

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee

held on Thursday, 22nd January, 2015 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, H Gaddum and P Whiteley

In attendance

P Bayley – Principal Manager Local Community Services
S Cordon – Head of Communities
K Hercules – Principal Manager - Local Area Working
A Webb - Community Safety Development Manager

26 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors P Hayes and K Hickson.

27 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest

28 WHIPPING DECLARATIONS

There were no whipping declarations

29 PUBLIC SPEAKING

There were no members of the public present wishing to speak

30 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Consideration was given to the minutes of the meeting held on 20 November 2014.

RESOLVED

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

31 SAFER CHESHIRE EAST PARTNERSHIP ANNUAL REPORT

Consideration was given to a presentation on the Safer Cheshire East Partnership (SCEP) Annual report. It was noted that the SCEP Plan and statistics

would be brought back to the Committee in June 2015, once the partnership had been strengthened. The presentation outlined:

- Strategic Intelligence Assessment
- Current SCEP priorities
- Achievements for 2013/14
- SCEP Funding
- Cheshire and Warrington Community Safety
- New Challenges
- SCEP Plan for 2015/16

It was noted that the SCEP Plan needed to be made more robust and the current priorities of the plan were historical, as the types of crime committed had changed dramatically; rural crime and serious and organised crime were now high within Cheshire East compared to the rest of Cheshire. The Strategic Intelligence Assessment would focus on child sexual exploitation, self neglect, hate crime and human trafficking, which would be reflected in the revised SCEP Plan.

RESOLVED

That the revised Safer Cheshire East Partnership Plan and statistics be brought back to the Committee in June 2015.

32 SUSTAINABLE LIBRARIES STRATEGY PROGRESS UPDATE

The Committee received a progress report on the implementation of the Sustainable Libraries Strategy. It was noted that good progress had been made against the priorities for action and the service had delivered £700k efficiency savings to date. Members were pleased that a new mobile library vehicle had been procured, which would be ready for service in April 2015.

RESOLVED

That the service be congratulated and the progress report be endorsed.

33 DRAFT ENFORCEMENT POLICY

Consideration was given to the draft Corporate Enforcement Policy, which was to provide a refreshed umbrella document for all enforcement services and set out what the Council can and cant do and how the Councils enforcement approach would be carried out. Service specific policies would link up with this document and each other underneath this policy for the detail. The Committee agreed that:

- The policy showed residents and businesses what they could expect from the Council if they were breaking Council rules of Enforcement, or of they are a victim of someone else doing this.
- Reflected the Councils ambition to be an Enforcing Council, and demonstrated that the Council would take the most appropriate action, whether this be informal or full prosecution.
- The policy was a high level umbrella policy for all enforcement and was not about service specific detail.

- The policy needed to be more user friendly, including a summary, case studies and pictures.
- There were several issues around taxi licensing which needed to be addressed.
- A paragraph showing the range of powers available to the Council should be included in the policy.
- Several typographical errors be amended.

RESOLVED

1. That subject to the comments highlighted above the draft Corporate Enforcement Policy be recommended for approval.
2. That the next steps for the document be noted.

34 FORWARD PLAN

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

RESOLVED

That the forward plan be noted.

35 WORK PROGRAMME

Consideration was given to the work programme. It was agreed that:

- The Community Infrastructure Levy be removed from the work programme until the Local Plan had been revised.
- An update on Community Hubs be considered on 26 March 2015.
- The Domestic Homicides Review be considered on 26 March 2015.
- The Community Safety Partnership Performance and Plan be considered in June 2015.

RESOLVED

That the work programme be amended to reflect the items highlighted above.

The meeting commenced at 10.30 am and concluded at 11.35 am

Councillor G Baxendale (Chairman)