

ITEM 4

Commenced – 6.00 pm
Concluded – 8.32 pm

NEIGHBOURHOODS BOARD 25 SEPTEMBER 2012

Present: Councillor Afzal (Chair)
Councillors Barker, Keith, MacDonald, Naitta, Pegg, Poulter and L.
Winter

Councillor Naitta was absent for part of consideration of minute number 17/12.

In response to a request from a member, the Chair agreed to amend the order of business to consider minute number 14/12 (item 8) before minute number 15/12 (item 7).

08/12 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor S. Khan.

09/12 Late Items Introduced by the Chair

There were no late items.

10/12 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

11/12 Minutes of the Meeting held on 17 July 2012

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 July 2012 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

12/12 Call-in

There were no items.

13/12 Council Cabinet Forward Plan

The board noted that there was one item, namely the waste management contract (reference number 53/10) listed on the Forward Plan. It was reported that the conclusions which arose from the recent public inquiry had been communicated to the council. A report would be presented to the Council Cabinet and the Neighbourhoods Board in due course. The Overview and Scrutiny Officer, together with the Director of Partnerships and Streetpride, confirmed that the progress of the report to Council Cabinet would be monitored to ensure that the matter was considered by the board at the earliest practicable opportunity.

Resolved to note the Forward Plan.

14/12 Neighbourhood Working Proposals

The Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Streetpride presented his proposals for new neighbourhood working arrangements to the board. It was reported that the proposals had been considered by the Council Cabinet on 15 August 2012. The cabinet member outlined the new framework and explained that the proposals were intended to encourage active engagement within communities.

In response to queries from the board, the Director of Partnerships and Streetpride explained that existing employees would be transferred into the new structure. The director intended to utilise employees' expertise and experience to create balanced and responsive teams. The director clarified that the neighbourhood workers would have powers of enforcement but training would be required prior to their use. An emphasis would be placed upon delivering long-term solutions.

The director envisaged that neighbourhood workers would educate communities regarding acceptable behaviour, identify persistent problems and offer effective solutions. The cabinet member proposed a 'blitz' strategy; encouraging neighbourhood workers to achieve focused solutions to problems. The board expressed concern that the redirection of resources to wards, which were perceived to have greater needs, would be at the expense of other wards. The board questioned whether it was appropriate to categorise and compare the importance of different priorities across different neighbourhoods. The cabinet member recognised that each ward would have differing problems but felt that a targeted approach, which would allocate resources in accordance with the greatest need, would be effective.

The board highlighted a budget deficit and questioned whether the proposals represented best value for money. The cabinet member confirmed that work on the budget was still in progress. It was envisaged that the proposals would be implemented in January 2013.

The board felt that there was scope for consultation with local Neighbourhood Boards. The proposals suggested that there would be a direct link between the local boards and neighbourhood workers. The cabinet member agreed to cascade information about the proposals and issue guidance to local boards.

The Head of Service for Partnerships and Communities explained that a great deal of work remained to be done in order to execute the proposals. The board requested updates at future meetings.

Resolved to recommend to the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods that:

- 1. arrangements are put in place to consult with Neighbourhood Boards and Ward Councillors prior to implementation on development of the proposals for input on an area-based level; and**

- 2. the Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Board receives regular updates with regards to development and implementation of the neighbourhood working proposals.**

15/12 Police and Crime Panels - Update

The board received a presentation from the Cabinet Member for Planning, Environment and Public Protection, who, together with the Chair of the Neighbourhoods Board, had been nominated as Derby's representatives on the developing Police and Crime Panel (PCP). The presentation outlined the relevant legislation, the scope of the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) role, together with the responsibilities and scope of the PCP. It was reported that a PCP would be established in each force area, determined under local arrangements and would undertake public scrutiny of the PCC.

The cabinet member described the composition of the PCP and its funding arrangements. The board was informed of how complaints against the PCC would be dealt with. Members recognised that in accordance with the Police and Justice Act 2006, the Neighbourhoods Overview and Scrutiny Board acted as the crime and disorder committee with powers to scrutinise the crime and disorder functions of responsible authorities. These responsible authorities included but were not limited to, the police authority. Members were keen to preserve a link between the PCP and future crime and disorder committees.

The board noted that under the new arrangements, the council would lose partial control of its budget. The Head of Service for Partnerships and Communities informed the board that in anticipation of the changes, the community safety fund (which amounted to £136, 000) was excluded from the base budget. This, however, would not prevent the possibility of its future retention through successful negotiations with the PCP. The board was unconvinced that the funding allocated to the administration of the PCP would be sufficient to enable it to fulfil its responsibilities.

The board suggested that the inclusion of crime and disorder matters as a standing item on the board's agenda would ensure that matters of local importance were discussed and where necessary, drawn to the attention of the PCP through representation on the panel.

Resolved:

- 1. that matters relating to crime and disorder are included as a standing item on future agendas of the Neighbourhoods Board; and**
- 2. to recommend to Council that it ensures future appointments to the Police and Crime Panel include the Chair of the overview and scrutiny board with the responsibility for crime and disorder.**

16/12 Evening and Night Time Economy – Purple Flag

The board received an update on the progress of the city's submission to the Purple Flag accreditation scheme. The Head of Service for Safer Communities confirmed that a map, which defined the relevant submission area, had been prepared. In addition, the officer reported that work was underway on the written part of the submission, namely the snapshot. The officer clarified that the snapshot would be assessed against the five core criteria listed in section 4.4 of the report. The snapshot would create a profile of the city of Derby and evidence the city's performance in relation to those criteria.

The board thanked officers for their work on the submission and noted that should it be successful, accreditation would be granted in June 2013.

Resolved to note the update.

17/12 Work Programme and Topic Reviews 2012-13

The board considered its work plan for the municipal year and matters suitable for topic reviews. Following the update received under minute number 13/12, the board noted that the requisite information regarding the waste management contract would not be available until after the November board meeting. It was reported that the earliest availability of the budget proposals also remained uncertain. The Overview and Scrutiny Officer advised the board that the progress of both reports would be monitored and the work programme would be amended to facilitate scrutiny accordingly.

The board discussed the topic review scoping report and agreed to refer to the police definition of anti-social behaviour when assessing the relevant intelligence. The Head of Service for Partnerships and Communities explained that the intelligence would be evaluated to create a profile of the problem areas and indicate underlying contributory factors. It was hoped that through addressing these problems and delivering long-term solutions, anti-social behaviour could be prevented from spreading to other parts of the city.

Resolved to:

- 1. agree the scope for the Anti Social Behaviour in Normanton topic review;**
- 2. amend the work programme to move the November item on budget scrutiny to the January meeting, or to have an interim meeting to discuss this before it goes to Council Cabinet; and**
- 3. amend the work programme to move the November item on the waste management contract to the January meeting, or to have an interim meeting to discuss this before it goes to Council Cabinet.**

MINUTES END