

## **Review Committee – 6 September 2016**

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Minutes of the meeting of the **Review Committee** held on **6 September 2016** when there were present:

Chairman: Cllr J C Burton  
Vice-Chairman: Cllr B T Hazlewood

Cllr N L Cooper	Cllr Mrs C M Mason
Cllr R R Dray	Cllr J R F Mason
Cllr Mrs J R Gooding	Cllr R Milne
Cllr N J Hookway	Cllr Mrs L Shaw
Cllr M Hoy	Cllr C M Stanley
Cllr M J Lucas-Gill	Cllr A L Williams

### **VISITING MEMBER**

Cllr Mrs J R Lumley

### **OFFICERS PRESENT**

L Moss	-	Assistant Director, Community & Housing Services
M Howlett	-	Principal Environmental Health Officer
P Gowers	-	Overview and Scrutiny Officer
M Power	-	Committee Administrator

### **ALSO PRESENT**

Ch/Insp Glen Westley – Essex Police

## **179 MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 5 July 2016 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman, subject to amending the resolutions, to read as follows:

Resolved:

- (1) To note the Treasury Management Annual Review Report 2015/16.
- (2) To note the change in Bank of England Base rate forecast.
- (3) To submit the report to Full Council with a covering report to include details of the change in Bank of England Base Rate forecast and the request for approval to enable Rochford District Council to continue to invest in UK institutions despite the sovereign rating downgrade from AAA to AA.

### 180 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Burton declared an interest in Item 8 of the Agenda 'Local Air Quality Management' by virtue of residing within the Local Air Quality area. Cllr R R Dray declared an interest in Item 8 of the Agenda by virtue of being the Ward Member and a Member of Rayleigh Town Council.

### 181 ROCHFORD DISTRICT COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

The Committee considered the report of the Assistant Director, Community & Housing Services, which provided an update on the current priorities and joint work through the joint Castle Point and Rochford District Community Safety Partnership (CP&RDCSP).

In response to questions, the following was noted:

- The Community Safety Partnership (CSP) Strategic Assessment to agree the next financial year's strategic priorities is undertaken each January/February by the CSP Steering Group. The priorities are local and determined according to the needs of the two areas. The Partnership Plan is a living document, which allows for flexibility. The Rochford Community Safety Officer (CSO) is the first point of contact if partners have information they wish to share. Members requested that a report be brought to the Committee following the CSP strategic assessment at the beginning of 2017.
- The CSO would update the Council's website to ensure that there is a link to the Partnership Plan for 2016/17 so that it is easily accessible to District and Parish/Town Councillors as well as the public. This will manage residents' expectations in respect of what the CSP does.
- Rochford District Council is refreshing its commitment to the J9 Domestic Abuse initiative; as part of this refresh, there will be a performance target to increase the number of locations in the District signing up to the initiative. Staff training will also take place.
- PCC funding is no longer available to continue the taxi marshalling scheme in Rayleigh, which had been successful and which was welcomed by taxi licensees. There has been no feedback to suggest that, since the scheme had stopped, incidents of anti-social behaviour had increased; the situation continues to be monitored and engagement with taxi licensees is on-going.
- Crucial Crew events rely heavily on volunteers and there is always an abundance of volunteers wishing to become involved in the scheme. In light of feedback from the Crucial Crew event held earlier in the year, the content of the next event may be amended to enable more in-depth information to be relayed to the Year 6 pupils, and to be in line with the CSP priorities.

- There will be a shift towards providing a more signposting/advisory service by the Council's Community Safety Officer, as there has been a disproportionate amount of time spent on private ASB/Nuisance cases. The Council will continue to record ASB incidents and share intelligence with the Police if there are repeat problems. The Police also make use of a referral process to CAVS and RRAVS, both of which have the appropriate resources to help residents.
- The Police log of repeat callers is managed by a PCSO, who will analyse data and pick up repeat issues. Housing Association neighbourhood disputes are referred to the Housing Association to deal with, although Domestic Abuse reports will always be dealt with at first point of contact, that is, District Council or Housing Association. The CSO has regular contact with the Housing Associations in the District and the CSP Referencing Group can discuss specific cases at its quarterly meetings.

### Resolved

- (1) That the report be noted.
- (2) That a further report be brought to the Committee at the beginning of 2017, following the CSP strategic assessment.

## 182 MOTION FROM COUNCIL

A motion was received from Council requesting information on how the Rochford and Rayleigh Police Station closures have affected Police response times to crime, and Police and District Council response to anti-social behaviour and on the current levels of crime and anti-social behaviour across the District in recent months.

During discussion, the following was noted:

- CI Westley advised that it would be difficult to provide statistics for Rochford Police station as it had closed four years ago. He emphasised that it was only the front counter of Rayleigh Police Station that had been closed. The decision to close the counter had been taken centrally, based on the measure of footfall into the station against use of the front counter. The closure has had no detrimental effect on either crime levels or policing in the District. There are 24-hour patrols working out of Rayleigh Police Station and the public can also use Basildon and Southend Police Stations to report crimes.
- Since the closure of the front desk there has not been a reduction in Police Officers and response times to crimes recorded have been unaffected.

- It would not be practicable to use volunteers to man the Rayleigh Police Station front counter because of data protection and training issues.
- Members felt that residents feel less safe due to the perception that Rayleigh Police Station has closed completely. It would reassure residents for a message to be put out to the community that it is only the front counter of the Police Station that has closed and that the Station remains open 24 hours a day, and that the closure of the front counter has not reduced the number of Police Officers working in the District.

### 183 ESSEX POLICE

The Committee received a presentation from CI Glen Westley, Essex Police on policing in the District.

In response to questions, CI Westley provided the following responses:

- The Rochford District historically has very low levels of hate crime and there has been no increase in hate crime incidents following the UK's vote to exit the European Union.
- The new Essex Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) campaigned on the basis of an increase in the number of Police officers in Essex: there will be a boost in recruitment this financial year, which over time will result in additional officers for the District. The PCC target to recruit 180 Special Constables by the end of the year is ongoing. Special Constables play a valuable part and in future they will form a designated unit within the force.
- A recent Essex Police Tweetathon detailed the calls the Police had received and the potential misuse of emergency numbers.
- Members advised that there have been many complaints from residents that they cannot get through on the 101 Police phone number, with reports of having been kept on hold for an hour or more. CI Westley advised that he would report the matter and establish if there are call handling targets for the 101 number, as there are for the 999 service: the Committee would be advised of the outcome. Although there is a 'reporting crime' touch screen at Rayleigh Police Station, it was recognised that a section of the local population would not have the confidence to use this facility. There is no record of those who have been unable to report crimes via the 101 number. Members felt that if residents are unable to report incidents it is not possible to categorically say that response times have not been affected. It is believed that there is a county-wide problem with response times for the 101 number.

- Members advised that there were many complaints from residents about speeding/illegal motorbikes and criminal damage. CI Westley advised that in August there had been a multi-agency operation, Operation Turncoat, which focussed on nuisance and dangerous use of motor cycles on the District's roads in response to the many calls made to Police from residents. Members were asked to advise CI Westley of any particular individuals involved in this form of anti-social behaviour.
- All Police officers are trained in how to deal with Domestic Abuse situations. It was detailed that the Police are currently not using body worn video cameras.
- Crime statistics show a very low incidence of malicious reporting.
- Essex Police has a working relationship with the Coastguard at Shoeburyness, but there are no regular scheduled meetings. There have been no issues around illegal immigration in the District reported following the UK's vote to exit the European Union.
- The Community Policing team responds to reports of crime on a 'threat, risk, harm' priority basis. Partner agencies can be called upon for assistance where necessary.
- The crime solving rate for 'All Crime' in the District is 26%, compared with 20% nationally. Anti-social behaviour is down 4% on last year and acquisitive crime has decreased this year compared with the same period last year. 'Violent crime with injury' has seen an increase this year. The number of 'violent crime without injury' crimes reported has increased but this is in part due to the reporting process for this crime having been changed. There are 90 domestic abuse incidents reported every 2 weeks, all of which have to be followed up. The Police uses the Athena IT software system, which merges information on all aspects of crime solving into one central area, which provides Police officers with access to case management data.
- Crime statistics are available on the Essex Police website.
- More detailed information showing a comparison between current crime statistics and those from the previous year would be useful and could be included in future reports to the Committee.
- There has been a Police focus on those individuals who commit the majority of the crimes and cause most harm; specific officers are assigned to these cases, which has been effective approach in apprehending these individuals.
- CI Westley would clarify to the Committee the best way to contact the Police to report a crime. The intention is to increase the number of

Police email addresses that are regularly monitored, although this may not generally be an appropriate way to report a crime.

### 184 LOCAL AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT

The Committee considered the report of the Assistant Director, Community & Housing Services which provided a summary of local authority responsibilities regarding local air quality management and the Council's progress with the Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) in Rayleigh.

Work on the draft Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) is on-going and will be available shortly. It is being developed by Ringway Jacobs in consultation with the AQAP Steering Group, which comprises Essex County Council Highways and Public Health, Rochford District Council Environmental Health and Planning Policy and a firm of consultants. Internal consultation can then be brought to Committee. Officers will be invited back to the Review Committee meeting on 4 October to discuss the report and the draft AQAP; questions from Members will be provided to the Principal Environmental Health Officer prior to the meeting.

#### **Resolved**

That Officers be invited to attend the Review Committee meeting on 4 October to discuss the report and the draft Air Quality Action Plan.

### 185 KEY DECISIONS DOCUMENT

**8/16 Waste Container Charges:** The Committee requested that the Assistant Director, Environmental Services provide the Committee with clarification on the current position, by email.

**9/16 Vehicles Monitoring System and CCTV:** The Committee requested that the Assistant Director, Environmental Services provide the Committee with further information, by email.

### 186 WORK PLAN

The Committee considered its Work Plan and noted the following:

- Meeting on 4 October 2016: Air Quality Management Areas item to be added. Disabled Facilities Grants item to be moved to November meeting.
- Meeting on 8 November 2016: Disabled Facilities Grants item to be added. Members requested that the report relating to the previous review be included in the papers for this meeting.
- Meeting on 10 January 2017: Building Control Review.

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- An initial meeting of the project team undertaking the review of the Constitution would be arranged.

The meeting closed at 9.50 pm.

Chairman .....

Date .....

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