

Minutes of the Meeting of Scrutiny Co-ordination
Committee held at 2.00 p.m. on 10th July, 2013

Present:

Committee Members: Councillor Mrs Fletcher (Chair)
Councillor Clifford (Deputy Chair)
Councillor Abbott
Councillor T Khan
Councillor Noonan (substitute for Councillor Blundell)
Councillor Sandy
Councillor Skipper
Councillor Thomas

Other Members: Councillor Caan
Councillor Hetheron

Employees (by Directorate):

Chief Executive's: C Dear, P Hargrave, G Holmes, J Moore, O Taylor, J Venn, A West

Community Services: S Roach

Customer & Workforce Services: L Knight

Others present: Chief Inspector A Nicholson, West Midlands Police
L Turner, work experience
T Slater, work experience

Apologies: Councillors Blundell and Taylor

Public business

1. Declarations of Interest

There were no disclosable pecuniary interests declared. In respect of Minute 5 below headed 'Development of the Community Safety Partnership', Councillor Abbott drew attention to her role as Assistant Police and Crime Commissioner.

2. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 17th April, 2013 were signed as a true record. There were no matters arising.

3. Coventry's Alcohol Strategy 2013-2016

The Committee considered a briefing note of the Director of Public Health which provided an overview of Coventry's Alcohol Strategy 2013-2016. A copy of the draft strategy was appended to the note. The strategy was to be submitted to the next meeting of the Community Safety Partnership on 18th July, 2013 and then to a future meeting of Cabinet. Councillor Caan, Cabinet Member (Health and Adult Services), Councillor Hetheron, the Council's Alcohol Champion and Chief Inspector Andy Nicholls, West Midlands Police attended the meeting for the consideration of this item.

At their meeting on 8th October, 2012 the Wellness, Liveability and Public Health Scrutiny Board (1) endorsed the approach to tackle alcohol misuse in the city, along with the revision of an alcohol strategy for Coventry. An Alcohol Strategy Consultation workshop took place in March 2013 and was attended by Officers and Members from the City Council, along individuals from a wide range of partner agencies. Building on the success of the previous 'Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy' which was first published in 2007 and other national policy, the strategy document outlined areas of work under pinned by three key themes:

- Providing effective prevention and recovery focussed treatment.
- Changing and challenging attitudes and behaviour.
- Controlling the supply of alcohol and promoting safer drinking environments.

The delivery of the alcohol strategy would be the responsibility of the Alcohol Strategy Group which would be chaired by the Cabinet Member (Health and Adult Services) and would be accountable to the Joint Health and Wellbeing Board. This group would work closely with Coventry Community Safety Partnership and the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership.

The Committee questioned the officers on aspects of the strategy, matters raised included:-

- (i) The targeted work with young people including work in schools
- (ii) Partnership working and the use of data from A and E, including the reporting of information at Licensing and Regulatory Sub Committee Hearings
- (iii) The actions undertaken to control the supply of alcohol and promoting safer drinking environments
- (iv) Potential changes to current legislation
- (v) The importance of the holistic approach when treating patients and providing specialist interventions
- (vi) The follow up support and tracking of patients once they have completed their programme of treatment
- (vii) The importance placed on 'Making Every Contact Count'

RESOLVED that:

(i) Officers be requested to work with School Governing Bodies and Academies to encourage schools to work with and support their pupils regarding alcohol awareness and the associated problems, and to encourage schools to access the available support.

(ii) A summary of the Committee's discussion on the draft alcohol strategy to be submitted to Cabinet when the strategy is considered.

4. Development of the Community Safety Partnership

The Committee considered a briefing note of the Assistant Director, Public Safety and Safeguarding Adults which provided an update on the proposed role, remit and membership of the Coventry Community Safety Board which would replace the Community Safety Partnership. A copy of the draft report to be submitted to the Community Safety Partnership Board at their meeting on 18th July, 2013 was tabled at the

meeting. Chief Inspector Andy Nicholls, West Midlands Police attended the meeting for the consideration of this item.

The West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner, elected in November 2012, had been working closely with local Community Safety Partnerships and had articulated his vision for Community Safety Partnerships to evolve into local Policing and Crime Boards. The Commissioner had asked local partnerships to ensure that there was a balance between intelligence led decision making and the ability to listen to and respond to what communities wanted. In response to this, the current partnership structures were being reviewed and terms of reference were currently being developed for a Coventry Community Safety Partnership Board which would reflect the aspirations articulated by the Commissioner.

The draft report set out the aim of the new statutory Board as follows:
'To reduce and prevent crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour and re-offending and to work across partnerships to deal with the causes of crime including mental health, substance misuse and chaotic lifestyles'

The Committee were provided with an understanding of the roles and responsibilities of the Board. Membership required a number of statutory appointments along with representatives from the community, voluntary and business sectors to reflect geographical and thematic interests across the city. Invitations would be extended to specialist representatives to attend Board meetings in a non-voting capacity at the discretion of the Chair to aid discussion and decision making. It was proposed that the Board met on a quarterly basis. It was intended that for the first six months the Board operates in shadow form.

The Committee questioned the officers on the proposals for the new Partnership Board, matters raised included clarification about the proposed membership and potential additional appointments. They also discussed the role of the Safer Neighbourhood Groups, which was to be reviewed.

RESOLVED that:

(i) Consideration to be given to the appointment of representatives from the Youth Parliament and from private sector housing to the Coventry Community Safety Partnership Board.

(ii) Consideration to be given to the views of Ward Councillors and members of the Safer Neighbourhood Groups in any review about the future of these Groups.

(iii) The recommendations to be reported to the Community Safety Partnership at their meeting on 18th July, 2013.

5. Council Plan – Performance Report

The Committee received a presentation from the Assistant Director, Policy, Partnership and Performance and the Corporate Performance Co-ordinator on the Council Plan end of year performance report for 2012/13. The Committee also considered a report of the Chief Executive on the Council Plan which had been considered by Cabinet at their meeting on 9th July, 2013.

The current Plan set out the vision and objectives for 2011-2014 and was approved by the Council in June, 2011. The report looked at the progress which had been made during the second year in relation to the priorities and a set of key headline indicators. The Committee were informed that the Plan would be revised for 2013/14 onwards to reflect the new aspirations for Coventry, revised objectives and to take forward key priorities and actions.

The presentation set out the wider context in which the Plan was being delivered and highlighted the progress being made with the jobs strategy; the LEP; the Coventry and Warwickshire City Deal agreement; and project kick-start involving further public realm work and Friargate HQ. The key messages for jobs and growth; better pavements, streets and roads; support and celebrate our young people; and protecting Coventry's most vulnerable residents were outlined.

The Committee questioned the officers on the key messages from the performance report, matters raised included:

- (i) An explanation of how improvements were measured
- (ii) The tracking of young people leaving education and training
- (iii) Clarification about the number of jobs created
- (iv) Why the number of Local After Children had increased to 606 against a target of 544 or fewer
- (v) The links with child poverty and childhood obesity
- (vi) Information about the makeup of the 545 households accepted as statutory homeless.

RESOLVED that:

(i) The Committee note that the significant issues arising from the Council Plan Performance have been included in the work programmes for the appropriate Scrutiny Boards.

(ii) Members be provided with clarification about the numbers of jobs created, whether these are full time equivalent posts or if some are part time.

7. Scrutiny Work Programme 2013-14

The Committee considered a briefing note of the Assistant Director, Scrutiny and Transformation, which set out the issues identified for the 2013/14 work programme by all the Scrutiny Boards and this Committee and sought approval of the content of this initial work programme set out at an appendix.

At their first meeting in the new municipal year, the Committee and all Scrutiny Boards identified the issues they wished to include in their work programme. These were subsequently considered and further issues identified at the informal meeting of Scrutiny Members on 26th June, 2013. All items had now been included in the appropriate work programmes. It was noted that further issues might arise during the year which would be included as appropriate. The Committee were informed that they would be responsible for reviewing the recommendations arising from the 2012/13 Welfare Reform Sub-Group.

RESOLVED that the content of the initial work programme for the Committee and the Scrutiny Boards be approved and the Boards be requested to give priority to significant issues.

8. **Outside Bodies – Reporting Arrangements**

The Committee considered a briefing note of the Assistant Director Scrutiny and Transformation concerning the reporting arrangements for outside bodies to Scrutiny during 2013/14.

Reference was made to the work of the Task and Finish Group who met on two occasions in 2012/13 and made recommendations to the Committee about the reporting arrangements. It was agreed that criteria be applied to the outside bodies that reported to the Committee – that the organisation was in receipt of a grant from the Council; the Council had a financial interest in the body; or the organisation had a strategic role beneficial to the Council. The Committee noted that if the body was under the remit of a specific Scrutiny Board, then the report back would be submitted to this Board. The reporting arrangements for the new municipal year were set out in an appendix. Previously the approach to secondary school governing bodies, trusts and foundations was inconsistent and it was now proposed that the Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Board (2) consider whether they wish to receive any of these reports.

RESOLVED that:

(i) Approval be given to the amended list of outside bodies that report to the Committee and Scrutiny Boards as set out at the appendix to the briefing note.

(ii) Officers be requested to timetable the required outside bodies reports on the appropriate work programmes.

9. **Progress and Outcomes of Olympic Legacy Scrutiny Panel**

The Committee considered a briefing note of the Scrutiny Co-ordinator detailing progress against the intended outcomes of the Olympic Legacy Scrutiny Panel and identifying the most suitable location for the future of this work. Further details about progress and outstanding areas of work were set out in an appendix attached to the briefing note.

There were several recommendations relating to the Community Games and the City Look and Feel which required further work and subsequent consideration by the relevant Cabinet Members. It was proposed that the work be referred to the Cabinet Advisory Panel for Sports Vision and Strategy, Tourism and City Wide Events established at the Annual Meeting on 16th May, 2013.

RESOLVED that any outstanding recommendations or areas of work of the Olympic Legacy Scrutiny Panel be referred to the Cabinet Advisory Panel for Sports Vision and Strategy, Tourism and City Wide Events.

10. **Additional Items of Business**

There were no additional items of public business.

(Meeting closed: 12.05 p.m.)