

WAVERLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - COMMUNITY WELLBEING
- 19 NOVEMBER 2019

(To be read in conjunction with the Agenda for the Meeting)

Present

Cllr Kevin Deanus (Chairman)
Cllr Steve Cossar

Cllr Jenny Else
Cllr George Wilson

Apologies

Cllr Kika Mirylees and Cllr John Robini

Also Present

Councillor David Beaman

23. MINUTES (Agenda item 1.)

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 17 September 2018 were confirmed as a correct record and signed.

24. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTES (Agenda item 2.)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Kika Mirylees and John Robini.

25. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS (Agenda item 3.)

There were no declarations of interests in connection with items on the agenda.

26. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC (Agenda item 4.)

There were no questions from members of the public.

27. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS (Agenda item 5.)

There were no questions from Councillors.

28. SAFER WAVERLEY PARTNERSHIP PLAN 2019-20 (Agenda item 6.)

The Committee received a presentation from Andrew Smith, the Head of Strategic Housing and Delivery, and Superintendent Graham Barnett, the Chairman of the Safer Waverley Partnership (SWP). Also present at the meeting were Katrina Burns and Eve Budd who between them worked 6 days a week as Community Safety Officers.

The Committee was advised that there was a statutory duty arising from the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 for agencies to work in partnership to tackle crime and

disorder. This led authorities to create Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) and in Waverley it was known as the Safer Waverley Partnership.

The Statutory partners on the SWP were:

- The Surrey Police
- Waverley Borough Council
- Surrey County Council
- Guildford and Waverley and North East Hampshire and Farnham Clinical Commissioning Groups
- Surrey Fire and Rescue; and
- The Probation Service

There are a number of statutory duties that they have to fulfil including a strategic group, partnership plans, community triggers, domestic homicide reviews (DHRs), and the council duty is section 17s and securitising the work of the CSP.

The structure of the SWP is quite complex with a number of different groups which fed into the main Executive Group. Full terms of reference and membership is detailed in the agenda papers.

The top three priorities for the SWP for 2019-2020 were the following:

1. Focus on threat, harm, risk and vulnerability
2. Identify and tackle crime and anti-social behaviour hotspot locations and perpetrators; and
3. Improve engagement with the public to help make local communities stronger.

The main activities taken place that year were

- JAG and CHaRMM - The JAG kePT an overview of crime and ASB in relation to licensed premises and used a 'traffic light' system to identify those where joint work is needed to address risks. The CHaRMM discussed and agreed action to reduce the negative impact that problem individuals and families have on the local community through their anti-social behaviour. The Committee noted that being stretched, the Mental Health Team did not always attend meetings which was disappointing.
- Domestic Homicide Reviews – They had 6 reviews this year which was the most in Surrey. They had completed 4 with 2 outstanding.
- Environmental Visual Audits and Crime Prevention Assessments – These looked at things that contributed to crime, and to identify and mitigate them.
- Task and Finish Groups – Set up by the JAG these were established to resolve problems at specific locations.
- Awareness raising – Running campaigns such as the Domestic Violence week
- Roadshows – 4 had taken place this year in the Borough to consult with the public.
- Road user awareness days – They had been to schools to raise awareness with students.
- Eagle radio campaigns

To help visualise the work that they did, Andrew Smith went through a simple case study. This involved a location which was experiencing an increase in youth related antisocial behaviour and crime. The identified perpetrators would be nominated to CHaRMM with the troublesome location nominated to the JAG. This would discuss the issues and establish a Task and Finish Group to consider possible solutions.

The Committee was made aware of the challenges facing the partnership. This included diminishing resources and limited staff resources. The DHRs took a huge amount of time and effort and took staff away from day to day activities. Organisational reforms and emerging issues, such as hate crime, begging and rough sleepers and the risk register to mitigate risk. Another difficult area that was becoming more widely a problem was the use of social media, perception and keeping the public better informed.

Cllr Steve Cosser was delighted with the work that the SWP was doing. He had been the Surrey County Council representative 20 years ago and was pleased to see the work continuing. He felt they were doing a lot more in some areas but they appeared to be doing less consultation. There was no reference to an annual survey of members of the public. This used to be done to help build the annual plan and built up confidence that they were addressing what was important to them in the community. It was accepted that they did need to work on the way they communicate but they had been looking into this by reaching out to the communities via awareness campaigns and roadshows. And, for example, parking was one issue that was raised and was a big issue for the public and this had resulted in there being an action to address this.

The case study had looked at the issue of ASB around bus stops and Cllr Jenny Else recognised this having been a problem for a long time. She asked how much the partnership was working with Town and Parish Councils. **It was agreed that additional work needed to be done to celebrate their successes and to actively promote this. It was suggested that they should meet the Town and Parishes to do a briefing on the SWP. There was a Joint and Town and Parish meeting taking place on 2 December 2019 where it could be done.**

Councillor Kevin Deanus advised that there used to be a "60second sheet" which was a basic round up of activities that had been happening. He had found it really useful and informative and a good way to communicate. **Katrina Burns, the Community Safety Officer confirmed that they would be doing something similar soon and looking at arranging a briefing as there was a number of new councillors who would benefit from it.**

Councillor Kevin Deanus also raised concern that not all partners were taking an active lead on some of the actions. He felt that they should take ownership of some and not just leave them mostly to the Police.

Councillor George Wilson asked about the use of CCTV in the Borough and whether they should be utilised more. Eve Budd, the Community Safety Officer advised that they did not have a control room and only Farnham Town Council that they are run by them. They are not responsible for any fixed cameras but Environmental Enforce had some mobile ones. There was a number of regulations

surrounding the use of fixed CCTV, such as GDPR and they needed to justify why they were needed in a public area. Bowring House was permitted a fixed camera because the Council owned it and not public land so there was different criteria. Councillor Steven Cosser also questioned the benefit of CCTV versus the costs of their implementation. They also don't stop crime happening, it just moved the perpetrators to another location. **Councillors felt that there should be a briefing note (or be part of the training) on the use of CCTV so that there was more understanding.**

Councillors felt that the SWP should not just rely on the use of social media to communicate to the public. Not everyone used social media but would read a local community board and it was suggested that these were used more often.

With the points raised above being actioned, the Committee RESOLVED to NOTE the priorities contained within the Safer Waverley Partnership Plan 2019-20 and the structures and terms of reference of the various groups which operated under the SWP.

29. CORPORATE PERFORMANCE REPORT Q2 2019-2020 JULY- SEPTEMBER 2019) (Agenda item 7.)

The Committee received the quarter 2 (July-September 2019) Corporate Performance Report which provided an analysis of the Council's performance. The report was comprised of the corporate overview section with the Chief Executive's and Section 151 Officer's (Finance Director) comments, followed by service specific sections with Heads of Service feedback on the performance in their area. The report was used as a performance management tool by senior management and it was presented to the Overview and Scrutiny Committees to scrutinise the progress against the Council's goals and objectives.

Present at the meeting were Andrew Smith, the Head of Strategic Housing and Delivery and Kelvin Mills, the Head of Community Services and Special Projects were present to provide an update on their service area performance.

Andrew Smith confirmed what was said in the previous item that they had received a sixth domestic homicide case and the Safer Waverley Partnership was discussing the process of conducting the review.

The Committee was advised that there had been annual review meetings with all 12 organisations that the Council helped to fund through service level agreements. They had asked Voluntary Action South West Surrey to carry out organisational health checks on each organisation. These checks would be comprehensive and robust and would feed into the review of which voluntary organisations the Council might fund at the end of the SLA period in 2021 and how that funding could be best used.

Kelvin Mills advised that The mobilisation for the new grounds maintenance contract with Continental Landscapes continued to move smoothly with a start date of 1 November. As part of this complex process they were working closely with Towns & Parishes, looking to transfer land assets for them to manage locally. The

Leisure service saw over 850 people take advantage of the skate and Xplorer events over the summer holidays. In addition over 3,000 older people attended sessions at the leisure centres and another 2,000 visited the specialist health prevention and rehabilitation services, all delivered by the contractor, Places Leisure.

The Brightwells scheme was beginning to gather pace with four cranes now in position, all groundworks, including the basement for the car parking, had been completed and buildings such as the car park and retail shells starting to emerge above ground level. Community engagement had continued throughout this quarter through face to face meetings, email and through the website keeping neighbours and the public up to date with progress.

Careline had welcomed another 89 new clients and carried out 300 maintenance visits to ensure customers continued to have an effective monitoring system; the visits also served to offer support to some of the boroughs more vulnerable residents.

The Committee noted that the funding had not been granted for the Frensham Hub. It was unfortunate and they would continue to try and locate funding.

A question was raised about staff turnover and moral of staff. It was raised that the Value for Money O&S looked at HR issues and they recently had a presentation on the feedback from the staff survey. **This was generally positive and sickness levels were low. Louise Norie would circulate the results of the staff survey following the meeting.**

The Committee thanked the officers for their presentation and RESOLVED to NOTE the performance reports.

30. BUDGET STRATEGY WORKING GROUP UPDATE (Agenda item 8.)

The Committee received a verbal update on the Budget Strategy Working Group. Members were informed that the Value for Money O&S Committee had considered an interim report summarising the findings of the Group after completing work-streams 1 and 3. The report shared the Groups observations on the Medium term Financial Plan which covered the years 2020/21 to 2022/23. The Group had developed a spreadsheet model to show the effect of projected costs and income factors and their timings on the state of the Council's General Fund Revenue Account from the current year to 2023/24 before and after transfer of reserves.

The Committee noted that the Working Group would consider the emerging budget proposals in December and the report updated. Although with timing they wouldn't be able to have a chance to comment on the short term budget proposals, they would be able to get involved in the medium term budget proposals.

31. CULTURAL STRATEGY ACTION PLAN UPDATE (Agenda item 9.)

Charlotte Hall, the Community Development Officer (Arts), presented to the Committee an update on the Cultural Strategy. Members noted that the plan was in

place for two years and the report invited them to note the outputs of the current Action Plan and to agree to the consultation process set out in the report which supported the development of a new Action Plan.

The Committee noted that the Action Plan was developed around three key priorities and a number of inter-related goals. Charlotte detailed some of the good work that had taken place since the implementation of the plan. Particularly the strong relationships the Council had built with the Farnham Maltings and Cranleigh Arts Centre through their service level agreements.

The Council is in the process of reviewing its Health and Wellbeing and Ageing Well strategies. This follows the introduction of the Integrated Care Partnership, in which the Council is a core partner and the publication of Surrey's Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy for 2020-2030. The Cultural Strategy Action Plan will be developed to reflect new priorities and ways of working within a health and wellbeing context.

Officers proposed to invite elected Members of the Council and cultural providers to a stakeholder workshop scheduled for January 2020. The purpose of the workshop being to report the outputs of the 2017-19 Action plan, to consult on new and emerging priorities and to begin the process of shaping a new action Plan for 2020-23 in alignment with the new Corporate Strategy. Members suggested that they invite more than just the Committee Members but all Councillors as it would of interest wider than just this Committee.

Councillor Steve Cosser asked about whether they worked with all four areas of the borough as it appeared that most work centred around Farnham and Cranleigh. Charlotte advised that they were working with all Towns and Parishes it was just that these two areas had a central hub to deliver projects via the service level agreements that were in place.

Councillor Jenny Else commented on the amount of positive work that was being completed to reach varying ages of the Community. A lot had been carried out which was of great benefit for residents. She was concerned that there was no longer a Health and Wellbeing Officer in post and all the work was falling to Charlotte. There was a direct link to health and wellbeing through the cultural projects being carried forward and was wondering whether they should be pushing for additional funding to support this good work. Councillor Cosser felt that this was a key strategic issue and needed strategic vision as well as a feel of what doing. **It was agreed that to go through this work in more detail, it should come back to the next meeting for greater discussion.**

The Committee RESOLVED to

1. Note the outputs delivered in the existing Cultural Strategy Action Plan.
2. Agree to the initiation of a consultation process to refresh the Action Plan for the next three years; and
3. Bring the item back to the next meeting for greater discussion.

32. WORK PROGRAMME (Agenda item 10.)

Yasmin Makin advised that she had met with Councillor Kika Mirylees to discuss scoping work around youth provision in the Borough. This would come back to the next meeting. Furthermore, they would consider the Cultural Strategy as discussed at this meeting, update from the Budget Strategy Working Group and the SLA Working Group.

It was discussed that the cultural strategy tied in with the work on loneliness and youth provision. There were lots of interlinking things and they should be mindful of work being done elsewhere so as not to repeat that work.

The meeting commenced at 7.00 pm and concluded at 8.55 pm

Chairman