

Minutes of the meeting of the Community Safety Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 20 April 2006.

Present:

Councillor	John Haynes (Chair)
"	John Wells (Vice Chair)
"	John Appleton
"	David Booth
"	Jose Compton
"	Michael Doody
"	Bryan Levy
"	Barry Longden
"	Dave Shilton
"	Heather Timms

Also Present: Councillor Richard Hobbs, Portfolio Holder for Community Safety, Councillors Alan Farnell, Bob Stevens and June Tandy.

Officers:

William Brown, Strategic Director of Community Protection and County Fire Officer.
Trevor Brice, Deputy County Fire Officer, Community Protection Directorate.
Jean Hardwick, Principal Committee Administrator, Performance and Development Directorate
Jane Pollard, Assistant County Solicitor, Performance and Development Directorate
Alison Symmers, Human Resources, Community Protection Directorate.
Oliver Winters, Head of Finance, Resources Directorate

1. General

(1) Apologies

None

(2) Members' Declarations of Personal and Prejudicial Interests

Members declared personal interests as follows –

(1) The following Members declared personal interests arising by virtue of them serving as district/borough councillors as listed below:

Stratford-on Avon District Council – Councillor John Appleton

Warwick District Council - Councillors Michael Doody and Dave Shilton

Rugby Borough Council – Councillor Heather Timms

3. 2006/2007 Annual Efficiency Statement

The report of the Strategic Director of Community Protection and County Fire Officer was presented to the Committee and detailed the possible areas of efficiency gains that the Community Protection Directorate could pursue over the medium term.

The Chair expressed concern that the report circulated was not the report that had been referred by Cabinet on 6 April 2006 and was not the confidential report that he had asked to be sent out. The Cabinet had asked that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee discuss the cuts that were proposed in the report to that Committee on 6 April 2006.

Members commented on -

- What they believed had been agreed at the Cabinet meeting and the advice given at that time;
- The difficulty of discussing this issue when the report had been received late and, for some Members, no copy having been received at all;
- The need for all Members to see the original report to Cabinet;
- The need for the options proposed in the revised report to be given estimated costs to enable an informed decision to be reached.

Councillor Richard Hobbs explained that the Annual Efficiency Statement, the Appendix to the Cabinet report had been revised in line with comments made at that meeting and agreed at Leaders Liaison and submitted to the ODPM by the 18 April 2006. He believed that Cabinet had agreed to the report being scrutinised by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and revised because the proposed cuts had appeared to be directed at the north of the county rather than at the whole of the county.

Councillor June Tandy expressed an opposing point of view and said that her understanding was the Cabinet report would be discussed in full and would be sent out on "white paper" (as a non-exempt item).

Resolved that discussion of this item be deferred until the Committee's meeting on 2nd May 2006 and that the exempt report to Cabinet's 6 April 2006 meeting be circulated to Members together with a revised report from the Director of Community Protection/County Fire Officer giving estimated costs of the savings options.

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Chair of the Committee

The Committee rose at 10:25 a.m.