

## **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

### **Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday, 16<sup>th</sup> December 2014 at Retford Town Hall**

**Present:**

Councillor J C Shephard (Chairman)

Councillors: D Challinor, D Foley, G Freeman, J W Ogle, D R Pressley, T Rafferty, J Sanger, T Taylor and R Wilde

Officers: G Blenkinsop, S Brown, G Connor, C Crossland and R Theakstone.

Also present: P Davies – Chief Inspector, Nottinghamshire Police  
D Dawson – Station Manager, Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service  
K Dennis – Chief Executive, Office of the Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Commissioner  
Councillor G Gilfoyle – Cabinet Member for Community Safety, Nottinghamshire County Council  
A Khan – Chief Superintendent, Nottinghamshire Police  
N Snell - Senior Probation Officer, National Probation Service  
M Taylor – Assistant Chief Executive, the Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire and Rutland Rehabilitation Company Ltd

(Meeting commenced at 6.30pm.)

(The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting, read out the Fire Evacuation Procedure, and also enquired as to whether any member of the public wished to film/record the meeting or any part thereof; no members of the public were present).

#### **81. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors G A N Oxby and D Pidwell.

#### **82. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS AND OFFICERS**

(a) **Members**

There were no Declarations of Interest by Members.

(b) **Officers**

There were no Declarations of Interest by officers.

#### **83. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 18<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2014**

Members were advised of an error in the minutes. The Money Advisor's post will end in March 2015 not 2014 as stated in the minutes.

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> November 2014 be approved subject to the amendment.

84. MINUTES OF THE JOINT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE OF THE BASSETLAW, NEWARK AND SHERWOOD COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP HELD ON 12<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2013

**RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee of the Bassetlaw, Newark and Sherwood Community Partnership held on 12<sup>th</sup> November 2013 be received.

85. MINUTES FOR ACTION AND IMPLEMENTATION

**RESOLVED** that the Minutes for Action and Implementation be received.

86. OUTSTANDING MINUTES LIST

In relation to Outstanding Minute No. 106, Forward Plan, Members were advised that the Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhood Services and the Housing Strategy and Renewal Manager would be attending the January meeting of the Committee to give an update on the Choice Based Lettings process.

**RESOLVED** that the Outstanding Minutes List be received.

87. FORWARD PLAN

**RESOLVED** that the Forward Plan be noted.

**Key Decisions**

88. KEY DECISIONS OF CABINET – 2<sup>ND</sup> DECEMBER 2014

(a) Night Time Economy – Strategy and Policy Update (Key Decision No. 364)

**RESOLVED** that Minute No. 88(a) of the Cabinet Meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2014 be endorsed.

(b) Equality and Diversity – Annual Report and General Update 2014 (Key Decision No. 465)

**RESOLVED** that Minute No. 88(b) of the Cabinet Meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2014 be endorsed.

(c) Anti-Social Behaviour Policy and Procedures 2014 (Key Decision No. 474)

**RESOLVED** that Minute No. 88(c) of the Cabinet Meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2014 be endorsed.

(d) Council Tax Discount Changes on Empty and Uninhabitable Dwellings (Key Decision No. 477)

**RESOLVED** that Minute No. 89(a) of the Cabinet Meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2014 be endorsed.

(e) Draft Housing Strategy (Key Decision No. 448)

**RESOLVED** that Minute No. 90(a) of the Cabinet Meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2014 be endorsed.

(f) Fees and Charges 2015/16 (Key Decision No. 467)

**RESOLVED** that Minute No. 91(a) of the Cabinet Meeting held on 2nd December 2014 be endorsed.

(g) Medium Term Financial Plan 2015/16 to 2019/20 (Key Decision No. 470)

**RESOLVED** that Minute No. 91(b) of the Cabinet Meeting held on 2nd December 2014 be endorsed.

(h) Corporate Procurement Policy and Strategy 2014-2018 (Key Decision No. 476)

**RESOLVED** that Minute No. 91(c) of the Cabinet Meeting held on 2nd December 2014 be endorsed.

(i) Declaration on Tobacco Control (Key Decision No. 473)

**RESOLVED** that Minute No. 92(a) of the Cabinet Meeting held on 2nd December 2014 be endorsed.

(j) Public Spaces Protection Order – Dog Control (Key Decision No. 475)

**RESOLVED** that Minute No. 92(b) of the Cabinet Meeting held on 2nd December 2014 be endorsed.

(k) Bassetlaw's Local Development Framework – Site Allocations Development Plan Document (Key Decision No. 363)

**RESOLVED** that Minute No. 93(a) of the Cabinet Meeting held on 2nd December 2014 be endorsed.

#### 89. WAIVE OF CALL-IN/DECISION TAKEN WITHOUT SUFFICIENT NOTICE

None.

#### 90. POSSIBLE CALL-IN OF DECISIONS MADE BY CABINET OR BY CABINET MEMBERS

None.

#### 91. REPORT(S) OF THE DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE RESOURCES

(a) Q2 Complaints 2014/15

Members were presented with a summary of complaints dealt with by the Council during July to September 2014. A total of 20 complaints were received during the period. The Council monitors response time frames to complaints via a performance indicator.

The Director of Corporate Resources advised that eight complaints were not upheld; eight were partially upheld and four were upheld. She advised that a complaint being upheld is not always a negative as it can achieve a positive outcome and lessons can be learnt from it.

**RESOLVED** that the Q2 Complaints Report for 2014/15 be received.

(b) Final Report – Review of Council's Approach to Local Resilience

Members were presented with a final report following the review of the Council's Approach to Resilience.

The review looked at the organisations responsible for flooding and how Bassetlaw District Council works with partners to mitigate flooding issues and the Council's role in emergency planning.

The review highlighted the positive work of the Council and flood mitigation schemes undertaken. The Council were commended by the Environment Agency for their proactive work and engagement. The Corporate Development and Policy Manager summarised the key recommendations.

Members commended the work of officers.

**RESOLVED** that:

1. The recommendations of the review be approved and the report be referred to Cabinet.
2. Following the referral to Cabinet, Members consider the recommendations within the report and submit their response to the next available Committee.

(c) Overview and Scrutiny Committee Programme 2014/15

Members were provided with an overview of the meeting programme for the Committee for 2014/15.

**RESOLVED** that the report be noted.

(d) Annual Review of the Bassetlaw, Newark and Sherwood Community Safety Partnership Overview and Scrutiny Programme 2014/15

The Chairman welcomed partners and officers to the meeting and thanked them for their contributions to the Agenda.

R Theakstone gave a slide show presentation giving an overview of the Bassetlaw Newark and Sherwood Community Safety Partnership. She briefed Members on current performance, successes, challenges and the Partnership Plus Areas. G Connor gave a case study of a woman with mental health issues illustrating the complexity of the people they work with and the demand placed on services.

An elected Member commented that it is good to see that there is awareness of mental health issues and good partnership working.

**Is there any succession planning in case the Police and Crime Commissioner is abolished following next year's election?**

K Dennis commented that whatever political party are in control policing and governance will be no less important. There is a need for robust governance. Different political parties have different ideas about how policing should be governed. Each political party has said what they propose to do and everyone will be watching with interest.

A Khan gave a slide show presentation. He advised that:

- There were 480 more offences this year than last year.
- Of these 110 were domestic violence related and 55 related to sexual offences. He commented that the Police want to see an increase in reporting of these crimes as it shows an increased confidence in victims coming forward to report the crime.
- 107 offences were related to motor vehicle theft which includes diesel theft. Lorry drivers are educated about where to park, however it is difficult to get the message across to drivers from outside of the area.

- There is a new way of recording crime which is completely victim focused. In the past the Police have challenged individuals but must now record things that previously they would not have. This is seeing the crime level increase.
- Bassetlaw has a prison and psychiatric hospital which have increased the number of crimes they report.
- It is difficult to benchmark this year's performance with last year's considering the change in reporting.
- Burglary and shoplifting crimes have reduced which is an achievement in times of austerity.

Members were given an overview of problem solving projects:

- BONZAI – this project involves partnership working to address underlying issues. The group meet every two weeks and focus on disengaged families who cause crime in the area.
- JACOBAN – looks at cross border crime. Over 60 offenders have been arrested this year.
- Violent Crime Project – includes the night time economy focusing on problem establishments. Work is also carried out in prisons, schools and care homes.
- Community Road Safety - Bassetlaw has a dedicated vehicle run by volunteers which is being piloted in the area. A seconded officer is currently working at Outwood Academy.

A Khan advised that the Police are sharing sites with partners at Haworth and have plans to move to Retford. Bassetlaw are an exception with other authorities closing their front desks.

### **What are the policing plans for rural areas?**

A Khan advised that a rural crime day has recently been held in Newark to look at plans for rural areas. Nottinghamshire Police are committed to make sure that rural areas receive the same level of policing based on risk, harm and demand. There has not been a reduction in resources.

K Dennis explained that the PCC is expecting a reduction of at least 5% in the policing grant. Communities suffer crime in different ways. The PCC is committed to rural communities but this has to be based on demand and need. Additional funding has been allocated in the budget for rural crime next year. The future will be challenging and things will have to change.

K Dennis advised that moving forward partners need to look at how they can collectively spend the money available. A review has recently been carried out of the Partnership Plus areas. The review concluded that there has been success but things have been done to the community and not with them, more engagement is needed.

### **Has any work been carried out in relation to profiling and planning applications?**

A Khan advised that the Police get notification of planning applications. The Architectural Liaison Officer looks at the potential issues. He wondered if it may be possible to receive some Section 106 funding from planning applications which would address the extra demand placed on services due to new development/growth in an area.

### **Following the recent issues in Rotherham what impact has this had on reporting in Nottinghamshire?**

A Khan commented that the cases in Rotherham highlighted a failure to focus on the most vulnerable. The Police force should be protecting the community and most vulnerable and not chasing numbers. There is a challenge around those most vulnerable.

The profile of crime is shifting and new issues are emerging for example the abuse of the elderly. There is a pressure on resources and resources have to be prioritised.

D Dawson gave a slide show presentation detailing the Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service's community safety initiatives and partnership working. The Fire Service previously did a lot of work in silo. The Fire Service has changed the way it works to a more proactive approach and are becoming more flexible. He briefed Members on the Bicycle Maintenance Project, road traffic collision reduction and the Fire Cadet Programme.

### **How many young people are involved in the Bicycle Maintenance Project?**

D Dawson explained that the number of young people attending the sessions can vary between 3 -15 or more. Officers attend the sessions for a couple of hours per week to educate young people how to better maintain their bikes and also to advise on road safety.

A Khan commented that there has been an increase in the number of people using bikes which has led to an increase in injuries. There is an audience there that need to be educated. There has also been an increase in motorbike users who are a vulnerable group that need educating.

M Taylor advised Members that the Nottinghamshire Probation Trust ceased to exist in June 2014.

N Snell gave an overview of the National Probation Service. The Service now manages offenders who are a high risk to the community. The Service works with partners to manage the risk.

M Taylor advised that the Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire and Rutland Rehabilitation Company (DLNR CRC) manage low/ medium risk offenders. The DLNR CRC work with Ingeus, CRI and the St Giles Trust to reduce crime. The DLNR CRC partner with the Reducing Reoffending Partnership who are paid by results. Details of the new contract for Probation will be known from January 2015 with the new organisation in place from February. The contract will be for ten years.

An elected Member thanked partners for their presentations. He commented that it is good to see the commitment and prevention at a local level. He commended partners for dealing with residents as people and not statistics.

**Members need to see that the Partnership Plus Areas are working in Bassetlaw and delivering results for the public. Residents do not know what is being done and good initiatives such as the Bicycle Maintenance Project should be highlighted in the press.**

G Connor commented that the dilemma they face with publishing the Partnership Plus Areas is if residents in the areas want to know they are living in a Partnership Plus Areas. There are good aspects of the Partnership Plus and there have been successes. Only so much can be done with individuals, they need to take some responsibility themselves.

A Khan explained that Partnership Plus Areas need engagement with the community, this can only happen if the community come forward. Priority setting meetings are important and the community are not always represented.

### **How is effective policing being achieved in rural areas?**

A Khan commented that there are challenges in rural areas. A lot of rural crime is unreported and engagement is critical. It is important that communities engage at the priority setting meetings.

An elected Member raised concerns that there is a perception of specific rural crimes and the language needs to be broken down in relation to rural crime. The same types of crime can be committed in any area – rural or urban.

It was commented that there is a lack of communication with residents which needs to be improved.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and contribution's.

## **SECTION B – ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION IN PRIVATE**

### **Key Decisions**

None.

### **Other Decisions**

#### **92. WAIVE OF CALL IN/DECISION TAKEN WITHOUT SUFFICIENT NOTICE**

None.

#### **93. POSSIBLE CALL IN OF DECISIONS MADE BY CABINET OR BY CABINET MEMBERS**

None.

#### **94. ANY OTHER BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS TO BE URGENT**

As there was no other business to be discussed, the Chairman wished everyone a merry Christmas and closed the meeting.

(Meeting closed at 8.45pm).