

**MINUTES
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

Monday 15 December 2014

Councillor Mike Hope (Chair)

Councillor Gary Gregory	Councillor Colin Powell
Councillor Patricia Andrews	Councillor Suzanne Prew-Smith
Councillor Sandra Barnes	Councillor Nick Quilty
Councillor Paul Feeney	Councillor John Truscott
Councillor Cheryl Hewlett	Councillor Michael Payne
Councillor Paul Hughes	

Apologies for absence: Councillor Lynda Pearson and Councillor Stephen Poole

Officers in Attendance: J Ansell, S Bray, D Wakelin, A Callingham and D Jayne

Guests in Attendance Paddy Tipping (Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Commissioner) and Tim Wendels (Nottinghamshire Police)

59 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS.

Councillor Colin Powell and Councillor Suzanne Prew-Smith

60 TO APPROVE, AS A CORRECT RECORD, THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 29 SEPTEMBER 2014.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the above meeting, having been circulated, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

61 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS.

None

62 PORTFOLIO HOLDER HOLDING TO ACCOUNT AND QUARTER 2 PERFORMANCE

1. Rolling Programme of Portfolio Holder Holding to Account

The Chair welcomed Councillor Michael Payne, Deputy Leader and

Portfolio Holder for Communications and Public Protection, Paddy Tipping Police and Crime Commissioner, Tim Wendels, Head of Estates, Nottinghamshire Police and Council officers, and invited Councillor Payne to present an overview of the crime reduction and community safety element of his portfolio, with specific reference to the PCC Policing Plan and the proposed closure of Carlton Police Station. Members had also requested an update on customer satisfaction.

Councillor Payne circulated a briefing note detailing the customer service highlights of 2014/15, including co location arrangements with Jobcentre Plus in the Customer Services Centre, the new Self Service Payment Kiosk, as well as feedback from the Gedling Conversation and recent Mystery Shopping exercise, customer satisfaction data including formal compliments and complaints. There had been a slight reduction in the number of formal complaints upheld between April and November 2014 against the two comparative years.

Councillor Payne then presented the following overview of the Councils Community Safety work:

Partnership context

- Gedling is part of South Nottinghamshire Community Safety Partnership (SNCSP) working in partnership with Broxtowe and Rushcliffe
- SNCSP represented on Safer Nottinghamshire Board
- Local governance; Domestic Violence Executive and Delivery Group, Partnership Plus, Vulnerable Persons and ASB Group, Locality Group

Overview; Levels of Crime

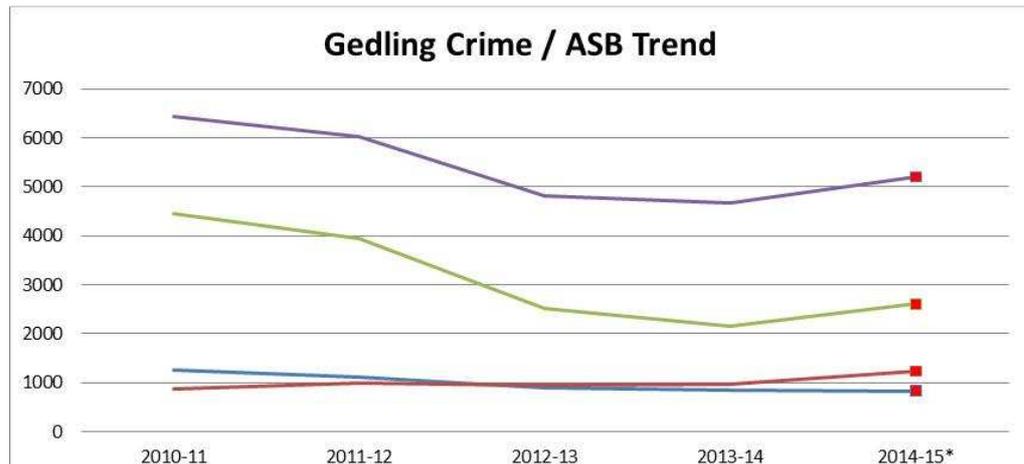
- All recorded crime; 7.6% increase, equates to 246 more offences
- House burglary; 7.5% decrease, equates to 18 less offences
- Car crime; 10.3% increase, equates to 27 more offences
- Robbery; 44.6% decrease, equates to 33 less offences
- Violence; with injury increase of 27.5%, 100 more offences and violence without injury increase of 33.7%, 91 more offences
- Shop theft is an emerging issue, new retail premises

Overview; Levels of Anti-social Behaviour

- All recorded ASB; 12.2% increase, equates to 189 more incidents
- Top wards by volume; St Marys, Daybrook, Netherfield and Colwick, Bonington and Carlton

- Top wards % increase compared to previous year; Killisick, Carlton Hill, St Marys, Valley and Bonington
- Killisick, St Marys and Valley increases largely down to single address / location, partnership plans are in place

(The figures above are for the period April to November 2014 compared to the same months in 2013).



- Anti-social Behaviour Police and Crime Act – October 2014
- Joined up approach across Nottinghamshire and Nottingham City
- Previously 19 powers, including ASBO, now 6 powers including Community Trigger
- Systems and processes all in place

Supporting Families (troubled families)

- Phase 1 ends April 2015
- Phase 2 is an enhanced programme for 5 years
- From April 2015 Supporting Families will be part of a new structure within County – Family Resilience Service (working title only) for 0-19 year olds
- Steering Group working on new criteria against 6 “headline problems” seeking to engage and turn around 5000 families in Nottinghamshire

Supporting Families Headline Problems

1. Parents or Children involved in crime or anti-social behaviour

2. Children who have not been attending school regularly
3. Children who need help
4. Adults out of work or at risk of financial exclusion and young people at risk of worklessness
5. Families affected by domestic violence and abuse
6. Parents and children with a range of health problems

These 6 Headline Problems are broken down into 28 sub criteria:

Gedling CCTV

- 67 cameras across Gedling Borough
- Town Centres; Arnold, Carlton, Mapperley and Netherfield
- Jubilee Deport 5 cameras
- Arnot Hill Park 10 cameras
- Leisure centres 6 cameras
- Ravenshead Leisure Centre 3 cameras
- Planning under way for cameras in Newstead and Calverton

Partner Relationships

- Supporting Families
- Nottingham North and East Clinical Commissioning Group
- Connecting Communities (C2)
- Neighbourhood Policing Inspectors
- Gedling Homes and other housing providers
- Wider community safety issues including Dementia Awareness and Loneliness

Borough Resources to Community Safety

- Chair SNCSP Executive Group – Corporate Director
- Community Safety & Safeguarding Manager – 50% of post
- Service Manager Public Protection – 25% of post
- Community Protection Manager – 40% of post

- Community Safety Co-ordinator – part time post 3 days per week
- Anti-social Behaviour Co-ordinator – full time post
- Neighbourhood Wardens – 30% of 5 full time posts
- CCTV and Radio - £110,000 / year budget

The portfolio holder paid tribute to work going on across the borough to address the fear of crime, including the Dementia Friends and Loneliness campaigns.

In conclusion, Councillor Payne acknowledged recent increases in crime and ASB and the impact of the current financial situation and paid tribute to the hard work of Council Officers, the lead role undertaken by the Chief Executive in respect of Domestic Violence and the positive cooperation of partners including Notts Police, the office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and those representatives working with priority neighbourhoods in the Gedling Localities, and offered Members the opportunity to tour the new customer service facilities and the CCTV suite.

The Chair thanked Councillor Payne for his presentation, and invited Members to put questions to the Portfolio Holder and Police and Crime commissioner, to include those questions submitted in advance.

Members questions

Advance question from Councillor Parr:

During the past two years or so we have had installed CCTV around the borough. I wonder how effective this has been in

- deterring traffic offences along Front street, Arnold?
- helping minimise incidents alongside B&Q in Daybrook?

A regular report relating to these assets would, I feel, be most welcome - in particular to the business community.

In response Cllr Payne explained that there is a need to watch safety in public places in order to 'design out' crime. Cameras had been provided to Ravenshead Parish Council and there are plans for a camera in Newstead and Calverton. He reported however that the Secretary of State has directed against use of CCTV to address traffic offences, and the cameras in Gedling had never been used for that purpose.

The Police and Crime Commissioner added that due to financial pressures and subject to consensus between authorities the Chief Constable is proposing the centralisation of all CCTV at Sherwood Lodge, giving the potential to link up CCTV footage between the city and

districts and to modernise the equipment and surveillance approach. A bid will be made to the Home Office in 2015 for a joint CCTV strategy.

The Police and Crime Commissioner informed Members about recent work undertaken by his office, including a review of Priority Plus areas to be considered by the Safer Nottinghamshire Board in January which highlights some positive outcomes and some areas for improvement.

Whilst crime trends generally are still at the lowest point for 30 years, nevertheless last year, 12 out of 43 forces across the country had a slight increase in crime, and figures up to September this year show a slight increase on the previous year. Specific increases in shop theft, sexual abuse including historical abuse are to be welcomed as they indicate greater public confidence in reporting these crimes.

Advance question from Councillor Feeney:

Re: Proposals to close Carlton Police Station

Would it not be better to keep Oxclose Lane and Carlton police station open and close Arnold in order to save money with regard to running costs as this would surely provide a more efficient balance of resources and give easier access to police services for both sides of the borough?

- What is the business case for moving the computer servers, custody and ID suite from Carlton to other locations?
- If this building is closed for police use, who will occupy it and what other users for this building have been identified?

Advance question from Councillor Gregory

I understand that a feasibility study was undertaken to establish the viability of putting co-locating partner organisations into Carlton Police Station to keep it open. What was the cost implication of that proposal?

The Police and Crime Commissioner gave the following response to the above two questions:

Looking at the sequence of events in respect of proposals to close Carlton and Arnold Police Stations, following consultation the Commissioner has been made aware of the public protest about Carlton station and acknowledged these concerns.

Arnold had been non – contentious, the proposal being to close Arnold station, move the entire staff team to the Home Brewery building and to provide a front counter service at the Civic Centre directly link to the Home Brewery team. Tim Wendels reported a delay in the timetable due to ongoing negotiations with the County Council.

In respect of the Carlton station, the Commissioner reported that the Police Service has had to make savings of £42m, with a further savings target of £12.7m by 31st March. Subject to a provisional settlement expected before Christmas, a potential further saving of £10m will be expected in 2015/16. It is estimated that over a 10 year period up to 50% of Police Service funding will be lost.

The rationale for closing Carlton Police Station is that the building is not fit for purpose. The facility is too big, with features that are no longer used due to changes in the way that policing is conducted. The cost of maintaining the building is £200k per annum, and the Police Service must find £2.8m from its estates budget over the next 2 years.

In response to local consultation and in the light of community concerns, the Commissioner has given an undertaking that the Carlton Police Station will not be closed until an alternative location for the service in the Carlton area has been established.

Councillor Payne confirmed that Gedling BC has been active in brokering discussions with partners including Notts County Council in respect of alternative venues and a possible partnership hub. Carlton Library and the East Midlands Ambulance Service have been considered along with the empty shops in Carlton Square, with a rental arrangement being an option. It will be important to relocate to the right building to enable a counter service.

Members raised the need for a service close to Netherfield and Colwick. The Commissioner confirmed that Netherfield is a priority area for policing, and that future services might well be located closer to that area.

Members expressed concerns about the future of the Carlton Police Station building once it is closed and the danger that it will add to the general dereliction evident in Carlton Square. The Commissioner confirmed that the building will be sold.

Members discussed the need for comprehensive development of the Carlton Square area, which it was generally agreed could potentially be achieved with intensive partnership working over a five year period.

Finding a new location is heavily dependent on successful negotiation with partners, which are ongoing, and an assurance has been given to keep the current station open until these discussions come to fruition. There is scope for a One Stop Shop in Carlton.

Members raised concern about levels of policing in rural areas, which had reduced in terms of locally based personnel in some rural areas in Gedling, and asked whether response times had increased as a result. The Commissioner confirmed that response targets in rural areas were being met, and made the point that in reality 25% of crime is committed

in 5 wards in the City, whilst some parts of the wider County have virtually no crime. The Commissioner highlighted a range of regionally coordinated services which are equally provided to both rural and urban areas. Members were also informed that the Chief Constable would be announcing a Rural Policing Pledge in the January budget announcement. The Commissioner explained that people want to see more police on the streets, and Nottinghamshire is one of only 5 forces in the country which is still recruiting PCSO's and Police Officers.

In closing the discussion, The Portfolio Holder explained that everyone doing a job at Gedling Borough Council has a responsibility to keep residents safe by remaining alert to vulnerable people and suspicious incidents whilst out and about in the Borough, and cited a number of examples of effective intervention.

2 Quarter 2 2014 Performance Review

Stephen Bray, Corporate Director, provided Members with the Quarter 2 Performance information.

Summary

18 out of 27 indicators are on target, particularly housing, benefits and improvements in planning performance.

Recycling has topped 40% for the first time (target 41%)

The main area for alert is recorded Crime which has increased

59 out of 60 actions are either on target or completed

1 target in respect of the Community Infrastructure Levy was changed at Cabinet, however is now back on track against the original target.

Members were pleased with the amnesty on the collection of bulky items and the ability to give such items to the Archway Project.

Members were concerned that the delivery of affordable homes is still showing red, and raised the importance of maximising opportunities for Gedling Homes to bid for properties in new developments.

The Corporate Director confirmed that the Council is currently working to a model which actively involves a number of social housing providers in bidding for properties from developers. The model assesses the viability of social housing – properties must be of the right type and located in the right place. The Council must find 60 affordable homes year on year.

The aim this year is to secure a total of 60 units at the Grove site, in Carlton and on Dunston Street in Netherfield, using a combination of HCA, GBC Commuted sums and monies from registered social

landlords.

The issue of social housing is a priority going forward, especially for older people.

3 2014/15 Programme of Portfolio Holder Attendance

Members were informed that the current programme of Portfolio Holder attendance has completed, however there are two more meetings remaining in 2014/15. It was proposed that Councillor Wheeler, Portfolio Holder for Health and Housing be invited to the meeting on 11th February, to take questions on the following areas of his Portfolio:

- Housing and council tax benefits
- Housing Strategy
- Safeguarding

RESOLVED to:

- i. Thank the Portfolio Holder, Public Protection and Communications, the Police and Crime Commissioner and other guests for their attendance.
- ii. Note the Quarter 2 performance information and further information provided on the Quarter 1 information.
- iii. Agree the attendance of the Portfolio Holder, Health and Housing at the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting on Wednesday 11th February.

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SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME 2014/15

The Chair reported that two of the three in-depth Scrutiny working groups nominated this year had now concluded their deliberations, and invited Members to comment on the final reports and recommendations.

A revised Homelessness and Hardship report taking account of final amendments proposed by the working group chair was circulated at the meeting.

The Transport Links to and within Gedling Borough review will be concluded by the end of the financial year.

Follow up on completed reviews

Members considered the response to a follow up request of progress on the agreed recommendations of the Inclusion and Equality in – depth review.

RESOLVED:

- i. To approve the final reports and recommendations of the Reducing Unemployment in the Borough and Homelessness and Hardship reviews and refer them both to the Cabinet meeting on Thursday 8th January, requesting a response from the Portfolio Holder within 28 days.
- ii. To note the response received to the 6 month follow up on the agreed recommendations of the Inclusion and Equality review.

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ITEMS REFERRED TO THE CHAIR OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE AS REQUIRED UNDER THE CONSTITUTION OR LAW.

Members considered the standing report detailing items referred to the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee under the Constitution or Law, including a late item tabled by the Chair at the meeting, as follows:

- 1. Items referred to the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee under Contract Standing orders and Standing orders for dealing with Land.**
 - i) Notifications received where it has not been possible to obtain 3 quotations for a contract estimated to be between £10,000 and £50,000.**
 - Contract for Council to represent GBC at the Court of Appeal in the matter of Gedling Borough Council / Westerleigh –v- Timmins/AW Lymn.
 - ii) Notification of decision to dispose of land or property other than the sale of council houses to sitting tenants pursuant to the right to buy.**
 - Proposal for the future sale of land at Teal Close, Netherfield without using the tender process as defined in the Standing Orders for Dealings with Land.

Members requested further information to be circulated to all Scrutiny Committee Members on the item above.

- Proposal for sale of part of the unused long stay element of Carlton Square Car Park.
- Late item: Sale of land adjacent to proposed Lidl supermarket at Daybrook

2. Items referred to Scrutiny under the Budget and Policy Framework

- None received

3. Items where the Executive proposes to take a key decision without it being published (on the Forward Plan) for at least 28 days. (New Local Authorities Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012.

- None received

RESOLVED:

to note the report and request further information on the Teal Close item

65 ANY OTHER ITEM WHICH THE CHAIR CONSIDERS URGENT.

None.

The meeting finished at 7.50 pm

Signed by Chair:
Date: