

HEALTHY, SAFE, CLEAN AND GREEN COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of a Healthy, Safe, Clean and Green Communities Scrutiny Committee held in the Council Chamber, the Arc, High Street, Clowne on Monday 18th March 2019 at 1000 hours.

PRESENT:-

Members:-

Councillor S. Peake in the Chair

Councillors Mrs P.A. Cooper, C.R. Moesby and P. Smith.

Officers:- D. Whallet (Housing Enforcement Manager)(to Minute No. 0805), J. Selby (Community Safety Officer)(to Minute No. 0805), M. Liddy (Anti-Social Behaviour Officer)(to Minute No. 0805), J. Wilson (Scrutiny & Elections Officer) and A. Bluff (Governance Officer).

Also in attendance at the meeting (to Minute No. 0805) was K. Hanson (Strategic Director – Place), Kevin Gillott (Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner, Office of Police & Crime Commissioner for Derbyshire), David Harrison (Partnership Sergeant, Derbyshire Police) and Robert Bowns (Local Policing Unit Inspector).

0798. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors J.E. Bennett, J.A. Clifton, T. Munro and K.F. Walker.

0799. URGENT ITEMS OF BUSINESS

There were no urgent items of business to consider.

0800. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made.

0801. MINUTES – 1st MARCH 2019

Moved by Councillor P. Smith and seconded by Councillor Mrs P.A. Cooper
RESOLVED that the Minutes of a Healthy Safe Clean and Green Communities Scrutiny Committee held on 1st March 2019 be approved as a correct record.

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0802. EXTRAORDINARY MINUTES – 20TH FEBRUARY 2019

Moved by Councillor P. Smith and seconded by Councillor Mrs P.A. Cooper
RESOLVED that the Minutes of an Extraordinary Healthy Safe Clean and Green Communities Scrutiny Committee held on 20th February 2019 be approved as a correct record.

0803. LIST OF KEY DECISIONS & ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED IN PRIVATE

Committee considered the List of Key Decisions and Items to be considered in private document.

Moved by Councillor C.R. Moesby and seconded by Councillor S. Peake
RESOLVED that the List of Key Decisions and Items to be considered in private be noted.

0804. ANNUAL REVIEW OF COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

Committee considered a report in relation to the annual review of the Bolsover Community Safety Partnership (CSP).

Section 19 of the Police and Justice Act required every local authority to have a Crime and Disorder Committee with the power to review or scrutinise decisions made, or other action taken, in connection with the discharge by the responsible authorities of their crime and disorder functions. (Responsible authorities were effectively the statutory partners within a community safety partnership, i.e. Police, local authorities (county and district), Fire and Rescue Authority, Probation Trusts and Clinical Commissioning Groups).

Attached to the report was a set of questions approved by Committee prior to the meeting, which summarised the main areas of enquiry and partners' responses; also a copy of the current Action Plan of the 2017-20 Partnership Plan, which was subject to review for the 2019/20 year of the plan. The revised version would be presented to a subsequent meeting of the Committee as part of the 2019/20 work programme.

Further appendices attached to the report were;

- Current Risk & Threat Priorities for 2017-20
- CSP Strategic Assessment updated at December 2018
- CSP Expenditure Plan 2017-18
- PCC/CSP Fund Template 2017/18
- CSP Expenditure Plan 2018/19
- PCC/CSP Fund Template 2018/19

With regard to the set of questions approved by Committee prior to the meeting and partners responses, further queries were raised by Members and the following points were highlighted;

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PCCs CSP Grant Fund; the Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner noted that funding for BDC in 2019/20 was guaranteed. However, the PCC elections were to be held in 2020 and the current Police and Crime Commissioner may not give a commitment for funding beyond his term. A review by the Home Office on the nine CSPs was also being carried out to see if they were fit for purpose. Further, within the County, CSPs, Derbyshire County Council and the Police were reviewing current CSP relationships and discussions had taken place as to whether to merge the nine CSPs into north and south based on police divisions which could also affect future funding of the CSPs.

In relation to spend profiles, a Member queried if emerging problems from trends identified in the south and other parts of the District could be looked at to target problems. Committee was advised that funding was targeted on crime type and not geographically, however, more provision for diversionary activities in the south of the District was being looked at for 2020 and also with the local children's partnership.

In relation to crime trends and in response to a Member's comment regarding the Bolsover Deliberate Fires Sub Group and the good results achieved from collaborative working, Committee was advised that due to the benefits of what had been achieved, Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service wished to implement this as best practice in all of the CSP areas within the District.

A Member felt that in his parish there was a lack of feedback from the police regarding actions taken on reported incidents. Committee was advised that due to a reduction in resources, the police were no longer able to attend parish council meetings to deliver feedback, however, it was suggested that this could be included in the CSPs newsletter. Committee was also asked to note that a number of reported incidents of anti-social behaviour could be related to the same person/people and not all incidents may be a criminal offence - in both of these circumstances it would affect the number and reporting of outcomes. The Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner added that a new role to be created in the new financial year was a PCSO Supervisor - one for each district area. Their role would be to liaise more strongly with parish councils to keep them better informed. However, as there were approximately 254 parish councils across Derbyshire meeting each month, a PCSO Supervisor would not be able to attend all meetings. In addition, IT systems were being developed and trialled for better patterns of information by ward, though these were currently in the early stages of development.

Members agreed that it was beneficial to have PCSOs attend parish council meetings and if Councillors were kept informed of actions/outcomes they could also be the police's voice in the District.

In response to a Member's query where ASB was linked to a BDC property, it was confirmed that dependent upon the specific circumstances relating to each individual case, some cases of ASB could result in a breach of tenancy agreement and enforcement action could be taken. However, other cases may be assessed as requiring a more supportive approach to resolving problems.

With regard to the CSPs current and future working relationships with the SNTs and other partners and if there had been any impact on them from the recent budget/resource cuts, Committee was advised that the CSP had excellent working relationships with SNT officers and other partners and would continue to do so going forward. SNTs also attended the CSP Action Groups and were always willing to get involved in any

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projects/initiatives. A number of additional SNT officers had been allocated to the North Local Policing Unit (LPU) which would assist in the implementation of future joint projects and initiatives. Unfortunately, an example of the recent cuts in police budgets was that PCSOs could no longer attend the Extreme Wheels sessions on a regular basis.

The CSP commissioned Extreme Wheels sessions for targeted diversionary work in the District aimed at young people. The CSP Action Group monitored and determined which areas needed targeting and provided funding to Leisure Services to advertise the sessions on their behalf. Extreme Wheels staff would advise if there was regular low attendance at sessions and the event would be moved to another targeted area. Staff from the Multi Agency Teams (MAT) also attended Extreme Wheels activities and along with Leisure Services staff, engaged with young people in the streets to join in. However, there was concern regarding the future role of MATs outreach work with Extreme Wheels due to the potential cuts by Derbyshire County Council. In response to a Member's comment, the Partnership Sergeant noted that the parish councils' commissioning of Extreme Wheels was centred on positive leisure activity sessions rather than targeted diversionary activity sessions as commissioned by the CSP.

In relation to the Partnership Sergeant role, this had not ceased but had been reduced. The Partnership Sergeant had been in the role for six years and due to austerity there had been significant changes. However, opportunities had also been created in having an impact on making the community safer, for example, in partnership with the CSPs; cyber-crime, safeguarding issues; e.g. the roll out of the 'Ask Angela' and 'Holly Guard' initiatives together with county-lines issues and others such as 'Thriving Communities' and 'Building Better Opportunities'. In response to a Member's query, the Partnership Sergeant commented that national research had showed that 20% of all police calls for service on a national basis were mental health related – this put enormous pressure on the police but was where partnership working and schemes such as Building Better Opportunities came into their own.

With regard to proposed additional resources identified in the budget report, as a result of the increase in the 2019/20 precept and budget settlement from the Government, Committee was advised that the Police and Crime Commissioner had worked closely with the Chief Constable to produce a viable plan to increase police visibility and focus on areas highlighted to him by the public as a matter of concern. There would be 42 new Safer Neighbourhood Team posts with a further 8 officers transferred to SNTs from the Response Unit. 22 Detective Staff Investigators to support neighbourhood safeguarding units plus 28 police officers to help rebalance capacity in the north and south of the County, 5 police constables in the countywide Rural Crime Team, 7 police constables and one new Sergeant for roads policing, 7 members of staff to develop and support the analytical capability of the Force, 2 temporary criminal justice members of staff and 2 members of staff to assist the public in coordinating speed-watch initiatives across the County. Investment in work to prevent crime, including issues such as domestic abuse, and additional mental health support plus one new Sergeant. Investment in tasers, drones and automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) capability including four new police constables and one ANPR member of staff.

The Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner noted that speeding vehicles was an issue on rural roads in most villages and police capacity to deal with this was limited. Communities in Derbyshire were being asked to form a Community Speed Watch, similar to Neighbourhood Watch, were if volunteers, (trained by the police) could demonstrate that

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there was a real problem in their village this would give strength to enforcement being undertaken in that area.

The Local Policing Unit Inspector added that for Bolsover and North East Derbyshire District, there would be a Neighbourhood Investigating Officer, 5 Response Officers and 3 SNT PCs, 2 PCSO Supervisors (one for Bolsover and one for North East), however, the number of PCSOs had not yet been allocated.

Committee was advised that the way in which police officers were recruited in the future would change. The College of Policing wanted all new police officers to complete a three year degree course; PCDA – Police Constable Degree Apprenticeship. In response to a Member's query, the Local Policing Unit Inspector replied that if a person already had a degree in criminology or law then that would be accepted for them to be able to apply to be a police officer.

In response to a Member's query, the Local Policing Unit Inspector advised the meeting that the police were always pushing for recruitment of 'Specials'. If any of the Specials wanted to become a regular full time police officer they would have to complete the Police Constable Degree Apprenticeship. However, there was currently a transition this year that would expire in December 2019 were any Special who wanted to become a regular police officer could do so through a system where they would not have to complete the degree course.

In response to a Member's query regarding the 3 PSPOs in the District, the Anti-Social Behaviour Officer provided some background information on how these had come into force. It was also confirmed that the PSPOs in Shirebrook and Langwith had been extended as a result of their success.

The Community Safety Officer advised the meeting that Scrutiny Committee could support the work of the CSP by continuing to raise awareness of the CSP's priority issues. She added that the refreshed CSP Plan for 2019/20 would be published at the end of March 2019.

The Strategic Director – Place commented that the Divisional Commander, Rachel Osborne, had provided a presentation to the Partnership and had been invited to the Joint Strategic Alliance meeting to provide the same presentation.

The Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner encouraged Members to take up the offer of having the Divisional Commander attend a future Council meeting and also the parish council Liaison meetings to provide a broader picture to Members of future challenges faced by the police.

The Chair thanked the Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner, the Partnership Sergeant, and the Local Policing Unit Inspector and also the Housing Enforcement Manager, the Community Safety Officer and the Anti-Social Behaviour Officer for attending the meeting.

Moved by Councillor C.R. Moesby and seconded by Councillor S. Peake
RESOLVED that the update be noted.

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The Housing Enforcement Manager, the Community Safety Officer, the Anti-Social Behaviour Officer and the Strategic Director – Place left the meeting.

The Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner, the Partnership Sergeant and the North East Derbyshire Local Policing Unit Inspector left the meeting.

0805. REVIEW OF AUTHORITY'S PERCEPTION OF YOUNG PEOPLE – EXECUTIVE RESPONSE

Committee considered a report which provided Executive's response to the Committee's Review of the Authority's Perception of Young People.

The aim of the review was to establish the current approach across frontline services when interacting with young people and to ensure the Council portrayed a positive image.

Committee submitted two recommendations which would hopefully assist the Council in maintaining and further enhancing its positive approach when dealing with young people.

The report acknowledged Executive's response to the Review recommendations and advised Committee to commence a period of Post-Scrutiny Monitoring to ensure effective implementation of the approved recommendations.

Moved by Councillor C.R. Moesby and seconded by Councillor Mrs P.A. Cooper

RESOLVED that (1) Executive's response to the Review of the Authority's Perception of Young People be noted,

(2) the report and findings be made public in accordance with Part 4.5.17(3) of the Council's Constitution,

(3) progress on the recommendations be monitored by officers and a report be presented to Committee in twelve months' highlighting any exceptions to delivery.

(Scrutiny & Elections Officer)

0806. SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2018/19

Committee considered their Work Programme for the remainder of 2018/19.

The Scrutiny & Elections Officer advised the meeting that the Committee's Review of the Authority's Perception of Young People had been presented to the Youth Council held on 12th March 2019 and also the draft survey. Some slight amendments had been made to the survey at the suggestion of Youth Councillors. The Survey was now with the Improvement Team, ready to go on the software system. Each school would carry out their own survey and bring back results to the June meeting.

A Member suggested that some representatives of the Youth Council could be invited to attend the Council meeting for the presentation to be given by the Police and Youth Councillors could submit two or three written questions in advance of the meeting.

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Moved by Councillor C.R. Moesby and seconded by Councillor P. Smith

RESOLVED that (1) the Work Programme 2018/19 be noted,

(2) the Scrutiny & Elections Officer liaise with the Improvement Officer with regard to inviting representatives from the Youth Council to the presentation to be given by the Police at a future Council meeting.

(Scrutiny & Elections Officer)

The meeting concluded at 1150 hours.