

Review Committee – 3 September 2013

Minutes of the meeting of the **Review Committee** held on 3 September 2013 when there were present:-

Chairman: Cllr C J Lumley
Vice-Chairman: Cllr D J Sperring

Cllr Mrs L A Butcher
Cllr R R Dray
Cllr J D Griffin
Cllr Mrs A V Hale
Cllr B T Hazlewood
Cllr M Hoy

Cllr J R F Mason
Cllr Mrs C E Roe
Cllr C G Seagers
Cllr I H Ward
Cllr Mrs M J Webster

VISITING MEMBER

Cllr Mrs J E McPherson

OTHER ATTENDEES

C I I Cummings – Essex Police

OFFICERS PRESENT

R Evans - Head of Environmental Services
B Saunders - Street Scene Manager
M Yolland - Community Safety Manager
P Gowers - Overview and Scrutiny Officer
M Power - Committee Administrator

167 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 9 July 2013 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

168 ROCHFORD DISTRICT COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Community Services, which provided an update from the Rochford District Community Safety Partnership (CSP).

It was noted that a number of projects shown as 'amber' in the joint CSP Action Plan are in fact 'green' and would be achieved by the end of March 2014. The domestic abuse work remains on amber and has been put on hold until a Domestic Abuse Reduction officer has been recruited; interviews are now being held. In respect of the Castle Point/Rochford District CSP merger, a meeting will be held in two weeks' time to discuss how the partnership will move forward in terms of administrative arrangements.

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In response to questions, the following was noted:-

- The level of take-up and outcome of the Wakering Young Peoples Community Project for school holiday activities would be evaluated and forwarded to Committee Members when available.
- Wyvern Community transport had been used to transport participants to the Community Older Persons Events (COPE), which had taken place at Ashingdon Memorial Hall and would also be used for the Hullbridge Day Centre event.
- In respect of the monthly unauthorised 'car meet' in Webster's Way car park, Rayleigh, it was confirmed that discussions between the organisers and various partners, including the District Council and the Police, had resulted in the proposed meet for Thursday 5 September moving to a different location. Ways of preventing a reoccurrence of this issue in other parts of the District were being investigated. The Police had worked with the District Council (as the owner of the land) to consider a range of measures that could be employed to counteract the problem. It had been decided that lockable gates at the car park was not an appropriate option due to factors such as the initial purchase and on-going costs, responsibility for locking and unlocking the gates and early morning users of the car park and residents with parking permits.
- The Police and partners meet fortnightly to look at crime/ASB trends and to analyse 'hot spots' and, where an issue is identified, request additional resources.
- The majority of prolific shoplifters were supporting an alcohol or drug habit. The automated number plate recognition (ANPR) system is not as well established in this District as in other areas; it has been placed in the vicinity of the airport. Mobile ANPR devices can be made available where appropriate.
- The detection rate for burglaries is 10.2% this year to date, compared with 14.6% last year. Detection rate for crimes overall is 26.4% this year to date compared with 20.7% in 2012/13. A 30-33% detection rate is considered a good rate. Although a range of tactics is used, including targeting people who police know are active, it is difficult to detect the perpetrators of dwelling burglary.
- Funding received from the Fire Service for 2013/14 is insufficient to cover further Firebreak courses this year. Some schools in the District are funding their own Firebreak courses. The funding received from the Fire Service will be used for work around accidental dwelling fires in the District. The Police and Crime Commissioner's office, in liaison with Essex Fire Service, is looking at ways of providing firebreak courses for all Districts across the county from the new initiative fund. Other measures employed to divert young people from crime and anti-social behaviour

(ASB) include the Wakering Young People's project. Part of the funding process is to assess where the need is and then target appropriately.

- All residents who report a crime are offered a crime reference number.
- High profile visible policing has been severely reduced because of budget cuts and resourcing issues. There are seven PCSOs in the Rochford District and three beat police officers. The Police focus is on partnership working and problem solving to find solutions to the social problems that are the root cause of ASB and issues such as drug taking.
- A steady reduction in ASB has been seen in the District over a number of years. The Police prioritise the needs of vulnerable people who are likely to be at risk of being victims of ASB.
- It was requested that senior Police officers attend meetings of the Rayleigh NAP so that residents can raise their concerns first-hand with them.
- The Police continue to encourage the public to report incidents. ASB incidents can also be reported direct to the Council's ASB officer.
- Drug possession offences are not included in the report as this contains only those crimes that are reported by victims of crime. The Police realise that drug abuse is an important issue and are working on reducing instances of supply and cultivation of drugs. Figures on drug offences can be supplied to Members.

Resolved

That the contents of the report be noted.

169 KEY DECISIONS DOCUMENT

The Committee considered the Key Decisions Document.

5/13 Open Spaces Enforcement Partnership

The support of a sufficient number of Parish/Town Councils would be necessary to make this viable. The District Council has an amount of funding that can be contributed to an enforcement partnership.

9/13 Grounds Maintenance Contract

There is scope within the new contract for local groups to take over the maintenance of local areas but this would need to be negotiated with the successful contractor.

170 WORK PLAN

The Committee considered and approved the Committee’s Work Plan.

EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

Resolved

That the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the remaining business on the grounds that exempt information as defined in paragraphs 1 of 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 would be disclosed.

171 REVIEW OF OPTIONS FOR CHANGE AND FINANCIAL SAVINGS THAT COULD BE NEGOTIATED WITH THE STREET CLEANSING AND WASTE MANAGEMENT CONTRACTOR

The Committee considered the exempt report, which contained information supplied by the project team on its review of options for change and financial savings that could be negotiated with the Street Cleansing and Waste Management Contractor. The recommendations in the report were agreed.

Resolved

That the recommendations on pages 9.12 and 9.13 of the project team’s exempt report be referred to the Executive.

The meeting closed at 9.25 pm.

Chairman

Date

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