

Improvement and Review Commission Minutes

Date: 14 September 2016

Time: 7.00 - 8.50 pm

PRESENT: Councillor R Gaffney (in the Chair)

Councillors Mrs S Adoh, Miss S Brown, H Bull, Mrs L M Clarke OBE, A D Collingwood, M Harris, A E Hill, M E Knight, D Knights, N B Marshall*, Ms C J Oliver and R Raja.

*Standing Deputy.

Guest: Superintendent Ed McLean (Commander Wycombe Local Police Area – Thames Valley Police).

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors K Ahmed, M P Davy, C Etholen, G C Hall and J A Savage

7. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

The Chairman welcomed all to the Commission Meeting particularly the new Head of Democratic, Legal & Policy Services Catherine Whitehead, along with the Chief Executive Karen Satterford, in her role as Chair of the Community Safety Partnership, ably supported by her Community Safety team.

8. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

9. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting of the Improvement & Review Commission held on 13 June 2016, be approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

10. COMMUNITY SAFETY PLAN

The meeting was given a comprehensive and informative presentation on the achievements of the Wycombe Community Safety Partnership by Daniel Sullivan (Wycombe District Council – Prevent Strategic Co-ordinator - Community Services) aided by Chair of the Partnership; Karen Satterford and Superintendent Ed McLean (Commander Wycombe Local Police Area – Thames Valley Police).

Karen Satterford, as Chair of the Partnership, explained that the Community Safety Partnership was obliged to publish a 3 year plan to be updated annually, the current 2016-17 plan being appended to the agenda. The Partnership by statute was obliged to refer the plan annually to the appropriate scrutiny body of the Council. Referring to a power point presentation Daniel Sullivan outlined the key crime statistics for the District, picking out the major reductions and the major increases in 2014/15 from the below:

Offence Type	Number of Offences During 2013/14	Number of Offences During 2014/15	% Change
All Crime	7,879	7,795	-1.1%
Violence Against the Person	1,251	1,370	9.5%
Sexual Offences	213	221	3.8%
Robbery	62	60	-3.2%
Burglary Dwelling	271	297	9.2%
Burglary Non-Dwelling	493	409	-17%
Theft of Vehicle	96	121	26%
Theft from Vehicle	683	601	-12%
Bicycle theft	112	101	-9.8%
Shoplifting	755	789	4.5%
Arson	65	54	-16.9%
Criminal Damage	1,254	1,287	2.6%
Drug Offences	301	324	7.6%
Public Order Offences	252	197	-21.8%

The five priorities of the Partnership Plan for the current year were outlined:

- Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour;
- Domestic Abuse;
- Exploitation of the Vulnerable;
- Continuation of the work of the Nightsafe Partnership; and
- Cybercrime.

It was explained that Anti-Social behaviour consistently came in a top priority in public consultations, whilst Domestic Abuse had been prioritised due to its impact on victims, which could not be overstated. The Nightsafe initiative had been a great success which could be built on and expanded, whilst exploitation of the vulnerable was a Thames Valley-wide priority. Cybercrime a new priority was explained in that it represented all Internet enabled crime; the problem of the lack of designated statute and offences for the crimes perpetrated was referenced.

The Partnership's approach to Anti-Social behaviour was now not just reactionary but looked into the underlying causes of problems, a new suite of tools was utilised

and a new officer had recently be appointed at Wycombe District Council to build on this work.

The Partnership were looking to increase the reporting of domestic abuse; a traditionally under reported crime. An initiative to raise awareness was being implemented. Wycombe as a District was blessed to have the Wycombe Domestic Violence Refuge and its volunteers who played a major role in supporting the Partnership in respect of this priority.

In respect of Exploitation of the Vulnerable a new approach of not looking at the crime types but focussing on the victim areas was being utilised. In respect of Child Sexual Exploitation, successes had been achieved, but much was still to be done. Wycombe remained a priority area in respect of the Prevent Delivery Plan three main areas of ideology; individuals and institutions were being concentrated on.

Members made a number of points and received clarification on a number of queries as follows:

- The issue of cars parked up by dealers on roadsides for sale was referenced, these could not be dealt with under PSPO (Public Space Protection Orders) but officers welcomed all reports of such, they would endeavour to resolve by the existing available legislation.
- Officers were tasked with advising local members of Anti-Social Behaviour Hot Spots / Major Issues in their wards; it was acknowledged that feeding back all incidents would be too onerous and waste valuable resources.
- The Thames Valley Police e-mail alerts were commended by a Member, who felt these filled in a lot of the crime / public safety picture in her area. Others Members were encouraged to sign up.
- Officers promised to pursue as much as they could the misuse of residential areas for parking up of commercial vehicles overnight by non-residents of the area, Members were encouraged to report such.
- In respect of the raising awareness of Female Genital Mutilation, Honour Based Violence and Forced Marriage, Superintendent Mclean promised to update Members on the actual crime statistics in respect of these issues locally.
- A Member enquired as to whether the four major increased crimes were linked to drugs: and also queried why these were not featured in the five priorities.
- In response Superintendent McLean outlined that the dwelling burglaries had reduced for the previous 3 years, officers had a handle on local offenders, travelling criminals coming in to the area of late had increased these figures, this problem was being focussed on.

- A spate of moped / motorcycle thefts had affected the 'theft of motor vehicles' figures, whilst violence against the person had risen; serious violence offences within the latter figures had reduced.
- The fact that a crime type was not featured in the 'headline' priorities did not mean, in any way, that resources and focus of the Partnership was not being brought to the issue.
- It was acknowledged that a three year movement in respect of crime type statistics would be more useful in future reports.

The Partnership Chair reminded members that the Thames Valley Chief Constable was scheduled to give a presentation on local policing to the Monday 10 October 2016 Full Council Meeting.

The Chairman commended the Partnership on their work and thanked them for their informative and comprehensive presentation.

The meeting then:

RESOLVED: That

- (i) the report of the Wycombe Community Safety Partnership and the data contained therein be noted; and
- (ii) the priorities of the Wycombe Community Safety Partnership for 2016-17 be noted and supported.

11. UPDATE FROM CHAIRMAN OF LOCAL PLAN TASK AND FINISH GROUP

Chairman of the Local Plan Task and Finish Group; Councillor H L McCarthy was away on leave so unable to attend the Commission Meeting and give an update on the Group's recent meeting with the Portfolio-holder for Planning (Tuesday 6 September 2016).

However he had entrusted the update to the Group Vice-Chairman Councillor A D Collingwood.

The Vice Chairman emphasised that the Group Meeting had been most informative in respect of the progress of the Local Plan and the recent consultation. The Group had outlined a number of queries that had been answered and explained by Councillor Johncock and his Planning team amongst which were the following issues:

- The volume of consultation responses and drop in session attendance;
- The areas where the largest number of responses had been received;

- An update on the Sustainability Appraisal;
- An update on the Duty to Co-operate with Neighbouring Authorities (particularly Aylesbury Vale);
- The Economic Impact inclusive of the Housing and Economic Needs Assessment;
- Transportation, Education and Medical / GP provision impacts;
- Developer contributions via Section 106 agreements and CIL (Community Infrastructure Levies); and
- The timetable in respect of the Plan with a planned finalisation by Cabinet and Council in December 2016 with a six-week statutory consultation early in the New Year.

Following on from the Group Meeting, a number of other issues had become apparent to the Group Chairman and Vice-Chairman which they felt clarification was required on.

Without a formal report before the Commission outlining the recent work of the Local Plan Task and Finish Group, the Meeting discussed the issues outlined in this verbal update, at length.

It was re-iterated by Commission Members that they appreciated the extensive, professional and expert work being carried out by the Planning Service and the exceptionally demanding deadlines that the Service was working to.

It was felt that these subsequent concerns should be referred to the Cabinet Member for Planning and his team for clarification and assurance. Delegated authority was given to the Head of Democratic, Legal and Policy Services (in consultation with the Commission Chairman) to effect and obtain these responses for Commission Members as promptly as possible.

12. COMMISSION'S WORK PROGRAMME AND FORWARD PLAN

The status of the current task and finish groups was considered and discussed.

The Budget Task and Finish Group was due to meet for the first time the next week in respect of Phase 1 of its work: recommendations for inclusion in the 2017-18 Budget.

The Regeneration Delivery Task and Finish Group was due to meet after the key Member Seminar in respect of Housing Regeneration on Wednesday 28 September 2016. The Group being due to submit its recommendations report to the Wednesday 9 November Commission meeting.

The Rural Issues Task and Finish Group was similarly due to report to the November Commission meeting.

Members were asked to note that the responses of Cabinet to the recommendations of the ICT Task and Finish Group recommendations were to be considered at the forthcoming Cabinet meeting of Monday 19 September 2016. A progress report from the Cabinet Member in respect of these recommendations was scheduled before the Commission at its January 2017 meeting.

Given the considerable number of items scheduled for the Commission's 9 November 2016 meeting, it was agreed that an extra Commission meeting be scheduled for mid-October (Democratic Services to establish a suitable date) to consider any items on the work programme for November. Ideally the update from the Housing Portfolio-holder on Saunderton Lodge and housing as a whole could be dealt with, along with a similar update from the Cabinet Member for Environment on that service, inclusive of the Waste Contract and the ANPR (Automatic Number Plate Recognition) Car Parking system.

No topics were identified on the attached Cabinet Forward Plan for review by the Commission at future meetings.

RESOLVED: That;

- (i) the update on the Work Programme and current task and finish groups be noted; and
- (ii) an extra Commission meeting be scheduled for mid-October to deal with some of the considerable number of items scheduled for the scheduled 9 November 2016 Commission meeting.

13. COUNCILLOR CALL FOR ACTION

There were no Councillor Calls for Action.

Chairman

The following officers were in attendance at the meeting:

Peter Druce - Democratic Services
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- Karen Satterford - Chief Executive (in her role as Chair of Wycombe Community Safety Partnership).
- Daniel Sullivan - Prevent Strategic Co-ordinator
- Catherine Whitehead - Head of Democratic, Legal & Policy.
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