



Minutes

TRANSPORT, ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNITIES SELECT COMMITTEE

Minutes from the meeting held on Tuesday 13 March 2018, in Mezzanine Room 1, County Hall, Aylesbury, commencing at 10.00 am and concluding at 11.40 am.

This meeting was webcast. To review the detailed discussions that took place, please see the webcast which can be found at <http://www.buckscc.public-i.tv/>
The webcasts are retained on this website for 6 months. Recordings of any previous meetings beyond this can be requested (contact: democracy@buckscc.gov.uk)

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr D Carroll (Chairman), Mr S Lambert, Ms A Macpherson and Mr P Martin

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Ms F Blunstone, Mr N Brown, Mrs A Sarchet, Ms J Shakespeare, Mr N Sims, Ms Y Thomas and Ms K Wager

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Mr R Reed, Mr D Dhillon, Mrs L Clarke OBE and Mr S Bowles.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Chairman declared that he was a member on the Prevent Board in High Wycombe, in relation to item 6.

Mrs A Macpherson declared that she was a member on the Aylesbury District Council's Community Safety Partnership Board, in relation to item 7.

3 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on the 23rd January were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

4 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There were none.

5 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman thanked Mr S Lambert for chairing the inquiry into Modern Slavery which was presented to Cabinet on the 19th Feb. The Cabinet response to the recommendations was deferred and would be scheduled for a Cabinet meeting in April.

6 PREVENT DUTY

The Chairman welcomed the following contributors to the meeting to present the report:

- Mr N Brown, Cabinet Member for Community Engagement.
- Ms A Sarchet, Communities Manager.
- Ms J Shakespeare, Head of Early Help and Channel Panel Chair.
- Ms Yvette Thomas, Head of Equalities.

The Cabinet Member introduced the item highlighting the following points:

- The Council had a legal duty under the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015.
- The Buckinghamshire Channel Panel was recognised as good practice by the Home Office.
- The Council received £5800 grant funding for introducing the duty but no further funding.
- The Safer Stronger Bucks Partnership Board had responsibility for overseeing the partnership Prevent Strategy and Action Plan and monitored progress every six months. The work under the strategy was divided between the partnerships.

Angie Sarchet, Joy Shakespeare and Yvette Thomas gave a presentation to the Committee Members were presented with the following information – (The full presentation can be viewed online and on the webcast):

- The definitions of terrorism and extremism.
- The 4 strands of the Government's Prevent agenda.
- The aim of Prevent to prevent vulnerable people from being drawn into terrorism.
- Government strategies
- The Prevent Duty and the requirements of the Council.
- The Buckinghamshire approach to the Prevent duty and governance arrangements.

- The current strategy was agreed by the Safer Stronger Bucks Partnership Board in 2016 and would need to be refreshed by December 2018. This strategy brought together the Prevent duty and the Counter Terrorism strategy.
- There were two action plans; a partnership one and a Council one of the organisation and its own duty.
- Information on Prevent was available on the intranet for staff.
- School training and engagement – 90% of schools received WRAP training and work was being undertaken with the remaining 10% of schools to identify any training they may have undertaken and to fill in any gaps to ensure 100% of schools were trained.
- Designated safeguarding leads in every school had received WRAP training.
- Home office had given funding to set up the Linked Project again; this was a really successful project which aimed to link schools across the county with different demographics and backgrounds. There were currently 26 linked schools. This project was seen as best practice by the Home Office.
- Erasmus Project – a three year project to develop new teaching resources for schools – areas in Wycombe were doing this.
- The Education Safeguarding Advisory Service – which audits schools to ensure safeguarding policies are appropriate.
- The Channel Panel referral process: The statutory multi-agency panel that deals with people referred as at risk of radicalisation; what they do, referrals in Buckinghamshire, related vulnerabilities.
- Dovetail, the government project to review how Channel operates and handing over responsibility to Local Authorities by the end of the year. Members heard that it was currently unclear what this would mean locally.

Members heard about areas for improvement which included the following:

- A need for a more focussed training strategy.
- A need to enhance community engagement to remove the stigma around Prevent and to move towards treating it like any other community safety matter. Members heard that Wycombe recently held a successful round table event, and officers planned to hold more events like this across the county, which would cover a range of community safety issues including but not exclusively about Prevent.
- The Safer Stronger Bucks Strategy needed to be refreshed. There would be a consultation between July and September.
- A need for more systemised information sharing processes for the risk assessment process.
- Enhancing the role of elected members within their community leader roles.

Member raised the following areas through their questions and discussion:

- The importance of the role of Elected Members to promote Community Engagement. This included the need for suitable training for members and information on how they could be involved. Members heard that they had a crucial role in promoting community cohesion and working with local communities in their community leader roles. They

were told that this was an area to be improved going forward, and that an all Member briefing was set for April and the next conference was being planned for November.

- The steps that could be taken to empower communities and elected members to deliver important messages and spot the signs of vulnerable people and radicalisation. Members were told it was about dispelling myths and challenging stereotypes. Members need to be given the information to be confident to do this and to identify and refer vulnerable people.
- Members asked whether the Prevent Duty and the future responsibilities (potential impacts) were on the Corporate Risk Register. They were told that it has been discussed at the Corporate Management Team and Chief Executive level, but that it was still unknown at this stage what the impact will be on the local authority. Members heard that Bucks was well placed for future developments as strong partnership arrangements already existed..
- Members questioned if the level of resource was limiting effectiveness in this area. Members heard that the resource requirement had increased because the risk had changed and was continuously changing. Members thought it was clear that lots of valuable work had taken place with limited resources and that the resource was valuable and necessary.
- How online radicalisation was handled. Members were told that the council has a spreadsheet of all the schools and who provides their internet security and were looking at where any gaps were. The e-safety subgroup of the Children's Safeguarding Board own this. Members also heard that e- learning conferences and workshops were being held with primary and secondary schools, and children attending would become e-safety champions within their schools.
- The links with other duties such as those under the Modern Slavery Act. Members suggested that issues like these need to be combined across the organisation to ensure that they feature on the risk register, and the relevant support, information and training should be available for staff.

Members made the following recommendations:

1. That the committee should receive an annual update on Prevent and the progress towards the action plans.
2. That an annual progress update on Prevent should go to Cabinet to ensure member and strategic oversight.

Members thanked the contributors for their informative update and were reassured by the positive work that had taken place and welcomed the opportunity to build their knowledge on what they agreed was a very important area for elected Members.

7 COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP PLAN - 1 YEAR PROGRESS REVIEW

The Chairman welcomed the following contributors who presented their report to the committee – the full report can be found in the agenda packs and viewed on the webcast:

- Mr N Brown, Cabinet Member for Community Engagement.

- Mrs F Blunstone, Community Safety Manager
- Mr N Sims, Head of Community Wellbeing.

The presentation of the report included:

- The fact that the plan was a 3 year plan and we were one year into it.
- There were four priority areas: exploitation, tackling violence and abuse, reducing reoffending, and helping communities to be resilient.
- Performance highlights which identified key projects/services that had been particularly successful.

The areas raised through Member questions and discussion included:

- How messages and support for victims of domestic violence within the LGBT community were promoted. Members were informed that a successful e- learning package had been developed which was income generating due to its popularity with other organisations. For example Thames Valley Police (TVP) reimbursed the total costs of production and had made the training package mandatory for all officers. There was also a website LGBTbucks.org which was a one stop shop for advice and information.
- How the consultation results would impact on the plan priorities. The Members heard that from the results to date, it was unlikely that the priorities would change and the Safer Stronger Bucks Partnership Board would have to agree any changes.
- How progress towards priorities was monitored. Members were told that an action plan sat below each of the priorities and progress towards each of the action plans was reviewed by the Safer Stronger Bucks Partnership Board.
- The extent to which work involves bidding for funding. Members heard that Bucks was fortunate in that it received funding from the Police and Crime Commissioner of £441,000 locally, but this may not always be the case. Community Safety Partnerships then bid for funding. However, bidding for funding was complex and could be increasingly complex in the future.
- The key challenge was that the crime type was very agile and the priorities and challenges were always evolving. Members heard that the challenge was in understanding and getting hard data on the crime types in Bucks and the extent of issues such as Modern Slavery, exploitation, cyber crime etc.

Members of the Committee thanked the officers and Cabinet Member for the update and the success they have achieved to date.

8 COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

Members agreed the work programme and agreed they would send any further suggestions for agenda items to the Committee and Governance Adviser for consideration by the Chairman.

9 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on the 29th May at 10:00 am in Mezzanine Room 1, County Hall.

CHAIRMAN