



**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE  
STRONG AND SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE  
HELD IN THE  
BOURGES and VIERSEN ROOMS, TOWN HALL, PETERBOROUGH  
ON  
WEDNESDAY 23 NOVEMBER 2016**

Present: Councillors: S Allen (Chairman), J Bull (Vice Chairman), R Bisby, D King, A Ali, S Martin, A Shaheed

Officers in Attendance: Adrian Chapman Service Director, Adult Social Care and Communities  
Belinda Child Head of Housing, Prevention and Wellbeing  
Sharon Malia Housing Programmes Manager  
Chief Inspector Rob Hill  
Station Commander, Wayne Swales PES Deputy Head of Service  
Paulina Ford Senior Democratic Services Officer

**1. Apologies for Absence**

No apologies for absence were received.

**2. Declarations of Interest and Whipping Declarations**

There were no declarations of interest or whipping declarations

**3. Minutes of the Meeting Held on 14 September and 19 October 2016**

The minutes of the meeting held on 14 September 2016 and 19 October 2016 were approved as an accurate record.

**4. Call-In of any Cabinet, Cabinet Member or Key Officer Decisions**

There were no call-ins for this meeting.

**5. Housing Renewals Policy 2017 - 2019**

The Head of Housing, Prevention and Wellbeing introduced the report which provided the Committee with an opportunity to scrutinise the Council's new draft Housing Renewals Policy. The draft policy included:

- the proposed assistance that will be available to vulnerable householders whose housing conditions were such that they may be detrimental to their health, safety, wellbeing or their ability to access their home due to disability.
- the proposed assistance to owners of an empty property or property that is privately rented in order to provide the Council with additional housing stock in which to accommodate families in housing need and to prevent homelessness.

The Head of Housing, Prevention and Wellbeing and the Housing Programmes Manager who was also present responded to comments and questions raised by Members. A summary of responses included:

- The Councils Housing Strategy was currently being refreshed and would contain the quotas required for new developments for the next five years which would include a range of housing associations and private developers.
- The introduction of Repairs Assistance to private landlords who cannot meet licensing or housing condition requirements had been proposed within the draft Housing Renewals Policy in order to prevent potential homelessness.
- Further clarification was provided with regard to the Building Research Establishments Stock Modelling which identified the estimated number of dwellings with category 1 hazards as listed under the Housing Health and Safety Ratings Scheme (HHSRS).
- Following approval of the Housing Renewals Policy the Repairs Assistance Scheme would be promoted and targeted at the different groups e.g. Selective Licencing landlords.
- The mandatory limit for disabled facility grants had not changed and was set at a limit of £30K. The Housing Renewals Policy allowed for discretionary top ups to the disabled facilities grant.
- The addition of the Repairs Assistance Grant into the Renewals Policy identified the fact that the council was alert to the possibility that Private Landlords may start to move out of the rental market due to the introduction of Selective Licensing. The Repairs Assistance Grant was provided from the Councils own funding. When providing the grant a charge would be put on the property and if it was disposed of within 30 years the council would seek to get the money back with interest.
- The Disabled Facilities Grant money was provided by central government to Local Authorities under the Better Care Fund. The government had increased the funding this year by an extra £600,000.
- The policy covered a wide range of circumstances but there may be some circumstances which fall outside the scope of the policy and these would be assessed on a case by case basis.

## **ACTION AGREED**

The Committee noted the report.

## **CRIME AND DISORDER SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FOR ITEM 6 ONLY**

### **6. Update on the Prevention and Enforcement Service**

Chief Inspector Rob Hill accompanied by Station Commander, Wayne Swales introduced the report. The report provided the Committee with an update on the current progress of the development of the multi-agency Prevention and Enforcement Service (PES).

The Chief Inspector and Station Commander responded to comments and questions raised by Members. A summary of responses included:

- The Police Confidence Survey was led by the central Police team. People were selected at random from around the city and called and asked their views on how comfortable they felt living in the city. The recent survey that had been undertaken had shown a great improvement in the results with a 30% increase from 60% to a 90% confidence rating. The reason for the increase is believed to have been attributed to the fact that previously there had been no localised Police Service and therefore no local contact with people. From April Police Community Officers had started to be placed within the community and the public were now able to identify a specific contact and put a face to the Police Service. The public now feel that they have someone they can go to and share their concerns with.

- The Satisfaction Survey was aimed at victims of crime who were contacted and asked their views on how happy they were with the service they had received.
- The drug issue was city wide with a concentration in one area of the city. Intelligence and information received ensured that resources were placed in the areas most needed.
- Members noted that there had been a very positive response from local residents to the recent initiatives put in place through the development of the PES team.
- The designated Neighbourhood Watch Scheme successfully established in Salix Road, Hampton was an innovative scheme. Neighbourhood Watch Schemes were usually self-generated, this scheme had been put in place following evidence received and then actively targeting the area where it was felt a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme would be of benefit. Salix Road was identified as an area requiring a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme and the residents in that area were then supported in setting up the scheme. This had been a pilot scheme and would eventually be rolled out across the city.
- An updated needs analysis would be undertaken for the 'Can do' area of the city to identify any areas of concern so that the PES team could focus on specific issues identified. Negotiations were also being undertaken to provide a dedicated Enforcement Team as an extension to the PES team for the Lincoln Road section of the 'Can do' area which would operate between 6.00am and 11.00pm.
- Members commented that there had been a 3 month trial of putting 'polite notices' on cars in the Cardea area and wanted to know the outcome. Members were informed that the information could be provided after the meeting.
- Members suggested that the PES team should visit Youth Clubs and introduce themselves. The officers present welcomed this and requested that Members provide information on where the Youth Clubs were located.
- The (TACOH) Tasking and Co-ordinating Hub will pull together Council and Police intelligence and data to understand where the highest priorities for tackling crime and quality of life issues in the city were, this would then allow the PES to deploy its resources in a more effective manner and have a greater impact.
- Members requested that officers look into providing an APP for Councillors to let them report incidents directly for their area and then to be able to check on what actions had been taken.
- Consideration was being given to employing a full time Communications Officer for the PES who would provide Councillors with current and up to date information that could be fed back to the community.
- In addition to powers being extended to non-Police staff within the PES for powers such as issuing penalty notices on various matters such as disorder, cycling on a footpath etc the PES were also looking into how powers under local bylaws could be given to local staff.
- The Police did not have powers to deal with incidents such as parking issues on unadopted roads however having local PSCO's in place and understanding the local concerns should assist with these issues.
- Members sought clarification as to whether there was an intention to review the local bylaws. Members were informed that existing bylaws would need to be reviewed before anything new could be introduced however the only focus currently had been where a new Public Space Protection order was to be put in place. A review of existing bylaws could be undertaken.
- Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO's). There was a piece of planning legislation, Article 4 Directions in place which can prevent further expansion of HMO's providing there was evidence provided as to why no further HMO's should be provided in an area.
- It was difficult to prevent fly tipping but the PES team would work on devising a strategy and action plan to try and reduce this. Dealing with fly tipping in rural areas would require different actions to dealing with fly tipping in the city. Covert cameras were not generally used as they were governed by The Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA) and could only be used as part of an investigative piece of work.
- Members sought clarification on how many prosecutions resulted from unauthorised encampments, antisocial behaviour and fly tipping. Officers were unable to provide the

information at the meeting. Members requested information to be provided from April 2016.

### **ACTION AGREED**

1. The Committee noted the report and requested that the following information be provided:
  - a. The outcome of the three month trial in Cardea where 'polite notices' were put on cars.
  - b. The number of prosecutions which had resulted from unauthorised encampments, antisocial behaviour and fly tipping from April 2016 to date.
  - c. That a review of existing bylaws be undertaken.
2. The Committee also requested that Officers investigate the possibility of an APP for Councillors to let them report incidents directly to PES for their area and then to be able to check on what actions had been taken.

## **7. Forward Plan of Executive Decisions**

The Committee received the latest version of the Council's Forward Plan of Executive Decisions, containing key decisions that the Leader of the Council anticipated the Cabinet or individual Cabinet Members would make during the course of the forthcoming month. Members were invited to comment on the Plan and, where appropriate, identify any relevant areas for inclusion in the Committee's work programme.

### **ACTION AGREED**

The Committee noted the Forward Plan of Executive Decisions and requested further information on the following Executive Decisions:

- Vivacity Premier Fitness Invest to Save Scheme – Non Key Decision – Provide financial information which may be within the exempt annex to identify what measures have been put in place to invest to save.
- Request for Public Consultation for Public Space Protection Orders – Non Key Decision
- Food Safety Service Plan – Non Key Decision
- Vivacity Funding – Non Key Decision

## **8. Work Programme 2016/2017**

Members considered the Committee's Work Programme for 2016/17 and discussed possible items for inclusion.

### **ACTION AGREED**

The Committee noted the work programme for 2016/2017.

The Senior Democratic Services Officer advised the Committee that as agreed at Full Council on 12 October 2016 there would be a new Committee called Adults and Communities Scrutiny Committee which would replace the Strong and Supportive Communities Scrutiny Committee from 1 January 2017. The remit of the Committee would remain the same with the addition of Adult Social Care. The Service Director for Adult Social Care and Communities advised the Committee that a briefing note on Adult Social Care would be provided prior to the next meeting and also a full report would be presented at the first meeting of the new Committee providing an overview of Adult Social Care.

**9. Date of Next meeting**

- Adults and Communities Scrutiny Committee - .Wednesday 11 January 2017

*The meeting began at 7.00pm and ended at 8:02pm*

CHAIRMAN