

**Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee**

**Meeting held 4 February 2016**

**PRESENT:** Councillors Tony Damms (Chair), Steve Ayris (Deputy Chair), Penny Baker, David Barker, John Campbell, Richard Crowther, Keith Davis, Tony Downing, Denise Fox, Aodan Marken, Roy Munn, Peter Rippon, Richard Shaw and Zoe Sykes

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**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

1.1 There were no apologies for absence.

**2. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS**

2.1 No items were identified where resolutions may be moved to exclude the public and press.

**3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

3.1 There were no declarations of interest.

**4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

4.1 The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2015, were approved as a correct record and, arising from their consideration, it was noted that:-

- (a) the Gateway Project had been added to the Committee's Work Programme;
- (b) the link to the TellMAMA website had been circulated to Committee Members; and
- (c) the report of the Prevent Task Group would be circulated to Committee Members when it had been finalised.

**5. PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS**

5.1 In response to a question from Neil Fitzmaurice regarding the Committee's role in scrutinising the effectiveness of Locality Management, the Chair, Councillor Tony Damms, confirmed that Locality Management was being considered as part of a review being headed by Councillor Sioned-Mair Richards (Acting Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods) and stressed the importance that this review be completed properly and not necessarily quickly. There was a commitment to having effective mechanisms for community engagement within the organisation and, should it be necessary, the Committee could be provided with an update on the review's progress. The Chair added that Mr Fitzmaurice would be provided with a full

written reply.

- 5.2 In response to a question from Alan Kewley regarding prior notice of meetings of the Safer and Sustainable Communities Partnership, the Chair indicated that there was a commitment to publishing the meeting agenda seven days in advance of the Board meetings and asked Maxine Stavrianakos (Head of Neighbourhood Intervention and Tenant Support) to check on this and provide Mr Kewley with a written reply.

## **6. COMMUNITY SAFETY**

- 6.1 The Committee received a presentation given by Chief Inspector Simon Wanless, South Yorkshire Police, which provided an introduction to the new Local Policing Model. Also in attendance for this item were Adel McGowan (Deputy Head of Communications, South Yorkshire Police), Ryan Swift (Communications Manager, South Yorkshire Police) and Maxine Stavrianakos (Head of Neighbourhood Intervention and Tenant Support).

- 6.2 Chief Inspector Wanless took the Committee through the circulated presentation, making reference to the financial context, the requirements for the new Local Policing Model, how savings were to be achieved in local policing, headline changes, details of Local Policing Units, Teams and Support Units, specialist support and reducing demand.

- 6.3 Members made various comments and asked a number of questions, to which responses were provided as follows:-

- There was a conscious need to maintain a local footprint but the service could not afford to have duplication by Police Officers and Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs). Each community should have a dedicated PCSO, but there may be capacity issues in relation to them attending local meetings.
- Council officers were looking to improve communications to local Members in relation to neighbourhood incidents and events. Information reported by the public to the Police was collated to senior officers and this was passed on to the Corporate Communications Department, which would put this out through social media. Much information was made available through social media, with use of the Crimestoppers telephone number also being encouraged.
- The Local Policing Model went live in September 2015 and was subject to review.
- Approximately 145 Police Officers would be removed from the local policing structures by disestablishing posts, as officers retired, over a two year period. There had been no noticeable rise in reported illness amongst Police Officers as a result of the funding challenge, but morale was an issue nationally. A raft of potential savings had been identified and this included savings on Police Officer posts, but due to natural wastage there would still be a need to recruit over the next three years. In relation to staff welfare, the service's

Occupational Health Unit managed stress, Police Officers underwent counselling following any major incidents and were also subject to a system of appraisals. However, there was still a demand for police services and morale was a challenge. It had been necessary to reduce the number of community teams and the focus was now on the right resource first time, but it should be noted that assessing those reporting incidents for vulnerability and risk did take longer.

- Each Local Policing Team had a Local Inspector and, in the case of serious incidents, the Critical Incident Manager should inform the Council Leader and the Police and Crime Commissioner, who should then disseminate the information to appropriate members of staff. It was acknowledged that the Council did get to know about critical incidents, but there was still a need to improve communications.
- In relation to shared functions, the South Yorkshire Police participated in regional prison intelligence and there were proposals for a shared special operations unit and premises sharing. In addition, South Yorkshire Police were looking at a collaboration with Humberside Police with regard to call handling, stores and human resources.
- The Safer Roads Partnership was a service-wide function and not dealt with on a district level.
- The 'Confirm a Message' system was a county-wide one but was not used widely by Police Officers.
- Any increase in links between the South Yorkshire Police and the South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service was an issue for the office of the Police and Crime Commissioner.

6.4 The Committee then received the circulated presentation on Community Safety which was given by Maxine Stavrianakos. She took the Committee through the presentation, making particular reference to the Sheffield Safer and Sustainable Communities Partnership, Community Safety priorities, current performance, meeting structure, the Partner Resource Allocation Meeting (PRAM) and future proposals.

6.5 Members made various comments and asked a number of questions, to which responses were provided as follows:-

- There had been reductions in burglaries in the last 18 months and the increase in violent crime, whilst reflecting the national trend and a change in recording processes, was still of concern.
- A change in the recording processes for the reporting of hate crime had caused levels to show an increase, but it was also felt that victims were now more willing to come forward. It should be noted that reports of hate crime did not come from any particular group. A tasking meeting was held each

morning to assess the previous day's hate crime reports.

- The South Yorkshire Police engaged with the private security industry in relation to the night-time economy but, as far as further involvement was concerned, it should be borne in mind that its employees did not have the warrant powers of a Police Officer and that there were vetting and security issues involved.
- Whilst there was a drive to recruit Special Constables, people finding the time was proving to be an issue. It also took a long time to get Special Constables fully trained, but in terms of increasing the numbers of Police Officers, PCSOs and Special Constables would get priority.
- The operation of the national 101 telephone service had experienced a number of challenges but it was felt that the picture was improving with average waiting times being reduced. Business Continuity Officers were able to assist with any major failings in the system. Work was being undertaken with Communications staff to ensure that the right result was provided at the first time and incidents were now being risk assessed. Furthermore, new technology would automatically feed 999 calls to the appropriate people for major incidents and work was being undertaken with partner agencies dealing with mental health and looked after children. Online reporting was also being encouraged by means of a specific e-mail account and the South Yorkshire Police website contained a section on frequently asked questions.
- Representatives of the South Yorkshire Police were willing to attend community meetings in Sheffield.

6.6 RESOLVED: That the Committee:-

- (a) thanks those attending for their contribution to the meeting;
- (b) notes the contents of the presentations and responses to questions; and
- (c) requests the Policy and Improvement Officer to circulate the Police e-mail address for reporting incidents to Members of the Committee.

## **7. POLICE AND CRIME PANEL UPDATE**

7.1 Councillor John Campbell reported that the office of the Police and Crime Commissioner had now moved to Carbrook House in Sheffield, with a cost saving of over £100,000. He also reported that the last meeting of the Police and Crime Panel had approved the South Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner's proposed Council Tax precept for 2016/17, which was for an increase of £5 on a Band D property. Reference was also made to the significant budget challenges, which included a pay award and reducing employee numbers.

7.2 RESOLVED: That the Committee thanks Councillor John Campbell and notes the information reported.

**8. WORK PROGRAMME 2015/16**

8.1 The Committee received a report of the Policy and Improvement Officer which provided details of the Committee's draft Work Programme for 2015/16.

8.2 RESOLVED: That the Committee:-

- (a) approves the draft Work Programme 2015/16 as detailed in the report; and
- (b) notes that a report on the issue of support for Rough Sleepers in the City, as requested by Council at its January meeting, would be submitted to the Committee's meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> April 2016.

**9. WRITTEN RESPONSES TO PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

9.1 RESOLVED: That the Committee notes the contents of the Written Responses to Public Questions report.

**10. RIGHT TO BUY UPDATE**

10.1 RESOLVED: That the Committee notes the contents of the Right to Buy Update report.

**11. UPDATE ON THE PRIVATE RENTED SECTOR**

11.1 RESOLVED: That the Committee notes the contents of the Private Rented Sector Update report.

**12. CHALLENGE FOR CHANGE: VACANT PROPERTY MANAGEMENT**

12.1 RESOLVED: That the Committee:-

- (a) notes the contents of the Challenge for Change: Vacants report; and
- (b) requests that an update on progress in implementing the report's recommendations be presented to the Committee at an appropriate time.

**13. MATTHEW BORLAND**

13.1 The Chair reported that Matthew Borland, Policy and Improvement Officer, was attending his last scheduled meeting of the Committee, as he would be taking up a post at the University of Sheffield on 15<sup>th</sup> February 2016.

13.2 RESOLVED: That the Committee places on record its thanks and appreciation for the excellent service provided by Mr Borland, which he always undertook with a very amiable manner, whilst in the post of Policy and Improvement Officer during the last two years.

**14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

- 14.1 It was noted that the next meeting of the Committee would be held on Thursday, 7<sup>th</sup> April 2016, at 4.00 pm, in the Town Hall.