

ITEM 4

Commenced – 6.00 pm
Concluded – 7.24 pm

NEIGHBOURHOODS BOARD 6 NOVEMBER 2012

Present: Councillor Afzal (Chair)
Councillors MacDonald, Naitta, Poulter, S. Khan and L. Winter

Councillor Naitta was absent for consideration of minute numbers 18/12 to 24/12 inclusive and arrived during consideration of minute number 25/12.

Councillor Poulter vacated the meeting during consideration of minute number 25/12 and was absent for consideration of minute numbers 26/12 to 28/12 inclusive.

18/12 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Barker, Keith and Pegg.

19/12 Late Items Introduced by the Chair

There were no late items.

20/12 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

21/12 Minutes of the Meeting held on 25 September 2012

The minutes of the meeting held on 25 September 2012 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

22/12 Call-in

There were no items.

23/12 Council Cabinet Forward Plan

The board was informed that the installation of a waste management facility at Sinfin (reference number 42/12) was subject to a further appeal. Consequently, the work programme would be amended to accommodate the ensuing delay. The board recognised that the delay would also affect consideration of the waste management contract (reference number 53/10). The Overview and Scrutiny Officer confirmed that both items would be monitored to ensure that the matter was considered by the board at the earliest practicable opportunity.

Resolved to note the Forward Plan.

24/12 Crime and Disorder – Items for scrutiny

The board received a report from the Overview and Scrutiny Officer, on behalf of the Strategic Director of Resources. Following a resolution made at the previous meeting to include crime and disorder matters as a standing agenda item, the board discussed the ways in which matters could be referred for scrutiny.

The board felt that the operation of a two-way mechanism would prove effective; allowing for matters to either be invited or referred by members. Mindful of its statutory responsibility to scrutinise the crime and disorder functions of responsible authorities, the board suggested that the Overview and Scrutiny Officer should contact officers and partnership organisations, such as Derbyshire Constabulary, NHS Derby City and Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service, to prompt consideration of any relevant issues.

Members considered the possibility of establishing a Crime and Disorder Sub Board but decided to monitor the work and time attributed to scrutinising crime and disorder matters within the current board structure.

Resolved to:

- 1. agree that matters relating to crime and disorder are referred to the Neighbourhoods Overview and Scrutiny Board either at the request of a member or following contact with partner organisations, such as Derbyshire Constabulary NHS Derby City and Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service;**
- 2. request that the Overview and Scrutiny Officer contacts officers and partner organisations to prompt the referral and subsequent scrutiny of crime and disorder matters; and**
- 3. monitor the level of time required to undertake the board's role as the statutory crime and disorder committee at future meetings, with a view to establishing a 'Crime and Disorder Sub Board' if required.**

25/12 Highways Maintenance Contract

Immediately prior to consideration of minute number 25/12, Councillor Poulter received advice regarding declaration of interests under section 14 of the Derby City Council Members' Code of Conduct. Councillor Poulter was a Council Cabinet member who was present at the time the executive decision to create an in-house Streetpride Highways Maintenance service was made and thus, was advised that he should not participate in scrutiny of that decision.

The board received a report from the Head of Highways and Engineering, on behalf of the Strategic Director of Neighbourhoods. The report detailed the progress made in replacing the highways maintenance contract with an in-house Streetpride service. It was discussed that the contract with the current service provider, Carillion, was due to end in August 2013. It was reported that Council Cabinet had elected to bring the reactive highways maintenance contract in-house by setting up a Streetpride branded highways maintenance service. The board was informed that the skills and competencies of the existing Carillion workforce would be transferred.

The Head of Service explained that the decision was expected to deliver an improved service and offered greater opportunities to re-invest in the highways network. Furthermore, a Local Schemes Framework had been created in association with Nottingham City Council, to provide services which could not otherwise be catered for using the in-house facility. It was envisaged that the joint-working arrangement would benefit both councils and minimise expenses associated with procurement.

The board expressed concern regarding the level of commitment Carillion would be incentivised to demonstrate under the remainder of the existing contract. Although the board recognised that the contract (which had 8 months to run) was monitored through a series of monthly key performance indicators, it highlighted the possible delay in communication and subsequent correction of problems. The board further emphasised the importance of safety, quality and value for money being delivered over the remaining period of the contract. The Head of Service assured the board that this would not be an issue as the current contract continued to be tightly monitored. It was reported that key performance indicators were regularly scrutinised by both the Partnership Management Team, together with the Partnership Board. In addition, the majority of staff employed by Carillion were keen to demonstrate good service delivery as they were due to be transferred to the council under the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations. The Head of Service confirmed that the council had maintained a good working relationship with Carillion and would continue to monitor performance.

Resolved to note the report.

26/12 Safety on School Transport Topic Review – Update on actions

The board received a report from the Passenger Transport Operations Team Leader, on behalf of the Strategic Director of Neighbourhoods. The report detailed an update on the actions taken as a result of recommendations made by the Neighbourhoods Commission and subsequently endorsed by Council Cabinet on 17 April 2012.

The following updates were reported:

<p>Recommendation 1</p> <p>The City Council should amend appropriate transport policy and guidance for schools to include a requirement for vehicles with seatbelts to be used in the transportation of children on transport provided for school trips or educational visits, with the exclusion of public transport services, such as trains or buses.</p>	<p>The Health and Safety team was undertaking the amendment.</p>
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<p>Recommendation 2</p>	
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<p>The City Council should amend appropriate home to school transport policy and guidance to include a recommendation that children do not sit in the rear facing seats in taxis where these seats do not have seatbelts.</p>	<p>A team within the Children and Young People directorate was addressing this matter.</p>
<p>Recommendation 3 The City Council should include a requirement for all vehicles used on the swimming transport contract to be fitted with seatbelts when this is sent out to tender in late 2012/early 2013.</p>	<p>The tender document, due to be issued to operators in November/December 2012, incorporated this requirement.</p>
<p>Recommendation 4 The City Council should commence negotiations with the current swimming transport contractor to enable a trial of using vehicles with seatbelts to assess the timescales for getting children to and from swimming lessons.</p>	<p>A trial was undertaken to assess the impact on journey times when using vehicles with seat belts to transport children to and from swimming lessons. The trial took place between Monday 18 June and Friday 29 June. The results demonstrated an average increase in journey time of approximately two to three minutes. It was anticipated that this could be accommodated within the existing contract. In the event of an increased demand for the service, whereby more schools opted into the scheme, additional vehicles would be required. It was reported that transport to swimming lessons was a 'sold service' paid for by the schools that opted into the scheme.</p>

The board made reference to the financial and value for money implications contained in appendix 1 of the report and the costs associated with the Home to School Transport service. The board questioned the additional costs attributed to the restriction of the use of drop-down seats without seatbelts in hackney carriages. The team leader clarified that it was too early to test the accuracy of the prediction and as such, this was a potential cost.

Resolved to:

- 1. note the report; and**
- 2. support the approval of the forthcoming re-tender of the swimming transport to Moorways Sports Complex and Queen's Leisure Centre, which includes a specification requiring all vehicles to be fitted with seat belts.**

27/12 Anti Social Behaviour in Normanton Update

The board received a presentation from the Senior Partnership Development Officer – Knowledge and Intelligence, together with the Head of Service – Safer Communities, on behalf of the Strategic Director of Resources. The presentation profiled an overview of problems experienced in Normanton; the types of incidents and perceptions of anti social behaviour. The profile was based on data collected by the police and collated by the Community Safety Partnership. It was reported that the data was based on police 'calls for service' between April 2009 and March 2012, which were classified as anti-social behaviour.

The board identified gaps in the data; the identity of complainants and their motives for reporting an incident, for example, remained unknown. The board recognised that the omission of such intelligence did not create a complete picture. Furthermore, the board noted that relevant statistics, such as the population, were based on figures collected in 2007. The partnership awaited the release of the 2011 census results.

The Head of Service reported that in response to a need for an anti-social behaviour case management system, a project was being piloted in Chesterfield and Erewash. It was envisaged that the system would be operated in Derby by autumn 2013. The system would be accessed by partner agencies and allow for information sharing.

The board discussed stage two of the review and suggested the involvement of members of the community, together with local councillors, to identify the instances of anti-social behaviour. It was agreed that communication with local schools and community groups would provide a useful insight. The board felt that data collected by Streetpride and local police officers would also be of assistance.

Resolved to:

- 1. proceed to stage two of the topic review work plan; and**
- 2. include local schools and community groups in the data source list, with a view to gathering evidence and calling witnesses.**

28/12 Work Programme and Topic Reviews 2012-2013

The board received a report from the Overview and Scrutiny Officer, on behalf of the Strategic Director of Resources. It was reported that an additional meeting would be held on 11 December 2012 to accommodate scrutiny of the proposed council budget. Following the update noted in minute number 23/12, it was reported that the waste management contract would be not be considered at the December meeting.

Resolved to note the amended work programme.

MINUTES END