

**The Corporate Services and Community Safety Overview and Scrutiny Committee met at the Shire Hall, Warwick on the 2 March 2010.**

**Present:**

**Members of the Committee:**

Councillors	John Appleton (Chair)
	Martyn Ashford
	Peter Butlin
	Richard Chattaway
	Chris Davis
	Jim Foster
	Brian Moss
	Martin Shaw
	Dave Shilton
	David Wright

**Other Councillors**

Councillor Martin Heatley, Cabinet Member for Resources  
Councillor Richard Hobbs, Cabinet Member for Community Safety  
Councillor Heather Timms, Cabinet Member for Customers, Workforce and Partnership.  
Councillor June Tandy, Group Leader (Labour)

**Officers:** Jim Graham, Chief Executive

**Customers, Workforce and Governance**

David Carter, Strategic Director  
Ben Cahill, Political Group Assistant (Conservative)  
Jean Hardwick, Principal Committee Administrator  
Richard Maybey, Political Group Assistant (Labour)  
Kate Nash, Head of Community Safety and Localities  
Ruth Pickering, Corporate Health and Safety and Wellbeing Manager  
Paul Williams, Scrutiny Officer

**Fire and Rescue Service**

Glen Ranger, Deputy Chief Fire Officer

**Partnership and Performance Unit**

Monica Fogarty, Assistant Chief Executive  
Tricia Morrison, Head of Performance

**Resources Directorate**

David Clarke, Strategic Director of Resources  
Virginia Rennie, Group Accountant

## **Environment and Economy Directorate**

Estyn Williams, Group Manager, Road Safety Unit

**Public:** A representative from Touch FM Radio Station

### **1. General**

#### **(1) Apologies.**

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Mike Gittus (Vice Chair).

#### **(2) Members' Disclosures of Personal and Prejudicial Interests.**

None

#### **(3) Remit of Corporate Services and Community Safety Overview and Scrutiny Committee.**

The Committee's remit, as agreed by Council on 23 June 2009, was noted.

#### **(4) Minutes**

Resolved:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 8 December 2009 be approved and signed by the Chair.

There were no matters arising.

#### **(5) Feedback from the Overview and Scrutiny Board**

The Chair reported that the Overview and Scrutiny Board, which was scheduled to meet the following day, would be meeting the Peer Review Team.

#### **(6) Requests for discussion of the En-Bloc items (see under Part B of the agenda)**

None

### **2. Public Question Time (Standing Order 34)**

None

### **3. Portfolio Holders' Question time**

Councillor Martin Heatley, Portfolio Holder for Resources), reported on the

following issues –

- (1) Resources across the authority continued to be closely monitored;
- (2) The development of an iPhone Application for public use was being promoted, and the sharing of this development with other partner councils was being investigated. (See <http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/iphone>);
- (3) Future Use of the Courts Buildings and Judges House – visits to Stafford County Council and Liverpool City Council had been had been undertaken to consider options for the future use of the Courts buildings when the Courts Service relocated to the Southern Justice Centre later in the year.
- (4) The County Council was carrying out an investigation, with Coventry City Council and Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council, into joint procurement of goods and services.

In reply to questions –

- (1) Regarding the future use of the Courts and Judges House, Councillor Heatley said that he would arrange for an interim progress report on the work of the Member Steering Group to be circulated to Members. The Steering Group hoped to complete its work in the autumn.
- (2) David Clarke explained that the iPhone application would provide another means by which the public could access council services. He undertook to circulate a briefing note to Members with details of the iPhone application.

Councillor Heather Timms, Portfolio Holder for Customers, Workforce and Governance, in reply to concern expressed about the shortness of consultation time allowed for Members to comment on draft reports, said she appreciated that 2 days notice was a short time but that the system would shortly be changing. David Carter advised that the new report system would be introduced this spring.

Councillor Timms then highlighted the –

- (1) Launch of the Voluntary Transport Network, involving the 5 district and borough councils, which was aimed at improving the availability of driver volunteers and vehicles;
- (2) Successful launch of the Black and Minority Ethnic Staff Network;
- (3) Member development training session she had attended with other members on “Chairing Skills” which she had found to be very useful.

In reply to a question David Carter said he would circulate a briefing note on the new equality and diversity legislation.

Councillor Richard Hobbs, Portfolio Holder for Community Safety, updated Members on items of interest under his remit, and in reply to questions, said that-

- (1) Following a Member Seminar a decision had been taken not to undertake a review of C and D roads;
- (2) The volume of documentation received in response to the consultation on the

- Fire and Rescue Improvement Plan was immense, and was not yet ready for public inspection but he would ensure Members were aware when it was available and where it could be accessed;
- (3) Members might wish to visit the Fire Service College where a demonstration of the new breathing apparatus (BA) could take place
  - (4) He had recently attended a Community Safety Partnership workshop that had been well attended by representatives from 14/15 of the partner agencies. Partnership working had been identified by the Peer Review Team as an area that was “working well but could do better”.
  - (5) All Members were invited to attend a Passing Out Parade for young fire fighters at 1:00 p.m. on either the 23 March at Wellesbourne or 26 March at Kenilworth;
  - (6) He had circulated for Members information two publications on the work of Trading Standards.

The Committee:

- (1) Thanked the Portfolio Holders for their updates;
- (2) Noted that the following briefing notes would be circulated –
  - (i) Interim update on the work of the Member Steering Group investigating future options for use of the Courts and Judges House;
  - (ii) Explanation of the iPhone application;
  - (iii) Equality and Diversity Legislation.
- (3) Asked that a half-day visit to the Fire College be arranged for Members to include a demonstration of Breathing Apparatus (BA).

#### **4. Fire and Rescue Service Update on Service Improvement Plan Consultation**

Councillor Richard Hobbs said he believed that Chief Fire Officer Graeme Smith would provide strong leadership to see through the Improvement Plan. He reported a massive response to the consultation exercise and a complex response from neighbouring authorities and Fire Services that had highlighted a lack of detail. He said that a plan would be put forward soon that was safe, robust and satisfied the concerns raised in the response documentation and the right plan to make Warwickshire a safer place to live.

During discussion concern was expressed about the delay in reporting on the response to the consultation, which had meant that many fire fighters’ families were in limbo. The hope was expressed that the Improvement Plan would be withdrawn. Another Member thanked Councillor Hobbs for his update and acknowledging the complex nature of the proposals and the need to provide a Plan that took into account all concerns expressed in the consultation exercise.

The Chair thanked Councillor Hobbs for his update.

#### **5. Quarter 3 Corporate Performance Report 2009/10**

The Committee considered the report of the Portfolio Holders for Customers, Workforce and Partnerships, Community Safety and Resources that outlined the third quarter performance for 2009/10 under the enhanced performance management arrangements.

In connection with Li315 – residents satisfied with the way the Council runs things, Councillor Heather Timms suggested that there were a number of reasons why this target had been missed including a lack of understanding about what the Council did and the national political agenda. Improvement activity would focus on sending out positive messages about the Council together with media and marketing campaigns on the Council's priorities. She urged Members to ensure that they played their part in promoting what the Council did, at every opportunity.

David Carter explained that the result shown for Li315 was a composite of the district and borough council's citizens' panels and all authorities, which had not been done before.

Resolved that the Committee notes the Quarter 3 Corporate Performance Report 2009/10 and the improvement activity of services under the remit of the Committee

## **6. Review and Refresh of the Warwickshire Performance Indicators.**

The Committee considered the report of the Assistant Chief Executive, which outlined the Review and Refresh process that the performance management framework of the Council was undergoing. The process sought to ensure that the right performance measures were selected to reflect the council's priorities, appropriate targets were allocated and targets were set in alignment with resources in 2010/11.

This report presented the proposed measures for inclusion under the Portfolios relevant to the remit of the Committee.

With regard to a question relating to "the % of new entrants into the Fire and Rescue Service of ethnic minority and % of new entrants into the operational sector that are female", which were marked "not applicable", Councillor Richard Hobbs explained that these would be addressed through the National Diversity Charter which the County Council had signed up and were no longer performance targets.

Resolved that the Committee –

- (1) Approves the draft measures listed within Appendices A and B using the principles of good target setting and analysis contained within the report;
- (2) Asks that future reports be circulated earlier to enable better understanding.

## **7. Medium Term Financial Plan – 2010/11 to 2013/14**

The Committee considered the report of the Strategic Director, Resources and Members' comments was invited on the draft 2010/11 to 2013/14 Medium Term Financial Plan.

During discussion concern was expressed about the difficult financial situation facing the Council over the next 3 years. In response –

- (1) Councillor Martin Heatley stressed the need for the Council to work harder and smarter, and in partnership with other authorities and its neighbours, to ensure that the approach to savings and efficiency targets was met.
- (2) David Clarke highlighted the difficulty in assessing the cost of the Personal Care at Home Bill and the impact this would have on the council's budget. He advised that reports on the financial situation would be brought to Cabinet every two months and this would provide the opportunity for Members to bring elements back to Committee should they so wish.

Resolved that the Committee record their concerns about the seriousness of the financial situation facing the Council and note the draft Medium Term Financial Plan attached at Appendix A.

## **8. Health and Safety Annual Report 2008/09**

The Committee considered the report of the Strategic Director for Customers Workforce and Governance outlining the Health and Safety Annual Report that had been referred to this Committee by the Audit and Standards Committee on 23 November 2009 for review and comment. The report summarised the statement on the management of health and safety within the County Council and the health and safety activities within the Authority from 1st April 2008 to the 31st March 2009.

Ruth Pickering explained that the report presented a position statement on the management of health and safety within the County Council and gave an update on the current legislation.

Members welcomed and commended the work highlighted in the report.

Resolved that the Committee:

- (1) Commends the Health and Safety Annual Report for 2008/09 and endorse the priorities recommended within the report;
- (2) Asks the Corporate Health and Safety and Wellbeing Manager to provide regular updates as appropriate (6 monthly intervals).

## **9. Warwickshire Community Safety Agreement Progress Report**

The Committee considered the report of the Strategic Director for Customers, Workforce and Governance, which outlined progress made against each of the priorities within the 2009-10 Warwickshire Community Safety Agreement.

Councillor Richard Hobbs referred to page 4 of the report, which set out performance against the six Safer Block Local Area Agreement (LAA) targets, and highlighted the good achievements and progress made.

In response to questions about NI40 – Drug users in effective treatment, Kate Nash undertook to provide Members with a briefing note on the Treatment Outcomes Profile (TOP) which would provide the data to give assurance that this target was challenging and achievable.

The Committee –

- (1) was pleased to note the progress made against each of the priorities within the Community Safety Agreement; and
- (2) Asked for a briefing note to be circulated on the Treatment Outcome Profile.

## **10. A Public Confidence Strategy**

The Committee considered the report of the Strategic Director for Customers, Workforce and Governance, which provided the opportunity to comment upon a draft partnership strategy for increasing levels of confidence and reducing fear of crime in Warwickshire.

Councillor Richard Hobbs referred to the work of Trading Standards Services, where public confidence was high and the work not being acknowledged within the report. He proposed that Members should visit Trading Standards Offices to be updated on their work.

During discussion Members expressed the view that restoring public confidence could be addressed by an increased Police presence on the street; regular Police attendance at community meetings; the need for clarification around the role of Police Community Support Officers (PCSO); the difficulty experienced in contacting the Police and not being kept informed of the change of Police Officers in charge of an area.

Discussion followed about how to convey these concerns to the Police. David Carter commented that discussion had focussed solely on the Police Service and undertook to convene a meeting with the Portfolio Holder and the Police to find a way forward to address these issues.

The Committee –

- (1) Expressed reservations about the draft Strategy;
- (2) Noted David Carter's undertaking to convene a meeting with the Portfolio Holder and the Police to attempt to resolve the concerns expressed above.

## **11. Provisional Items for Future Meetings and Forward Plan Items Relevant to the work of this Committee**

### **(a) Provisional Items for Future Meetings**

The Committee noted the attached table setting out provisional items for future meetings.

### **(b) Forward Plan Items Relevant to the work of this Committee (Cabinet only)**

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

**12. Debt Recovery - Update**

Resolved, having considered the report of the Strategic Director, Resources to note the report and progress of debt recovery.

**13. Speed Limit Review (C and D Roads)**

Resolved, having considered the report of the Strategic Director for Environment and Economy, to note that funding for a comprehensive C and D road review is unlikely to be available for the foreseeable future.

**14. Any Other Items**

None

The Committee rose at 4.20 p.m.

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Chair of Committee