

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
STRONG AND SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
HELD IN THE
BOURGES and VIERSEN ROOMS, TOWN HALL, PETERBOROUGH
ON
WEDNESDAY 14 SEPTEMBER 2016**

Present: Councillors: S Allen (Chairman), J Bull (Vice Chairman), R Bisby, D King, M Hussain, S Martin,

Officers in

Attendance: Wendi Ogle-Welbourn Corporate Director, People and Communities
Caroline Rowan Community Capacity Assistant Manager
Jane McDade Head of Strategic Property Services
Gary Goose Assistant Director, Community Services
Iain Easton Head of Offender Services
Karl Bowden Joint Head of Service Safer Peterborough Partnership
Paulina Ford Senior Democratic Services Officer

Also Present: John Fox Group Leader, Werrington First

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Ali and Councillor Shaheed. Cllr Hussain was in attendance as substitute for Councillor Ali.

2. Declarations of Interest and Whipping Declarations

Item 5 Community Centre Asset Review

Councillor Allen declared an interest in that he was a Trustee of Newborough Village Hall. Councillor Bull declared an interest in that she was a Trustee of St Johns Hall.

Item 7 Restorative Justice and Restorative Approaches

Councillor Bull declared an interest in that she was a Magistrate and sat on the Youth and Adult Crime Court.

3. Minutes of the Meeting Held on 20 July 2016

The minutes of the meeting held on 20 July 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. Community Centre Asset Review

The Community Capacity Assistant Manager was in attendance to present the report which provided the Committee with details of the community asset management and transfer programme, including the current practice for the management of community assets, the

development of Peterborough's community asset transfer strategy, how the strategy had been applied to date and how the strategy had and will continue to direct the current community centre asset review programme.

The Community Capacity Assistant Manager and Head of Strategic Property Services who was also present responded to comments and questions raised by Members. A summary of responses included:

- Each building was individual and no recommendations would be made until consultations had taken place with the management organisation of each building and decisions would then be based on the best needs for each site.
- The general aim was for completion by 2018 however due to the individuality of each site some sites may take longer.
- There were currently 4 property surveys outstanding.
- Groups who were currently using the buildings would have the option to purchase the building however this would be decided on each individual business case.
- In the event that a new owner found themselves in financial difficulty there would be no separate funding available to offer financial assistance. However support would be available through the process during transfer of responsibility which included financial planning and business management training. Once the transfer of asset had taken place ongoing support would still be available. If it was found that the new owners were having difficulty in running the building there may be an option to transfer to the Trust Model.
- Some community associations would require more training and support than others as there was a wide range in the way each association was currently run.
- Members requested information pertaining to the results of consultations with each organisation as soon as possible. Officers advised that there were 33 organisations to meet with and this would be completed as soon as was practically possible. Each association would be advised and supported according to their needs and some meetings may be more complex than others.
- Concern was expressed at how long the procedure was taking and that this was causing frustrations within the groups affected. It was hoped that now there was a full time dedicated resource in place the process would increase momentum.
- Currently Peterborough City Council owned the buildings and the community associations ran the buildings and set the hire charge rates which provided a variation in hire charge rates across the buildings. As each asset is transferred to a community association they would be given support and guidance as to how to set their hire charge rates to ensure the rates were attractive and were consistent with others.
- Groups moving to a Community Asset Transfer (CAT) can apply for the Solar Panel Scheme depending on if the building was fit for purpose.
- There was no specific standard set for the quality of buildings to be transferred and some buildings may be disposed of and some replaced.

ACTION AGREED

The Committee noted the report.

6. Establishment of a Scrutiny Committee Task and Finish Group to Review Emergency Stopping Place Provision for Travellers within Peterborough

The Assistant Director, Community Services introduced the report which asked the Committee to consider and agree the Terms of Reference and Membership of a Task and Finish Group to conduct a review of emergency stopping place provision for travellers within Peterborough.

The Head of Community Services advised the Committee that the Task and Finish Group would be required to sign a Confidentiality Agreement as all discussions held would need to be treated as confidential due to the nature of the subject.

ACTION AGREED

The Committee noted the report and AGREED to the Terms of Reference and Membership of the Task and Finish Group.

CRIME AND DISORDER SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FOR ITEMS 7 AND 8 ONLY

7. Restorative Justice and Restorative Approaches

The Head of Offender Services introduced the report which provided the Committee with information on how young people were managed by the youth justice system in the city with specific focus on how restorative justice was used to support both victims and offenders.

The Head of Offender Services responded to comments and questions raised by Members. A summary of responses included:

- Members were concerned at the lack of understanding that the public had regarding restorative justice and its benefits and suggested better publication of the restorative justice approach on the council's website.
- The pilot areas for adopting restorative approaches referred to on page 17, paragraph 6.3 had not yet been decided.

ACTION AGREED

The Committee noted the report and requested that the Head of Offender Services look at publishing the benefits of restorative justice on the councils website.

8. Tackling Environmental Crime

The Joint Head of Service, Safer Peterborough Partnership introduced the report which provided the Committee with information on issues associated with environmental crime and particularly fly tipping, and the approach being taken and proposals to tackle the problem. Background information was also given for newer Members as to the function and integration of the Safer Peterborough Partnership (SSP), explaining that it was a statutory body consisting of various bodies working in collaboration with the local authorities. The Prevention Enforcement Service (PES) was the delivery vehicle for the SPP.

The Committee were asked to comment on the following proposed actions:

- To launch a social media campaign to inform the public and perpetrators of the issue of fly tipping, and that they can be liable if their waste is not legally disposed of.
- To set up a series of covert operations to catch illegal waste carriers. Once this becomes widely known this may deter illegal waste carriers from offering their services.
- To deliver Stop and Search operations. Whilst this is resource intensive, it will send out a clear message and being highly visible can improve public confidence.
- To enter into discussions with trade waste sites to encourage trades people to use the sites.

The Joint Head of Service, Safer Peterborough Partnership responded to comments and questions raised by Members which centred on fly tipping. A summary of responses included:

- Only 2 prosecutions for fly tipping had been effected out of 1470 investigations which was disappointing. This was due to the courts deciding against prosecution based on the offender's inability to pay the fine, usually due to low income or unemployment. It was not always possible to glean sufficient information from the crime scene to bring about a prosecution.
- The Fixed Penalty Notice was currently £300.00 which would be reduced to £180 if paid within 21 days. From October environmental crime would be one of the target areas for the Safer Peterborough Partnership policing team and a Fixed Penalty Notice could be issued by the Prevention Enforcement Service (PES) as appropriate.
- Members requested more publicity to advertise the charge for PCC to remove waste to try and deter the use of a 'Man with a Van'. The removal fee of £23.50 for bulky items was good value and needed to be better advertised.
- Members felt that the process for obtaining a waste management licence should be simplified.
- Members felt that the brown bin charges had resulted in more garden waste being dumped on the roadside.
- An amnesty on a quarterly basis, for people to leave rubbish outside their properties to be collected by the council had been considered however other local authorities had found that this drew in residents from outside the area.
- Policing the contents of unstaffed public skips had proved difficult.
- A comparison of the revenue from brown bin collections and cleaning up fly tipping was requested but unavailable at the meeting.
- A specific threshold needed to be reached before the Environmental Agency became involved however discussions with them did take place occasionally but their resources were very stretched.
- Neighbourhood Watch and other outside bodies could be used in identifying and reporting fly tipping.
- Improved public education was important and the social media campaign would take into account non-English speaking people and be presented in several languages. The Community Connectors would also play an important role in getting the message across that it was not an acceptable practice in the UK to dump rubbish alongside other rubbish.
- The approach to combat fly tipping would need to be different in rural areas to urban areas. The "Man with a Van" was a common problem within the countryside with rubbish being dumped on private land. Discussions with landowners had taken place in an attempt to encourage them to make their boundaries more secure.
- The results of successful covert operations would be published.

ACTION AGREED

The Committee noted the report and endorsed the proposed approach to tackle environmental crime.

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 2016/2017

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

The Senior Democratic Services Officer advised the Committee that she had received notification that the Empty Home Strategy and Renewals Policy may need to come to a future meeting and further information would be circulated when known.

ACTION AGREED

The Committee noted the work programme for 2016/2017.

11. Date of Next meeting

- Wednesday 23 November 2016.

The meeting began at 7.00pm and ended at 8:09pm

CHAIRMAN

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