



PORTFOLIO HOLDER - SAFER AND STRONGER COMMUNITIES

26th January 2026 at 1.30 p.m.

Present:

Councillor Shepherd (in the Chair)

Officers in attendance:

- Spencer Hunt (Assistant Director – Safer and Stronger Place)
- Paul Evans (Assistant Director – Infrastructure)
- Paul Caswell (Safer Towns and Communities – Service Manager)
- Sophie Pickerden (Committee Support Officer)
- Gemma Broderick (Solicitor)

Also in attendance:

- Councillor Farren (Sidney Sussex Ward Councillor)
- Mr Musgrave (Humberside Police)

There were no members of the public and one member of the press present.

PH.SSC.8 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence for this meeting.

PH.SSC.9 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest received in respect of any item on the agenda for this meeting.

PH.SSC.10 MINUTES

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the Portfolio Holder for Safer and Stronger Communities meeting on 17th September 2025 be approved as a correct record.

PETITION – IMPROVE SAFETY AND LIGHTING AROUND FULLER STREET BRIDGE AND THE NORTH WALL IN CLEETHORPES

The Portfolio Holder considered the findings of the report in response to the above petition.

Councillor Farren spoke as a Ward Councillor for the Sidney Sussex Ward. She said that in recent days, there had been some public engagement from the Council on their Facebook page asking residents to inform them of areas they didn't feel safe in. Councillor Farren stated that the current petition had been signed by over two hundred people, and the Council had not had to go and find them, they had come to them. She said that there was definitive research which showed that lighting helped with crime prevention and offered reassurance. Councillor Farren said that a concern she had was whether people would be able to see the signage at night as there was no lighting. She asked the portfolio holder if he felt assured that the trialling of CCTV had been done for enough time to justify the statement that CCTV was not needed in the area. She would perhaps argue it hadn't. Councillor Farren asked whether there was any opportunity for a compromise or was the report final. She stated that sexual assaults were known for being underreported and whilst she accepted the crime figures provided, she was unsure if the figures were safe given the underreporting of assaults. Councillor Farren said that she would like there to be some lighting in the area and would like the trialling of CCTV to be extended or CCTV to be installed permanently.

The portfolio holder asked Mr Musgrave to provide an overview of the crime statistics.

Mr Musgrave explained that at the previous meeting, he had provided the crime statistics for the last two years for the area. He said that the current report outlined the crime figures for the area from October 2025 to January 2026. Mr Musgrave said that there had been an additional seven crimes since in the area, but nothing in relation to the bridge.

The portfolio holder informed Councillor Farren that officers were not aware of who was responsible for the public engagement she had referred to but they would look into that. The portfolio holder stated that he and Mr Hunt had gone to Fuller Street Bridge and saw that the bridge was in poor condition. He stated that they had instigated some repairs to the bridge that were necessary. The portfolio holder explained that they had walked over to the far side, where there were no official walkways, and went up to the wall as far to Suggitt's Lane Bridge. He said that the issue they had was that it was unadopted land and even though it was within our remit, it was not recognised as a footpath and the only people using it, were the policing teams on match days. The portfolio holder said that you had to climb over a wall at Fuller Street Bridge and there were no facilities down there and no power for lighting. He said that to make the area of the bridge good would be expensive and he thought Rail Track would be asking the Council soon of its intention with the bridge as it was looking like it was in

its last ten years of its life, and there would have to be a decision made on whether the bridge should stay or go.

Mr Hunt said that the point raised regarding lighting and public reassurance was valid and increased lighting could reduce crime and fear of crime. He said that the concern with lighting the bridge was that it would be taking people in an area which was essentially wasteland and he questioned why we would want to light a bridge that could encourage people at night to go in an area of wasteland. Mr Hunt stated that having lighting can be a good community safety decision but could in this case encourage people to go in a void area, and that was one of the reasons we were recommending not to light up the bridge.

Councillor Farren asked if officers had considered saying that the bridge was closed at night. Mr Evans responded that they could not say the bridge was closed unless they physically closed it. Mr Evans said that the proposed signage as outlined in the report would recommend using the Suggitts Lane Bridge instead, but they could not close Fuller Street Bridge unless there was a gate with a lock and key. Councillor Farren asked if people would be able to see the signage at night. Mr Evans said that officers would look into that, and there was a bollard which could be used, but they needed to look into having signs at either side of the bridge.

The portfolio holder asked Mr Caswell to provide an overview in relation to the Rapid Deployment Camera at the bridge.

Mr Caswell said that a Rapid Deployment Camera was deployed straight away for the bridge and has been in place since the petition was first submitted. He said that in that time, there had been no requests from Humberside Police to download any footage and no requests in relation to archived data, so officers were of the opinion, that there had been no incidents. Mr Caswell said that if there was a need for the camera to stay in place, that was possible, but there was not the crime data to expand that time as cameras were reviewed and if not needed, they were moved to other areas.

The portfolio holder said that that was the consistent approach throughout the Borough and the crime rates were lower for the area of Fuller Street Bridge than other areas in Sidney Sussex. He said that signage was important, and he thought reflective signs would be better and that the positioning of any signage was important. The portfolio holder said that he would want there to be signage on the Harrington Street side of the bridge and he thought permission and infrastructure would be needed for signage on the other side. He said that he didn't have the footfall information available to him at present, but the crime statistics didn't indicate a higher risk in the specific area and there were streetlights in the area. The portfolio holder asked Mr Evans if he could look into whether brighter lighting could be put in. Mr Evans responded that the existing street lighting were bright lights but he would look into that, but it could potentially cause problems with residents if light was flashing onto their gardens.

The portfolio holder said that the land at the far side, near the edge of Sea Wall was eroding and there was a chance at night, for trips and falls. He said that he would like the Rapid Deployment Camera to remain in place until summer period. Mr Caswell responded that he would keep the Rapid Deployment Camera there and review it in three months' time. The portfolio holder agreed with that approach. The portfolio holder said that he wanted officers to look at brighter lighting being installed and look into the signage being retro reflective. The Portfolio Holder said that he didn't want to commit a lot of money to the area due to condition of the bridge as whilst it was acceptable, it was subject to erosion.

Mr Musgrave responded to Councillor Farren's point regarding the underreporting of sexual assaults and said that there hadn't been any other sexual assaults reported in the area, but the underreporting of sexual assaults was a valid point that could happen anywhere. The portfolio holder asked Mr Musgrave if the violence against a person statistic included fighting at football matches. Mr Musgrave responded that the statistics for violence against the person included everything from common assault upwards. Councillor Farren asked how if we have these statistics but didn't have CCTV, did that help with resolving crime. Mr Musgrave responded that CCTV was key to preventing crime and dealing with crime, but there were also other investigative avenues, and CCTV was a part of that. Councillor Farren said that she thought as it was an area many people passed through, CCTV would be useful and it was always better to have it at your disposal. Mr Caswell said that the approach with Rapid Deployment Camera's was all about being proportionate and the council had thirty-two Rapid Deployment Cameras, with their locations reviewed every three months. Mr Caswell stated that whilst there was a level of crime in the Fuller Street bridge area, it was lower than other areas. The portfolio holder said that it was also important to note that the list of offences that were outlined were offences that had occurred in Fuller Street not just at the bridge area.

The portfolio holder stated that he would like a communications plan to be devised between Humberside Police and North East Lincolnshire Council, for the CCTV to remain in place and be reviewed after a three month period, for signage at the bridge to be installed warning people to not cross at night and use alternative routes and for officers to look at options to make the street lighting brighter in the area and the new signage visible at night.

RESOLVED –

1. That signage at the bridge be installed warning people not to cross at night and use alternative routes.
2. That the Rapid Deployment Camera remain in place and be reviewed after a three-month period.
3. That officers look at options to make the street lighting brighter in the area and the new signage visible at night.

4. That a communications plan be devised between Humberside Police and North East Lincolnshire Council for informing the public about the levels of crime in the area.

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 2.02pm.