

COMMUNITY SAFETY AND STRONG COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY PANEL

Minutes of a meeting of the Community Safety and Strong Communities Scrutiny Panel held in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Consett on 26th June 2007 at 6.00 p.m.

PRESENT

Councillor L. Marshall (Chair)
Councillor T. Parry (Vice Chair)

Councillors D. Bennett, D. Broadley, M. Campbell, G. Coulson, R. Ellis, G.C. Glass, R. Hemsley, J. Hunter, I. McElhone, S. Mellor, S. Rothwell, F. Todd, D. Walton, T. Westgarth.

IN ATTENDANCE

Councillors E. J. Williams, W. Stelling, I. Agnew.
Chief Superintendent Suddes, Durham Constabulary.
Mr N. Rimmer, Knight, Kavanagh & Page

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors H. Christer, D.V. McMahon, P. Murray, R. Ord, J. Wilson

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest submitted.

2. MINUTES

The minutes of the Community Safety Scrutiny Panel meeting held on 12th December 2007 were approved as a correct record.

Members noted that Councillor Breeze who had been nominated as Member Champion for the Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnership was no longer a Councillor. Councillor Bennett moved that Councillor Marshall replace Councillor Breeze. This was seconded and approved.

The minutes of the Strong Communities Scrutiny Panel meeting held on 17th April 2007 at 6pm were approved as a correct record.

3. DRAFT DERWENTSIDE PLAY STRATEGY

The Policy Manager presented the report, he outlined that, with the transfer of the Leisure Team to Leisureworks, the responsibility for overseeing the development of the new Play Strategy had been passed on to the Corporate Policy Unit.

The Chair invited Mr N. Rimmer from KKP to the meeting who summarised the Draft Play Strategy report through a presentation, and requested comments/queries from members.

The following questions were raised and responded to as below:

Would the play only be physical or could this include arts, drawing, culture etc.

Officer/Consultant response: The play opportunities would not only be about physical play. Both projects include art/cultural elements in their delivery. With sports being a main element of traditional play, it would be part of the delivery of the Play Ranger project. However, since there is awareness of sports through existing sports initiatives the projects would try to raise awareness of other methods of traditional play.

How would the £221K be spent? Could members see the detailed costings?

Officer/Consultant response: The detailed costings had not been prepared yet. This work would be part of Phase 2, i.e. preparing a fully costed project portfolio for submission to the Big Lottery. The overall cost figures had been estimated with support from Leisureworks. Once the full detailed costings were ready, they would be posted to Scrutiny Panel Members.

Does this allow sufficient funds each year to provide play equipment to deliver services? What would the Play Ranger do with no resources? How much money would be spent on transport?

Officer/Consultant response: The projects would allow sufficient funds each year to provide play equipment to deliver services and members would see this as part of the full costings. However, it should be noted that both initiatives were about promoting traditional and natural play, which did not necessarily need expensive equipment to deliver it. Transport costs would also be identified in the detailed costings, which would be posted to Scrutiny Panel members.

Should the funds be spent on 'worker's rather than play equipment? More play equipment is needed (i.e. play parks) in some areas.

Officer/Consultant response: Both projects came out as priorities from the consultation process with young people and other stakeholders and have been strongly supported by the Play partnership. The projects would benefit young people across Derwentside and will raise awareness of and provide traditional

play opportunities which do not need fixed equipment and play parks. Play England's philosophy is about children and young people and their families learning again traditional methods of play which had been forgotten. This was seen as an easy and cost effective way to provide a great deal of enjoyment for children, young people, their families and carers around the district and also contribute to sustainability of play. At the same time, however, the Play Ranger project would also work towards developing opportunities to use existing resources (eg community centres) to best effect.

Can the Community Appraisal in Havannah be taken into account in the Strategy?

Officer/Consultant response: KKP advised that this would be taken into account.

RECOMMENDED: that members note the content of the report and all comments be relayed to Executive Committee on 9 July 2007.

**4. PROPOSED 2007/2008 WORK PROGRAMME:
PANEL PRIORITIES AND VIEWS**

The Legal & Licensing Services Manager informed members of the key issues associated with the proposed work programme for 2007/2008 and sought opinions from members on the following:

- (i) a timetable, identifying priority issues
- (ii) to add or remove topics
- (iii) particular issues within each topic
- (iv) how scrutiny members would choose to be involved in each issue

The Legal & Licensing Services Manager referred members to the proposed topics detailed below:

- Concessionary Fares Review
- Access to Services – joint review of One Stop Shop with Derwentside Homes
- Community Involvement – review of the DCEN and community engagement mechanisms
- Town and Village Centres
- Anti-social Behaviour Protocols
- Community Calls for Action
- Children and Young People's Services
- Information Protocols with external agencies e.g. the Fire Service, Police, Health etc.
- Enforcement
- Equality and Diversity
- Member Initiative Fund

She advised Members that the purpose of the panel was to identify key areas for scrutiny, their priority and the proposed method of scrutiny.

With the agreement of the Chair the Legal & Licensing Service Manager did not rehearse the key issues identified in the report in respect of each proposed area of scrutiny. She did, however, indicate that the relevant officers were available to answer any questions members may have.

Councillor Walton then proposed to the Panel that a standard pro forma matrix be used to assess the proposed areas of scrutiny. Members agreed to the proposal.

As there were no immediate questions from Members the Chair asked that each officer summarise the key issues in respect of the proposed areas of scrutiny.

The officers gave a presentation and responded to members questions.

Members made the following suggestions as to the proposed method of scrutiny of each of the proposed areas of scrutiny as follows:-

MAINSTREAMING OF YOUTH BUS AND SPICETACULAR SCHEME

A Task and Finish Group be set up.

ACCESS TO SERVICES

Members to receive reports on the subject from officers.

EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY

A sub group of 2/3 persons be set up to examine the issues.

REVIEW OF CONCESSIONARY FARES

A Task and Finish Group be set up.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS/INVOLVEMENT

Members to receive reports on the subject from officers.

DEVELOPMENT AND DELIVERY OF TENURE-BLIND ASB POLICY

A Task and Finish Group to set up to review the proposed policy.

COMMUNITY CALLS FOR ACTION

A Task and Finish Group to set up to examine the issue.

TOWN AND VILLAGE CENTRES

Members to receive report upon the subject from officers.

MEMBER INITIATIVE FUND

Members to receive a report upon the operation of the fund since its introduction.

CRIMINAL DAMAGE

A Task and Finish Group be set up to examine the issues.

RESOLVED: the report be noted and members complete a copy of the matrix with a view to the panel reconvening on 31st July 2007 to finalise the scrutiny programme 2007/2008.

CONCLUSION OF MEETING

The meeting ended at 7.45 p.m.