

ITEM 4

Time Commenced – 18.00

Time Finished – 18:52

Integrating Communities Overview and Scrutiny Board 21 March 2016

Present: Councillor Bayliss (Chair)
Councillors Froggatt, J Khan, Sandhu and Skelton

18/15 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Hassall and Poulter.

19/15 Late items introduced by the Chair

There were no late items.

20/15 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

21/15 Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the meetings held on 30 November 2015 were confirmed as an accurate record.

22/15 Items Referred from Corporate Scrutiny and Governance Board

There were no items referred.

23/15 North Midlands Devolution Agreement

The Board received a report on the North Midlands Devolution Agreement, to update Members on the progress with the Government.

It was reported that on Tuesday 5 January 2016 the North Midlands proposal was published on the newly established website www.northmidlands.org.uk. This set out the negotiating position of the Councils involved. It gave a strong message to the Government of the readiness of the North Midlands to do a deal and provided transparency for residents, local businesses and communities on what was being discussed. It was at this point that the term 'North Midlands' was adopted and negotiations had continued with Government over the last few months.

Officers informed Members that the Government had been clear that they expected the vehicle for delivery of the devolution deal to be through a Mayoral

Combined Authority. To meet Parliamentary timescales to lay an Order before Parliament to establish this body and hold Mayoral elections in May 2017, it was identified that initial set up processes would need to be commenced. As part of these processes, clarification of the geography of the devolution deal was needed as this would form the basis of the constituent members of the Mayoral Combined Authority.

Members noted that at this stage signing the deal was subject to due diligence, public consultation and final ratification by the constituent Authorities full Councils, as well as the required changes in legislation before it becomes binding on Authorities.

A meeting of Council Leaders was to be held on Friday 4 March 2016 and Leaders acknowledged the changing picture as Councils had clarified their position. However, they emphasised the positive distance travelled in working together across a very complex geography and the commitment to ensure that this was not lost. Leaders re-stated their shared ambition to bring economic growth and jobs to the area and to strengthen the collective voice for the North Midlands in national initiatives such as the Midlands Engine for Growth. Those 13 authorities who had expressed support stated that they were keen to progress with a deal that would benefit residents and the need to talk to Government about what that could be.

It was reported that Council Leaders and Senior Officers were now working through the implications of the position and continuing a constructive dialogue with the Government. A further meeting of those Leaders was likely to be called later this month to explore the options in more depth and agree a shared way forward.

The Board resolved to note the progress towards a North Midlands Agreement.

24/15 Modern Day Slavery

The Board received a report on the overview of Modern Slavery and the Derby and Derbyshire response to the Modern Slavery Act 2015. It was reported that the Act was passed on 26 March 2015, and it focused on tougher punishments for traffickers and better protection of modern slavery victims. The Board noted that the act gave law enforcement the tools to tackle modern slavery, ensure perpetrators could receive suitably severe punishments for these appalling crimes and enhance support and protection for victims.

The Officer gave details of the scale of modern slavery in Derby and Derbyshire, and reported that although the awareness of the crime was relatively low, operations had taken place with a total of 106 victims being rescued. In response to the awareness of these crimes, a Slavery Partnership was established in January 2015. The aim of which was to support, enable and respond to incidents of human trafficking and modern slavery through a victim-centred, multidisciplinary and collaborative community effort.

Members noted the key actions of the partnership, that focused on the four strategic themes in line with the Governments Modern Slavery Strategy.

Resolved to note the report.

25/15 2016-17 Strategic Intelligence Assessment

The Board received a report on the 2016-17 Strategic Intelligence Assessment. It was reported that there was a statutory requirement upon local authorities through the Community Safety Partnership to produce an annual Strategic Intelligence Assessment (SIA) under the 1998 Crime and Disorder Act. The data and intelligence were to develop and inform the SIA from a range of sources including police, council and partner agency information.

It was reported that Derbyshire Constabulary conduct a thorough and wide ranging SIA, agreed by the police, council and partner agencies. The Community Safety Partnership then develop a bespoke SIA for the City.

Members noted that the Community Partnership was in the process of reviewing the SIA to develop a City SIA. The Community Safety Partnership would be asked to agree these priorities.

Resolved to

- 1. note the report; and**
- 2. accept the identified priorities and themes which were outlined in paragraph 4.2 of the report.**

MINUTES END