

Time commenced – 5.00pm
Time adjourned – 6.05pm
Time re-convened - 6.30pm
Time finished – 8.30pm

SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMISSION

28 SEPTEMBER 2009

Present: Councillor Webb (in the Chair - part)
Councillor Higginbottom (in the Chair – part)
Councillors Batey, Hird and F Khan

CRIME AND DISORDER COMMITTEE

22/09 Apologies for Absence

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Poulter

23/09 Late items introduced by the Chair

There were no late items.

24/09 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations interest.

25/09 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 29 June 2009 (Crime and Disorder Committee) were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

Items for Discussion

26/09 Derby Community Safety Partnership

The Committee received a presentation from Andrew Hough – Derbyshire Constabulary and Sonia Rafferty – Derby Community Safety Partnership. The presentation included: the statutory framework; the Partnership accountable bodies; the governance structure; the Partnership annual budgets; stronger and safer communities integrated delivery service; building stronger communities; confidence and satisfaction; building safer communities; terrorism and gangs; positive performance; strategic intelligence assessment and current and emerging risks.

The Commission asked about joined up services particularly on licensing. Andrew Hough explained how services were joining up.

Resolved

- 1. To note the presentation.**

- 2. To request the Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordination Officer to send a copy of the review of alcohol licensing to Sonia Rafferty to enable the Community Safety Partnership to consider possibly acting on the recommendations.**

At this point Councillor Higginbottom took the Chair

27/09 Crime and Disorder Committee Membership and Work Plan

The Committee considered a report which set out guidance from the Home Office on the role of the Crime and Disorder Committee. The guidance recommended that a work programme be drawn up, it also suggested that protocol be drawn up to lay down the mutual expectations of scrutiny members and partners of the community safety scrutiny process. As the Scrutiny Management Commission was to continue as the Crime and Disorder Committee the membership would become the membership of the Crime and Disorder Committee. The guidance stated that additional members could be co-opted to the Crime and Disorder Committee in accordance with the regulations. The Home Office guidance envisaged that one Member of the Crime and Disorder Committee would need to be a Member of the police authority and therefore to comply with this requirement the Crime and Disorder Committee would need to co-opt one of the Council's police authority members currently Councillors Hickson and Winter. The role of the co-opted members also needed to be defined.

Resolved

- 1. To note the report.**
- 2. To ask both police authority representatives if they would be co-opted on to the Crime and Disorder Committee.**
- 3. To request that a protocol for working with partners be drawn up.**
- 4. To co-opt Andrew Hough from Derbyshire Constabulary on to the Crime and Disorder Committee with no voting rights.**
- 5. The Crime and Disorder Committee to meet quarterly with the next meeting being on 14 December 2009 starting at 5pm until 6pm with Scrutiny Management Commission starting at 6.30pm.**

28/09 Items for Future Crime and Disorder Committee Meetings

The Committee considered items for consideration at the next and future Crime and Disorder Committees.

Resolved

- 1. To consider Community Payback - restorative justice at the next meeting.**

2. To consider information on the application of Anti Social Behaviour Orders (ASBOs) across the city on a ward by ward basis at a future meeting.
3. To note that Integrated Offender Management was developing Strategic Analysis Document and would involve the Committee in Stakeholder consultation.

SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMISSION

29/09 Apologies

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Poulter.

30/09 Late Items Introduced by the Chair

In accordance with Section 100(B) (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the Chair agreed to admit the following item because it needed to be considered before the next scheduled meeting.

- Climate Change Commission – research to determine public attitudes to Climate Change

31/09 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

32/09 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 29 July 2009 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

33/09 Call-in

There were no Call-ins.

Items for Discussion

34/09 Climate Change Commission – research to determine public attitudes to Climate Change

The Commission considered a report from the Climate Change Commission stating that the Commission wished to undertake a representative market research project to ascertain the views of Derby people on climate change and to find out what actions people had taken or would be prepared to take to reduce their contribution to climate change. In order to conduct the investigation the Climate Change Commission will need to engage a market research company. The intention was to complete the research by the end of November 2009. The cost of the research would be £5,000 which would be paid for from the Commission's research budget.

Resolved to approve the Climate Change Commission's proposal to determine public attitudes to Climate Change.

35/09 School Meals Project – Forward Plan item 99/08

The Commission considered a report on a review of the school meals service. The review was being carried out into the best way to provide a cost effective schools meals service for then city. The review was due to be completed in October 2009. Council Cabinet would then consider a report setting out the various options. It was noted that currently meals cost £2.75 per meal to produce compared to the charge of £1.85 per meal. Consideration was being given to providing a central production kitchen and offering a wider choice of menu, this could not be done with the existing kitchens.

Members of the Commission made the following points:

- Concern about the quality of meal if there is a central kitchen.
- The end product needed to be of a standard that the customer would want/expect.
- Concern about funding the project.
- Health and Safety concerns – added risk by reheating.
- Concern about knowing how many pupils would require which meals.
- Build in what to do with the staff not required.
- Concern about reducing the choice for parents as to whether to take school meals or not.

The options which would be included in the report to Council Cabinet had not been finalised yet.

Resolved

- 1. To arrange a special meeting if necessary to consider and make comments on the options which would be considered by Council Cabinet at its meeting to be held on 27 October 2009.**
- 2. To include initial comments made in the report to Council Cabinet on 27 October 2009.**

36/09 Results of the Place Survey – Forward Plan item 47/08

The Commission considered a report setting out the results of the Place Survey 2008. From 2008 all local areas were required to complete a 'Place Survey' every two years. The new survey asked local residents for their views on their quality of life and services provided by the Council and our partners. The survey also provided data for four of Derby's Local Area Agreement (LAA) targets. An action plan would be developed to respond to the issues identified in the survey. This would be presented to Scrutiny Management Commission in February 2010.

Resolved to note the report.

37/09 Draft Performance Review Programme 2009/10

The Commission considered a report which stated that there were currently three

mechanisms in place to review performance across the Council and Partnership which were:

- Performance Support Group
- Overview and Scrutiny Commissions
- Performance Surgeries

The permanent introduction of the Performance Support Group had provided the opportunity to develop a performance review programme for 2009/10 in conjunction with Overview and Scrutiny. The joint review programme would help reduce the likelihood of the same areas being reviewed by different groups. It would also maximise the use of resources in undertaking review work and add value to existing performance improvement activity.

Resolved

- 1. To present the table set out in appendix 2 of the report to the next meetings of all the Commissions so they can develop a work plan.**
- 2. To review the outcomes on a regular basis.**

38/09 Performance Monitoring – Outcomes of the Performance Support Group meeting on 21 July 2009

The Commission considered a report which stated that in June 2008 Derby City Partnership Management Group approved the introduction of a new Performance Support Group (PSG) on a pilot basis. The purpose of the Group was to review performance and help drive improvement across Derby City Partnership. The PSG had focused on reviewing the indicators of the Local Area Agreement. To make sure that there was no overlap between areas review by PSG and Scrutiny Commissions, there had been ongoing liaison with Scrutiny Commission Chairs, who were members of the Group.

In advance of the last PSG meeting an evaluation was carried out to assess the role and impact of the Group over the pilot period. Details of the responses to the evaluation were set out in the report.

Resolved to note the role of the Performance Support Group in reviewing the performance of Derby City Partnership through the Local Area Agreement.

39/09 Performance Monitoring – Improving Member Access to Performance Data

The Commission received a presentation from Heather Greenan on Improving Member Access to Performance Data.

Resolved to provide training on the new CorVu system to Councillors on one of the Member Training days.

40/09 Corporate Planning Framework

The Commission considered a report which stated that Council at its meeting on 9

September 2009 approved the Revenue Budget, Capital Budget and Corporate Planning Strategy for 2010/11 to 2012/13. The role of the Corporate Plan had been considered and at the present time there was some duplication with partner plans and potential gaps in delivery planning. The Plan could also better reflect the wider improvement agenda. With this in mind it was proposed to amend the Corporate Planning Framework. Key changes were:

- To redesign and publish a streamlined Corporate Plan summary.
- To replace the existing Corporate Plan action plan with partnership delivery plans.
- To develop a cross cutting Council Improvement Plan, focused on improving services through the transformation programme.

To support the focus on improvement, it was suggested a priority relating to improving services and delivery value for money should be added to the five sustainable community strategy ambitions. Subject to Council Cabinet approval on 29 September 2009 the next steps would be to commence drafting the 2010/11 Corporate Plan.

Resolved

- 1. To welcome the proposals contained in the report and the approach that was outlined.**
- 2. To support the recommendations to Council Cabinet.**
- 3. To recommend that the proposals are implemented with all possible speed.**

41/09 Budget Scrutiny

The Commission considered a report which stated that at their meeting on 29 June 2009 the Commission reviewed the budget setting process Commissions Members were unhappy with last year's process. Their main concerns focused on unclear terminology used in the budget, and the insufficient and inconsistent information provided. In July a group of SMC members met the Corporate Director of Resources and Head of Accountancy to talk through their concerns about last year's process and made a number of suggestions on how the scrutiny of budget setting process could be improved for this year's budget.

Some of the changes proposed to this year's budget scrutiny process included:

- Each Commission to receive plain English presentation on the Budget Strategy 2010 to 2013 during their October /November meetings
- Holding a special meeting of all members in December to receive Cabinet's budget proposals. It was suggested that this be held on the member training day on 9 December 2009.
- Each Commission to receive supporting background information for each area of the service they are responsible for.

Resolved to approve the proposed budget scrutiny process for the setting of 2010/11 – 2012/13 budget.

42/09 DECATS – Delivering Efficient Corporate and Transactional Services – Final Report

The Commission considered a report which was to be considered by Council Cabinet at its meeting to be held on 29 September 2009. The report brought together the work Delivering Efficiencies in Corporate and Transactional Services – DECATs project over the last 20 weeks and provided details of the findings of the diagnostic and potential savings that could be delivered by fully implementing the findings and recommendations. The report recommended that the Council should proceed to the next stage of the DECATs transformation programme which was the 'Design' Stage.

Resolved to recommend Council Cabinet that great care and sensitivity would be needed and that there was a need to ensure that the proposals would deliver better and more efficient services that the public would appreciate.

43/09 Strengthening Local Democracy Consultation Paper

The Commission considered a report which gave details of the consultation paper, 'strengthening local democracy' which was published as part of the constitutional renewal debate announced by the Prime Minister following the local and European elections. The proposed response to the consultation was set out in Appendix 3 of the report.

Resolved to add no further comments to the proposed response.

44/09 Work Programme

The Commission identified the following items for their work programme:

- Budget Scrutiny (in hand)
- Community Cohesion (as part of the Crime and Disorder Committee)
- Neighbourhood Working

45/09 Forward Plan

There were no requests for reports on any of the items.

46/09 Retrospective Scrutiny

The Commission considered a report highlighting Council Cabinet key and budget and policy framework decisions that had been taken from 7 July to 1 September 2009. The Commission was asked to identify any decisions that they wished to scrutinise retrospectively.

Resolved to note the report.

47/09 Matters referred to the Commission by Council Cabinet

This item was considered at minute no 36/09.

48/09 Responses of the Council Cabinet to the

recommendations and reports of the Commission

There were no responses of the Council Cabinet to the recommendations and reports of the Commission.

Chair of the next ensuing meeting
at which these minutes were signed