

Review Committee – 6 October 2015

Minutes of the meeting of the **Review Committee** held on **6 October 2015** when there were present:-

Chairman for the meeting: Cllr D J Sperring

Cllr C I Black

Cllr J C Burton

Cllr J D Griffin

Cllr B T Hazlewood

Cllr M Hoy

Cllr J L Lawmon

Cllr Mrs C A Pavelin

Cllr Mrs M H Spencer

Cllr M J Webb

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Mrs L A Butcher, R R Dray, J H Gibson and J R F Mason.

OFFICERS PRESENT

N Khan - Director
P Gowers - Overview and Scrutiny Officer
M Power - Committee Administrator

196 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 8 September 2015 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

197 COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

The Committee heard from the Director on the proposals by the Police that, in future, low level antisocial behaviour (ASB) would not be a police priority unless it fell within certain criteria, including there being a threat of harm. The responsibility for picking this up could fall upon other agencies, including the local authority.

In response to a question, the Director advised that the post of Assistant Director, Community and Housing Services had been advertised internally within the Council and interviews were scheduled for later in the week. If necessary, following this process, the Council will recruit externally.

A statement had been issued that day by the Chief Constable of Essex Police on proposals for changes in local policing in the County. The Director advised that senior representatives from Essex Police had been invited to come in to discuss the proposals with the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council. The Director would raise questions posed by Members of the Committee with the Police at this meeting. The questions are as follows:-

- How will the Council communicate with residents that the responsibility for dealing with low-level ASB has been transferred to the Council? This is an

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important step towards tackling the public's fear of ASB.

- Has there been any consultation by the Police with Rochford District Council on the proposed changes?
- How were the statistics gathered that informed the proposal to close the counter of Rayleigh Police station?
- What is the view of the joint Castle Point and Rochford Community Safety Partnership on the proposed changes and how will a co-ordinated partnership approach between Rochford District Council and Castle Point Borough Council be achieved in respect of dealing with anti-social behaviour issues?
- Considering the fact that a letter dated 22 June that outlined the proposals had been sent to the Council's Chief Executive, why was the issue not raised with Review Committee Members at its meeting on 7 July, when the Committee discussed the Community Safety Partnership?
- In view of severely reduced staffing in the Council's ASB unit (one ASB officer who works 4 days a week), how will the Council deal with ASB incidents that the Police assess as low to medium risk? Will there be an increase in staff funding to deal with additional ASB incidents reported?
- The District Council does not have access to the same information that the Police does as in the past it has had a purely monitoring role. What will the cost to the Council be to take on this additional role?
- What powers will the Council be given by the Police to deal with ASB incidents that are reported and what will the process be for recording incidents that are reported?
- Members requested information from the Police on how they will work with the Council and other partners and who will be the point of contact at the Council.

The Director agreed to attend the December meeting of the Review Committee to provide an update. The Committee stressed the importance of a proactive approach by the Council, following the meeting with the Police, and requested that information is relayed to Members as soon as it becomes available. The importance of the Council maintaining a good relationship with the community policing team was emphasised.

The Director would approach the joint Castle Point and Rochford CSP Strategic Partnership to discuss the implications of the proposals.

198 REGULATION OF INVESTIGATORY POWERS ACT (RIPA)

The Committee considered the report of the Director, which updated Members on the use of RIPA over the past year and allows for the review of the Council's RIPA policy.

Recommended to Council

That the amendments to the Council's RIPA policy, as set out in paragraph 4.1 of the report, be approved.

Resolved

That the Council's annual usage of RIPA be noted.

199 KEY DECISION DOCUMENT

The Committee considered the Key Decisions Document and noted its contents.

200 WORK PLAN

The Committee considered the Committee's Work Plan. The following was noted:-

3 November 2015 - Michelins Farm. Planning Enforcement and Environmental Health officers from both Essex County Council and Rochford District Council would be attending the meeting. The Environmental Agency would not be in attendance but would provide a written answer. A representation from the District Council Legal department would be requested to attend.

The review would focus on the Council's actions prior to the fire occurring and to ascertain what more could have been done to avoid a similar event in the future.

The meeting closed at 8.30 pm.

Chairman

Date

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