

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
STRONG AND SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
HELD IN THE
BOURGES & VIERSEN ROOMS, TOWN HALL, PETERBOROUGH
ON
WEDNESDAY 22 JULY 2015**

Present: Councillors: Forbes (Chairman), Iqbal, Faustino, Bisby, Martin, J R Fox and Saltmarsh

Officers in Attendance:

Adrian Chapman	Service Director for Adult Services and Communities
Robin Sissons	Head of Community and Safety Services
Belinda Child	Head of Housing & Health Improvement
Cate Harding	Community Development Manager
Dr Douglas Gyte	Strategic Tourism Manager
Dania Castagliuolo	Democratic Services Officer

Also Present:

Councillor North	Cabinet Member for Communities and Environment Capital
Councillor Casey	Cabinet Advisor for City Centre Management, Culture and Tourism
Rizwan Rahemtulla	Cambridgeshire Constabulary, Mainstream Cyber Crime Trainer
Oliver Sainsbury	Youth Councillor
Hani Mustafa	Youth Councillor

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Ash. Councillor Saltmarsh was in attendance as substitute.

2. Declarations of Interest and Whipping Declarations

Item 7 – Community Asset Transfers

Councillor Faustino declared that he was a Trustee for the Riverside Pavilion Community Centre.

3. Minutes of the Meeting Held on 11 June 2015

The minutes of the meeting held on 11 June 2015 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.

5. Portfolio Progress Report from Cabinet Member for Communities and Environment Capital

The Head of Community and Safety Services introduced the report on behalf of the Cabinet Member for Communities and Environment Capital. The report provided members with an update on the progress made in relation to matters relevant to the Committee. The following key points were highlighted within the report:

- Community Safety
- Community Cohesion
- Drugs Prevention
- Youth Offending Service
- Early Help Team (Connecting Families Programme) and;
- Community Capacity

The Committee was asked to scrutinise the progress made on those aspects of the Cabinet Member's portfolio relevant to the Committee, by providing challenge where necessary and to suggest ideas and initiatives to support the continued delivery of priorities within that portfolio.

Questions and comments were raised around the following areas:

- Members queried how active Neighbourhood watch groups were within communities. *The Head of Community and Safety Services advised Members that there was a pool fund available for to Neighbourhood Watch groups to arrange activities within the community. Neighbourhood Watch groups also worked with Crime Prevention Officers.*
- Members commented that the My Peterborough App was not well advertised and suggested that it was better promoted to the Public.
- Members referred to page 9 of the report at 5.1.7, where it referred to gypsy and traveller encampments and queried why powers were not being used to prevent unauthorised gypsy and traveller encampments. *Members were advised that protocols were required to be followed. Powers were being exercised but due to legal restraints there was a delay.*
- A Youth Council Member queried if there were plans to include schools or youth groups to work with the Safer Peterborough Partnership. *The Committee was informed that there was a team dealing with youth at Bayard Place.*
- A Youth Council Member queried whether there were plans for the Safety Challenge to be offered to all year six students across the city. *The Committee was informed that all schools in Peterborough had been invited to take part in the Safety Challenge.*
- Members commented that the statement on page 14 of the report at 5.6.3, where it referred to Werrington, was misleading as Councillors had always had an interest in promoting opportunities of parishing in Werrington.
- *The Cabinet Member for Communities and Environment Capital advised the Committee that there was recent talk of hiring Police Officer's time to enable them to attend problem areas within the City. Cathedral Square would be a good place to trial as there had been an ongoing issue with cyclists.*
- Members queried where the budget would come from to hire a Police Officer's time. *The Service Director for Adult Services and Communities advised the Committee that this would depend on the issue and what it was requested for as to where the funding came from.*

ACTION AGREED

The committee agreed to the following actions to be undertaken:

- The Democratic Services Officer to arrange for Members of the Committee to visit the Communities and Safety Delivery Model at Bayard Place.
- The Cabinet Member for Communities and Environment Capital to contact Communications to look in to raising the profile of the My Peterborough Application.
- A briefing note to be circulated to the Committee informing them how the Council was promoting the My Peterborough App.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1) The Committee recommended to the Safer Peterborough Partnership that a Youth Councillor was invited to join the Safer Peterborough Partnership Board and attend future Board meetings.
- 2) The Committee recommended to the Cabinet Member for Communities and Environment Capital and the Service Director for Adult Services and Communities that the four Community Connectors engaged with local communities to educate them on issues they may not be familiar with including fly tipping, health risks and spitting in public places.

6. Safer Peterborough Partnership Cyber Crime

The Head of Community and Safety Services introduced the report which provided the Committee with a definition of cyber crime and the different types of cyber crime that existed along with the impact it was having on the community and what action the Safer Peterborough Partnership was taking to impact on it.

The following types of cyber crime were explained to the Committee:

- Hacking
- Intellectual Property Theft
- Cyber Stalking
- Identity Theft
- Malicious Software
- Internet Fraud
- Child Soliciting and Abuse
- Dark Web
- Hate Crimes, Harassment and Political Extremism

The Cambridgeshire Constabulary, Mainstream Cyber Crime Trainer delivered a PowerPoint presentation to the Committee focusing on Cybercrime. The Presentation informed the Committee of the Darknet also known as the Deep Web also known as the Dark Web.

Members were asked to scrutinise the report, give challenge where necessary and suggest ideas and initiatives which would impact on cybercrime.

Questions and comments were raised around the following areas:

- Members asked for an explanation on Cookies when surfing the internet. *The Cambridgeshire Constabulary mainstream Cyber Crime Trainer informed the Committee that Cookies were bits of data embedded in to a computer to inform companies of when a person had been to a competitor, this allowed companies to monitor trends and raise their prices when potential customers revisited their websites. Cookies also kept logins active.*
- Members queried how people who were vulnerable to identity theft were identified and assisted. *The Head of Community and Safety Services informed Members that the Analytical Team had been used to carry out a profile of vulnerable people. General crime prevention was carried out together with Neighbourhood Watch groups to make vulnerable people aware of dangers by dropping leaflets through letter boxes and controlling door and window locks of potential victims. The challenge for the Police was to try and discover the criminal's new tactics.*
- Members queried when the Cyber Crime Team would formally be launched in Cambridgeshire. *Members were advised that the Team would be formally launched in August 2015.*

ACTION AGREED

The Committee agreed for the Democratic Services Officer to circulate the Cambridgeshire Constabulary's Mainstream Cyber Trainer's email address for Members to send any questions regarding Cyber Crime.

RECOMMENDATION

The Committee recommended that the Head of Community and Safety Services investigated the possibility of applying for funding to support a Cyber Crime awareness campaign for the City.

7. Community Asset Transfers

The Community Development Manager introduced the report which described the development of Peterborough's Community asset transfer strategy and set out the how this had been applied to date. The report outlined how the strategy would inform and direct the Community Centre asset review.

The review of the Community Centres would be completed using the principles of co-production and a new community centre offer for the communities of Peterborough would be developed, agreed and implemented.

The Council would continue work with Community Associations and Groups, Community Action Peterborough and the future Business Centre to engage with and support the local community groups involved with the community centres.

The Committee was asked to scrutinise the report and the outcomes of the review prior to its implementation.

Questions and comments were raise around the following areas:

- Members queried if there were any plans in place to help community groups in the event that their business model fell in to difficulty. *Members were advised that the Council's aim was to give the community groups necessary support and guidance from the beginning of the transfer to help them successfully run the centre. Community groups would have a management plan in place which would allow them to identify difficulty far in advance.*
- Members commented that it was the lack of knowledge and information which worried community groups, particularly the thought of being given added responsibility. Members felt that it was most important to consult with individual community organisations. *Members were assured that community groups would be consulted with throughout the process.*
- Members were concerned that that no assessments on Community Centres had been carried out to date. *The Cabinet Member for Communities and Environment Capital advised the Committee that the objective was to have the assessments complete by September 2015.*
- Members commented that residents Community Centres being closed and asked who would be making the decisions on whether the centres were to remain open or be closed down. *Members were advised that the aim of the Council was to keep as many Community Centres open as possible, although, it was important to ensure that the centres were viable and able to stay open long in the future. The viability would depend on the state of the building and its financial condition.*
- Members queried what the time lines were. *Members were advised that the timelines would be flexible to suit the needs of the Community Groups.*
- Members queried whether the buildings would be repaired to a reasonable standard prior to the review. *The Service Director for Adult Services and Communities responded that any buildings that were transferred would need to be fit for purpose and this would be included in the due diligence work beforehand.*
- *The Service Director for Adult Services and Communities highlighted the following key points:*

- *All due diligence and other work around Community Centres would be carried out working closely with Community Action Peterborough (CAP) in an open and transparent way to coproduce the outcome of the review.*
- *There would be no time limit attached to the review.*
- *A community-wide view would be taken, to determine what community centre provision was needed in an area, with the potential to invest in new provision where older buildings needed to close.*
- *The Community Asset Transfer would only take place if it was appropriate and no group would be forced to take on any buildings.*
- *Peterborough City Council would take any building back that was not financially viable and would offer full support to the Community Group who had taken on the building.*
- *This review was to meet the needs of the community, not solely about the buildings.*

ACTION AGREED

The Committee noted the report.

RECOMMENDATION

The Committee recommended to the Head of Housing and Health Improvement that the following actions were carried out during the Community Centre Asset Review:

- A full and proper twelve week consultation with Community Associations and Groups, Community Action Peterborough, centre users and local communities
- The Council worked closely and in partnership with Community Action Peterborough and other community associations during the review.
- A newsletter was regularly produced and sent to community centres to update them on progress of the review.
- Progress of the Community Asset Transfers was regularly reported back to the Strong and Supportive Communities Scrutiny Committee.
- All community centre buildings were assessed to ascertain whether they were fit for purpose by September 2015.

8. Visitor Economy Strategy

The report was introduced by the Strategic Tourism Manager which outlined the Visitor Economy Strategy and explained that the Strategy would be for the Council to establish a Strategy for development of the Visitor Economy for Peterborough that would form part of the policy. It would make clear how and why the Council could best facilitate the development of the visitor economy and achieve progress in support of key corporate policy objectives.

The Committee was asked to note the progress on the Visitor Economy Strategy 2015 – 2020 and agree for the Strategy to be submitted to Cabinet on 21 September 2015.

Questions and comments were raised around the following areas:

- Members commented that over the last five years the city centre had changed dramatically for the better and congratulated the City Centre Management Team for their excellent work.
- *The Strategic Tourism Manager advised Members that the Strategy was part of the economic development plan for the city and was designed to become part of the opportunity promotions which also used the 'P' logo. The advice given at the start of the project to build the Strategy was to grow and interpret on what the city already had in place.*
- Members commented that the Strategy was very important to have available for visitors to the city and would be of benefit for anyone who was deciding whether to move in to the city. *Members were informed that the Strategy had already seen benefits as a LEADER bid of £1.6m had been granted. Peterborough was going to sit on the East Northamptonshire's Strategic and Promotion Boards in order to network and exchange information on each other's websites.*

- Members queried what measures were in place to protect the Peterborough logo. *Members were advised that no measures were in place to protect the Peterborough logo as the logo had always promoted shared and open access to communities and businesses, the aim was to have the logo on business websites, so that with one click people could access the 'Visit Peterborough' website as a central resource.*
- Members commented that the John Clare theatre did not appear to be open for public access and queried who was responsible for this attraction. *The Jon Clare Cottage was run as a trust by the Chief Executive. The cottage proved not financially viable and staff had to be cut, therefore it could only open at weekends.*
- Members queried whether Peterborough advertised itself as a base for somewhere to stay to visit other attractions which were situated close to the city. *Members were informed that this was included within the City Regional model relating to attractions within a 25 mile radius.*

ACTION AGREED

The Committee noted the report.

RECOMMENDATION

The Committee endorsed the Peterborough Visitor Economy Strategy and recommended to the Strategic Tourism Manager that links were investigated to other national and European Cities. This may be in line with others specialising in environmental issues, historic links such as Henry the 8th/Katharine of Aragon, or synergy regarding major events.

9. 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.

10. Work Programme

Members considered the Commission's Work Programme for 2015/16 and discussed possible items for inclusion.

AGREED ACTION

Members noted the work programme for 2015/2016

11. Date of the Next Meeting

The Chair advised the Committee that the next meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, 16 September 2015.

The meeting began at 7.00pm and ended at 9.28pm

CHAIRMAN