

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee

held on Thursday, 25th September, 2014 at Committee Suite 1,2 & 3,
Westfields, Middlewich Road, Sandbach CW11 1HZ

PRESENT

Councillor G Baxendale (Chairman)
Councillor M Grant (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors W S Davies, K Hickson, P Whiteley and B Murphy

Apologies

Councillors H Gaddum

1 OFFICERS PRESENT

Kirstie Hercules
Laura Woodrow Hurst

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest

3 WHIPPING DECLARATIONS

There were no whipping declarations.

4 PUBLIC SPEAKING

There were no members of the public present wishing to speak

5 POLICE AND CRIME PLAN - PRIORITIES

Councillor Paul Findlow, a member of the Cheshire Police and Crime Panel (PCP) attended the meeting to address the committee on the Cheshire Police and Crime Plan.

Councillor Findlow explained that the PCP comprised ten elected Members from the Cheshire authorities, three of whom represented Cheshire East and three independent Members.

The Chief Constable was accountable to the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) in respect of non operational matters, and in turn the PCC was accountable to the PCP.

The PCC was responsible for the Cheshire Police and Crime Plan and although he personally the PCC had significant input in respect of the content of annual plan and formulation of objectives, he also received direction from the home office on some aspects of the plan.

In summary, the new Cheshire Police and Crime Plan contained 5 strategic objectives each with a number of measures.

Members of the committee were then invited to question Councillor Findlow on the plan and work of the PCP.

A question was raised about the disparity between the Community Safety Funding grant allocated to Cheshire West and Chester and that allocated to Cheshire East, with the former receiving over £10,000 more.

Councillor Findlow informed that Committee that he was not familiar with the allocation criteria and would take the matter up directly with the commissioner.

RESOLVED – That the presentation on the work of the PCP and the content of the Cheshire Police and Crime Plan be noted.

6 ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR, CRIME AND POLICING ACT 2014

Kirstie Hercules and Laura Woodrow Hurst gave a presentation on the content and implications of parts 1-6 of the Anti – Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014.

Parts 1-4 of the new act replaced the existing 19 powers that dealt with anti social behaviour.

Part 5 gave landlords power to deal swiftly with the most serious anti-social behaviour committed by their tenants and part 6 gave victims power to ensure that action was taken to deal with persistent anti-social behaviour through the new community trigger, and also to have a greater say in what form of sanction an offender would receive out of court through a new procedure called the community remedy.

The act also introduced new measures to give victims a say. This was known as a Community Trigger. This new power allowed members of the community to ask the Community Safety Partnership to review its response to complaints of anti-social behaviour. The trigger was designed to resolve repeated reports of anti social behaviour where no action had been taken. In order for this power to be invoked, a complainant had to have reported the same problem on three or more occasions in the past six months to their landlord, Council or Police, or different complainants had reported the problem five times over the same period. There was a set procedure to be followed which also provided opportunities to appeal if a complainant was not happy with the response.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the presentation be received;

- (b) That a further presentation be made at a subsequent meeting on other aspect of the Anti – Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014 which are relevant to the Committee.

7 FORWARD PLAN

The Committee considered items listed in the forward plan.

RESOLVED – That the forward plan be received.

8 WORK PROGRAMME

The Committee reviewed its work programme.

RESOLVED - that the work programme be received.

The meeting commenced at 10.30 am and concluded at 11.50 am

Councillor G Baxendale (Chairman)