

Minutes of the meeting of the Community Safety Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 15 December 2005.

Present:

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

Also Present: Richard Hobbs, Portfolio Holder for Community Safety.

Officers:

William Brown, Strategic Director of Community Protection.
Don Foster, Head of Community Services, PTES
Jean Hardwick, Principal Committee Administrator, Chief Executive's Dept.
Steve Hussey, Area Community Safety Manager, Rugby.
Kit Leck, Manager, Drug and Alcohol Action Support Team.
Andrew Lawrence, Head of Community Support, Chief Executive's Dept.
Adrian Levett, Head of Trading Standards, LH&TS.
Jane Pollard, Assistant County Solicitor, Chief Executive's Dept.
ACC Andy Parker, Police Authority
Viv Sales, Principal Education Social Worker, Education Dept.
Gereint Stoneman, Corporate Review Team, Chief Executive's Dept.

1. General

The Chair welcomed ACC Andy Parker and Steven Hussey to the meeting.

(1) Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Bernard Kirton Barry Longden and Anita Macaulay.

(2) Members' Declarations of Personal and Prejudicial Interests

None

(3) (a) Minutes of the Community Safety Overview and Scrutiny Committee Meeting held on 25 October 2005.

Resolved –

That the minutes of the Community Safety Overview and Scrutiny Committee's meeting held on 25 October 2005 be approved and signed by the Chair.

(b) Matters Arising

Scrutiny Event – Improving Community Safety – Minute 3 Recommendation (4)

The Chair advised Members that he and the Committee spokesperson had agreed the proposed programme for this Scrutiny event. Referring to the discussion at the previous meeting and the follow-up report, item 3 below, he suggested that Members, during discuss of this item might wish to register lines of enquiry that could be addressed at the Scrutiny event.

2. Public Question Time

None.

3. County Council Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy – Progress Report on four of the seven priorities

Andrew Lawrence presented the report of the County Solicitor and Assistant Chief Executive, which set out progress on the remaining four of the seven priorities in the County Council Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy (Young People as Victims and Offenders, Liveability, Alcohol Related Violence and Drug Related Crime).

Viv Sales addressed Members on “Young People as Victims of Crime and Offenders and answered questions on –

- Exclusions and outlined the process (including appeals) and support given;
- Truancy prosecutions and the success rate of penalty notices;

Don Foster and reported on the work being undertaken on “Liveability” (“the aspects of a place which make people happy to live, work and move about there”).

Steve Hussey outlined the work being done to reduce the number of alcohol related incidents of violence leading up to the development of a countywide multi agency alcohol strategy. In particular he reported on the work being undertaken in Rugby.

In reply to questions ACC Andy Parker said that, since the change in the Licensing Laws there had been no increase in crime or violent incidents. The new Law enabled greater control and enforcement of licensed premises.

Kit Leck outlined the work of the Community Safety Partnership and Drug and Alcohol Action Team in reducing the harm caused by drugs.

In reply to questions ACC Andy Parker reported that, in the current year 113 people had been arrested for selling drugs (the target for the year being 150) as compared with 69 arrests the previous year. Those arrested had had goods confiscated with a percentage of the assets being returned to the County.

(A copy of the presentation material, including the DVD made by the Rugby Youth Group, will be available to Members on request).

Councillor Richard Hobbs, in response to Members' concerns about the inconsistency in composition of the Area Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRP), said that he was trying to resolve this issue. The Chair added that there was the need for uniformity across this county in the membership of the CDRPs.

The Committee noted progress on the four priorities detailed in the report and the levels of success achieved so far.

4. Performance Report Half Year 2005/6

(a) Libraries, Heritage and Trading Standards.

The Committee, having considered the report of the Director of Libraries, Heritage and Trading Standards, –

(1) noted the performance of Libraries, Heritage & Trading Standards for the half year 2005/06.

(2) Endorsed the proposed remedial action.

(c) Fire and Rescue Service

The Committee, having considered the report of the County Fire Officer, –

(1) noted the Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service's performance for the half-year 2005/06.

(2) endorsed the proposed remedial action.

(3) Congratulated the Fire and Rescue Service on its prompt and efficient response the major fire incident that occurred in Hemel Hemstead.

(b) Chief Executive's Department

The Committee considered the report of the County Solicitor and Assistant Chief Executive which provided a half-year update of the achievements of the Chief Executive's Department and partners in meeting the objectives and performance targets set for 2005/06 which related to the Corporate Objective of: To reduce crime and improve the safety of the community'.

In reply to questions ACC Andy Parker said that –

- there had been an increase in violent crime that could be linked to alcohol but there was no quantitative evidence available;
- there had been no increase in robberies or other crime that could be linked to immigrant communities but there had been an increase in people and "sex" trafficking.

The Committee –

- (1) noted the Chief Executive department's performance for the half year 2005/06;
- (2) endorsed the proposed remedial actions.

5. 2005/06 Cost Effectiveness Savings – Libraries, Heritage & Trading Standards Progress Report.

(a) Libraries, Heritage and Trading Standards

The Committee noted the report of the Director of Libraries, Heritage and Trading Standards in delivering the 2005/06 cost effectiveness savings target.

(b) Fire and Rescue Service

The Committee noted the report of the County Fire Officer outlining progress made by the Fire and Rescue Service in delivering the 2005/06 cost effectiveness savings.

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

(a) Provisional Items for Future Meetings

Members noted the table setting out provisional items for future meetings. With regard to the proposed programme for the scrutiny event on Anti-Social Behaviour in Warwickshire (circulated at the meeting) Members were asked to forward any suggestions they might have with regard to content and speakers, to the officers concerned.

The Committee agreed –

- (1) that an additional meeting be held at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, 8 February 2006 for the Anti-Social Behaviour in Warwickshire event;
- (2) that the reports scheduled for the 10 January 2005 meeting – The Impact of the Civil Contingencies Act, and the Domestic Violence Strategy be deferred until the 28 February 2006 meeting.

(b) Forward Plan – Items Relevant to this Committee

Members noted Forward Plan items relevant to the work of this Committee as follows -

Cabinet – 12 January 2006

A Policy of Selective Mobilising to Calls Instigated by Automatic Fire Alarm (AFA) Equipment.

Legislative Fire Safety Risk Based Inspection Programme

County Council – 13 December 2005

Police Reform – Progress Report

7. Any Other Items

There were no items of urgent business.

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Chair of the Committee

The Committee rose at 4:15 p.m.