

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
STRONG AND SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
HELD IN THE
BOURGES & VIERSEN ROOMS, TOWN HALL, PETERBOROUGH
ON
TUESDAY 24 JULY 2013**

Present:	Councillor Day (Vice Chairman) Simons, Over, Johnson and Fox	
Also Present:	Councillor Casey	Cabinet Advisor to the Cabinet Member for Culture, Recreation and Waste Management
	Councillor Todd	Cabinet Advisor to the Cabinet Member for Community Cohesion, Safety and Public Health
	Councillor Goodwin	Cabinet Advisor to the Leader (Business Engagement, Tourism and International Links)
	Councillor Elsey	Cabinet Member for Culture, Recreation and Waste Management.
Officers in Attendance:	Adrian Chapman	Head of Neighbourhood Services
	Gary Goose	Safer & Stronger Peterborough Strategic Manager
	Ray Hooke	Performance and Information Officer
	Margaret Welton	Interim Vivacity Partnership Manager
	Dominic Hudson	Strategic Partnerships Manager
	Annette Joyce	Head of Commercial Operations

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors Lee, Forbes and Kreling. Councillor Over was substituting for Councillor Kreling.

2. Declarations of Interest and Whipping Declarations

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 4 June 2013

The minutes of the Strong and Supportive Communities Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 4 June 2013 were approved as an accurate record.

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

There were no requests for Call-in to consider

CRIME AND DISORDER SCRUTINY COMMITTEE SITTING FOR ITEMS 5 AND 6 ONLY

5. Safer Peterborough Partnership Plan 2011 – 2014

The purpose of this report was to update the Strong and Supportive Communities Scrutiny Committee on the progress and performance of the Safer Peterborough Partnership's approach to reducing crime in accordance with the Safer Peterborough Partnership Plan 2011 – 14 and for the Committee to scrutinise that progress and performance in accordance with its statutory responsibility as set out within the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, revised by the Police and Justice act 2006.

The following key points were highlighted within the report:

- The Safer Peterborough Partnership agreed one single target for the three year plan to reduce victim based crime by 10% by the end of March 2014. In order to achieve this there were three identified priorities:
 - ❖ Reduce victim based crime;
 - ❖ Tackle anti-social behaviour and hate crime; and
 - ❖ Build stronger and more supportive communities.
- The report concentrated upon progress and performance in relation to reducing victim based crime. Previously the partnership was measured on all crime.
- The reason for this was that the partnership wanted to reduce the number of people living, working in or visiting the city becoming victims of crime.
- All crime included such categories as drug offences, incidents of handling stolen goods and some other areas where it was preferable to see an increase rather than decrease as it was an indicator of proactive police activity. These were excluded from the Partnership's reduction target for this reason.
- At the beginning of the three year reporting period a number of points were agreed. These were articulated as follows. It was clear that whilst crime levels had fallen across the city there remained significant issues that any city the size of Peterborough would face:
 - ❖ There remained a level of acquisitive crime underpinned a group of offenders who disproportionately commit high levels of crime by re-offending;
 - ❖ There remained a level of violent crime that required co-ordinated Partnership activity, some of that violent crime was drug and alcohol related and a significant level of all the city's violent crime was domestic violence; and
 - ❖ Communities remained concerned about the levels of anti-social behaviour as was in evidence by all Neighbourhood Panels having some elements of anti-social behaviour as a priority on each and every occasion.
- The Partnership chose to approach reducing crime in the following way:
 - ❖ Embedding the 'broken window theory' as a bedrock of the approach to reducing crime, tackling anti-social behaviour and building stronger, supportive and more cohesive communities; and
 - ❖ Taking an approach to tackle the underlying causes of offending and crime but being equally clear that those who continued to offend or bring risk of harm to the city would be targeted within the full weight of the criminal justice system.
- The main planks of this approach were:
 - ❖ Integrated Offender Management;
 - ❖ Developing modern, effective and efficient substance misuse (drugs and alcohol) schemes;
 - ❖ Developing an over-arching strategy on domestic abuse; and
 - ❖ Improving perceptions of safety in Peterborough city centre by prioritising violent crime linked to the night time economy.

The Committee was asked to note the approach, progress and performance so far and to endorse the Partnership's direction of travel and to make any comments or suggestions as appropriate.

Observations and questions were raised around the following areas:

- Members were concerned that anti-social behaviour appeared to be increasing within their wards and queried whether people were actually reporting these crimes as in the report it showed it was on the decrease. *The Safer and Stronger Peterborough Strategic Manager advised Members that this was the reason that this year the focus was to be on issues around perception and whether it was really decreasing. Theft from Person was one area of crime which was increasing, this area of crime was always reported because crime numbers were needed for insurance purposes. Members were advised to encourage and embrace the broken window theory and get areas cleaned up. These crimes were also being recorded through the Quality of Life Survey and being tackled by Microbeats and Operation Can Do.*
- The Head of Neighbourhood Services informed Members that that the Neighbourhoods Team was working with Enterprise to map calls for service and were using the data to find out which areas the calls were relating to, to enable them to focus on that particular service.
- Members queried whether privately owned areas should be included within the performance management statistics. *Members were advised that these areas should be included in order for the Neighbourhoods Team to understand the issues of areas within the city. The Safer and*

Stronger Peterborough Strategic Manager suggested that Members gathered information on where crimes were taking place and email him with the details.

- *Members queried whether there were enough police officers and special constables patrolling the city. Members were advised that there had been no changes in the number of officers in Peterborough. The police front line had remained the same, the issue was with Cambridge as a whole and as Peterborough was a part of that it was under resourced. There was a big recruitment drive currently taking place for Special Constables and they were now being trained to take on the roles of Police Constables.*
- *Members commented that if Special Constables were paid a retainer fee this would be more useful than employing Police Community Safety Officers because Special Constables had all the powers of a Police Officer.*
- *Members were concerned that there had been an incident in Cathedral Square and it had taken fifteen minutes for a PCSO to arrive and deal with the incident. It was queried whether Peterborough had dedicated police control within the city centre. Members were advised that there was still a dedicated unit responsible for policing the city centre which comprised of one Police Sergeant and a number of Police Community Support Officers. The Council did not fund a specific policing post within the city centre at present.*
- *Members queried who paid the police who worked within schools. Members were advised that they were paid out of the police budget although there were negotiations to try to obtain contributions from schools.*
- *Members queried whether the police were stopping the support of Speed Watch. Members were informed that there would be no reduction in police commitment to Speed Watch and the Police and Crime Commissioner was very much in favour of Speed Watch.*

6. Overview of the Operation Can Do Programme

This report provided the Committee with an overview of the Operation Can Do programme, its achievements to date and the forward plan for taking the learning from this approach to other areas of the city.

The following key points were highlighted:

- Operation Can Do was established two years ago in collaboration between the Council and the Police. It followed a short period of heightened community tension in the Gladstone area of the city and a lack of sustained improvement in relation to various issues identified in the Millfield and New England Regeneration Partnership.
- The initial operation was launched with three phases in mind:
 - ❖ Phase 1: immediate, frontline responses to visible issues (0 – 6 months);
 - ❖ Phase 2: tackling more complex issues through complete collaboration between agencies and the community (6 Months to 3 years); and
 - ❖ Phase 3: longer term investment and regeneration in the area (3 years to 10 Years).
- At its launch, a number of key priorities were identified and agreed between partners and it was against this backdrop that the initial work streams and actions were developed. These targets were:
 - ❖ To empower communities so they were able to influence decisions in their neighbourhoods;
 - ❖ To establish a framework to maximise the economic growth of the area;
 - ❖ To deliver positive engagement activities for young people;
 - ❖ To improve local parks and open spaces;
 - ❖ To improve access to training and employment opportunities; and
 - ❖ To reduce alcohol and drug related fear of crime, crime and antisocial behaviour.
- The Operation Can Do area ran along either side of Lincoln Road, from the edge of the city centre to New England, parts of Central Ward, North Ward and Park Ward were included in this boundary. The area was comprised of approximately 10,016 households and approximately 28,263 residents.
- A community board was now in place and was rapidly moving towards registering itself as a charity so that it had its own legal identity and could raise funds and deliver services.

- Residents and local data highlighted the need for robust and targeted activities to address the following key issues of concern:
 - ❖ Heightened community tension;
 - ❖ Crime and anti-social behaviour;
 - ❖ Poor quality housing stock and high levels of houses in multiple occupation and overcrowding;
 - ❖ Alcohol and licensing issues;
 - ❖ Parking; and
 - ❖ Growing levels of dissatisfaction from communities.

Work was carried out on the following areas:

- Housing;
- Houses of Multiple Occupation;
- Overcrowding;
- Housing Prosecutions;
- Substance Misuse - Drugs;
- Substance Misuse Alcohol;
- Trading Standards;
- Food and Health and Safety;
- Licensing; and
- Parking Enforcement.

The Committee was asked to:

- Note and comment on the information provided about the programme and to suggest areas for improvement or where further effort should be deployed.
- Specifically scrutinise the data analysis report and identify other data sets which would add value to the work.
- Agree that a paper outlining a proposed Selective Licensing Scheme for privately rented accommodation be brought to the Committee at its next meeting.

Observations and questions were raised around the following areas:

- Members queried whether Operation Can Do was going to be spread over other areas of the city. *The Safer and Stronger Peterborough Strategic Manager informed Members that the principles of Operation Can Do are already being introduced in the Ortons and Ravensthorpe.*
- Members commented that alcohol had become a serious problem within the city and queried whether there had been a ban on alcohol and if it was working. *Members were advised that there was a Designated Public Place Order over the whole Can Do area where police had powers they could use if alcohol was being used inappropriately. The Licensing Committee had further power to refuse or revoke a license.*
- *The Performance and Information Officer advised Members that there had been a reduction in alcohol related incidents within the Can Do area which had contributed to the reduction of alcohol related incidents in the city overall.*
- Members queried whether any surveys had been carried out since the start of Operation Can Do. *Members were advised that a door to door knocking exercise had taken place in the Can Do area where 11,000 properties had been visited to try and understand the volume and condition of private rented housing and other issues.*
- Members commented that a high volume of resources would need to be used to carry out such surveys and queried how this would be sustained. *Members were advised that funding was obtained through central government; we are also currently trying to attract investors and income by looking to work with businesses.*
- Members commented that pubs were closing down and these were a better environment for people to drink alcohol in instead of buying alcohol from the off license and drinking it on the streets. *Members were advised that this was being looked in to. Three off license licenses had already been revoked within the Can Do area.*

7. Vivacity Culture and Leisure Trust – Culture and Leisure Services

This report identified proposed areas for scrutiny to be considered in a detailed report at September's Strong and Supportive Communities Scrutiny Committee meeting. The areas for consideration included the service delivery, other wider benefits and value for money obtained from the Council's culture and leisure partnership with Vivacity Culture and Leisure. The report invited the Committee to comment on the proposals and whether there were any other matters members wished to include.

The Committee was recommended to comment on, and agree to, the matters to be addressed in the report to be submitted to the 11 September meeting of the Strong and Supportive Communities Scrutiny Committee on the Council's Culture and Leisure Partnership with Vivacity Culture and Leisure.

Observations and questions were raised around the following areas:

- Members commented that in part 7.1 of the report, consultation had only taken place with a small number of people and it was queried whether consultation would take place with a wider range of service level users and similar groups and if so, could examples of groups be provided. *The Cabinet Advisor to the Cabinet Member for Culture, Recreation and Waste Management advised Members that Vivacity would be consulting wider with groups within Education and Health and local groups Such as the Music Hub, Cops at the regional pool and the athletics clubs.*
- Members congratulated Vivacity on the success of the Heritage event and were very impressed with how they greeted the Mayor.
- Members commented that the pointers they would like Vivacity to focus on were as follows:
 - 1) Libraries – How service was being provided to ensure the public were still receiving a good service.
 - 2) Leisure – It was very important that the public got reasonably priced leisure.
 - 3) Archives – What relationship Peterborough had with Northampton and Huntingdon as they were the two archival providers, what was available on the internet, whether there was a process for people to obtain information from the internet and how much usage were people getting from the archives in higher education.

8. Commercial Operations

The purpose of this report was to provide the Committee with an overview of Commercial Operations and forthcoming plans for the City Centre along with the Commercial Operations Business Plan.

The report provided a focus on the services provided by Commercial Operations which were as follows:

- Parking Services;
- CCTV;
- City Centre Management;
- Events and Public Realm Management;
- General Market;
- Visitor Information Centre;
- Visitor Economy Development;
- Visitor Economy Framework (VEF);
- Visitor Economy Strategy (VES) 2014 – 24; and
- Destination Management Plan (DMP) 2014 – 17.

Outlined within the report were the four key strategic objectives:

Objective 1 – Promoting the city

- Broadening the visitor offer of the city by extending the events diary and marketing existing attractions more extensively.

Objective 2 – Managing the city

- To communicate and co-ordinate the work of all city stakeholders and monitor outputs; and
- To communicate and engage effectively with businesses.

Objective 3 – Improving the Environment and public spaces

- To encourage and facilitate improvements to the environment and public spaces that was inviting, clean and was a safe environment to be enjoyed.

Objective 4 – A prosperous city

- Diversifying and strengthening the economic base. The city should be the last catalyst for encouraging the growth of both new and existing business within the city.

Observations and questions were raised around the following areas:

- Members commented that the Willow Festival was a very successful event and there were no alcohol related incidents. *The Head of Commercial Operations commented that the volume of people that attended the Willow Festival was not anticipated and there were only eight reported low level crimes. The fencing for the event had economical benefit as it was used for following events. Money was made on programme sales, funfair, raffle tickets and businesses within the festival.*
- Members were concerned that the Mayors Last Night of the Proms event was not properly advertised which resulted in less tickets for the event being sold. *Members were advised that Commercial Operations would be happy to promote the event in future through the visitors centre as they did not have the marketing budget.*
- Members queried whether it was time to move the Peterborough Market to a more central location. *Members were advised that it would not be necessary to move the market from its current location, it just needed a strong management structure and refurbishment as people would go to a quality market. It had the potential to be a thriving market with surrounding businesses.*
- Members commented that the market did not have an encouraging appearance and it was not well signposted and queried whether there were any plans to change this. *Members were advised that Commercial Operations could work on signage although it was down to planning to look at appearance.*
- Members queried whether there were any plans for another Country and Western festival. *Members were informed that Commercial Operations would like to bring more events like this to the embankment only if it could be cost neutral or profit making.*
- Members commented that the motorcycle bays on St Peters Road would be more useful if they were turned in to disabled parking bays.
- Members commented that it would encourage more people to sign up for the Great Eastern Run if they presented people with a reward relating to Peterborough instead of just the standard medal. *Members were advised that the sponsors insisted on presenting runners with the standard medal.*
- *Members were informed that that there had been 2,900 people sign up for the Great Eastern Run which was 30% more than this time last year and 300 people had signed up for the Fun Run and this time last year there were only 15 subscriptions.*
- Members were concerned what would happen if there were in excess of 8,000 runners for the Great Eastern Run as this was the maximum number of people that could participate. *Members were informed that the route held 8,500 and if this number was exceeded there would need to be a consultation.*
- Members commented that although most of the events were planned to take place on the embankment, it would be a good idea to have some of the events in Central Park.
- Members were concerned that some charity collectors did not seem genuine and queried how much investigation was carried out. *Members were informed that charities were required to fill out application forms and provide charity numbers, the Council then made sure that a letter was sent to the charity to make the charity aware that money was being collected for them.*
- Members were concerned with CCTV and that there were not enough staff to deal with all of the cameras around the city and that some trees were in the way of CCTV cameras and queried how easy it was to get these trimmed back. *Members were advised that Commercial Operations were not aware of this issue and Enterprise had been informed. In the Section 106 budget there should be enough money to cover wifi for all cameras which would then save £80,000 a year on telephone lines that were currently being paid for.*

- Members congratulated CTTV as they did such a good job for such a small team.

9. Scrutiny in a Day: A Focus on Welfare

The purpose of this report was to set out proposals to hold a cross-scrutiny committee event that would focus on the impacts of welfare reform. This event would be held in order to understand and mitigate against the breadth of impact on individuals, families, communities and businesses. It was noted that the Welfare Reform team was also looking for nominations from each Committee to form a working party to help plan and provide input for the day.

Observations and questions were raised and discussed including:

- The Committee noted the proposal for a Scrutiny in a Day event.
- Councillor Fox volunteered to be part of the working party.
- Members suggested that Councillor Forbes was contacted to ask if she would like to be part of the working group as she had a particular interest in Welfare Reform.

AGREED ACTION

- Members agreed that the Scrutiny in a Day was necessary and they welcomed the proposal.
- The Governance Officer was to contact Councillor Forbes to ask if she would like to join the working group.

10. Notice of Intention to Take Key Decisions

The Committee received the latest version of the Council's Notice of Intention to Take Key Decisions, containing key decisions that the Leader of the Council anticipated the Cabinet or individual Cabinet Members would make during the course of the following four months. 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 Notice of Intention to Take Key Decisions.

11. Work Programme

This was an opportunity for Members to review the work programme and make notifications of any items they wished to be added to the programme as well as to confirm their agreement with what was currently on the programme.

AGREED ACTION

- Members noted the work programme and confirmed agreement with the current plan.

12. Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday, 11 September 2013

The meeting began at 7.00 and ended at 9.10pm

CHAIRMAN

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