

## HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of the OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL (COMMUNITIES AND ENVIRONMENT) held in Civic Suite 0.1A, Pathfinder House, St Mary's Street, Huntingdon, PE29 3TN on Tuesday, 4th October 2016.

- PRESENT: Councillor T D Alban – Chairman.
- Councillors J W Davies, Mrs A Donaldson, D A Giles, T Hayward, Mrs P A Jordan and L R Swain.
- APOLOGIES: Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors B S Chapman, Mrs A Dickinson, D Harty, P Kadewere and Mrs J Tavener.
- IN ATTENDANCE: Councillors G J Bull, R C Carter, R B Howe and D M Tysoe.

### 33. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Communities and Environment) held on 6th September 2016 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### 34. MEMBERS' INTERESTS

Councillor Mrs P A Jordan declared a non-pecuniary interest in relation to Minute Number 38 as an employee of Cambridgeshire Community Service based at Hinchingsbrooke Hospital.

Councillor T Alban declared a non-pecuniary interest in relation to Minute Number 38 as an employee of a company that engage in commercial activities with Peterborough Hospital as well as with Addenbrookes Hospital.

### 35. NOTICE OF KEY EXECUTIVE DECISIONS

The Panel received and noted the current Notice of Key Executive Decisions (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) which has been prepared by the Executive Leader for the period 1st October 2016 to 31st January 2017.

*(At 7.03pm, during the consideration of this item, Councillor A Donaldson entered the meeting.)*

### 36. WASTE ROUND RECONFIGURATION - IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE

With the aid of a report by the Head of Operations (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) the Waste Round Reconfiguration – Implementation Update was presented to the Panel.

Members were informed that the implementation date for the reconfigured waste rounds will take place on 6th February 2017. As the customer responses had not returned as quickly as the Council had anticipated, the original implementation date proved to be unachievable. There is now sufficient data to commence the modelling of the reconfigured rounds, once this has been completed the Council will be able to anticipate the change that would take place and therefore communications that would be required.

The Panel were informed that the delay in implementation of the reconfigured rounds would mean that savings are not realised this financial year however the Operations Service have committed to make one-off in year savings to compensate..

In response to a question regarding the service's insufficient resources to collect missed waste collections, Members were informed that by reconfiguring the rounds the service would have the flexibility collect missed waste collections. The issue currently is that the rounds are unbalanced and therefore inefficient and unable to accommodate additional collections.

Following a question asking what percentage of the budget is saved through the efficiency savings, Members were informed that whilst Officers did not currently have the answer they would find out and inform Members at a later date.

The Panel was informed that the majority of the savings would be realised by reducing the amount of vehicles the service uses. By reconfiguring the rounds the service would become more efficient and would need less vehicles as a result to carry out the rounds.

Members were informed that all known potential developments will be taken into account once the modelling begins. If the development rate suddenly shoots up then a waste round reconfiguration would have to be carried out sooner than expected.

In response to the question would Parish Councils be kept up to date, the Panel were informed that the delivery of communication plan will involve parishes however as the service don't yet know the scale of the changes then consequently the service don't know how much communication needs to be done.

The Panel were informed that waste collections during Christmas and New Year would only be running one day late and that as of 2nd January 2017, services would be back to normal. The quick turnaround is due to the new contracts which include the requirement to work Bank Holidays.

Following a question as to the cost of bank holiday working Members were informed that the cost isn't too different from current costs. The enhancement for bank holiday working is greater than Saturday working however Saturdays were used in the past to catch up on collections following a bank holiday. Members were told that price for bank holiday enhancements are worth paying as disruption is minimised.

The Panel have thanked the waste collection operatives for their

contribution to the waste round reconfiguration project.

*(At 7.04pm, during the consideration of this item, Councillors G J Bull and D M Tysoe left the meeting.)*

**37. HUNTINGDONSHIRE COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP ANNUAL REPORT 2015/16**

With the aid of a report by the Head of Community Services (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) the Huntingdonshire Community Safety Partnership Annual Report 2015/16 was presented to the Panel.

By way of introduction, the Panel was informed that the Huntingdonshire Community Safety Partnership was set up in 1998 and that out of all the local authorities in Cambridgeshire, Huntingdonshire has the largest population.

Members were informed that Huntingdonshire has recorded an increase of 7% in total crimes which equates to an increase of 470 offences. The largest volume increases over this period were violence without injury (283 crimes) and non-dwelling Burglaries (111 crimes). The ward of Huntingdon West has recorded the highest crime rate within the District.

The Panel noted that the Police are governed by crime recording standards. This means that if someone wants to report that a crime has been committed then unless the Police can say it hasn't happened, the crime has to be recorded. In addition the Police have to record crimes that they witness and what third parties have informed them, even if it does not lead to a prosecution.

The HCSP think that it is positive that crimes are being recorded as it shows that people have the confidence to come forward and report crimes like Child Sexual Exploitation, Human Trafficking and Domestic Abuse.

Members were informed that with the change of the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC), the HCSP are not sure if its funding will continue.

Following a question in regards to the Boxing project to tackle youth related violence on Loves Farm and how many young people are taking part, Members were informed that there are 10 young people, who are accessing the club.

A Member highlighted the concern that public transport to the club is not good and that could prevent attendance, however the Panel were assured that the HSCP would consider a transport arrangement. It was recognised that there would be a cost involved however if it targets the right people then the HCSP would consider the arrangement.

In response to a question regarding problem solving groups and their openness to Members, all present were informed that problem solving groups were developed to respond to issues around problem people and problem families. The Groups have an information sharing

agreement that enables partner agencies to share information between each that may be of a confidential nature and on occasions, it is not appropriate or necessary to share this level of detail with Members. Where an issue has arisen that affects the community, it may be possible to provide regular updates to Members to reassure them that action is being taken.

Members were informed about the Transforming Lives Project which is a pilot scheme carried out on the Oxmoor estate in Huntingdon. The age group of participants are of secondary school age and they are identified through a matrix. The project was developed in response to concerns of gang activity in the area.

The Panel were informed that crime prevention is important in terms of cost effectiveness as late action costs the country £5.4bn and the cost of taking an individual into custody is approximately £10k.

With 100 languages now being spoken in the County a Member asked how much of the crime is imported. In response Members noted that the change of demographics has an impact on the District's crime rate and it affects some types of crime, such as Modern Day Slavery, more than others.

In response to a question regarding the Police Community Support Officers (PSCO) vacancies and have they been filled the Panel were informed that they hadn't. In 2010 the number of PSCOs countywide was reduced from 195 to 150. The District have 27 PSCOs with some covering large areas. Following concerns from the Police about rural crime, the Rural Crime Action Team was reformed in April 2016.

Members noted that the current PCC is supportive of and wants volunteers, Police Cadets and Special Officers, however currently Huntingdonshire is the only area in the County that does not have a cadet team.

The Panel commended on the work of HCSP and has urged that the PCC should look to build on the successes made by the HCSP in the District. The Panel added that they would regret if money was to be saved by stopping funding of the HCSP as Members believe that this may lead to an increase in costs in tackling crime in the future.

Members have requested that they receive an update report on the HCSP every six months and have offered to scrutinise topics and ideas for the HCSP.

The Panel agreed that a Member should accept the invitation of the Chairman of the HSCP to attend a HCSP meeting and become the Panel's 'expert' in community safety matters.

*(At 7.23pm, during the consideration of this item, Councillor R C Carter left the meeting.)*

### **38. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME**

With the aid of a report by the Democratic Services Officer (Scrutiny) (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) the Panel reviewed the progress of its activities since the last meeting. Members noted

that the Hinchingsbrooke Hospital item would be removed after the special panel meeting taking place on 12th October 2016.

The Executive Leader addressed the Panel and suggested that Members would like to include the CCTV network on to the work programme and examine the utilisation of CCTV in market towns by the Police.

The Panel agreed that the Sibson Airfield is not for the work programme and would most likely be dealt with by the Development Management Committee.

Members agreed that the investigation of the CCTV network and the Future of Hinchingsbrooke Country Park, Paxton Pits, Godmanchester Nursery and Public Rights of Way are a priority for the Panel.

*(At 8.33pm, during the consideration of this item, Councillor P A Jordan left the meeting.)*

Chairman