

Review Committee – 1 December 2015

Minutes of the meeting of the **Review Committee** held on **1 December 2015** when there were present:-

Chairman: Cllr J H Gibson
Vice-Chairman: Cllr D J Sperring

Cllr Mrs L A Butcher
Cllr R R Dray
Cllr J D Griffin
Cllr M Hoy

Cllr J R F Mason
Cllr Mrs C A Pavelin
Cllr Mrs M H Spencer
Cllr M J Webb

VISITING MEMBER

Cllr Mrs J E McPherson, Portfolio Holder for Environment

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs G J Ioannou and J L Lawmon.

OFFICERS PRESENT

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

232 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 3 November 2015 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

233 COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

Members received an update from the Portfolio Holder for Environment and the Director relating to the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) and questions raised by the Committee at their October meeting.

In response to Member questions, the following was noted:-

- The funding allocated to the Rochford CSP in 2015/16 of approximately £14,000 has been used to meet the priorities set by the Police and Crime Commissioner, which are to make reductions in crime in the following areas: anti-social behaviour (ASB), violent crime, Domestic Abuse, dwelling burglary and reoffending. The CSP has met these priorities in a number of ways, including an ASB mediation service to which families can be referred; supporting the Sanctuary scheme for households at risk of Domestic Abuse; liaising with Neighbourhood Watch, organising public awareness campaigns and offering home safety advice to reduce dwelling burglary; working closely with the Offender Management team to reduce

re-offending.

- In respect of questions raised by Members at the last meeting, the Chief Constable had apologised that the letter of 22 June 2015 about Police transformation proposals had been poorly worded. Interviews for the post of Assistant Director – Community & Housing Services would be taking place next week, with the appointment anticipated for early in the new year. Interim cover in respect of ASB/the CSP had been provided by the Assistant Director – Commercial Services. Community Safety now comes under the Portfolio Holder for Environment due to her previous experience in this area. The next meeting of the CSP Strategic Group is scheduled for 17 December.
- The Portfolio Holder for Environment confirmed that a high percentage of calls made to the Police about ASB are matters that can be dealt with by the local authority, as these relate to 'low level' ASB, which includes litter, dog fouling and noise nuisance. It was confirmed that the responsibility for ASB where there is a threat of harm to the individual remains with the Police. There is a potential overlap in cases where 'low level' ASB strays into criminal damage, which is a Police responsibility. It had been made clear to the Police that the Council is happy to work in tandem with them but that it does not have capacity to take on any of the work of the Police.
- The Police are progressing the investigation of the ASB incident in Rochford at the weekend. It was noted that the Council would deal with incidents occurring over the weekend the Monday morning following the incident.
- The Council has only one Community Safety Officer (0.8 FTE) dealing with ASB in the District. This officer will soon be accredited and will have access to administrative support when he transfers to the Hub in Rayleigh. The Portfolio Holder advised that six ASB related calls had been received during the course of one particular week, when calls had been monitored. Three of these calls were in respect of social housing tenants and therefore passed to the Housing Association; one call related to an environmental nuisance; the remaining two are being dealt with in collaboration with the Police.
- An awareness campaign in partnership with the Police is planned, which will convey to residents both what ASB is and who has responsibility for it. A range of media would be used.
- Recently there have been two events at which Councillors had been given an opportunity to ask questions of the Police. There is a Police Local Community Meeting on 14 December to which Councillors are invited. The Portfolio Holder is happy to discuss any matters relating to the CSP with any Member of the Council. Questions on policing should be directed to the Police.

- Funding is allocated to the Rochford CSP and the Castle Point CSP according to head of population. Additional funding can be applied for from external sources and this should be a focus of the CSP. The Rochford CSP had received funding recently to establish a taxi marshalling scheme in Rayleigh, which has been successful in improving the safety of passengers in Rayleigh. The benefits of a joint CSP is that some projects can be run across both areas, there is the facility for joint training and partners save time by not having to attend two separate CSP meetings.
- There have been meetings between the District Council, the Social Housing landlord and the Police following specific ASB incidents. The Safer Essex network focuses on various projects and is pushing for the improvement of the Police 101 number and ECM messaging to aid easier contact with the Police and provide residents with additional ways of reporting crime. Any issues around the 101 service should be raised with the Police. Callers should ensure that they are given an incident number when they report an incident to the Police.
- The Probation Service and Youth Offending team are part of the CSP as they often have responsibility for dealing with reducing the level of re-offending. Various projects have been successfully carried out in the District, including the Fishing project, Fire Breaks and Buddy Tag schemes. The CSP works closely with schools and receives Prolific and Priority Offender (PPO) reports at its meetings.
- Following the recent domestic murder on Canvey Island, the CSP must now lead on a Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) of the case. DHRs are not funded centrally but by the local CSP. There is a need to learn from this case and others in Essex and the rest of the country. Preventative work in this area is being undertaken in the Rochford District and procedures and practices are being reviewed by the CSP. Information on the CSP role in DHRs and an example report from a DHR would be circulated to Committee Members.
- The role of the CSP is to focus on local issues and manage small grass roots projects; Safer Essex performs a more strategic role.
- The Portfolio Holder for Environment would be invited to attend a future Review Committee when the Assistant Director - Community & Housing Services has been appointed.

234 KEY DECISION DOCUMENT

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

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05/15 Homes Strategy. The Overview and Scrutiny Officer would advise whether the Strategy would be affected by the proposed Housing and Planning Act.

235 WORK PLAN

The Committee considered its Work Plan.

Members of the Committee could email the Overview and Scrutiny Officer with any comments or if they wished any further topics to be included.

The meeting closed at 8.30 pm.

Chairman

Date

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