

MINUTES of the meeting of the Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 2 October 2012 at 7.00pm

Present: Councillors Steve Liddiard (Chair), Simon Wootton, Charles Curtis, Wendy Curtis and Pauline Tolson.

Apologies: Councillor Clare Baldwin and Mike Stone (substituted by Charles Curtis)

In attendance: Councillor Angie Gaywood – Portfolio Holder for Public Protection
L. Magill – Head of Public Protection
D. Spring – Street Services Manager
M. Boulter – Democratic Services Officer

8. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee, held on 12 July 2012, were approved as a correct record.

9. COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP SELF ASSESSMENT – IMPROVING VALUE FOR MONEY

Councillor Wootton, the Chair of the Value for Money Task and Finish Group introduced the report and stated that the group had wanted to ensure the scrutiny of value for money was meaningful. As a result the group looked at income streams to the partnership and where that income was being spent across the partnership. Councillor Wootton thanked the members of the task and finish group as well as Lucy Magill and Michelle Cunningham, the two officers who supported the group.

During debate the Committee clarified that the police funded the neighbourhood watch schemes and that arson bags were protective bags that the council and police gave to residents under threat. The bags went over letter boxes to protect items being put through that could cause fires. This service was available to all relevant residents and not just council housing tenants. It was also verified that hate and homophobic bullying in schools were subject to new projects and had not yielded significant data as yet.

The Portfolio Holder welcomed the report and thanked the task and finish group for its work.

RESOLVED: that:

- i) The Committee note that with limited funding available to CSPs (Community Safety Partnerships) it is imperative that the priorities within the strategy are reviewed and that they are streamlined to ensure effective focus, resourcing and delivery.**
- ii) The Committee note that the CSP needs to ensure that firstly funding is secured and that it is then focused and prioritised to deliver a high quality of service which will have maximum impact in terms of keeping our residents safe.**
- iii) This report is shared with the Police and Crime Commissioner to provide information to support our business case for continued funding for our successful projects from April 2013 onwards, including those where joint commissioning is advised.**
- iv) Action is taken against those projects rated as satisfactory to either improve value or discontinue the initiatives.**
- v) Those projects rated as good or excellent and are therefore a strength in keeping Thurrock safe continue to be funded and delivered**
- vi) Monitoring continues of those projects not yet embedded to ensure that they deliver value for money and stated outcomes**
- vii) We acknowledge the excellent work undertaken by the Thurrock Community Safety Partnership to keep Thurrock safe and that they share best practise.**

10. COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP PERFORMANCE REPORT 11/12

The Committee was informed that crime rates had risen slightly for the first time since 2005. Officers believed this was a result of the economic difficulties felt nationally. In the first quarter of this year, crime figures were down and the Partnership still aimed to reduce overall crime by 1% and anti-social behaviour by 2%. The Drugs and Alcohol Action Team (DAAT) were one of the best performers in the country and a new strategy to tackle violence against women and girls had been introduced.

The Committee discussed the work of the DAAT and were informed that the service gained clients through a number of means including court orders, self-referrals and GP referrals. DAAT were working to tackle drink and drugs problems in Grays high street but it was stressed that the service could not actively force people into rehabilitation.

The Committee discussed whether certain areas were getting in worse in terms of crime and perception of crime and Chafford Hundred train station was used as one example. Officers stated that perception of crime was different to crime committed and there were no particular police issues with Chafford Hundred station. The general view of the Committee was that PCSOs should be re-introduced to certain areas on a walking beat and officers agreed to pass this on to their police colleagues.

A request for qualitative data to be added to future reports was noted.

RESOLVED:

That the Performance of the Partnership for the year 2011/12 be noted.

11. PUBLIC PROTECTION ENFORCEMENT POLICY

The Committee was taken through the amendments to the policy and they were informed that a new policy had been added on No Cold Calling Zones. Officers conformed that the report was not statutory but it was best practice in the instance that a case went to court and the policy was scrutinised.

There was a brief discussion on the dropping of cigarette butts outside school gates and officers stated they would look into this and clarify what action was currently being taken in respect to this.

RESOLVED: That:

- i) The Committee recommend that Cabinet approve the revised Public Protection Enforcement Policy.**
- ii) The Committee recommend that Cabinet approve the No Cold Calling Areas Enforcement Policy.**

12. REVIEW OF COMMUNITY SALT BIN PROGRAMME

The pilot for the community salt bins last winter had been successful and feedback from users had requested the following improvements:

- Streamlining the application form.
- Users receiving more than one bin.
- The system of replenishing salt stocks.

The Committee welcomed the programme and thought it had been a great success. It was clarified that everyone would need to re-apply for the bins and that those that received them last year were not

automatically be eligible for them again. The placing of the bins would be for the benefit of the transport and community network. It was added that the bins were not removed in the summer months and no shovels were provided.

There were currently fifteen bins available and officers were fully expecting there to be a high demand for them.

Resolved: That:

That the success of the programme be acknowledged and that with the inclusion of proposed changes, the programme be continued for the winter of 2012-13.

13. WORK PROGRAMME

Members briefly raised the issue of CCTV cameras and stated that feedback could be given at the next meeting.

The Chair raised the issue of updating the Committee on sports and leisure and that he was working with officers to increase and promote activity.

RESOLVED: That:

- i) Public Health Transition report be removed from December 2012.**
- ii) Dog Control Orders report be added to February 2013.**

The meeting finished at 8.20pm

Approved as a true and correct record

CHAIRMAN

DATE

**Any queries regarding these Minutes, please contact
Matthew Boulter, telephone (01375) 652082,
or alternatively e-mail mboulter@thurrock.gov.uk**