PETERBOROUGH CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE STRONG AND SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD IN THE BOURGES & VIERSEN ROOMS, TOWN HALL, PETERBOROUGH ON WEDNESDAY 14 JANUARY 2014

Present:	Councillors Khan (Chairman), J.R Fox (Vice Chairman) Harper, Peach, Maqbool, Forbes and Okonkowski	
Officers in Attendance:	Robin Sissons	Head of Safer, Stronger, Supportive Communities
	Adrian Chapman	Assistant Director of Communities and Targeted Services
	Dania Castagliuolo	Democratic Services Officer

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Day. Councillor Harper attended as substitute.

2. Declarations of Interest and Whipping Declarations

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Minutes of the Meetings held on 15 October and 18 November 2014

The minutes of the meetings held on 15 October and 18 November 2014 were approved as accurate records.

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

There were no requests for Call-in to consider.

5. Safer Peterborough Partnership Plan Overview

The report was introduced by the Head of Safer, Stronger and Supportive Communities to provide the Committee with an overview of performance against the Safer Peterborough Partnership Plan. The summary was presented using colour indicators to demonstrate progress on the objectives set.

- Green signified performance and activity was on target
- Amber signified that there were some concerns or data which was not readily available.
- Red signified that more progress was required or that there were challenges to overcome.

The Safer Peterborough Partnership had agreed a Community Safety Plan for 2014 – 17. The delivery of this plan had been scrutinised by the Committee over the past year.

The Committee were asked to note and scrutinise the report.

Observations and questions were raised around the following areas:

- Members referred to page 25 of the report and requested that this table was explained further as it was difficult to interpret. *The Head of Safer, Stronger and Supportive Communities responded*

that this was just a snapshot of what was already shown in the report. The red lines signified that there was still work to be done on the subject and the green lines signified it was on target.

- Members queried why in the main report only referred to issues with green or amber and on page 25 of the report there were red lines on the graph. *Members were informed that this still signified that the issues were in green or amber, they were the same results but presented differently within the table on page 25.*
- Members commented that race relations with regard to hate crime were generally very good and queried if the police had any measures in place for the possible tensions in the Afghan community. *Members were advised that the Tension Monitoring Group were monitoring the situation. The group met on a daily basis and discussed issues at a local and international level. The group was well aware of this potential tension issue.*

At this point Councillor Harper declared that he was the Chairman of the planning committee and did not wish to take part in discussions on this case as it was currently going through the planning process. He left the room for the rest of this discussion.

- *The Assistant Director for Communities and Targeted Services assured the Committee that the Council had been preparing for increase in tensions. Updates were being received several times a day from the Community Cohesion Manager and officers were meeting regularly to update each other. The planning Officer would be briefing Councillors on the issues with planning and would be able to give them information on what planners could and could not do.*
- Members queried whether the briefing with Councillors would also include information on the preventative measures the Council was taking. *The Assistant Director for Communities and Targeted Services informed Members that that this information would also be included as the aim was to make sure people were reassured and confident.*

At this point Councillor Harper returned to the meeting.

- Members referred to page 20 of the report under the heading Hate Crime, and queried why Hate Crime cases were referred directly to the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS). *The Head of Safer, Stronger and Supportive Communities advised Members that the CPS made the decision on whether a prosecution would be carried out. Previously this decision would be made by the gate keeper and then referred to the CPS. This had changed to highlight the importance of Hate Crime.*

- *The Assistant director for Communities and Targeted Services added that Hate Crime was a concern to the Safer Peterborough Partnership. It was important that there was an increase in reporting of Hate Crime. Reporting of race and religious hate crime was happening, but there was concern for the reporting of disability and LGBT hate crime. It had been agreed that a new Hate Crime Officer role would be funded to work with the community to help build their confidence in reporting.*
- Members were concerned that if people with learning difficulties lost their facilities in the city then they would hang around in places where they would become vulnerable to hate crime.
- Members commented that people needed to feel confident that if they did report Hate Crime then their report would be taken seriously and there would be an outcome. *The Head of Safer, Stronger and Supportive Communities informed Members that once the crimes were reported then they would be categorised by the Victims Hub. Therefore, the most vulnerable people would receive a higher service though the Victims Hub referral.*
- Members queried if Cyber Crime was being looked in to. *Members were advised that the Constabulary had identified that Cyber Crime had become a big issue and there was now a Dark Web in operation where people could not be tracked by the police. This had been identified as a national issue where lots of work would be carried out to try to resolve the issue.*
- Members queried whether there had been any reports of Cyber Crime in Peterborough and if there had been any prosecutions. *Members were informed that there had been reports of Cyber Bullying and a lot of preventative work was being carried out on this issue. There had been reports on internet scams and the outcomes had been positive.*

ACTION AGREED

The Committee agreed for the Head of Safer, Stronger, and Supportive Communities to:

- Return in six months to provide an update on the progress made with Hate Crime.
- Produce a report at a future meeting on the progress made with Cyber Crime.

RECOMMENDATION

The Committee recommended to the Safer Peterborough Partnership that the issue of Cyber Crime was incorporated within the Safer Peterborough Partnership Plan 2015/2016.

6. Review of the Peterborough Communities and Safety Delivery Model

The Head of Safer, Stronger and Supportive Communities introduced the report to provide the Committee with an overview of the Communities and Safety Delivery Model.

The Committee were asked to scrutinise the content of the report and provide ideas which could further enhance the model.

Observations and questions were raised around the following areas:

- Members commented that they were very impressed with what they saw when they went to visit the Communities and Safety Delivery Model.
- Members commented that the Communities and Safety Delivery model offered some very good facilities such as the 'My Peterborough' App and queried what would happen in the even that graffiti was reported on private land. *The Head of Safer, Stronger and Supportive Communities responded that the police would engage with the owner of the property to have the graffiti removed. If the graffiti was of an offensive nature then it would be removed immediately. An advantage of the App was that the report was then backed up by results.*
- Members commented that Councillors were mostly unaware of issues in their wards and they needed to be kept up to date.
- Members expressed their concern with the extra work created with the model and queried how this was going to be sustained. *Members were advised that the Council was driving forward technology to try to prevent duplication of work. This would save time and resources.*
- Some Members commented that they had been experiencing problems with the 'My Peterborough' App.
- Members commented that if they did not know who was dealing with the issue they had reported through the App and they had no feedback then people would give up on reporting issues.

ACTION AGREED

The Committee agreed for the Assistant Director of Communities and Targeted Services to include a briefing in the next Members Bulletin on the My Peterborough App along with Officer contact details in case they experience any issues with the App.

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 agreed to receive a briefing note on the following key decision:

- Fit to Rent Scheme

8. Work Programme

Members considered the Commission's Work Programme for 2014/15 and discussed possible items for inclusion.

The Democratic Services Officer informed the Committee that the Scrutiny in a Day follow up event was currently provisionally booked in for the afternoon of 27 February 2015. Some Members had requested that, as the event will only be a three hour event, it be held in the evening.

AGREED ACTION

Members noted the work programme for 2014/2015 and agreed for the Scrutiny in a Day event to be held in the evening.

9. Date of the Next Meeting

The Chairman advised that the next date of the Meeting for Strong and Supportive Communities Scrutiny Committee was due to be held on Wednesday, 19 March 2015.

The meeting began at 7.00pm and ended at 8.30pm

CHAIRMAN