

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
COMMUNITY SAFETY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
HELD ON TUESDAY 15 SEPTEMBER 2015 AT 4.00 P.M.
IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, BEECROFT ROAD, CANNOCK

PART 1

PRESENT:

Councillors

Dudson, Miss M.J. (Chairman)

Gamble, B. (Vice-Chairman)

Cartwright, Mrs S.M. (substitute)

Foley, D.

Hoare, M.W.A. (substitute)

Kraujalis, J.T.

Lea, C.I.

Snape, P.A.

Stretton, Mrs. P.Z.

Sutherland, M.

Witton, P.T.

Also in attendance –

Councillor C. Bennett (Crime & Partnerships Portfolio Leader, Observer).

1. Apologies

Apologies were received for Councillors A. Dean, B. Hardman, A. Pearson (substituted by Councillor Mrs. S.M. Cartwright) and Mrs. H.M. Sutton (substituted by Councillor M.W.A. Hoare).

2. Declarations of Interests of Members in Contracts and Other Matters and Restrictions on Voting by Members and Party Whip Declarations

No declarations of interests or party whip declarations were received.

3. Scope and Functions of the Customers and Corporate Scrutiny Committee

The Head of Governance delivered a brief presentation to Members on the above, but focussed on the following key aspects of the Committee:

- Support for the Committee;
- Performance Management;
- Work Programme 2015/16;
- Priority Delivery Plans;
- Cleaner and Safer Priority Delivery Plan (PDP) – strategic objectives and direction of travel performance indicators;
- Locality Partnership Plan (LPP) – Increased Community Safety

4. Work Programme 2015-16

The Chairman suggested the following items for inclusion as part of the Committee's work programme for the remainder of the year:

- Staffordshire Police Transformation Project;
- New Anti-Social Behaviour legislation powers;
- Citizens Advice Bureau project – support for people who have suffered domestic violence

Staffordshire Police Transformation Project

The Head of Environmental Health explained that the aims of the project were to look at how crimes were reported to the police and how their case management process was used, with the purposes of improving user satisfaction and efficiency in the workplace. Cannock Chase had been selected a pilot area for the project due to positive partnership working arrangements being in place with the Council and other bodies, and the District's demographic providing a good representative of policing across the Staffordshire. It was suggested that Members could receive a presentation on this topic at the next meeting and then future meetings could receive progress reports.

The Chairman requested that the presentation be arranged to take place before the next meeting in order to allow more time for the Committee to consider the topic.

The Crime & Partnerships Portfolio Leader commented that the complexities from an operational point of view needed to be fully explained in the context of how the project would help to tackle crime in the District. Furthermore it was essential that a senior officer from Staffordshire Police should meet with the Committee to explain the proposals, and that this should happen soon as the first stage of the project had already commenced.

Cllr. Gamble commented that the project sounded interesting, but was sceptical about another pilot initiative taking place, so wanted to know how long it was due to run for an whether people would be more aware of the police, and whether the police would have a greater awareness of local issues.

Cllr. Snape requested to know what the current response rate times/levels were for incident reporting and 999 calls and what the optimum levels were for having police officers out on patrol in the District.

Cllr. Foley requested that Members be allowed to pre-submit questions prior to the presentation taking place.

The Head of Environmental Health replied that this would be useful to do in order to give the police time prepare more detailed answers to queries raised.

Cllr. Sutherland requested to know what structures and targets were in place before the project commenced, and what was in place now.

Cllr. Kraujalis commented that the point would need to be made about the provision of more visible policing in the District.

Cllr. Snape requested that up to date baseline figures needed to be provided for those people who said they 'feel safe in their local area during the day and after dark' as the most recent figures given only related to 2011/12.

The Head of Environmental Health replied that updated figures would be provided at the next meeting.

Cllr. Snape requested the figures be provided sooner so the police can be questioned about them when the presentation takes place.

New Anti-Social Behaviour legislation powers

The Head of Environmental Health advised that Members had recently received a presentation from the Environmental Protection Manager on these new powers, so would already have some background as to what changes were being made.

The Chairman commented that although the presentation had been delivered, it was still important for the Committee to understand the changes due to come into force from March 2016.

Cllr. Snape asked if the Council had sufficient Officer resource in place to be able to use the new powers effectively and implement any changes required.

The Head of Environmental Health replied that the new powers were due to replace existing powers; therefore the necessary resource was already in place.

Cllr. Snape then raised concern as to whether or not Officers had been using the existing powers to their full extent.

Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) project

The Head of Environmental Health reported that the Staffordshire Police & Crime Commissioner (PCC) had established a project to provide better support to victims of domestic violence, and commissioned the North Staffordshire CAB to lead the roll out of the project across the County.

The Chairman suggested that the Committee may wish to establish a Task & Finish group to look at this project in more detail, specifically to understand the CAB's role and whether there was any overlap of support/work provided by other organisations.

The Crime & Partnerships Portfolio Leader explained the background to why the project had been established, and that it was important for the Committee to understand what services/support the CAB proposed to deliver, so Members should receive a presentation on the project from a CAB representative.

Cllr. Gamble commented that more information was required before work could be progressed on this topic, in particular; what was contained within the contract,

what was expected from the CAB both countywide and locally, and what was expected from the Council and other partners.

Cllr. Sutherland recommended that the full Committee should receive the presentation, and from then on the Committee can determine the way forward via a Task & Finish group.

Cllr. Snape suggested that Members could meet with representatives from the Cannock CAB office to talk with them about their involvement in the project on a local level.

The Head of Governance suggested that Members could first receive a presentation from the PCC's office about the initial findings of the report which helped to establish the project and then work from there on the best way forward, including looking at the potential impact on and involvement of the Council and other partners.

The Chairman agreed that this would be helpful in better understanding what partners were doing and any areas of overlap etc.

Cllr. Sutherland recommended that both the Police and CAB presentations should take place before the end of October in order that matters be progressed before the next meeting of the Committee.

The Head of Environmental Health replied that he would check availability of the relevant bodies and make arrangements accordingly.

5. Date of Next Meeting

Thursday 3 December 2015.

The meeting closed at 4:40pm

CHAIRMAN