

EXETER BOARD

OPEN FORUM

15 JANUARY 2015

QUESTION FROM MR ALED DAVIES

With all the present and future government funding cuts, I am concerned as to how Exeter will continue to keep the city safe and clean for all its residents and visitors. Fewer police and PCSO's can only lead to only more anti social behaviour that will cost more longer term to address. Also, I believe that Exeter has only one enforcement office which if correct I find totally wrong. I strongly believe eyes on the street are better than certain administration roles in offices. It's better to try and solve any potentially problems like anti social behaviour sooner (e.g. drug related issues, minor crime, graffiti, fly tipping and general litter problems and some poor student disciplines within the city.

- How many police, PCSO's and Enforcement Officers do Exeter have at present?
- What will these numbers be in six months time?
- What percentage of staffing at council is administration based and is this figure likely to reduce?

I am the Vice Chairman of the Tidy Exeter Group which meets monthly at the Civic Centre and these questions do get raised on a regular basis. It would be interesting to hear what plans are in place to address the above issues.

ANSWER

The number of Police and PCSO that operate within the city of Exeter is a matter best put to the Police. In terms of Council 'Enforcement Officers', there is a whole range of front-line officers dealing with many different enforcement issues to different degrees, such as Environmental Health Officers (6), Environmental Health Technicians (6), Licensing Officers(4), Building Control Officers (4), Planning Officers (11), Waste Supervisors (3), and Community Patrol Officers (5). In terms of issues such as litter and fly-tipping, environmental health staff together with Supervisors/Officers from Waste and Community Patrol, all have powers to tackle such issues, although it is not the primary function of their role.

For other anti-social behaviour such as drug-litter, street drinking, urinating in the street, etc. many of these officers together with Housing Officers, CCTV Controllers and the Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator work closely with the Police and other agencies to deal with particular problems by a variety of means which include enforcement.

In terms of your other questions:

- 1) at this point in time there is no formally approved change that would alter these numbers in 6 months time, however, that does not rule out changes that may take place with approval over the short term;
- 2) it is difficult to answer your question in the way you phrase it, as some staff roles will be predominantly an administrative function, some a managerial/supervisory function, some a customer service function, some solely front line, others a technical/regulatory function, whilst many will have an element of administration within their job role.

