

Commenced – 6.02 pm  
Concluded – 7.58 pm

Neighbourhoods Overview and Scrutiny Board  
14 November 2013

Present: Councillor Stanton (Chair)  
Councillors Barker, Keith, Naitta, Poulter and L Winter

## 24/13 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillors Nawaz, Pegg and Redfern.

## 25/13 Late Items

There were no late items.

## 26/13 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

## 27/13 Minutes of the meeting held on 3 September 2013

The minutes of the meeting held on 3 September 2013 were agreed as a correct and signed by the Chair.

## 28/13 Call-in

There were no items.

## 29/13 Quarterly Crime Statistics

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director of Resources which reported Derby's quarter two crime statistics. The statistics were provided by Derbyshire Constabulary. Chief Superintendent Atwal attended the meeting to answer the board's questions and to provide an update on the latest statistics for Derby.

The board was advised that a more reliable picture of trends could be ascertained when the statistics were considered against comparative data spanning three years. It was also informed that with regards to recorded crime, headline figures alone would not explain what was happening within the city. The most useful information was held within the breakdown of headline figures. The quarter two statistics, for example, indicated a two per cent reduction in the overall number of recorded non-domestic burglaries across Derby city. In wards such as Alvaston, Boulton and Chaddesden, however, there had been significant increases.

It was noted that in respect of crime levels, the Commander's focus for the city was the number of recorded robberies across three years. Discussion ensued regarding

the different classifications of robbery and the work being undertaken by the Police force to educate target groups (such as first year university students) about personal safety and protection of valuables. The Chief Superintendent also relayed the work that the force was undertaking to limit the resale market for certain types of stolen goods. The importance of timely crime reporting was explained to the board and how it assisted the force to work with up to date information.

The board discussed crimes which were known to be under-reported, such as domestic violence. The Chief Superintendent confirmed that the Police force continued to work to encourage the reporting of domestic violence and was very conscious that once reported a sensitive and timely response was imperative.

The board explored the expanding ambit of crime, which was increasingly influenced by internet-based crime. The implications of this, both at a local and national level, were examined.

Following consideration of the statistics, the board agreed that a crime statistics report should be submitted on a quarterly basis and recommended that the crime groupings be broken down further. In addition, it was agreed that a crime statistics report be brought to the board on an annual basis, which showed the statistics particular to each ward within the city.

**Resolved to:**

- 1. note the quarter two crime statistics;**
- 2. request that future reports pertaining to crime statistics reference comparative data across three years to assist the board to identify and analyse trends; and**
- 3. request the Director of Partnerships and Streetpride to ensure the draft Strategic Intelligence Assessment is presented to the board at a future meeting.**

**30/13      *Fit to Respond 2022* – Consultation by Derbyshire  
Fire and Rescue Services**

The board received a report from the Strategic Director of Resources regarding the publication of the *Fit to Respond 2022* consultation by Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Services. The board recognised that unprecedented financial challenges necessitated the re-organisation of the fire service.

Following consideration of the risks posed to Derby arising from each of the proposed service models, the board remained concerned about the levels of risk to public safety should any of the proposed models be implemented. The board wished to encourage the public to individually and actively respond to all aspects of the consultation.

The board expressed its disappointment that the fire authority was unable to attend the meeting to answer questions.

**Resolved to:**

- 1. encourage the public to individually and actively respond to all aspects of the *Fit to Respond 2022* consultation published by Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Services;**
- 2. ask the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Streetpride to refrain from promoting any particular public response on behalf of the Council without all of the elected members being extended the opportunity to make an informed response after giving full and proper consideration to all aspects of the proposals contained within the *Fit to Respond 2022* consultation;**
- 3. send any further questions regarding the detail of the consultation for the attention of Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Services via the Chair by Monday 18 November 2013; and**
- 4. delegate authority to the Overview and Scrutiny Manager, following consultation with the Chair, to use their discretion in deciding how the board should proceed with a consultation response following receipt of a response from Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Services regarding the board's questions.**

### **31/13      Street Lighting Energy Project – Invest to Save**

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director of Neighbourhoods on the implementation of an 'invest to save' project which would yield energy savings through the operation of a centrally managed street lighting system. The report was presented by the Head of Highways and Engineering.

In response to the board's questions, the Head of Service explained that after 8.00pm the street lighting would reduce by thirty per cent, thus illuminating at seventy per cent capacity. After 11.00pm the lighting would reduce to fifty per cent capacity. The board understood that the lighting would increase to seventy per cent in anticipation of the morning peak before switching off in daylight hours.

The head of service further explained that a central management system would enable the control of individual lights. The project focused on the operation of highway lights rather than residential street lighting. It was considered that the thirty per cent dimming would not be discernable to the naked eye.

The Head of Service confirmed that the projected revenue saving was calculated taking account of an eight per cent energy cost increase per year.

#### **Resolved to:**

- 1. commend officers for their work to achieve energy savings through the use of new technology, particularly during a time when the Council is required to make significant savings while facing severely restrictive budget pressures; and**
- 2. endorse the proposed efficiency and cost saving benefits, which could be achieved through the street lighting energy project in a manner which will have no discernible or detrimental impact on the services provided to the public.**

### **32/13      Highways Maintenance Funding**

The Board received a report from the Strategic Director of Neighbourhoods regarding the allocation of available funding to maintain the highways network. The Head of Highways and Engineering explained that highways constituted a significant asset which depreciated in value through their continued use. It was reported that a comparatively small fund was spent on maintaining the highways. Although the council recognised the under-investment, it endeavoured to slow the deterioration through a targeted asset management approach.

In response to questions from the board, the Head of Service confirmed that the council's inspection regime ensured that compensation claims were mitigated. Furthermore, the council would actively hold utility companies to account and pursue compensation to which it was entitled, should the utility works disrupt the integrity of the highway. With regards to operations, the Head of Service explained that reactive maintenance was administered in-house. Consequently, action was taken quicker and the quality of work was considered to be of a higher standard.

The Head of Service gave an overview of the system used to determine the priority of highway maintenance works. The board was assured that ward priorities were taken into account in addition to other factors.

**Resolved to:**

- 1. note the report and recognise the importance of continued investment to guard against degradation of the Council's highways stock;**
- 2. request the Head of Highways and Engineering to provide the board with information regarding the priority system used to determine the order and urgency of both highway repairs and maintenance work, particularly with regards to the weighting attributed to any factors taken into account; and**
- 3. request the Head of Highways and Engineering to provide further financial information regarding the utilities dating between 2010 and 2013.**

## **33/13 Council Cabinet Forward Plan**

The Board considered the Forward Plan, which was published on 12 November 2013.

**Resolved to request:**

- 1. an update in relation to the review of the Derby and Derbyshire waste processing contract (reference number 13/13) be presented at a future meeting of the board; and**
- 2. a report regarding the Road Safety Strategy 2014 (reference number 20/13) be presented at a future meeting of the board**

MINUTES END