

NOTTINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

of meeting held on **10 APRIL 2013** at Loxley House

from 2.04 pm to 3.25 pm

- ✓ Councillor Parbutt (Chair)
Councillor Bryan
Councillor Culley
 - ✓ Councillor Choudhry
 - ✓ Councillor Dewinton (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Hartshorne
Councillor Healy
 - ✓ Councillor Jenkins
 - ✓ Councillor Khan
Councillor Klein
Councillor Molife
 - ✓ Councillor Watson
 - ✓ Councillor S Williams
- ✓ indicates present at meeting

In Attendance

- Councillor Norris - Portfolio Holder for Area Working, Cleansing and Community Safety and member of Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Panel
- Ms C Cutland - Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner
- Mr K Dennis - Chief Executive, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner
- Mr P Moyes - Director, Crime and Drugs Partnership
- Mrs J Garrard - Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinator
- Ms A Kaufhold - Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinator

57 COUNCILLOR STEVE PARTON

The Committee stood for a minute's silence in tribute to Councillor Steve Parton who had been an active and valued scrutiny member and had sadly died on 6 April 2013.

58 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Bryan, Culley (illness), Hartshorne (other Council business), Healy (personal) and Klein (other Council business) and Beverley Denby, 3rd Sector Advocate.

59 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

No declarations of interests were made.

60 MINUTES

RESOLVED that subject to amending the start time to 10.00 am for the Nottingham City Inter-agency Homelessness Strategy 2013-18 Review Panel meeting on 17 April 2013, the minutes of the meeting held on 6 March 2013 be confirmed and signed by the Chair.

61 NOTTINGHAMSHIRE'S POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER POLICE AND CRIME PLAN AND DISCUSSION WITH CHRIS CUTLAND, NOTTINGHAMSHIRE'S DEPUTY POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Democratic Services which provided information on the role of the Police and Crime Commissioner and development of the Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Plan; the role of the Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Panel in holding the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) to account; and the Committee's statutory responsibilities to hold the Crime and Drugs Partnership to account.

Chris Cutland, Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner, gave a presentation on the Police and Crime Plan, its strategic priorities and governance of the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner. During the presentation, Chris Cutland provided the following information:

- The Police and Crime Plan was based on wide consultation with a range of partners, including elected members.
- Strategic priority themes within the Plan were:
 - protect, support and respond to victims, witnesses and vulnerable people, including development of a victim strategy and commissioning framework, supporting women and girls involved with gangs, addressing gaps in support for people identified as having 'medium risk' of being victims of domestic violence;
 - improve the efficiency, accessibility and effectiveness of the criminal justice process, including the youth justice system;
 - focus on those local areas that are most affected by crime and anti-social behaviour, for example Forest Recreation Ground, developing safer school routes;
 - reduce the impact of drugs and alcohol on levels of crime and anti-social behaviour, to be addressed by alignment of partnership budgets for alcohol strategies for example;
 - reduce the threat from organised crime;

- prevention, early intervention and reduction in re-offending, including dual diagnosis for offenders; and
- spend money wisely, for example by focusing on partnership working and building sustainability into policies.
- The Plan included some differences in focus for the City and the County. Unique requirements for the City included threats relating to gangs and violence, domestic abuse, sexual assault, mental health, drugs and alcohol misuse, shoplifting, the night-time economy, public open spaces and developing a Safer Cab Scheme.
- The PCC had weekly meetings with the Chief Constable, with a focus on meeting targets set.
- The Police and Crime Panel provided a check and balance in relation to the performance and exercise of statutory functions by the Commissioner.

Peter Moyes, Director of the Crime and Drugs Partnership, gave a presentation on how the Crime and Drugs Partnership (CDP) is working with the Police and Crime Plan. During the presentation, Peter Moyes provided the following information:

- Despite improvements, Nottingham still had one of the highest crime rates amongst the Core Cities and major challenges remained in relation to reducing crime and anti-social behaviour.
- The CDP welcomed the PCC's allocation of £1.7m to the Partnership to tackle issues in the City, recognising the impact that crime in the City also has on the surrounding areas in the County.
- The focus for use of the £1.7m funding would be reducing violence (including domestic violence and gang and youth violence); and tackling substance misuse (including youth projects, drugs and integrated offender management).
- Areas that have been identified by the CDP where added value would be gained from working in partnership with the PCC were tackling violence; focusing on high impact neighbourhoods; drug testing and treatment; and integrated offender management.
- The City's alcohol strategy would be shared with the PCC to inform a county-wide approach to reduce the crime and anti-social behaviour impacts of alcohol.
- The PCC was not a member of the CDP but had contributed to meetings.
- The CDP was currently in Year 3 of its 3 year Partnership Plan. Addressing repeat victimisation would present a challenge based on current performance.

Councillor Alex Norris, Portfolio Holder for Area Working, Cleansing and Community Safety and Nottingham City Council one of the three representatives on the Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Panel spoke about the role of the Police and Crime Panel. He informed the Committee that a lot of activity had taken place in the first few months of the Panel's existence to look at the PCC's budget, precept and development of the Police and Crime Plan. However, there was scope to improve the Panel through greater clarity about the role of the Panel and identification of areas where it could add greatest value; ensuring that membership of the Panel was appropriate and that members had relevant skills and training; and ensuring appropriate office support for the Panel. Kevin Dennis, Chief Executive of the Office

of the Police and Crime Commissioner, commented that the Panel's recommendations in relation to targets in the Police and Crime Plan had been useful and resulted in changes being made.

During discussion with all four contributors the following additional information was provided:

- The consultation process identified a common theme of the need for Police to be more proactive in using licensing policies and law to address local alcohol issues.
- There was concern about the extent to which Police officers were moved between geographical areas and the impact this had on local relationships and communication.
- The PCC was aware of a lack of trust in the Police amongst some groups within Black and Minority Ethnic communities (BME). To address this there was targeted work on BME recruitment to the Police and looking at 'stop and search' and 'stop and account' processes.
- The Joint Audit Scrutiny Panel within the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner was a requirement of financial codes of practice. In terms of scrutiny it was important for it the Panel to work closely with external inspectorates and local authority scrutiny to avoid duplication. Its focus would be on areas of greatest risk. The Panel would be made up of independent members and a recruitment exercise was currently taking place.
- In focusing on high impact neighbourhoods it was important not to ignore similar issues that may exist within neighbouring areas.
- There were currently no plans for the Police and Crime Panel to regularly report publicly about its work, although all meetings were held in public.

Based on the information considered at the meeting the Committee felt that it was better informed about how its role in scrutinising crime and disorder issues fitted within the context of the Police and Crime Commissioner and Police and Crime Panel.

RESOLVED that the Crime and Drugs Partnership be invited to a future meeting (either June or July 2013) to discuss performance against its Partnership Plan.

62 PROGRAMME FOR SCRUTINY

The Committee considered a report of the Head of Democratic Services which set out the future programme for scrutiny.

RESOLVED

- (1) that Councillor Collins, Leader of the Council, attend the Committee's meeting on 5 June 2013 for a discussion relating to the Council's performance and progress of objectives for 2012/13 and the objectives, priorities and challenges facing the Council for 2013/14;**

- (2) that Councillor Khan be appointed to sit on the Nottingham City Inter-agency Homelessness Strategy 2013-18 Review Panel, meeting on 17 April 2013;
- (3) that a scrutiny briefing session on proposals for the future of mental health support services be held for all city councillors; and
- (4) that, subject to inclusion of the Crime and Drugs Partnership being invited to the future meeting of the Committee, the proposed draft programme for scrutiny 2012/13 be approved.

63 DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

RESOLVED that the Committee note it is proposed to hold meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the following Wednesdays at 2pm:

2013	2014
20 May	8 January
5 June	5 February
3 July	5 March
4 September	9 April
9 October	
6 November	
4 December	