

Minutes of the meeting of the Community Protection Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 27 March 2007.

Present:

Councillor John Appleton
" Richard Chattaway (Chair)
" Michael Doody
" John Haynes
" Barry Longden
" Mike Perry
" Heather Timms
" John Wells (Vice Chair)

Also present: Councillor Richard Hobbs (Portfolio Holder for Community Protection).

Officers:

William Brown, Strategic Director of Community Protection and County Fire Officer, Community Protection Directorate.

Corinne Brown, Senior Trading Standards Officer, Adult, Health and Community Services Directorate.

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

Stephen Haynes, Senior Divisional Officer, Community Protection Directorate.

Michelle McHugh, Scrutiny Officer, Performance and Development Directorate.

Mark Ryder, Head of Trading Standards and Healthier Communities, Adult, Health and Community Services.

Julie Sullivan, Corporate Community Safety Manager, Community Protection Directorate.

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1. General

(1) Apologies for absence

An apology for absence was received from Councillors David Booth and Gordon Collett

(2) Members' Declarations of Personal and Prejudicial Interests

Members declared 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 – Councillors John Appleton and Mike Perry

Warwick District Council – Councillors Michael Doody

Rugby Borough Council – Councillor and Heather Timms

(3) (a) Minutes of the meetings held on 16 January 5 and 21 February 2007

The minutes of the meetings held on 16 January, 5 and 21 February 2007 were agreed as a correct record.

(b) Matters Arising

Minutes of 16 January 2007

(a) Minute 3 Domestic Violence Action Plan

Councillor Richard Hobbs reported on the meeting held with the Police where he had been informed that violence (including domestic violence) would be given a high profile. Priority would be given to the action plan for supporting victims of domestic violence.

(b) Minute 6 Civil contingencies Act 2004 – Update on Implementation

Councillor Richard Hobbs said that following his attendance at a Seminar in London on the Civil Contingencies Act, instead of learning what the County Council should be doing in relation to this Act he had found that Warwickshire was well ahead in with regard to civil contingencies and emergency planning.

Minutes of 21 February 2007- Review of the Safety of Older People

The Chair reported that a report on the outcome of this meeting would be brought to the 22 May meeting and Michelle McHugh undertook to circulate the draft report to Councillor Jerry Roodhouse for his comments in the absence of a spokesperson on the Committee for the Liberal Democrat group.

2. Public Questions

None

3. Review of Outcomes of Anti-Social Behaviour Scrutiny

The Committee considered the report of the Strategic Director of Community Protection and County Fire Officer, which updated Members on progress made in relation to addressing anti-social behaviour since the scrutiny exercise was undertaken in February 2006.

Discussion followed during which concern was expressed –

- That some of the issues identified 12 months previously had still not been resolved relating to prosecutions and sentencing and the CPS failure to understand and respond to Members' concerns.
- About poor Police response times.
- That there was still no County Council representation on Rugby CDRP.
- About the increase in underage sales of alcohol and acts of vandalism.
- About duplication of services.

A Member commented on the success of the CDRP in his area and of PACT meetings. It was suggested that it would be useful, when the PACT meetings had become established, that an overview of the priorities were reported to each Area Committee.

The Committee –

- (1) Thanked William Brown and Julie Sullivan for the report and the progress made in relation to addressing Anti-Social Behaviour in the last twelve months.
- (2) Noted that future reports on ASB will be included the LAA Safer Communities Block.
- (3) Noted that a report would be brought to a future meeting (after April) about developing a strategy on the Respect Agenda.
- (4) That the perception data (public satisfaction data) be referred to the Area Chairs with a request that they consider how the perceptions might be addressed.
- (5) Asked for a report to a future meeting on how scrutiny of the LAA will be undertaken.
- (6) Agreed that discussion will take place, on how the Police and Magistrates can work better together with other agencies, and that this will take place at the Chair/Vice Chair/Spokespersons briefing and Councillor Richard Hobbs be invited to attend.
- (7) Asked Julie Sullivan to e-mail Members on the "Prickly Plant" scheme (graffiti prevention).

4. The Intellectual Property Enforcement Policy for Trading Standards

The Committee considered the report of the Strategic Director of Adult, Health and Community Services, which outlined a policy for the delivery of Intellectual Property Enforcement work by Warwickshire Trading Standards Service.

In reply to questions –

- (1) Corinne Brown confirmed that some help was received from brand named companies to protect their products indirectly by way of funding expenses. She highlighted that protecting the brand names of these large companies impacting directly on the success and viability of local shops and Trading Standards was legally empowered to carry out this work.
- (2) Mark Ryder highlighted his frustration relating to the difficulties surrounding enforcement and bringing cases to court. Corinne Brown reported details of a recent successful prosecution.

The Committee commended Trading Standards on the Intellectual Property Enforcement Policy and asked that a press statement be issued on this initiative.

5. Fire Control Centres

The Committee considered the report of the Strategic Director Community Protection and County Fire Officer, which provided a summary of progress made towards Opening a Regional Control Centre in the West Midlands.

In reply to questions and concerns William Brown confirmed -

- (1) That there should be no reduction in the quality of service when the call centre was relocated to the Regional Fire Control Centre. The emergency call out service was being looked at by the Community and Adult Health Directorate and would still be provided though the County Council probably through the Telecare Service.
- (2) The five Fire and Rescue Services that made up the West Midlands Region would be relocated sequentially and Warwickshire would be the fourth authority to transfer its emergency call service.
- (3) There would be no compulsory redundancies and officers would be offered the opportunity to move to the new centre or redeployed elsewhere within the service when the Leamington call centre closed.
- (3) that the financial savings of the proposal was not seen to be great and the transfer to the Regional Control Centre was deemed to be best value.

The Committee thanked the Strategic Director for his report and noted that there would be further progress reports to future meetings on this issue.

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

(a) Provisional items for future meetings

The Committee considered the work programme and suggestions for future items for discussion were proposed as follows –

- (1) Knife Policy – Position Statement.
- (2) What Areas of the Committee’s remit falls within Two-tier working?
- (3) The outcome of the Crime and Disorder Act – impact on the Committee/County and CDRPs (to be released in September/October 2007)

(b) Forward Plan – Items Relevant to this Committee

The Committee noted the Forward Plan items relevant to the work of this Committee.

6. Any Other Items

None

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Chair of the Committee

The Committee rose at 12:15 p.m.