

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

Meeting held 18 January 2018

**PRESENT:** Councillors Chris Peace (Chair), Sue Auckland, Penny Baker (Deputy Chair), Michelle Cook, Richard Crowther, Keith Davis, Terry Fox, Mark Jones, Magid Magid, Karen McGowan, Zahira Naz, Joe Otten and Zoe Sykes

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#### **1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

- 1.1 An apology for absence was received from Councillor Dawn Dale.

#### **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 Councillor Zoe Sykes declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 7 (Safer and Sustainable Communities Partnership), as she was an Area Co-ordinator for Neighbourhood Watch.

#### **4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

- 4.1 The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2017, were approved as a correct, subject to the amendment of paragraph 3.1 (Declarations of Interest) to read 'Councillor Zoe Sykes declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 6 (Neighbourhood Policing in Sheffield), as she was an Area Co-ordinator for Neighbourhood Watch'. Arising from consideration of the minutes, it was noted that:-

- In relation to paragraph 6.6(d) (Neighbourhood Policing in Sheffield), Inspector Richard Burgess would speak to the officer in charge of the 'Smart' contact service at Atlas Court and come back with proposed dates for Committee Members to see a demonstration before it went live.
- In relation to item 7.3(b) (Update on South Yorkshire Police 101 Service), the Chair, (Councillor Chris Peace) requested that arrangements be made for Committee Members to visit Atlas Court for a briefing and demonstration of the new 101 Service and for consideration to be given as to how to brief all Council Members.

#### **5. PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS**

- 5.1 In response to a public question asked by Alan Kewley, namely 'When will scrutiny of the Council's Locality Management system be restored to this

Committee's Work Programme?', the following points were made:-

- Councillor Jayne Dunn, (Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Community Safety), indicated that she had met with representatives of Sheffield for Democracy and accepted that existing arrangements for public engagement needed to be looked at, as the present system was not working effectively, but with any replacement needing to be sustainable.
- The Chair, (Councillor Chris Peace), pointed out that Neighbourhood Working remained on the Committee's Work Programme and would be considered when there was something to scrutinize.
- Maxine Stavrianakos (Head of Neighbourhood Intervention and Tenant Support) indicated that she would check the Council website to confirm whether it contained information on meetings of the Sheffield Safer and Sustainable Communities Partnership.

## **6. SAFER AND SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES PARTNERSHIP**

- 6.1 The Committee received a presentation on the Safer and Sustainable Communities Partnership which was given by Maxine Stavrianakos (Head of Neighbourhood Intervention and Tenant Support), with additional comments from Chief Superintendent Shaun Morley (South Yorkshire Police).
- 6.2 Also in attendance for this item was Councillor Jayne Dunn (Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Community Safety).
- 6.3 The presentation explained what the Sheffield Safer and Sustainable Communities Partnership (the Partnership) was and included performance comparisons, priorities, additional issues, information on the work of the Police and Crime Commissioner, the budget for Community Safety 2017/18, communications and the composition of the Anti-social Behaviour and Community Safety Team, as well as providing contact details. Particular reference was made to reduction in re-offending, with offender management being seen as critical, and it was emphasised that, if the small cohort who committed crime could be effectively managed, then this would have a substantial effect on crime reduction.
- 6.4 Members made various comments and asked a number of questions, to which responses were provided as follows:-
- Chief Superintendent Morley indicated that he would provide what information he could in terms of the ethnicity mix of offenders in the local neighbouring authorities and equivalent cities referred to in the presentation.
  - If Members heard anecdotal evidence of criminality they should inform the Police.
  - There was not necessarily a link between gangs and youth, with the gangs in Sheffield being concerned with creating drug supply networks. The Police

were endeavouring to dismantle these networks and focus on the individuals involved. The age profile of males involved in criminality was predominantly between 13 and 25 years.

- It was acknowledged that more could be done in relation to hate crime and the appointment of a co-ordinator should improve this, but communications needed to be better. Bids could be made to the Community Safety pot by groups involved in combating hate crime and details of any such applications would be circulated.
- It was recognised that there was a group of males in the City that had grown up and become embedded in drug supply. There was therefore a need to educate young people and gain the trust of the community to address these issues, and it was felt that neighbourhood working should assist in this process. It would also assist in dealing with the link between drugs and slavery.
- Hate crime was to be included on the agenda for the Committee's next meeting.
- Registered Social Landlords (RSLs) were not supplying the Police with relevant information in relation to offenders who were engaged in criminality and living in their properties. Whilst the Partnership had only limited influence on RSLs, work was being undertaken on an approach to anti-social behaviour in Sheffield in conjunction with the Police. It was also felt that RSLs needed to provide finance to fund the legal work with regard to the provision of the required information.
- Good communications between the Police, Council Members and communities was imperative, and there was now a need to look at bespoke engagement strategies in communities and involve Council Members in any consultation on this.
- There had been a South Yorkshire wide meeting with the Police and Crime Commissioner on reoffending and officers wanted to repeat this in relation to Sheffield. There was a need to look at partnership working and scope out how reoffending rates could be affected, with consideration being given to such issues as the provision of rehousing for those coming out of prison. It was known that the Probation Service were keen to get involved with the Council in acquiring properties for this purpose.
- The South Yorkshire Police lead on offender management was Superintendent Paul McCurry.

6.5 RESOLVED: That the Committee:-

- (a) thanks Councillor Jayne Dunn (Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Community Safety), Chief Superintendent Shaun Morley (South Yorkshire Police) and Maxine Stavrianakos (Head of Neighbourhood Intervention and

Tenant Support), for their contribution to the meeting;

- (b) notes the contents of the presentation, comments made and responses to questions;
- (c) supports Councillor Tony Downing (Cabinet Adviser for Neighbourhoods and Community Safety) in his examination of bespoke engagement strategies and requests that he involves the Committee in this process; and
- (d) requests that:-
  - (i) Registered Social Landlords be encouraged to sign up to co-operating with the South Yorkshire Police and the Council in relation to the obtaining of Closure Orders where individuals living in their properties are engaged in criminality;
  - (ii) Chief Superintendent Shaun Morley checks on the status of the Sport FX initiative and informs Maxine Stavrianakos of his findings; and
  - (iii) the Safer and Sustainable Communities Partnership gives some consideration to the issue of reoffending.

## **7. FIRE SAFETY IN HOUSING - PROGRESS UPDATE**

- 7.1 The Committee received a presentation, given by Jill Hurst (Head of Housing Investment and Repairs), which provided a progress update on Fire Safety in Housing following the Grenfell Tower fire. Also present for this item was Councillor Jayne Dunn (Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Community Safety).
- 7.2 Jill Hurst took the Committee through the presentation which covered general progress, Sheffield City Council tower blocks, with particular reference to the Hanover tower block, and provided information on the Grenfell Tower Inquiry and the Independent Review of Building Regulations and Fire Safety being led by Dame Judith Hackitt.
- 7.3 Members made various comments and asked a number of questions, to which responses were provided as follows:-
  - Officers were trying to work with leaseholders of properties with regard to fire safety, but it should be noted that some did not co-operate with regard to access.
  - In tower blocks, the door to each flat was the responsibility of the Council as it provided a barrier to fire.
  - The definition of a high rise block was one which was over 80 metres high or greater than 6 storeys.

- Officers would take advice from the South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service to ensure that any remedial works met Government standards and that tenants were safe.
- The Council awaited the recommendations of the Grenfell Inquiry, but it was accepted that sprinklers would help to mitigate risks.
- With regard to low rise and sheltered schemes, fire precaution work had been undertaken under the Decent Homes Scheme. However, the South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service had indicated that more could be done and enhancements had occurred. In addition, a fire safety expert would be undertaking sample checks on any works done.
- The South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service were committed to the 'Stay Put' policy, but some tenants needed convincing about this.

7.4 RESOLVED: That the Committee:-

- (a) thanks Councillor Jayne Dunn (Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Community Safety) and Jill Hurst for their contribution to the meeting;
- (b) notes the contents of the presentation and responses to questions; and
- (c) requests that the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Community Safety writes a further letter to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, to request Government funding for the fire safety measures required in Sheffield City Council's residential tower blocks.

**8. STREET CULTURE TASK GROUP**

- 8.1 The Chair (Councillor Chris Peace) reported that the recommendations from the Street Culture Task Group would be presented at the Committee's next meeting.

**9. WORK PROGRAMME 2017/18**

- 9.1 The Committee received a report of the Policy and Improvement Officer, to which was attached the Committee's Work Programme for 2017/18 for Members' consideration.

9.2 RESOLVED: That the Committee:-

- (a) approves the contents of the Work Programme 2017/18; and
- (b) notes that the next Committee meeting would include items on the Hate Crime Task Group progress report, the recommendations of the Street Culture Task Group, the Scrutiny Annual Report 2017/18 and Housing+.

**10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

- 10.1 It was noted that the next meeting of the Committee would be held on Thursday, 8<sup>th</sup> March 2018, at 4.45 pm, in the Town Hall.