaign recently took place and uplift figures were met.
- Regarding “engage”, work has been completed to improve the processes in place as well as a review of the operating model to ensure that there is a focus on frontline workers, with employee feedback driving change.
- An improved audit and inspection routine is now in place for the police to test against improvements and respond to feedback; with call centres identified as an area that the force wants to improve.
- The Chief Constable attends a performance oversight group in London every 6 months, where she presents to the HMI and Home Office. The next meeting is next week and the update from this will be publicly

	<p>available.</p> <p>After the verbal update, there was time for the following questions and points to be made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thanks were provided to the PCC and Chief Constable for their efforts towards speeding, particularly in rural parishes.</li> <li>• It was further emphasised that the process of setting up a Community Speed watch Team was long, and it would be appreciated if this process could be simplified.</li> <li>• Some parishes had encountered issues in downloading data from their SIDs, to which the PCC noted that he had created a video covering how to download data from SIDs, which could be found on the PCC website.</li> <li>• It was clarified that it was unlikely that the fixed safety cameras in Devizes would be switched on again due to being too predictable.</li> </ul>
39	<p><u>Safer Streets Project Report</u></p> <p>The Area Board received a report from Jane Murray following the conclusion of the Safer Streets Project. The following points were covered during the item:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Safer Streets project was a Home Office initiative which Wiltshire had place a bid towards part of a multi-agency project, with the main themes identified as being violence against women and girls, early intervention and anti-social behaviour.</li> <li>• Devizes had been chosen for the project due to information from the Police and local voices.</li> <li>• The work looked to identify objectives, consider what had already been done as well as what was known about the community, who's voices needed to be heard and how to hear them.</li> <li>• An overview of interventions and progress was provided, including but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Installation of additional CCTV cameras</li> <li>○ Bystander intervention training and community mediation workshops</li> <li>○ Parent mentors and parenting support</li> <li>○ Diversionary activities such as a pop-up youth café.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The next steps for the project were outlined, with an evaluation session set to take place with a report to follow, with the learning set to be shared with the Devizes Area Board and Town Council.</li> </ul> <p>After the verbal update, there was time for the following questions and points to be made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jane Murray was thanked for her efforts and contributions towards the project.</li> <li>• Regarding the Bystander Intervention training, it was suggested that though it had not been well taken up, it would be rerun and potentially renamed as the work had been commissioned.</li> <li>• It was confirmed that for the next phase funding would be directed from the PCC office, however it was not certain if Devizes would receive any</li> </ul>

	money.
40	<p><u>Youth Unemployment Update</u></p> <p>The Area Board received an update from the Strategic Engagement and Partnership Manager (SEPM), Richard Rogers, on local youth unemployment data. The update included the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reference was drawn to the report which had been included within the agenda pack, which featured statistics, information, and recommendations.</li> <li>• Factors which contribute to high youth unemployment were outlined.</li> <li>• An overview of local data was provided, with cause for concern highlighted, with Devizes having the highest proportion of working age adults and young adults experiencing unemployment in Wiltshire, amongst other local issues identified.</li> <li>• To improve local youth unemployment, a recommendation was included within the report.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Decision</u></b></p> <p><b>Devizes Area Board agreed to create a working group consisting of key stakeholders such as those included in section 4 in order to take forward this work. The group would be led by Cllr Iain Wallis and Cllr Dom Muns given their respective area board priority leads.</b></p> <p><b>The working group would be accountable to Devizes Area Board and would regularly report back at the business meetings including any recommendations for interventions and requests for funding.</b></p>
41	<p><u>Area Board Priority Update</u></p> <p>It was noted that there were no verbal updates from Lead Representatives of the Area Board Priorities.</p>
42	<p><u>Local Highway and Footway Improvement Group (LHFIG)</u></p> <p>Cllr Dominic Muns noted that following the LHFIG meeting held on 4 July 2023, there were no new recommendations to be approved by the Area Board. Cllr Muns outlined that there were currently 28 live projects taking place, including projects for speed restrictions, SIDs and numerous projects on accessibility including dropped kerbs.</p> <p>Cllr Muns outlined that the LHFIG was a group which looks at infrastructure improvements and that residents could take issues to their local town or parish council which could then be taken to the LHFIG, who have a pot of money which can be allocated towards improving local areas.</p>
43	<u>Air Quality and Sustainable Transport</u>

	<p>The Area Board received an update from Cllr Tamara Reay following the Devizes Air Quality and Sustainable Transport Group meeting on 7 September 2023. The update covered the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Group comprises of representatives from the Town Council as well as other town-based organisations with reps from other Parishes welcome to attend.</li> <li>• The next meeting would be on Thursday 9 November 2023.</li> <li>• A brief update of the highlights of the last meeting was provided, which included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ There is a drive to recruit Woodland Officers.</li> <li>○ A Wiltshire Connect bus service has launched as well as an app.</li> <li>○ It has been considered how various initiatives can be joined to improve air quality which has community ownership.</li> <li>○ The LCWIP consultation has now finished.</li> <li>○ EV Charging points are now in place at the Station Road Carpark.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
44	<p><u>Area Board Funding</u></p> <p>The Area Board considered the following applications for funding:</p> <p><b><u>Community Area Grants:</u></b></p> <p>Seend Tennis Club - £5,000 towards resurfacing and renovation work.</p> <p><b><u>Decision</u></b></p> <p><b>Devizes Area Board agreed to award £5,000 to Seend Tennis Club for resurfacing and renovation work. It was agreed that an initial payment of £3,000 would be made, followed by a further payment of £2,000, subject to balance.</b></p> <p><b>Moved – Cllr Tamara Reay</b>  <b>Seconded – Cllr Philip Whitehead</b></p> <p>The Patch in Potterne Community Interest Company - £5,000 towards multi-purpose community centre.</p> <p><b><u>Decision</u></b></p> <p><b>Devizes Area Board agreed to defer awarding grant funding to The Patch in Potterne Community Interest Company for a multi-purpose community centre, pending further information to support the application at the November meeting of the Area Board.</b></p> <p><b>Moved – Cllr Philip Whitehead</b>  <b>Seconded – Cllr Tamara Reay</b></p> <p><b><u>Youth Grants:</u></b></p>

	<p>Market Lavington Community Hall Management Trust - £2,317 towards seated youth shelter and other external Works.</p> <p><b><u>Decision</u></b></p> <p><b>Devizes Area Board agreed to award £2,317 to Market Lavington Community Hall Management Trust for seated youth shelter and other external Works.</b></p> <p><b>Moved – Cllr Dominic Muns</b> <b>Seconded – Cllr Kelvin Nash</b></p> <p>Bromham Youth Club - £3,031 towards youth club upkeep.</p> <p><b><u>Decision</u></b></p> <p><b>Devizes Area Board agreed to award £3,031 to Bromham Youth Club for youth club upkeep.</b></p> <p><b>Moved – Cllr Laura Mayes</b> <b>Seconded – Cllr Dominic Muns</b></p> <p>West Lavington Youth Club - £5,000 towards youth club upkeep.</p> <p><b><u>Decision</u></b></p> <p><b>Devizes Area Board agreed to award £5,000 to West Lavington Youth Club for youth club upkeep.</b></p> <p><b>Moved – Cllr Dominic Muns</b> <b>Seconded – Cllr Laura Mayes</b></p>
45	<p><u>Open Floor</u></p> <p>No questions for local Councillors were received.</p>
46	<p><u>Urgent items</u></p> <p>There were no urgent items.</p>
47	<p><u>Date of the Next Meeting</u></p> <p>The date of the next meeting is 20 November 2023.</p>