

**MINUTES OF THE ADULTS AND COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MEETING  
HELD AT 7PM, ON  
TUESDAY, 13 NOVEMBER 2018  
BOURGES / VIERSEN ROOM, TOWN HALL, PETERBOROUGH**

**Committee Members Present:** Councillors Simons (Chair), Bisby (Vice-Chair), Brown, Bashir, King, Serluca, Jamil, Hemraj, Shaheed, John Fox and Joseph.  
Co-opted Members: Parish Councillors Neil Boyce and James Hayes

**Officers Present:**

Adrian Chapman	Service Director - Community and Safety
Rob Hill	Assistant Director - Community Safety
Jawaid Khan	Head of Community Resilience and Integration Peterborough City Council and Cambridgeshire County Council
Clair George	Head of Service – Prevention / Enforcement Service
Cate Harding	Community Capacity Manager
Sarah Ferguson	Ast. Director - Housing, Communities and Youth
Charlotte Black	Service Director - Adults and Safeguarding
Philippa Turvey	Democratic and Constitutional Services Manager
David Beauchamp	Democratic Services Officer

**Also Present:**

Cl Nick Church	Cambridgeshire Constabulary
Julia Cullum	Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence Partnership Manager
Bill Tilah	Estates Surveyor - NPS Peterborough Limited

**25. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

No apologies for absence were received.

**26. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND WHIPPING DECLARATIONS**

Councillor Bisby declared an interest in agenda item 5, the Safer Peterborough Partnership (SPP) – Mid Year Performance Report, and advised the committee as he attended meetings of the SPP, he would leave the room for this item.

There were no other declarations of interests or whipping declarations.

**27. MINUTES OF THE ADULTS AND COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 11 SEPTEMBER 2018**

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 11 September 2018 were agreed as a true and accurate record.

**28. CALL-IN OF ANY CABINET, CABINET MEMBER OR KEY OFFICER DECISIONS**

There were no requests for call-in to consider.

Councillor Bisby left the meeting for the following item.

## 29. SAFER PETERBOROUGH PARTNERSHIP PRIORITIES - MID-YEAR PERFORMANCE REPORT

Rob Hill, The Assistant Director: Community Safety introduced the report accompanied by Chief Inspector Nick Church Cambridgeshire Constabulary, Jawaid Khan Head of Community Resilience and Integration Peterborough City Council and Cambridgeshire County Council, Clair George Head of Service – Prevention and Enforcement Service (PES), Julia Cullum Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence (DASV) Partnership Manager.

The report provided a mid-year performance update on the priority areas of the Safer Peterborough Partnership.

The committee were advised that, following a review of the SPP over the last six months, the board will now meet quarterly with a monthly delivery group meeting. Thematic leads have been nominated for the key areas.

Members were advised that there had been a sustained increase in victim based crime over the last two quarters, however offences were reduced by 200 per month in the quarter following the data included in this report.

The Adults and Communities Scrutiny Committee debated the report and in summary, key points raised and responses to questions included:

- Members felt that alcohol and drug use affected our communities greatly which lead to groups visible on our streets causing local communities to be scared to go out. It was felt that the report did not address this major issue. Members were advised this would be reflected in year-end statistics.
- The focus of neighbourhood policing had changed and was improving with more resources. The size of neighbourhood teams was not ideal and the number of PCSOs was being reduced however drug supply was being tackled through County Lines operations to restrict the drug supply into Peterborough. Every community was allocated a Sergeant with eight additional uniformed officers. There were limited resources and it was therefore necessary to identify priority areas to tackle the most harmful issues, taking into account the concerns of the local community.
- Members asked what initiatives were in place to encourage young people off the streets and engage them in other activities and were advised the police had links with community and youth groups and worked closely with the Young Offending Service. Of those causing most harm, 16-24 year olds were the most prevalent and over the summer the police identified around 50 young people across the city and worked with them to try to divert their activities away from crime. Further vulnerable people were identified on a weekly basis. Funding for violence reduction had been explored and would continue
- Much funding is evidence based and Members were concerned that as not all crime is recorded this would have an impact on any funding applied for. Members were advised all the data was available and was currently being checked following the transition to a new police information system earlier this year. Evidence was also collated from other sources such as communities and individuals.

- Members asked why domestic violence was being addressed through Mosques and The Children of Adam when these were attended predominantly by men however Members were advised that this project was initiated by the Joint Mosque Council who wanted to address domestic violence and recognised the difficulties encountered by police officers when dealing with issues that may involve race and religion. There was a clear message being delivered through the mosques that domestic violence would not be tolerated, faith was not an excuse and the mosque would not support it under any circumstances. Integration strategies would work on this going forward.
- Members felt that women's centres were required across the city and were advised that a women's only group was being formed to assess the best way forward across all communities and to create Community Champions. It was hoped to extend this work through The Integrated Communities Strategy and Cambridge Women's Aid – Ask Me who had money to pilot a project in Peterborough and Cambridgeshire.
- The need for a safe space for women was also recognised.
- Policing in the city centre had been reduced which had led to an increase in low level offences such as drinking and drug taking and damage to the recently renovated paving. Members felt this needed to be tackled head on and that the introduction of enforcers would prevent people being discouraged from entering the city. The Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) was designed to address this type of crime and where evidence exists, this would be expanded across the city.
- Kingdom Officers were spread out very thinly and were having difficulties covering all areas where PSPOs were in place.
- PSPOs could be enforced by authorities other than Kingdom and other enforcement options needed to be investigated.
- Kingdom had been part of a trial over the last year and therefore their numbers had been regulated. The commercial centre which had the highest footfall would always see the highest visibility although officers had been on duty in other areas but it was unlikely all residents would see them.
- The Kingdom contract was currently being negotiated and will include expansion of the PSPO powers.
- There was a report due to be presented to Cabinet proposing a Business Improvement District (BID) for the city centre. It outlined a model for additional resilience and capacity which could include additional funding for street cleaning, public ambassadors to provide public reassurance and assistance, dealing with anti-social behaviour and enhanced Christmas lights.
- Members asked how many successful prosecutions there had been in the last year and were advised this information would be circulated to Members outside of the meeting. Publicity surrounding successful prosecutions was perceived to be useful.

The Head of Service for Prevention and Enforcement to send an email to committee members containing information on how many successful prosecutions and fixed penalty notices have been issued for fly-tipping.

## **AGREED ACTIONS**

The Adults and Communities Scrutiny Committee **RESOLVED** to receive and note the performance report and endorsed the approach being taken by the Safer Peterborough Partnership and agreed the action points noted below.

The Head of Service for Prevention and Enforcement to send an email to committee members containing information on how many successful prosecutions and fixed penalty notices have been issued for fly-tipping.

The Assistant Director of Community Safety to ensure that information on Anti-Social Behaviour and alcohol and drug abuse were included in the end of year report.

Councillor Bisby re-joined the meeting.

### **30. COMMUNITY ASSET TRANSFER UPDATE REPORT**

Sarah Ferguson, The Assistant Director of Housing, Communities and Youth introduced the report to the Adults and Communities Scrutiny Committee accompanied by Cate Harding, Community Capacity Manager and Bill Tilah – Estates Surveyor for NPS Peterborough Ltd.

The report outlined the progress made to date regarding the properties in scope for community asset transfers, and sought agreement to the final steps required during transition of management responsibilities through to the conclusion of the programme.

The Adults and Communities Scrutiny Committee debated the report and in summary, key points raised and responses to questions included:

- The intention of the Community Asset Transfer (CAT) programme was to keep the community centres open.
- There was a general health and safety, wind and watertight spending policy and each building within the programme would have a schedule of works prepared to enable them to bid for capital expenditure money to bring them up to a viable standard.
- Members were concerned some groups were being set up to fail as they would be left to run venues by themselves with little experience. However, Members were advised that of the 47 properties concerned, 33 were Community Centres which had been managed for 30 years by voluntary community organisations and it was considered most groups had good knowledge of those buildings. Intensive health checks were being undertaken to ensure the community associations had robust policies and governance procedures and the ability to manage their responsibilities and due process were being put in place to support those groups. It was important that groups could generate enough income to support themselves and cover future expenses.
- Support would be ongoing through an occupancy agreement to ensure groups were planning for the future and encouraging a new, younger membership for the group to continue however it was acknowledged that there was a risk if no-one came forward to replace those who retired. If there was no-one to continue running the centre a tender process would be initiated for other organisations in the wider community to take over management. Enquiries were regularly received for such

buildings although to date there had been no actual transfers via this route. Members were assured alternative management arrangements would be put in place and the facility not closed.

- Members supported the decision to abandon the trust model.
- Ward Councillors should take an interest in community centres within their wards.
- Members were concerned that it had been implied some buildings were in a poor condition however most are in good condition and are fit for current use. Some major expenses would arise over time, such as roof replacements and boiler replacement and these costs would be negotiated to quantify where the best use of resources would be utilised.
- Property ownership was transferred via leases with an Occupier Agreement which allowed the CAT team to visit annually and monitor the condition of the buildings.
- The CAT programme was about transferring assets to organisations that were most likely to obtain the necessary funding to run and maintain them, which was no longer the local authority. Funding could also be applied for to support future development and expansion of the site and buildings.
- There was a capital budget applied each year. A capital budget report was currently being prepared to submit to the Corporate Property Officer by the end of November to qualify the condition of the said buildings to allow the future budget to be considered.
- Development of any centres and how the centres were run would be considered in conjunction with the community which they served.
- Some centres were already funding some minor repairs themselves under their current lease agreement.
- Support was available through the Property Helpdesk for larger repairs and local contacts within the community were often able to assist as they were already familiar with the centres.
- A full financial assessment is carried out with the centres to ensure they are aware of their commitments and were able to generate enough income to cover their overheads and be fully financial self-sufficient.
- Rent would not be payable to the council on buildings transferred to community ownership.
- Some centres transferred with land attached and lease terms therefore varied. Some groups do not want to take on the responsibility for grounds maintenance such as sports pitches and car parks. There were advantages to the local groups taking these on as they would then be able to negotiate their own maintenance contracts with whoever they wished on their own terms. The leases could be amended mid-term if the grounds needed updating and the organisations would be able to consult with local councillors and the local authority should this occur.
- Utility bills had mostly been paid by the groups themselves to date and this responsibility would continue. If the group were unable to meet their financial commitment the council would become involved and would look to implementing alternative management arrangements.
- Smaller centres and those without sports grounds did not have the same opportunities to raise revenue however the council would ensure they were not under financial pressure.

- The centres were all appealing to the same areas of funding and may not always be successful.
- The annual Parish Conference had a strong emphasis on community resilience and capacity and the role parish councils can play. Parish Councillors from all communities taking part in the asset transfer process had been invited. Further networking would be encouraged and peer support opportunities were in place.
- Funding fairs would be held regularly.
- The occupancy report included a monitoring process which would include an annual report to the council covering the occupancy of the centre, the way in which it served the local community and the financial accounts.
- Should another group wish to take over the running of a centre, a tender process would be implemented.

### **AGREED ACTIONS**

The Adults and Communities Scrutiny Committee considered the report and **RESOLVED** to note and agree the progress made to date regarding the properties in scope for community asset transfers, and agreed the final steps required during the transition of management responsibilities through to the conclusion of the programme.

### **31. CAMBRIDGESHIRE & PETERBOROUGH HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE PEER REVIEW UPDATE**

The Service Director, Adults and Safeguarding Charlotte Black, introduced the report which updated Adults & Communities Scrutiny Committee Members on the delivery of the Local Government Association (LGA) Health & Social Care System Peer Review.

The Adults and Communities Scrutiny Committee debated the report and in summary, key point raised and responses to questions included:

- The focus of the review was on implementing a home service delivery model to keep people in their own homes and avoid hospital admission.
- Work was also continuing on ensuring there was capacity for people to leave hospital when ready.

### **ACTIONS AGREED:**

The Adults and Communities Scrutiny Committee considered the report under its Terms of Reference Part 3, Section 4 - Overview Scrutiny Functions, paragraph No. 2.1 and **RESOLVED** to note the content of the report.

### **32. MONITORING SCRUTINY RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Democratic Services Officer, David Beauchamp, introduced the report which enabled the committee to monitor and track the progress of recommendations made to the Executive or Officers at previous meetings

### **ACTIONS AGREED:**

The Adults and Communities Scrutiny Committee considered the report and **RESOLVED** to note the responses from Cabinet Members and Officers to recommendations made at previous meetings as attached in Appendix 1 to the report.

### **33. FORWARD PLAN OF EXECUTIVE DECISIONS**

The Democratic Services Officer, David Beauchamp, introduced the report which invited Members to consider the most recent version the Forward Plan of Executive Decisions dated 10 December 2018 which was circulated 12 November 2018, and identify any relevant items for inclusion within the Committee's work programme or to request further information.

#### **ACTIONS AGREED:**

The Committee considered the report and **RESOLVED** to note the current Forward Plan of Executive Decisions.

### **34. WORK PROGRAMME 2018/2019**

The Democratic Services Officer, David Beauchamp, introduced the report which gave the committee the opportunity to review the work programme and suggest any additional items to be considered.

#### **ACTIONS AGREED;**

The Adults and Communities Scrutiny Committee **RESOLVED** to note the latest version of the work programme.

### **35. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

28 November 2018 - Joint Scrutiny of the Budget  
15 January 2019 - Adults and Communities Scrutiny Committee

Chairman  
7pm – 8.34pm

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