

Minutes of the meeting of the Community Protection Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 6 November 2006.

Present:

Councillor	John Appleton
"	David Booth
"	Richard Chattaway (Chair)
"	Michael Doody
"	Mike Perry
"	Dave Shilton
"	Heather Timms
"	John Wells (Vice Chair)

Officers:

William Brown, Strategic Director of Community Protection and County Fire Officer.
Anthea Davies, Assistant Head of Trading Standards, Adult, Health and Community Services Directorate

Louise Denton, Group Assistant, Performance and Development Directorate.

Jean Hardwick, Principal Committee Administrator, Performance and Development Directorate.

Michelle McHugh, Scrutiny Officer, Performance and Development Directorate.

Kate Nash, Head of Community Safety, Community Protection Directorate.

1. General

(1) Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Gordon Collett, John Haynes and Barry Longden.

(2) Members' Declarations of Personal and Prejudicial Interests

Members declared personal interests as follows –

(a) 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

(b) Councillors David Shilton and Heather Timms declared personal interests in Item 5, Corporate Business Plan Target Reviews, respectively, as Members of Warwick and Rugby CDRPs.

(3) Minutes of the Community Protection Overview and Scrutiny Committee meetings held on 5 September and 9 October 2006.

The minutes of the meeting of the Community Protection Overview and Scrutiny Committee meetings held on 5 September and 9 October 2006 were agreed as a correct record subject to –

The declaration of interest in respect of Councillor Gordon Collett, item 1 (2) of the minutes of the meeting held on 9 October 2006 being amended to read – Rugby Borough Council – Councillor Gordon Collett.

2. Public Questions

None

3. Draft Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) 2007-2010

The Committee considered the report of the Strategic Director of Community Protection and County Fire Officer, which set out the Draft Integrated Risk Management Plan 2007-10.

The Chair reported that the draft Plan had been considered by the IRMP Policy Panel, where a neutral approach had been adopted, in that it had been neither supported nor rejected, but accepted as a draft Plan that was appropriate to recommend that Cabinet adopt for consultation purposes. He proposed that a special meeting of the Committee be arranged to consider the draft Plan in detail.

The Committee agreed that –

(1) Cabinet be recommended that the Community Protection Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) 2007/10 be approved as a draft for consultation in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Department for Communities and Local Government (Fire and Rescue Service National Framework 2006-08).

(2) A special meeting of the Committee be held to respond to the draft consultation document.

4. Half-Year Performance Report – 2006/07

(a) Trading Standards

The Committee considered the report of the Strategic Director of Adult, Health and Community Services that summarised the performance of Trading Standards for the first six months of the year 2006/07.

During discussion a Member enquired whether details of response times were available from Consumer Direct and how they might impact on Trading Standards targets following which –

The Committee:

- (a) Noted the Performance Report submitted by the Adult, Health and Community Services Directorate for the half-year 2006/07.
- (a) Endorsed any proposed remedial actions.
- (b) Requested that performance data on the Consumer Direct Call Centre response times be included in future reports.

(b) Community Protection Directorate

The Committee considered the report of the Strategic Director of Community Protection and County Fire Officer that summarised the performance of the Community Protection Directorate for the half-year 2006/07.

Following a brief discussion the Community Safety Overview & Scrutiny Committee:

- (b) Noted the Performance Report submitted by the Community Protection Directorate for the half-year 2006/07.
- (c) Endorsed any proposed remedial actions.
- (d) Requested further information be circulated to Members on response to false alarms caused by automatic fire detection apparatus (ref. 149i) following implementation of the new attendance policy

5. Corporate Business Plan Targets Reviews

The Committee considered the report of the Strategic Director of Community Protection and County Fire Officer that outlined the targets as set out in the Corporate Business Plan 2006/09 for the Community Protection Directorate.

During discussion the Chair commented that sharper targets should be set for reducing youth re-offending and monitoring the impact of CDRPs, and the work of other partners, on County Council targets.

In reply to comments –

- William Brown responded –
 - (1) In respect of paragraph 6.1 “The National Agenda” that the reference to the Police Re-organisation had been overtaken by events and would be replaced by “Neighbourhood Policing”.

- (2) The issue of partners sharing targets, relating to young people at risk of re-offending, was an area highlighted in the LAA Safer Communities Block.
- Kate Nash said that more detailed information was available on youth targets, which she would circulate to Members.

The Community Protection Overview & Scrutiny Committee asked that its views on the Corporate Business Plan 2006-2009 be relayed to Cabinet.

6. 2006/07 Efficiency Savings Progress Report

(a) Community Protection Directorate

The Committee considered the report of the Strategic Director for Community Protection and County Fire Officer detailing the progress made by the Community Protection Directorate in delivering the 2006/07 efficiency savings target.

During discussion the following comments were noted –

- (1) That it might be appropriate for funding for services provided by the Directorate, which were outside the core services, to be sourced from another Directorate's budget, for example, the Young Fire fighters Scheme.
- (2) That benchmarking of this authority's spending and performance against other authorities did not necessarily take into account that this authority had a wider role than providing a fire and rescue service.
- (3) That Cabinet had not progressed the proposal for a cross-party working party to look at the Directorate's future efficiency savings.

The Committee noted the progress made by the Community Protection Directorate in delivering the 2006/07 efficiency savings target.

(b) Adult, Health and Community Services Directorate.

The Committee, having considered the report of the Strategic Director of Adult, Health and Community Services:

- (1) Noted the progress made by the Adult, Health and Community Services in delivering the 2006/07 efficiency savings target relating to Trading Standards.
- (2) Asked that details be circulated to Members of the savings made including those that related to staff vacancies not being filled

7. 2007/08 to 2009/10 Spending Proposals

(a) Community Protection Directorate.

The Committee, having considered the report of the Strategic Director for Community Protection and County Fire Officer, noted the 2007/08 to 2009/10 spending and consequential funding proposals identified by the Community Services Directorate.

(b) Adult Health and Community Services Directorate.

The Committee, having considered the report of the Strategic Director for Adult Health and Community Services Directorate –

- (1) Note the 2007/08 to 2009/10 spending and consequential funding proposals identified by the Adult Health and Community Services Directorate.
- (2) Asks that details of work that Trading Standards has a statutory duty to carry out and is not doing be circulated to Members.

8. Provisional Items for Future Meetings and Forward Plan Items Relevant to this Committee

The Committee considered the provisional items for future meetings of the Committee, during which -

- (1) Members thanked Michelle McHugh for her work on scoping the Scrutiny Review on “Ensuring the Safety of Older People who live Independently”.
- (2) William Brown updated Members on progress on the Regional Control Centre in Wolverhampton. He said that the building would be completed in 2009 and that there would be no staff redundancies as a result of the closure of the Warwickshire Control Centre. The costs of running the Regional Control Centre would be apportioned between contributing authorities on the basis of the number of residents per authority.

The Committee asked that –

- (1) Members be canvassed about their availability for a date for a Select Committee meeting on “Ensuring the Safety of Older People who wish to live independently” (either the 19/21 February 2006).
- (2) the report on Domestic Violence Action Plan – Progress report includes details of the numbers incidents of domestic violence.

9. Any Other Items

There were no items of urgent business.

10. Asset Management Plan

The Committee noted the report of the Strategic Director of Community Protection and County Fire Officer detailing the Community Protection Directorate's Asset Management Plan for 2006/07.

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Chair of the Committee

The Committee rose at 3:15 p.m.