

'SPECIAL' COMMUNITY SAFETY & STRONG COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY PANEL

Minutes of a Special Meeting of the Community Safety & Strong Communities Scrutiny Panel held in the Council Chamber on Tuesday 31st July, 2007 at 6.00 p.m.

Present

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

Councillors D. Broadley, M. Campbell, H. Christer, G. Coulson, R. Ellis, G.C. Glass, R. Hemsley, S. Mellor, R. Ord, S. Rothwell, F. Todd, D. Walton, T. Westgarth.

IN ATTENDANCE

Acting Chief Superintendent Kilgallon, Durham Constabulary.

Apologies

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors D. Bennett, J. Hunter, I. McElhone, D.V. McMahon, P. Murray, J. Wilson

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest submitted.

6. COMMUNITY SAFETY & STRONG COMMUNITIES WORK PROGRAMME 2007-2008.

The Chair opened the meeting and introduced the Director of Corporate Administration & Policy who was in attendance to advise Members on the findings of the Matrix which had been circulated in advance of the meeting regarding prioritisation of issues for the panels work programme for the ensuing year.

He advised that minutes of the previous meeting held on 26th June 2007 had been circulated to members for their information.

He proceeded to run through each of the items in turn addressing the comments and willingness to participate in task and finish or sub-groups.

PRIORITY 1.

ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR PROTOCOLS

The Director of Corporate Administration & Policy made reference to the Development & Delivery of Tenure-Blind ASB Policy and circulated a briefing note to members outlining suggested processes and timescales for Members to consider.

He advised that it was felt appropriate that the 8 members who had indicated a willingness to participate in a sub-group should meet week commencing 13th August, 2007. He suggested that this would not be a formal meeting and information would be sent to the 8 members of the sub-group only. The meeting would be led by the Community Safety & Information Officer and Durham Police.

Members were in agreement with the above suggestions.

PRIORITY 2.

TOWN & VILLAGE CENTRES

The Director of Corporate Administration & Policy advised that Consett & Stanley had been nominated within the 'Gold Band' and could apply for up to £1.5m of funding by the end of October/November 2007.

He advised that in light of the recent news regarding Local Government Review it was unclear whether this may place some restrictions on funding. He advised that it would need to be established whether there would still be the freedom to spend the fund.

Councillor Rothwell suggested that the panel meet if the cash is made available.

The Director of Corporate Administration & Policy advised that it would be noted and a report be circulated to members after the meeting in respect of the above.

Members were in agreement with the above suggestions.

PRIORITY 3.

CRIMINAL DAMAGE

The Director of Corporate Administration & Policy advised that this item was considered to be a major issue for the panel to consider, he advised that meetings had taken place between partner agencies to create an Action Plan which subsequently was approved by the Partnership Board. He advised that the Action Plan identified work for the next 3 months.

He went on to suggest that a Task & Finish Group be set up around December 2007 to take the issue forward.

He advised that a copy of the Action Plan would be circulated to members after the meeting, and any additional updates sent when made available.

Members were in agreement with the above suggestions.

PRIORITY 4.

ENFORCEMENT

The Director of Corporate Administration & Policy advised that Members had indicated this to be number 4 in order of priority and 2 members were willing to participate in a sub group.

He went on to advise that 2 Litter Enforcement Officers were soon to be appointed funded through the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund and proposed that a report be submitted to the panels meeting scheduled to be held on 18th September 2007.

Councillor Christer added that in her opinion Members would experience problems with constituents wanting the Officers in their area and as there are only 2 to be appointed this may cause issues.

She suggested that a rota be formulated so members can inform their constituents when the Officers will be visiting their ward.

Members were in agreement with the above suggestions.

PRIORITY 5.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT – REVIEW OF C.E.N. AND ROLE OF COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS.

The Director of Corporate Administration & Policy advised that there was a review ongoing on the subject and a update would be available for Members at either the September or December meeting of the panel.

Members were in agreement with the above suggestions.

PRIORITY 6

COMMUNITY CALLS FOR ACTION

The Director of Corporate Administration & Policy advised that there had been one Member interested in participating in a Task & Finish group.

He advised that the scheme had been piloted by Central Government and Local Authorities were currently awaiting guidance, although it was uncertain when this would be. He advised that this would be reported upon as soon as any information was made available.

Members were in agreement with the above suggestions.

PRIORITY 7

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE SERVICES

The Director of Corporate Administration & Policy advised that although Members had prioritised this item as number 7 it was felt that it should be given a higher status in the work programme as there were issues surrounding funding which required consideration.

He suggested that a Task & Finish Group be set up comprising of 5 Members including the Chair and Vice-Chair of the panel and support from Durham Police.

Discussion then ensued regarding the rota for the 'Ellie' bus and how to request the bus in your ward.

Councillor Ellis indicated that he would like to participate in the Task & Finish Group.

Members were in agreement with the above suggestions.

PRIORITY 8

CONCESSIONARY FARES REVIEW

The Director of Corporate Administration & Policy advised a new scheme was expected to be introduced in April 2008 to provide free travel across the Country although there would be some financial implications for the Council.

He advised that a meeting would be taking place with Durham County Council Officers and the report could be circulated to Members as soon as made available.

PRIORITY 9.

INFORMATION PROTOCOLS WITH EXTERNAL AGENCIES, POLICE, FIRE, HEALTH ETC.

The Director of Corporate Administration & Policy advised that there would be information provided for Members at the meeting scheduled to be held in December.

PRIORITY 10

ACCESS TO SERVICES, EQUALITY & DIVERSITY & MEMBER INITIATIVE FUND.

The Director of Corporate Administration & Policy advised that Members had not prioritised the above items although the Chair had indicated that she was interested in the Members Initiative Fund and would like to have reports identifying where the money was being spent and how it is spent in the Community.

The Panel agreed with the suggestion and advised that they would like End of Fund Reports to identify how the money is being spent.

Conclusion of Meeting

The meeting closed at 6.50 p.m.

Chair.