

Coventry City Council
Minutes of the Meeting of Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee held at 10.00 am on
Wednesday, 1 April 2015

Present:

Members: Councillor T Skipper (Chair)
(Deputy Chair)
Councillor J Blundell
Councillor J Clifford
Councillor G Duggins
Councillor B Singh
Councillor K Taylor
Councillor S Thomas

Other Members: Councillor F Abbott, Assistant Police and Crime
Commissioner

Councillors P Townshend, Cabinet Member for Policing and
Equalities

Employees (by Directorate):

Chief Executive's: H. Kelly

People: P. Fahy, A. Parks, M. Watson

Resources: S. Bennett, V. Castree, A. West, D. Williams

Others present:

R. Allison, Voluntary Action Council
C. Bell, Chief Superintendent, West Midlands Police
A. Fuller, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner
K. Hall, Community Rehabilitation Service
V. Hancox, Coventry and Warwickshire Partnership Trust

Apologies: Councillor J Innes

Public Business

57. Declarations of Interest

There were no declaration of interest.

58. **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 4 March, 2015 were signed at a true record.

There were no matters arising.

59. **Review of the Police and Crime Board/Community Safety Partnership**

The Committee considered a Briefing Note, together with comprehensive presentations, which provided an annual update on the work of the Coventry Community Safety Partnership and the Police, Crime and Community Safety Board in addressing matters of Community Safety and an overview of year to date performance in relation to crime and nuisance levels in the City between 1 April 2014 and 28 February, 2015.

The Briefing Note also provided the Committee with an update on the priorities for the Partnership and Board for the next financial year and how the Partnership will work to address those priorities through their joint working and delivery against their annual Police, Crime and Community Safety Plan.

Responding to issues affecting the safety of the City and its communities is a statutory requirement of a number of agencies, including the Local Authority. These agencies have responsible authority status with which they must do everything they reasonably can individually and collectively to prevent and detect crime and disorder and prevent re-offending. This requirement is achieved through the infrastructure of the Community Safety Partnership, which is governed by the Coventry Police and Crime Community Safety Board.

The Board was established just over a year ago in response to the introduction of Police and Crime Commissioners and has continued to operate to the statutory requirements including the need to plan partnership activity to address any threat and risk to the City in terms of Crime, nuisance and disorder. An analytical assessment provided the evidence of which issues to prioritise in terms of severity and volume of incidents and crimes together with trends and patterns that they could then consider in predicting harm and respond to it.

Each Partnership Board across the West Midlands receives community safety funding from the West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner. Coventry received £546k for the financial year 1 April, 2014 – 31 March, 2015. The Board were able to fund work that fulfils statutory responsibilities and also support the delivery of action/initiatives to address the City's priority issues. The breakdown of this spending was attached as an appendix to the Briefing Note, which also contained details of some of the initiatives monitored and/or supported by the Board financially, together with Coventry's recorded crime performance 2014/15.

Representatives of the various partners that make up the Board gave an overview of their contribution to the Board and the Committee questioned officers and partners, together with the Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities, Councillor Townshend, on a number of issues, including:-

- Crime and nuisance levels in Coventry and comparisons and benchmarking with other similar sized Cities
- Reasons for the public's perception of crime in the City, particularly in

relation to how safe residents feel that the City is during the evening.

- Work undertaken by the partners to detect and prevent hate crimes against all groups of society.
- The significant work undertaken in relation to using a different approach to the management of offenders, which has seen a more holistic approach being taken on an individual basis.
- Budget reductions over the last 4 years and the effect this has had on delivery.
- Information on the initiatives/projects funded by the Partnership to address their priorities.
- Elected Member involvement in the work of the Partnership.

The Chair, Councillor Skipper, on behalf of the Committee, expressed his thanks to all those partners who had attended the meeting and provided the Committee with a valuable insight into the work of the Board.

RESOLVED:-

- (1) That the Committee note the work of the Partnership directed through the Board, which is based on evidence of need through assessment findings and performance in relation to crime and nuisance levels to date.**
- (2) That officers be requested to give further consideration to increasing opportunities for all elected Members to work with the Partnership.**
- (3) That in the next Municipal year, Scrutiny consider, as a work item, the development of a Strategy which would give a positive and proactive approach to the creation of a safe and vibrant night time economy in the City Centre.**

60. Management of Council Land

The Committee considered a Briefing Note, appended to which was a report which had been considered and approved at a Joint Meeting of the Cabinet Members for Community Development, Co-operatives and Social Enterprise and for Policing and Equalities (their Minute 4/14 refers), and which set out the progress made in respect of the Siskin Drive Gypsy and Traveller site and proposed the next steps in order to achieve effective management of the site.

RESOLVED that the Briefing Note and report be noted.

61. Reports Back on the Work of Outside Bodies

The Committee considered reports of Councillor Bigham on the work of the following two Outside Bodies over the preceding twelve months, together with details of attendance by the City Council representatives on those Bodies:-

- (1) The Coventry Law Centre
- (2) Belgrade Theatre Trust (Coventry) Limited

RESOLVED:-

- (1) **That the Committee acknowledge the valuable work carried out by both Bodies and that their thanks be forwarded to Councillor Bigham for her informative reports.**
- (2) **That, due to the nature of its work and the level of financial support from the City Council, the City Council should continue to nominate two elected Members to the Coventry Law Centre.**
- (3) **That, due to the importance of its contribution to the cultural life of the City and the level of financial support from the City Council, the City Council should continue to nominate two elected Members to the Belgrade Theatre Trust (Coventry) Limited.**

62. Outstanding Issues

The Committee noted that all outstanding issues had been included in the Work Programme for the current year.

63. Review of 2014/15 Scrutiny Activity

The Committee considered and noted a Briefing Note which reviewed the work of the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee during the current Municipal Year.

The Chair of the Committee, Councillor Skipper, thanked all members of the Committee, together with officers, for their contribution during the year.

64. Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee Work Programme 2014/2015

The Committee considered and noted the Work Programme.

65. Any Other Items of Public Business

There were no other items of public business.

(Meeting closed at 12.15p.m.)