



Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities

Time and Date

3.00 pm on Thursday, 27th July, 2017

Place

Diamond Room 1 - Council House

Public Business

1. **Apologies**

2. **Declarations of Interest**

3. **Minutes** (Pages 3 - 6)

(a) To agree the minutes of the Cabinet Member (Policing and Equalities) meeting held on 9th March, 2017

(b) Matters arising

4. **Petition - Response to a petition regarding concerns over anti-social behaviour in the vicinity of Priors Harnall and Cawthorne Close** (Pages 7 - 12)

Report of the Deputy Chief Executive (Place)

Note: Councillors N Akhtar, O'Boyle and Welsh and the petition organiser have been invited to the meeting for consideration of this item.

5. **Outstanding Issues Report**

There are on outstanding issues to report.

6. **Any Other Business**

To consider any other items of business which the Cabinet Member decides to take as a matter of urgency because of the special circumstances involved.

Private Business

Nil

Martin Yardley, Executive Director, Place, Council House Coventry

Wednesday, 19 July 2017

Note: The person to contact about the agenda and documents for this meeting is

Michelle Rose Tel: 024 7683 3111; michelle.rose@coventry.gov.uk

Membership: Councillors P Akhtar (Deputy Cabinet Member), A Andrews (Shadow Cabinet Member) and A Khan (Cabinet Member)

Please note: a hearing loop is available in the committee rooms

If you require a British Sign Language interpreter for this meeting
OR if you would like this information in another format or
language please contact us.

Michelle Rose

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Coventry City Council
Minutes of the Meeting of Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities held at 3.00
pm on Thursday, 9 March 2017

Present:

Members: Councillor A Khan
 Councillor P Akhtar (Deputy Cabinet Member)
 Councillor J Birdi (Shadow Cabinet Member)

Employees (by Directorate):

Chief Executive: S Nagra

Place: J Barlow, G Carter, A Harwood, U Patel

Public Business

39. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

40. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 8 December 2016 were signed as a true record. There were no matters arising.

41. Annual Compliance Report - Regulatory & Investigatory Powers Act (RIPA)

The Cabinet Member considered a report of the Executive Director of Place which presented the Annual Compliance Report under the Regulatory & Investigatory Powers Act (RIPA).

The Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA) governs the acquisition and disclosure of communications data and the use of covert surveillance by local authorities.

The Council used powers under RIPA to support its core functions for the purpose of prevention and detection of crime where an offence may be punishable by a custodial sentence of 6 months or more, or are related to the underage sale of alcohol and tobacco. The three powers available to local authorities under RIPA: the acquisition and disclosure of communications data; directed surveillance; and covert human intelligence sources ("CHIS").

The Act sets out the procedures that Coventry City Council must follow if it wishes to use directed surveillance techniques or acquire communications data in order to support core function activities (e.g. typically those undertaken by Trading Standards, Environmental Health and Benefits). The information obtained as a result of such operations can later be relied upon in court proceedings providing RIPA is complied with.

The Home Office Code for Covert Surveillance Property Interference recommends that elected members, whilst not involved in making decisions or specific authorisations for the local authority to use its powers under Part II of the Act, should review the Council's use of the legislation and provide approval to its policies. The Council adopted this approach for oversight of the authority's use of Parts I and II of the Act.

RESOLVED that the Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities:

- 1. Notes that the Audit and Procurement Committee made no further comments or recommendations for consideration.**
- 2. Approves the report as a formal record of the Council's use and compliance with RIPA.**

42. Progress report towards Equalities Objectives - half year

The Cabinet Member considered a report of the Director of Public Health which provided a six month progress report made towards equalities objectives.

On 14th July 2016, the Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities approved the equality objectives for the Council as set out in Appendix 1 of the report (Minute 25/16 refers). The equality objectives were linked to the Council plan and were set for four years or until the next refresh of the Council Plan. The Cabinet Member also agreed to receive a report in the progress made with the equality objectives twice a year; this being the half year from April 2016 to September 2016. The report also recommended that a more cost effective way for the Council to provide information about accessibility of local service buildings be adopted.

RESOLVED that the Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities:

- 1. Considered the progress made on the equality objectives and agreed to receive a further report at end of the year.**
- 2. Requests the Cabinet Member for Strategic Finance to investigate in greater detail what barriers, if any, are preventing black and ethnic minority employees and women progressing to higher graded posts.**
- 3. Agrees to alternative more cost effective ways of sharing information about accessibility of buildings and that the Council's contract with DisabledGo will not be renewed.**

43. Authority for Attendance - Conference/Seminar

RESOLVED that the Cabinet Member approves the attendance of the Lord Mayor, Councillor Harvard and the Principal Private Secretary to the Lord Mayoralty to attend the re-opening of the Kulturpalast Civic Centre in Dresden, Germany from 27-29 April 2017.

44. **Outstanding Issues Report**

There were no outstanding issues.

45. **Any other items of public business which the Chair decides to take as matters of urgency because of the special circumstances involved**

(a) Authority for Attendance – Conference/Seminar

RESOLVED that the Cabinet Member approves the attendance of the Lord Mayor (Elect), Councillor Skipper and the Insight Manager (Engagement) Public Health at the Kiel Week and International City Forum 2017 to be held in Kiel, Germany from 16-19 June 2017.

(Note: The above matter was considered as an item of urgent business, the reason for urgency being the need to confirm all the arrangements at the earliest opportunity).

(Meeting closed at 3.25 pm)

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Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities

27th July 2017

Name of Cabinet Member:

Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities – Councillor A Khan

Director Approving Submission of the report:

Deputy Chief Executive (Place)

Ward(s) affected:

St Michaels

Title:

Response to a petition regarding concerns over; anti-social behaviour in the vicinity of Priors Harnall and Cawthorne Close.

Is this a key decision?

No

Executive Summary:

A petition of 39 signatures, sponsored by Councillors Welsh, O'Boyle and Akhtar St Michael's Ward Councillors, regarding concerns over; anti-social behaviour in the vicinity of Priors Harnall and Cawthorne Close, notably focussed around the greenspace to the rear of 16 – 22 Priors Harnall, was submitted to the Council on 14th June 2017.

This report details actions taken by the City Council and West Midlands Police.

Recommendations:

The Cabinet Member is recommended to:-

1. Request West Midlands Police and Council officers to continue their monitoring of the area and respond accordingly to residents requests for assistance.
2. Encourage residents to set up a Neighbourhood Watch in the area and report incidents of concern to Police and the Council as soon as they occur.
3. Request that some form of youth engagement be initiated in the area.

List of Appendices included:

None

Background papers:

None

Other useful documents

None

Has it been or will it be considered by Scrutiny?

No

Has it been or will it be considered by any other Council Committee, Advisory Panel or other body?

No

Will this report go to Council?

No

Report title:

Response to a petition regarding concerns over; Anti-Social Behaviour in the vicinity of Priors Harnall and Cawthorne Close.

1. Context (or background)

- 1.1 On 14th June 2017, a petition signed by 39 people was received by the Council. The petition highlights residents' concerns with anti-social behaviour notably that young children and youths congregate around the green open space between Priors Harnall and Cawthorne Close in the St Michaels Ward. The residents highlight that young children are playing ball games within the grassed area within Cawthorne Close. They also state that in the evening there are older youths who congregate to the rear of the garage area and it is believed that they are taking drugs.
- 1.2 Residents feel intimidated and are regularly disturbed by the activity of these groups and state that there are also numerous incidents of dog fouling, littering and fly tipping in the same area. This makes the area look dirty and untidy and encourages more flytipping. Residents are keen to have the issues addressed at the earliest opportunity.
- 1.3 Coventry City Council recorded data from June 2016 to June 2017 shows; 3 reports directly related to Cawthorne Close. Of those reports, 2 relate to abandoned vehicles and one is a pest control referral. Priors Harnall shows no reports related to any form of anti-social Behaviour over the same time period. The Council therefore has no reports relating to the behaviour described in the introduction to the petition.
- 1.4 Police data for the same period shows **a total of 14 logs for Cawthorne Close** and **11 logs for Priors Harnall**. Other logs relate to regular Police business and are not relevant for the purposes of this report.

2. Options considered and recommended proposal

- 2.1 In response to the petition, officers from the Council and the Police have made contact with the lead petitioner. A site visit was held on the greenspace [04.07.2017], and a number of residents attended along with the ward councillors and Martin McHugh [report author], a further meeting was held with the local policing team the following day [05.07.2017].
- 2.2 West Midlands Police and the Council are monitoring the situation. Extra patrols take place as duties allow and individuals found to be causing issues are challenged and appropriate action taken.
- 2.3 This particular area is on a regular fortnightly cleansing schedule by the Barrow man and a 5 weekly schedule for the mechanical sweeper. In addition, specific visits are undertaken to collect reported fly tipping from council land. All cases of fly tipping are investigated, with the appropriate course of action depending on any evidence found at the scene and witnesses to the offence(s).
- 2.4 In taking this matter forward the following recommendations are made to Cabinet Member:
 - 2.4.1 Request West Midlands Police and the Council to continue their monitoring of the area and respond accordingly to residents request for assistance.
 - 2.4.2 Encourage residents to set up a Neighbourhood Watch in the area and report incidents of concern to Police as soon as they occur. Encourage residents to engage with the police via WMNow online messaging service <http://www.wmnow.co.uk/>.

2.4.3 Encourage community groups to engage with the children in the area and attempt to focus their energy in a more constructive way. Police have referred this to Sidney Stringer Academy and it is hoped the positive youth foundation may offer some assistance.

3. Results of consultation undertaken

3.1 Officers and the Police have been in regular contact with the lead petitioner. Site visits and subsequent community meetings have taken place.

4 Timetable for implementing this decision

4.1 Officers from the Council and the Police will monitor the area and meet with residents when needed.

Comments from Director of Finance and Corporate Services

5.1 Financial implications

There are no financial implications arising from this report, all costs will be met from core budgets.

5.2 Legal implications

The Council has powers under the Anti-social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014 to obtain orders in relation to individuals or areas where there is evidence of behaviour which is persistent and continuing and causes harassment alarm and distress to members of the community or is unreasonable and has a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality. Informal approaches should be considered in the first instance.

6 Other implications

None

6.1 How will this contribute to the Council Plan (www.coventry.gov.uk/councilplan/)

Crime and Disorder

Tackling crime and anti-social behaviour through partnership working is central to the delivery of the Council Plan in improving the quality of life for Coventry people by making communities safer and our city cleaner and greener.

6.2 How is risk being managed?

See paragraph 4.1 above.

6.3 What is the impact on the organisation?

None

6.4 Equalities / EIA

N/A

6.5 Implications for (or impact on) the environment

The Council has a zero tolerance approach to fly tipping, littering and dog fouling. Where evidence is available, Council officers will take legal action against the perpetrators.

6.6 Implications for partner organisations?

None

Report author(s): Martin McHugh

Name and job title: Street Enforcement Manager
Directorate: Place Directorate

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Contributor/approver name	Title	Directorate or organisation	Date doc sent out	Date response received or approved
Contributors:				
Craig Hickin	Head of Environmental Services	Place Directorate	26/06/17	27/06/17
Graham Hood	Head of Streetpride and Greenspaces	Place Directorate	27/06/2017	08/07/2017
Michelle Rose	Governance Services Officer	Resources Directorate	27/06/2017	28/06/2017
Names of approvers for submission: (officers and members)				
Finance: Cath Crosby	Lead Accountant	Resources Directorate	27/06/2017	28/06/2017
Legal: Gill Carter	Regulatory Crime & Licensing Lawyer	Resources Directorate	27/06/2017	28/06/2017
Andrew Walster	Assistant Director	Place Directorate	27/06/2017	03/07/2017
Members: Name				
Cllr Abdul Khan	Cabinet Member for Policing & Equalities		29/06/2017	12/07/2017

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Appendices : NA

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