

ITEM 4

Time commenced – 6.03 pm

Time finished – 7.35 pm

NEIGHBOURHOODS BOARD

17 JULY 2012

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

Councillor L. Winter was absent for consideration of minute numbers 01/12 to 05/12 inclusive. Councillor S. Khan was absent for consideration of minute number 07/12.

01/12 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Naitta and Poulter.

02/12 Late Items Introduced by the Chair

There were no late items.

03/12 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

04/12 Call-in

There were no items.

05/12 Council Cabinet Forward Plan

The Scrutiny Officer informed members that the August Forward Plan contained two items which were incorrectly attributed to the Neighbourhoods Board. It was reported that the waste management contract remained the only item relevant to the board. It was expected that the contract would be considered by the Council Cabinet in due course, pending the results of the public inquiry.

Resolved to note the Forward Plan.

06/12 Terms of Reference and Remit of the Neighbourhoods O&S Board

The board received a report from the Scrutiny Officer on behalf of the Strategic Director of Resources. Members considered the Neighbourhood Overview and Scrutiny Board's terms of reference, together with its remit for the municipal year. Members received briefings from the Divisional Commander for Derby and the Director of Partnerships and Streetpride.

In relation to waste management and disposal, the board enquired as to the post-collection destination of recycled textiles. The director confirmed that they were sold on the world commodity market. The board expressed concern in relation to the occurrence of temporary textile recycle bins, which did not appear to be linked to an official organisation, being placed without notice nor permission. The director informed members that the bins could be removed if they were placed on land owned by the council. The council would inform the owner (if contact information was provided) that the bin had been moved to a holding space at Stores Road.

The board raised an issue in relation to waste management and student-occupied properties. The board were concerned that the council's labelling scheme (in the event of non-collection) did not address the practical problems caused by contaminated/over-filled bins. The director confirmed that the service had identified this as a particular issue requiring attention. It was reported that the service was communicating with landlords, producing informative posters and reviewing properties that were considered as persistent offenders.

The board discussed its function as the Crime and Disorder Committee under the Police and Justice Act 2006. The board considered its statutory powers, together with the changes anticipated in light of the developing Police and Crime Panel, and Police Commissioner post. The board felt that the input and feedback received from the police formed a valuable contribution to its work in assessing issues that were unique to the city of Derby.

Resolved to note the Neighbourhood Overview and Scrutiny Board's terms of reference.

07/12 Work Programme and Topic Reviews 2012-13

The board considered their work plan for the municipal year and matters suitable for topic reviews. Members requested the inclusion of the following items in the work programme:

- Police and Crime Panel;
- Tree Management Policy;
- Waste management contract;
- Highways maintenance contract;
- Purple Flag initiative; and
- Neighbourhood working proposals.

Members particularly discussed the issues affecting anti-social behaviour in Normanton. The board recognised that Normanton was an area of the city that consistently reported high levels of social deprivation. The Divisional Commander for Derby advised members that a broad network of correlated factors contributed to the social problems in the area, including poor education, low socioeconomic status, health care and the need for improved community cohesion. The problems in Normanton accounted for a relatively high percentage of anti-social problems in the city. Although the board accepted that a long-term holistic approach would be required to remedy the problems, it hoped to assist the effort to highlight and mitigate contributing factors.

The board were also keen to further explore the ways in which the council engaged with local communities through Neighbourhood Boards and Neighbourhood Wardens. Members recognised that the local meetings provided an important line of communication and wished to maximise the potential for meaningful interaction.

The Scrutiny Officer informed members that during the last municipal year, the Neighbourhoods Overview and Scrutiny Commission had opted to undertake a review of the Tree Management Policy. The board debated the merits of the topic review and felt that although the policy was important; their work may be of greater assistance in another area within their remit. Members requested a copy of the policy to be circulated for their reference and resolved to revisit the policy at a future board meeting.

Resolved to recommend that:

- 1. the work programme includes but is not limited to the following items:**
 - **Police and Crime Panel**
 - **Tree Management Policy**
 - **Waste management contract**
 - **Highways maintenance contract**
 - **Purple Flag initiative**
- 2. the Scrutiny Officer, together with the Director of Partnerships and Streetpride, work together to develop a revised scoping report for a topic review regarding the issues affecting anti-social behaviour in Normanton; and**
- 3. the board reviews the ways in which the council and partnership organisations are engaging and communicating with local communities through Neighbourhood Boards and Neighbourhood Wardens.**

MINUTES END