

## **CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL**

Minutes of a meeting of the **Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Committee**  
held on Thursday, 17th September, 2009 at Committee Suite 1,2 & 3,  
Westfields, Middlewich Road, Sandbach CW11 1HZ

### **PRESENT**

Councillor H Murray (Chairman)  
Councillor J Hammond (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors E Alcock, A Barratt, D Flude, E Gilliland, A Thwaite, R Walker and  
S Wilkinson

### **Apologies**

Councillors D Stockton

### **12 OFFICERS PRESENT**

Janis Grant  
Kirstie Hercules  
Tricia Roberts  
Mark Nedderman

### **13 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST/WHIPPING DECLARATIONS**

None

### **14 PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME/OPEN SESSION**

There were no Members of the public present who wished to address the  
Committee.

### **15 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting held on 9 July 2009, be approved as a correct  
record

### **16 PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT - THE APPROACH**

Janis Grant, Head of Planning and Performance gave a presentation on  
Performance Information relating to the Sustainable Communities Committee.  
The Committee had responsibility to scrutinise the performance of the Local Area  
Agreement (LAA). Currently, the Council was being assessed by the Audit  
Commission on its performance in relation to LAA targets agreed by the former  
constituent authorities in April 2008.

Initial indications suggested that many of the targets were in the top quartile compared with other authorities. Out of 46 indicators relating to Sustainable Communities, targets had been set for 29 indicators. The 15 remaining indicators were new. Of the 29 indicators with targets :

- 10 had met the targets
- 14 had missed the target
- 5 were awaiting performance information.

The key missed targets were:

- Numbers killed or seriously injured in road traffic accidents
- Under 18 conception rate
- 16-18 year olds not in employment, education or training
- Achieving independence for older people through rehabilitation/intermediate care
- Number of new affordable homes

In addition, details of the Place Survey carried out in November 2008 were circulated, which provided data from 18 National indicators relating to :

- Respect and Consideration
- Quality of Life
- Information
- Local decision making
- Getting Involved and helping Out

RESOLVED – (a) That the presentation be received and noted

(b) That the Head of Planning and Performance be requested to produce a basket of Performance indicators to be submitted to the next meeting for regular monitoring by the Committee in future.

## **17 COMMUNITY WARDEN SERVICE**

The Community Safety Manager reported on the review of the Community Warden Service in Cheshire East which had begun in April 2009. The main challenge had been to draw together two separate arrangements in Crewe and Congleton and to integrate the individual arrangements that existed in Macclesfield. There were currently 10 Community Wardens in Cheshire East including 2 dog wardens. Work was continuing to merge some of the team from the former Macclesfield warden service into the Cheshire East team which would then create a team of 13 Wardens.

One immediate task was the need to harmonise the dog warden service. However, it was intended in the longer term to move to a multi skilled team of wardens, so that all wardens were trained to undertake all duties.

The warden service was expected to receive formal police accreditation in the near future which would mean that wardens would have the same powers as Police Community Support Officers (PCSO's)

The Warden service was facing a number of challenges in the future to:

- Fully integrate the wardens service to include park rangers
- Review the total number of wardens required in Cheshire East
- Develop links with registered Social landlords
- Develop links with Local Area Partnerships (LAP's)
- Develop Area Working and deployment strategy

RESOLVED – That the report be received.

## **18 CCTV - INTERIM REPORT**

The Committee considered a report of the Community Safety Manager setting out a project plan for the effective delivery of the Council's CCTV systems, including traffic monitoring systems.

Cheshire East had inherited 3 independent legacy CCTV systems, using a mix of technologies managed under individual arrangements by in-house staff or by external contractors.

The project aimed, amongst other things, to reduce the operating costs of the CCTV function, to establish a legal framework and Code of Practice, and to improve the evidential quality of images.

The Community Safety manager informed the Committee that work was currently underway to rationalise the Traffic Control cameras within the CCTV contract which may mean that the traffic control cameras would be monitored from Westfields Sandbach.

The Council was also looking at the business case for refurbishing the Macclesfield data Centre which would transform that facility into a strategic data centre which would in turn free more space at Westfields.

RESOLVED – That the report be received and noted.

## **19 STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT, SAFER CHESHIRE EAST PARTNERSHIP**

The Committee considered a report of the Community Safety Manager relating to the strategic assessment of the Safer Cheshire East Partnership (formerly CDRP). Each Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) was required by law to produce an annual strategic assessment which was a survey of crime and disorder levels and trends over the past year (and up to three years). The strategic assessment was used for planning future Partnership activity as part of a three year rolling annual plan to reduce the levels of crime and disorder and their impact on the community.

The partnership had focussed on the broader strategic themes to identify the areas where deeper partnership and multi-agency working could 'add value' to the partners' core business.

Two broad themes were evident from the analysis. The first was the need to maintain operational activity and processes that had successfully reduced crime across Cheshire East over the last three years. The second was to develop approaches to crime and disorder that had the most impact on people, and which most concerned them. Therefore an emphasis would be placed on the strategic management of crime and disorder in Borough's towns and in those neighbourhoods that suffered most.

The committee highlighted the key priority relating to NI 47 concerning the number of people killed or seriously injured in road traffic accidents.

RESOLVED – (a) That the report be received

(b) That a representative of the Safer Cheshire East Partnership be invited to the next meeting of the Committee to present more details about the partnership's response to NI 47 relating to road safety.

## **20 LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK**

RESOLVED – That the presentation on the LDF be deferred to the next meeting.

## **21 WORK PROGRAMME**

The Committee considered a report of the Borough Solicitor relating to the work programme.

RESOLVED – That the report be received and noted.

The meeting commenced at 10.30 am and concluded at 12.45 pm

Councillor H Murray (Chairman)