

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the **Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Committee**
held on Thursday, 13th September, 2012 at Committee Suite 1,2 & 3,
Westfields, Middlewich Road, Sandbach CW11 1HZ

PRESENT

Councillor H Murray (Chairman)
Councillor M Grant (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors L Brown, P Hayes, J Jackson, M Parsons, J Wray

Substitute

W Fitzgerald

Apologies

Councillors A Barratt and B Silvester and E Lam

30 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

31 DECLARATIONS OF PARTY WHIP

None

32 PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME/OPEN

There were no members of the public present wishing to speak

33 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

34 WHOLE FAMILY APPROACHES TO DOMESTIC ABUSE - DEVELOPING AND COMMISSIONING AN INTEGRATED SERVICE

Further to minute 17 of the meeting held on 21 June 2012, the Committee received an update on developing and commissioning an integrated service for domestic abuse.

It was noted that it had not yet been possible to put an exact cost to the perpetrator provision element of the strategy as such provision would form part of a whole family model and not stand alone as a separate service. Elements of this provision would hopefully be resourced through changes to existing job roles or by secondment and

therefore not incur additional cost. The range of costs in other local authority areas varies from £70k to £150k p.a. depending on the scale of the model being implemented.

With regard to funding, the Committee noted that the Council funded two thirds of the service, whilst the Police, Government and Health service contribute towards the other third. It was agreed that the Domestic Abuse Development and Partnership Manager would provide a breakdown of the funding.

While the service worked towards a fully costed model the following costs would be incurred this financial year:

- Developing and implementing a training programme on good practice in responding to perpetrators for frontline staff and their managers (£10k)
- Stakeholder engagement events (£1k)
- Publicity directed towards perpetrators (£1k)

With regard to the refuge in Macclesfield, it was noted that Barnado's was working with the Commissioner in Supporting People to secure a designated building and to make the necessary changes to provide a safe accessible accommodation for families in need. It was agreed that further details on this would be circulated to Ward Members for Macclesfield who sit on the Committee.

RESOLVED

1. That the Committee continues to scrutinise and support the commissioning work being undertaken through the multi agency Domestic Abuse Partnership, Safer Cheshire East Partnership and Adult and Children's Safeguarding Boards by:
 - Attendance at stakeholder engagement events where possible
 - Receiving the final Commissioning Strategy in early 2013
 - Ensuring that the priorities of the Commissioning strategy inform related strategies and services.
2. That the Domestic Abuse Development and Partnership Manager report back to the Committee on the success of the funding bid.
3. That the Domestic Abuse Development and Partnership Manager provide a breakdown of the funding.
4. That further details on the refuge in Macclesfield be circulated to the ward Members for Macclesfield who sit on the Committee.

35 ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR IN PRIVATE HOUSING - UPDATE

Consideration was given to an update outlining the positive outcomes on anti social behaviour in private housing due to early intervention.

It was reported that one of the most successful interventions the Community Safety Team had was the Mediation Service, which was accessed through a one off Home Office grant which had to target victims of anti social behaviour. Losing this resource would be detrimental to the commitment to work with private own and rent sectors of the community. There would not be capacity to replace the provision internally due to limited resources and a conflict of interest. A budget increase of £32,500 for the mediation Service and £16,139 would therefore be required to continue with the work.

The Committee agreed that the service was providing excellent value for money and that the Chairman should write a letter of support to the Portfolio Holder requesting that the budget be increased.

RESOLVED

That the Chairman writes a letter of support to the Portfolio Holder, requesting that the proposed budget increase be approved.

36 SECTION 106 AGREEMENTS

Further to the meeting held on 5 April 2012, the Committee received an update on the general breakdown of s106 monies currently held by the Council. It was noted that there were still 9 agreements which needed further investigation.

The report highlighted that the Council held a total of £5,150,025.51 in the S106 account. £3,216,722.86 of the total figure was non-time limited funds and £1,933,302.64 was identified as funds time limited for expenditure. This equated to £4,561,196.62 in capital and £588,828.89 in revenue. It was agreed that details of the income received and examples of where the money had been spent would be reported back to the Committee, at its meeting scheduled to be held on 22 November 2012.

RESOLVED

That details of the income received and examples of where the money had been spent be reported back to the Committee at its meeting scheduled to be held on 22 November 2012.

37 CCTV UPDATE

Further to minute 16 of the meeting held on 21 June 2012, Members received the following process for tackling tree obscuration:

- CCTV Service identify and prioritise problem trees;
- Identify agency responsible for the trees;
- Liaise with CE Forestry and Arboricultural team regarding requested/necessary work;
- Submit application and receive application registration number;
- CE F&A team visit site, assess situation and produce a pruning specification and report;
- Liaise over specification and contractual arrangements with approved contractors;
- Submit application and report to CE Heritage and Design;
- Depending on planning sensitivity, consultation etc. the application be submitted to the Area Planning Committee (report from CE F&A team) or processed by CE F&A team under delegated powers;
- Decision notice received and work programmed;
- Trees pruned and works carried out.
- Operators revisit known tree problem camera images periodically and formally every two years.

It was highlighted that a pilot scheme was underway in Macclesfield Town Centre. The works should be completed within 6 weeks; works would then commence on the rest of the Borough and be completed within the next 12 months.

It was agreed that a 6 month timescale should be added to the process, however in extreme cases, work should be implemented immediately. It was also agreed that the Committee should receive quarterly updates.

RESOLVED

- That subject to the amendments highlighted above the Portfolio Holder be recommended to approve the process for tackling tree obscuration and the associated maintenance works be budgeted for.
- That the Committee receive quarterly update reports.

38 FORWARD PLAN

Consideration was given to the extracts of the forward plan which fell within the remit of the Committee

RESOLVED

That the work programme be noted.

39 WORK PROGRAMME

Consideration was given to the work programme. It was agreed that a report on Voluntary Sector Grants and Customer Relation Management Programme would be considered at the meeting scheduled to be held on 25 October 2012.

RESOLVED

That the work programme be approved subject to the amendments highlighted above.

The meeting commenced at 10.30 am and concluded at 12.45 pm

Councillor H Murray (Chairman)