

<b>STRONG AND SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>	<b>Agenda Item No. 7</b>
<b>15 SEPTEMBER 2010</b>	<b>Public Report</b>

## Report of the Head of Neighbourhoods

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### SCRUTINY BIG DEBATE – ISSUES REPORT

#### 1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide the Committee with an opportunity to scrutinise and comment upon the responses to the issues raised at the Strong and Supportive Communities Scrutiny Big Debate event held earlier this year.

#### 2. RECOMMENDATIONS

Members are asked to comment on and scrutinise

- (i) the overall responses to the various issues raised at the Big Debate event and
- (ii) the progress that has been made or the suggested ways forward with each issue.

Wherever possible, connections have been made to other workstreams to ensure that we minimise duplication and add value to existing work.

#### 3. LINKS TO CORPORATE PLAN, SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY AND LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT

The programme of Big Debates tackled a range of issues all directly contributing to wellbeing and so to the Sustainable Community Strategy. In the case of the Strong and Supportive Scrutiny Committee Big Debate event, the focus was on community safety and this is a significant cross-cutting theme in the Sustainable Community Strategy.

#### 4. BACKGROUND

The Big Debate for Peterborough in 2010 was a programme that involved an investigation by Scrutiny of how the economic downturn has affected the city in terms of its aspirations for growth, levels of crime, requirements to support vulnerable people and its credentials for environmental sustainability. It was a pioneering piece of work that was designed and delivered in consultation with the Centre for Public Scrutiny.

The Big Debate prompted lots of discussion about how to support people who live and work in Peterborough more effectively and there has been a significant amount of positive feedback from attendees.

The specific Big Debate event for the Strong and Supportive Communities Scrutiny Committee asked the following question:

*“How has the economic downturn had an effect on the amount and type of crime in Peterborough?”*

During the event a performance was held to portray a family surviving challenging times, and showing the impact of the economic downturn on their daily lives. There then followed a full debate during which a range of key issues were captured.

## **5. KEY ISSUES**

Attached at Appendix 1 is a summary of the key issues that were raised during the Big Debate discussion, along with updates provided by officers.

Members will see that the majority of issues raised are being actively pursued with good progress being made. It is suggested that progress be further updated towards the end of the municipal year so that Members can be assured that positive action is being taken.

## **6. IMPLICATIONS**

The issues that arose during the Big Debate discussion are of significant relevance across a range of service areas in the Council, and will help to shape the outcomes of a variety of different workstreams. For example, the Top 100 Families programme will take some influence from the detail behind comments made during the Big Debate resulting in a more relevant and refined service.

## **7. CONSULTATION**

A wide variety of invitees attended the Big Debate event, including Councillors, officers, representatives from partner agencies and members of the public. It will be important to continue to keep those that attended up to date with progress being made, and to find ways to continue to involve them in the delivery of the outcomes.

## **8. EXPECTED OUTCOMES**

It is anticipated that Members will add value to, and/or endorse, the responses to issues raised that are set out in Appendix 1, and that the programme of activities described becomes part of the Council's 'business as usual' delivery plan.

## **9. NEXT STEPS**

It is recommended that a further update is provided to the Committee towards the end of the municipal year. In the meantime, it is proposed that work continues, reflecting the guidance and scrutiny offered by the Committee, on each element of the issues report.

## **10. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

Not applicable

## **11. APPENDICES**

Appendix 1: Strong and Supportive Communities Scrutiny Committee Big Debate – Issues Paper

## APPENDIX 1: Strong and Supportive Communities Scrutiny Committee Big Debate – Issues Paper

	Issues	What PCC are doing	Feeds into which Policy / Strategy	Partnership working /Other policies	Recommendations Short / Medium /Long Term
<b>A</b>	<b>Safer Peterborough Partnership Priorities</b>				
1.	Examine what actions the police are taking about the robbery of personal property.	We are doing targeted work around hot spots and young people and their lack of understanding of what they are doing e.g. push and take where they bully someone and take their goods. We are doing work around young people in schools to stop this.	Safer Peterborough Partnership Plan particularly the serious acquisitive crime action plan	SPP has been accepted onto the Home Office's TKAP programme which brings support to tackle these issues. This provides funding for this financial year	Comprehensive action plan in place including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Delivery of 'Be Safe' to all secondary schools</li> <li>• Personal safety messages on Facebook and Bebo</li> <li>• Targeted after school patrols</li> <li>• Crimestoppers campaign aimed at young people to be launched in the Autumn</li> </ul>
2.	Support the development of new initiatives to tackle Anti Social Behaviour	Review undertaken of the way in which anti social behaviour is addressed. Aiming to provide a much more victim focused service. Developed a means of identifying 'high risk victims' of ASB to ensure that they receive the support that they need.	Safer Peterborough Partnership Plan particularly the anti social behaviour action plan	Joint project between SPP and Victim Support, using Home Office funding, to employ (for this financial year) an Anti Social Behaviour Assistant who will focus upon supporting victims of ASB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement new processes for tackling ASB</li> <li>• Recruit the team to provide the resources to respond to demands from public and partners</li> <li>• Develop the range of tools used to tackle ASB</li> <li>• C1 also refers</li> </ul>

	Issues	What PCC are doing	Feeds into which Policy / Strategy	Partnership working /Other policies	Recommendations Short / Medium /Long Term
3.	Investigate what the impact of Acceptable Behaviour Contracts has been.	<p>A multi agency case review group meets on a monthly basis</p> <p>This group reviews all interventions in place to decide if there have been any breaches and if there is a need to escalate the intervention</p> <p>Success will be measured by the number of cases that do not need to escalate to the next stage</p>	Safer Peterborough Partnership Plan particularly the anti social behaviour action plan	Close working with all partners to deliver ASB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitor the use of ABCs</li> </ul>
<b>B</b>	<b>Families and Children</b>				
4.	Examine how much is being invested into debt counselling and look at innovative ways of offering this type of support through local voluntary organisations such as faith groups.	<p>We offer in-depth assessment services and direct people to debt counselling. We also look at the family network and an effective service user group e.g. drug users, to offer support.</p> <p>We are developing a Peterborough Financial Inclusion strategy and play an active part on the newly reformed Financial Inclusion Taskforce.</p>	Emerging financial inclusion strategy	Tackling financial exclusion needs to be the responsibility of a range of different agencies from the public, private and voluntary sectors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development and agreement of a new Financial Inclusion Strategy</li> <li>• Ensure strategy is appropriately resourced</li> </ul>

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5.	Investigate ways of expanding the Safer Schools Partnership and providing police in more schools.	PCC are active members of the Safer Schools Partnership	Safer Schools Partnership reports to Children's Trust Board	Close relationship with Police	This sits with Children's Services
6.	Investigate and examine ways of early intervention and support to help families who are at the starting point of a crisis such as a father losing his job.	Early Intervention Project. Agencies working closer together. The Top 100 Families project forms part of the Green Shoots programme and we are actively engaging with this strand to maximise the impact of the project	Will directly impact on a broad range of policies and service areas by managing families with complex needs differently, so preventing higher costs in later years	The Top 100 Families project will require the direct involvement of a broad range of partner agencies if it is to be successful	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Draft and agree the scope of the Top 100 Families project</li> <li>• Develop a detailed action plan</li> <li>• Pilot the principle in selected areas or with selected families</li> <li>• Assess the social and financial return on investment to refine the model</li> <li>• Expand programme</li> </ul>
7.	Examine what schools are doing to highlight truancy.	Contact made with families and work with them. We have a common assessment framework in place.  Attendance service do a lot of positive work by going into schools			This is with Children's Services The Top 100 Families project is also relevant here
8.	Support the Restorative Justice approach and decriminalisation of young people who commit their first offence.	Restorative Justice is delivered in schools by Safer Schools Officers  Other council officers, who have been trained, use restorative justice approaches			The approach is supported but at the present time there is no resource to take this forward on a formal basis. As part of the review of the Police and Council Community Safety Service, and following positive feedback from the S&SC Scrutiny Panel, proposals will be developed to ensure delivery of RJ

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9.	Support the development of the Family Intervention Programme	Family Intervention Programme			Support the development of the <b>Family Intervention Programme</b> , committing to mainstream this work when the external funding comes to an end
10.	Continue with the pilot of the Family Recovery Project	Same as B3 above			Same as B3 above
11.	Investigate Restorative Justice becoming a sanctioned detection.	This is a national issue and outside the remit of the partnership			ACPO and the Home Office are currently developing this area of business which may see a change in the rules about sanctioned detection
<b>C</b>	<b>Communities</b>				
12.	Examine community involvement in helping to combat anti social behaviour and solving crime.	We need to be more open and honest with the public and explain that sometimes we are constrained. We want to communicate and empower and support communities and get them to help themselves. We have crime fighters and Street Leaders in neighbourhoods. We are exploring a new project with the RSA that empowers citizens to take an active role in relation to managing ASB	Safer Peterborough Partnership Plan	Effective management of ASB relies on robust input from a range of different partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop the work of Community Crime Fighters and Street Leaders</li> <li>• Work is underway to explore using community crime fighters to support victims of ASB in the community</li> <li>• Develop the proposed project strand with the RSA relating to community involvement with managing ASB</li> </ul>

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13.	Investigate the provision of more youth facilities and youth projects.	Community Action Planning is taking place in all areas, identifying e.g. requirements for provision of youth services			Continue to develop and implement community action planning  Discuss with Children's Services
14.	Councillors to consider donating £1000 of their community leadership fund towards youth projects.				To link this issue to the existing Neighbourhood Council/Community Action Planning process which is prioritising funding from a variety of sources to tackle the most prevalent needs in our neighbourhoods
<b>D</b>	<b>Other Suggestions</b>				
15.	Examine the possibility of setting up a workers co-operative	We have recently redefined the responsibilities for economic development, and this may sit best with OP who now take a lead on this. We are required to produce a Local Economic Assessment by 31/3/11, and this concept may be of relevance	Development of Local Economic Assessment		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discuss concept with OP</li> <li>• Feed into LEA process if agreed and relevant</li> </ul>
16.	Request Scrutiny to lobby the Government to allow Councils more autonomy in making decisions that affect people's lives at a local level.	Coalition Government announcements regarding decentralisation is going a long way towards achieving this ambition. We are also closely watching developments with the Sustainable Communities Act			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide Scrutiny committee with justification for structural, policy and service decisions linked to the decentralisation agenda</li> <li>• Provide an active submission to the SCA if legislative powers continue</li> </ul>

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