

Time Commenced – 6.00pm
Time finished – 6.35pm

Communities Scrutiny Review Board 27 January 2020

Present: Councillor Hudson (Chair)
Councillors Atwal, Sandhu, S Khan and Testro

In Attendance: Mike Kay – Head of Environmental Protection, Housing Standards,
Licensing, Emergency Planning and Business Continuity

23/19 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Pearce

24/19 Late items introduced by the Chair

There were none.

25/19 Declarations of Interest

There were none.

26/19 Minutes of the meeting held on 19 December 2019

The minutes of the meeting held on 19 December 2019 were agreed as a correct record.

27/19 Flooding Response Report

The Board considered a report of the Director of Public Protection and Streetpride. The report was presented by the Head of Environmental Protection, Housing Standards, Licensing, Emergency Planning and Business Continuity.

It was reported that, with regards to point 4.4 of the report, information from the Projects, Water and Flood Risk Management Team was yet to be received.

The Chair questioned whether the weather in Derby around 8 November 2019 could be considered as extreme. The Head of Environmental Protection, Housing Standards, Licensing, Emergency Planning and Business Continuity informed the Board that for a number of reasons the weather in Derby was quite extreme around this date. It was noted that as a large quantity of water flowed into the River Derwent, the south of the county, including the city was at the receiving end. A Councillor asked

whether there had been a risk from the reservoir at Whaley Bridge. The Head of Environmental Protection, Housing Standards, Licensing, Emergency Planning and Business Continuity informed the Board that this was not a risk to Derby, as the water from this reservoir would have flowed towards the Sheffield canal system.

The Chair asked that the question at point 4.4 of the report be brought to a future meeting of the Communities Scrutiny Review Board. The Chair stated that councillors from Darley, Derwent and Chaddesden wards were all concerned that their wards could have experienced flooding. It was noted that councillors from these wards were not kept up to date with what was happening. It was noted by the Board that it was usually Council protocol to contact councillors in the effected wards in the case of extreme events.

The Chair stated that councillors weren't given any official guidance and asked whether this could be provided. The Head of Environmental Protection, Housing Standards, Licensing, Emergency Planning and Business Continuity informed the Board that he would look into facilitating this. A councillor questioned whether guidance was necessary as it was nearly impossible to prepare for such unpredictable events.

The Chair stated that flood risk predictions for Derby were available to see on the Environment Agency's website during the 8 November 2019. The Chair informed the Board that in Derwent ward, if predictions had been correct up to 500 homes could have flooded. The Chair stated that these residents may not have had access to social media updates from the Council and questioned how the Council could keep these residents updated in future. A councillor suggested that community groups could be contacted by the Council during future extreme events so that they could distribute official updates to residents. The Head of Environmental Protection, Housing Standards, Licensing, Emergency Planning and Business Continuity informed the Board that he would look into this.

The Head of Environmental Protection, Housing Standards, Licensing, Emergency Planning and Business Continuity informed the Board that on Friday 8 November many of the Council's Directors were present throughout the day, helping to coordinate the Council's response. It was noted that the local press helped to keep the public updated and that BBC Radio Derby had continued to broadcast live throughout the evening of 8 November 2019.

The Board Resolved:

- 1. To note the information provided within the report.**
- 2. To request that the following question be included as an item at the next Communities Scrutiny Review Board meeting – 'What assessment has been carried out to predict the effectiveness of the flood defence system in the event of an extreme event?'**

28/19 Neighbourhood Agenda - Update

The Board considered a presentation by the Head of Environmental Protection, Housing Standards, Licensing, Emergency Planning and Business Continuity. The presentation provided an update on Neighbourhood working including information on Public Protection Officers.

It was noted that the Council had originally recruited six Community Protection Officers from Nottingham City Council through secondment. It was reported that this trial had gone well and that core funding for the Council to provide its own permanent Public Protection Officers (PPOs) had been approved. The Head of Environmental Protection, Housing Standards, Licensing, Emergency Planning and Business Continuity informed the Board that the 20 new staff had largely completed their training and that some of their remaining training would be undertaken 'on the job'.

It was noted that the allocation of a named PPOs for each of the city's 17 wards was planned to be announced at the same time. It was reported that the Council aimed to get publicity around the announcement of a PPO for each ward. It was noted that PPOs would attend a Neighbourhood Board or Neighbourhood Forum meeting for the ward they were allocated to.

A councillor asked what the timeframe was for the allocation of the new PPOs and was informed they would be appointed within weeks. The Chair stated that it could be worth contacting the chairs of each Neighbourhood Board to find out the date and venue for their next meeting. The Head of Environmental Protection, Housing Standards, Licensing, Emergency Planning and Business Continuity informed the Board that it was important that the new PPOs were not inundated with tasks at the Neighbourhood Board and Neighbourhood Forum meetings they attended and proposed an 'ask not task' approach was adopted.

It was suggested that Neighbourhood Boards could prioritise issues so that PPOs could focus on the most important tasks. It was reported that PPOs would not spend their time solely in the ward which they were appointed to. It was noted that the assistance of PPOs would be required more in certain wards for specific projects and that PPOs would distribute their time and efforts accordingly. It was noted that it was useful for each ward to have a named PPO so that these PPOs could feed back issues from their ward to the wider PPO team.

The Chair asked whether the PPOs would have financial targets to meet in terms of issuing fines. The Head of Environmental Protection, Housing Standards, Licensing, Emergency Planning and Business Continuity informed the Board that if income from fines issued by PPOs was not at the level predicted, then this would be reported. It was noted by the Board that PPOs would not be sent out with the purpose of issuing fines in order

to meet targets. The Chair questioned how the amount of income the PPOs were expected to generate was calculated. It was noted that this was calculated by taking away the core funding and Derby Homes funding from the overall cost of salaries, supplies and services for the new PPOs.

It was reported that the amount of income that was expected to be generated from fixed term penalties was based on work carried out at Nottingham City Council. A councillor suggested that it would be useful for the Board to receive an update on PPOs in 6 months time. A councillor stated that it was important to also monitor how the service was being received and that there had already been an improvement in the Arboretum, Normanton and Abbey wards.

The Board Resolved:

- 1. To note the information provided within the report and appendix.**
- 2. To request that an item providing an update on the Council's new PPOs be brought to the Communities Scrutiny Review Board in 6 months time.**

29/19 Terms of Reference and Work Programme

The Board considered a report setting out the Terms of Reference and Remit of the Board.

The report provided Members of the Board with the opportunity to consider its terms of reference and remit for the forthcoming municipal year, its work programme for 2019/20 and any topic reviews.

Resolved to note the information provided within the report.

Minutes End.