

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday, 15th December 2015 at Worksop Town Hall

Present:

Councillor J C Shephard (Chair)

Councillors: D K Brett, R B Carrington-Wilde, G Clarkson, S E Farncombe, D Foley, D Hare, J Ogle, G A N Oxby, M Richardson, J M Sanger and K Sutton.

Officers: S Brown, C Crossland and J Wilson.

Also present: Barbara Brady – Consultant in Public Health, Public Health Notts CC
Gerald Connor – Community Safety Co-ordinator, Bassetlaw District Council
Samantha Craggs – Head of Operations (Notts), CRI
Superintendent Richard Fretwell – County Neighbourhood Policing/ Partnerships, Notts Police
Councillor S Greaves – Leader and Cabinet Member for Policy, Strategy and Communications (Agenda Item 8(a) only)
Laurence Jones – Group Manager, Early Help (North Locality), Family Service, Notts County Council
Shirley Riley – Director (Notts), CRI
N Taylor – Chief Executive, Bassetlaw District Council (Agenda Item 8(a) only)
Paddy Tipping – Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Commissioner
Ros Theakstone – Director of Corporate Resources/ Chair of Bassetlaw, Newark and Sherwood Community Safety Partnership

(Meeting commenced at 6.30pm.)

(The Chair read out the Fire Evacuation Procedure, and also enquired as to whether any member of the press or public wished to film/record the meeting or any part thereof; however, no members of public responded.)

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for their attendance.

73. NOMINATIONS FOR THE APPOINTMENT IF VICE-CHAIR

RESOLVED that Councillor M Richardson be appointed Vice Chair for the meeting.

74. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor M F T Critchley.

75. 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.

76. MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON 3RD AND 10TH NOVEMBER 2015

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meetings held on 3rd and 10th November be approved.

77. MINUTES FOR ACTION AND IMPLEMENTATION

Members were advised that the Chair had written to Phil Mettam, Bassetlaw Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), regarding the proposed changes to the Westwood GP Practice. A copy of the letter was appended for Members information.

The Chair also advised that the relevant ward Members have attended a meeting with the CCG.

RESOLVED that the Minutes for Action and Implementation be received.

78. OUTSTANDING MINUTES LIST

RESOLVED that the Outstanding Minutes List be received.

79. FORWARD PLAN

RESOLVED that the Forward Plan be noted.

Key Decisions

80. KEY DECISIONS OF CABINET – 1ST DECEMBER 2015

(a) **Devolution Arrangements (Key Decision No. 530)**

Members were updated on the current position on the Devolution Deal negotiations with Government.

Members were given an overview of the Sheffield City Region and D2N2. The benefits of both deals were outlined. It was noted that the Sheffield City Region is more advanced at this point in time.

Members were advised that two legislative changes are proposed. Amendment 27 would allow the Council to determine if it wishes to be part of a combined authority. Amendment 56 would permit changes to government boundaries.

It was noted that final ratification of the Devolution Deals would be presented to full Council for approval.

In response to a request from a Member for a review of each Deal, and the implications to services, Members were advised that information has been provided to all Members and is as up to date as possible.

The Chair thanked Councillor S Greaves and N Taylor for their attendance.

RESOLVED that Minute No. 80(a) of Cabinet held on 1st December 2015 be endorsed.

(b) **Digital Services Update (Key Decision No. 383)**

RESOLVED that Minute No. 81(a) of Cabinet held on 1st December 2015 be endorsed.

(c) **Discretionary Housing Payment Policy Review (Key Decision No. 514)**

RESOLVED that Minute No. 81(b) of Cabinet held on 1st December 2015 be endorsed.

(d) **Former Manton Allotments (Key Decision No. 497)**

RESOLVED that Minute No. 82(a) of Cabinet held on 1st December 2015 be endorsed.

- (e) Council-owned Industrial Site: Development at Harrison Drove, Langold (Key Decision No. 504)

RESOLVED that Minute No. 82(b) of Cabinet held on 1st December 2015 be endorsed.

- (f) Fees and Charges 2016/17 (Key Decision No. 506)

RESOLVED that Minute No. 82(c) of Cabinet held on 1st December 2015 be endorsed.

- (g) Medium Term Financial Plan 2016/17 to 2020/21 (Key Decision No. 507)

RESOLVED that Minute No. 82(d) of Cabinet held on 1st December 2015 be endorsed.

- (h) Amendment to the Disabled Facilities Grant and Adaptions Policy (Key Decision No.538)

RESOLVED that Minute No. 83(a) of Cabinet held on 1st December 2015 be endorsed.

- (i) Refuse Services: Introduction of a Garden Waste Collection (Key Decision No. 520)

RESOLVED that Minute No. 84(a) of Cabinet held on 1st December 2015 be endorsed.

- (j) Income Generation Opportunities (Key Decision No. 537)

RESOLVED that Minute No. 85(a) of Cabinet held on 1st December 2015 be endorsed.

- (k) Business Improvement District Proposal

RESOLVED that Minute No. 85(b) of Cabinet held on 1st December 2015 be endorsed.

Other Decisions

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

None.

82. POSSIBLE CALL-IN/ DECISION TAKEN WITHOUT SUFFICIENT NOTICE

None.

83. REPORT(S) OF THE DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE RESOURCES

- (a) Annual Review of the Bassetlaw, Newark and Sherwood Community Safety Partnership

R Theakstone gave a slideshow presentation which gave Members overview of the Community Safety Partnership (CSP). The presentation detailed: the relationship with the Police and Crime Commissioner; how the CSP operates; current challenges; and what the council contributes.

Superintendent R Fretwell gave a slideshow presentation detailing performance data. The presentation outlined performance for the year to date; previous financial years; all crime performance; and context around the data.

Members were advised that:

- There has been a recent change in reporting of violent crime. A number of incidents are now given a crime number which would not previously have been given one; this has had an impact on figures.
- All crime data is looked at to understand trends.
- In Nottinghamshire a team of six Parish Constables are working in rural areas. The Officers have been tasked with understanding rural crime and the area.
- There is a plan to introduce number plate recognition in the area which will have a significant impact on criminals travelling across borders.
- There have been significant improvements made in relation to file quality and investigation.
- There has been a change in the types of crime for example an increase in cybercrime.
- There is good partnership working in the area.

In response to questions raised Members were advised that a review of neighbourhood policing has been carried out. Nottinghamshire Police have invested heavily in neighbourhood policing in past. Redundancies have had to be made and a resource allocation model has been utilised where as in the past similar numbers of officers have been allocated to areas of low and high demand. How engagement and visibility is maintained is being reviewed. Key plans include the use of technology and investment in mobile devices.

In terms of the rise in the number of crimes reported this is partly due to the change in reporting. Crime recording has now levelled out and analysis is comparing like for like. Daily management meetings are held to look at trends and move resources around where needed.

G Connor outlined two Anti-social Behaviour and Community Safety Partnership projects. He gave a summary of the Recovery Now and Each Amazing Breath projects.

The Recovery Now project was commissioned with funds from Public Health. The project takes clients to and from recovery meetings. He gave an overview of one client's journey through the process and the positive impact. The client started drinking alcohol at an early age and has suffered from alcohol related illnesses and exploitation when intoxicated. The client reduced his alcohol intake and has now been sober for two months. He has moved away from alcohol on a daily basis and is helping others in the group.

Each Amazing Breath is a project to take five at school, home, work and in the community. The project focuses on building resilience and capacity, wellbeing, mindfulness, breathing, grounding and awareness. The project has been nominated for an award at the National Crime Awards. The project ran in two local schools. Feedback shows that the project helped to improve concentration levels, positivity and increased levels of calmness. The skills encourage coping mechanisms and taking responsible actions. The project has been rolled out in both academies and was also delivered in the community.

An update was given on drug and alcohol treatment services. Members were advised that the service now has a year of data to see patterns and carry out benchmarking. Members were advised that:

- There has been an increase in alcohol service users. It was thought that this group would be under represented so is pleasing to see that they are accessing the services.
- Over the year 203 clients have used the service.
- The service does not stop when the service package is completed there is a wider service on offer.
- Between 50 – 75 clients are in contact with the service every month.

- NPS (novel psychoactive substances – legal highs) are still under represented. There is a shop in Worksop selling legal highs. Legislation is due to change on the sale of legal highs; this will have an impact on the supply but not address the problem.
- The service is looking to train professionals; church leaders etc. to identify and get referrals to the service. The Council's Chief Executive and Leader have indicated that there are keen for the Council to be one of those platforms.
- The hub in Worksop is well attended and a robust service is offered at Bassetlaw Hospital.
- The service has an in reach service in Ranby Prison.
- There is good evidence of multi-agency working.
- In terms of a breakdown by ward area some clients opt to not give their address. However, CRI were able to provide detailed data, as requested at their previous attend at Committee in July.
- Funding is capped and will reduce year on year. The service supports clients to move out of the system. Detailed work has been carried out to make sure the service is responsive and is targeted where needed.
- In terms of recovery support clients can stay in the system as long as they want. When a client exits the service it is important that they know how to re-engage.

(Councillor R W Carrington-Wilde left the meeting)

L Jones gave an update on the Troubled Families Service and the first phase evaluation report. The Service was introduced in 2012 and tasked to 'turn around' troubled families and sustain change. The Service is paid on result when an outcome is sustained. The target for the year has been met. In Bassetlaw 456 families have been engaged and 253 families were successfully 'turned around', some of the families will continue into the next year. For every £1 spent on the Service £2.10 was saved from the public purse.

The second phase of the project began in May. A target of 5500 families over five years has been set (this is across the whole country). Families must meet criteria under at least two out of six headings to be eligible for the programme. The Service will still be paid on result however there has been a reduction in funding.

Members queried data on exclusions, both permanent and fixed term, and how academies were engaging with the team. L Jones noted that some relationships were initially difficult but his has now improved and partnership working is seen as effective.

Members were advised that the Team is now based in Ollerton but are mobile and have bases across the District that they can work from. The majority of work is carried out in family homes not in offices. The Team is still very present in Bassetlaw.

P Tipping advised Members regarding the future of the CSP and devolution. In relation to devolution the East Midlands devolution bid would combine the powers of the PCC with the elected mayor. A combined authority had not yet been established therefore there will be PCC elections in 2016. The PCC will be elected for a four year period and if a mayor was elected in 2017 they would need to work together. An elected mayor would have responsibility for two police forces.

Nottinghamshire Police have faced a budget reduction of 20% this year. The Chancellor has made a welcomed statement that funding cuts until 2020 will not be as significant as feared. Savings will have to be made, there will be no recruitment in 2016 and officers who leave the force will not be replaced.

Crime levels have remained stable however the type of crimes have changed. There are more PSCOs in Nottinghamshire than neighbouring authorities and double the number as in Derbyshire.

A review of Partnership Plus Areas has been carried out. In relative terms crime in these areas is high. The review showed that more partnership working is needed to focus resources.

A Youth Commission has been established comprising of 25, 14 – 25 year olds. The aim is to get young people's views on policing, how it could be changed and to build relationships. It is likely that after the report is produced the Commission will continue in some form.

Superintendent Fretwell gave an overview of the future of policing and a summary of initiatives. He advised that:

- Response Teams are being used more effectively.
- There is an aim to improve technology to allow for a more flexible approach.
- There is a proposal to move a response hub to Ranby. This would be a more central location and would allow for response to more effective.
- He wants officers in the community.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance.

RESOLVED that:

1. The information be received.
2. A breakdown of crime data in Partnership Plus Areas be circulated to Members.
3. School exclusion data be circulated to Members.
4. The review of Partnership Plus areas be circulated to Members.

(b) Overview and Scrutiny Committee Programme 2015/16

Members were presented with an overview of the meeting programme of the Committee for 2015/16.

RESOLVED that the report be noted and Members contact the Policy and Scrutiny Unit if they have any queries regarding future meetings.

SECTION B – ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION IN PRIVATE

Key Decisions

84. KEY DECISIONS OF CABINET 1ST DECEMBER 2015

None.

Other Decisions

85. WAIVE OF CALL IN/DECISION TAKEN WITHOUT SUFFICIENT NOTICE

None.

86. POSSIBLE CALL IN OF DECISIONS MADE BY CABINET OR BY CABINET MEMBERS

None.

87. ANY OTHER BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS TO BE URGENT

As there was no other business to be discussed, the Chair closed the meeting.

(Meeting closed at 9.20pm.)