

Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee

Meeting held 16 February 2017

PRESENT: Councillors Tony Damms (Chair), Nasima Akther, Sue Auckland, Michelle Cook, Richard Crowther, Dawn Dale, Tony Downing, Adam Hanrahan, Mark Jones, Magid Magid and Richard Shaw (Deputy Chair)

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1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Keith Davis, Anne Murphy and Zoe Sykes.

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 In relation to Agenda Item 8 (Neighbourhood Working: A New Approach for Sheffield), Councillor Richard Crowther declared a Personal Interest as Chair of a Local Area Partnership.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

4.1 The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 8th December, 2016, were approved as a correct record.

5. PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS

5.1 In response to questions from Alan Kewley, relating to public engagement with the Safer and Sustainable Communities Partnership and Neighbourhood Working, the Chair, Councillor Tony Damms, indicated that a written response would be provided.

6. WORK PROGRAMME

6.1 The Committee received a report of the Policy and Improvement Officer which set out the Committee's Work Programme for 2016/17.

6.2 RESOLVED: That the Committee:-

- (a) notes the Work Programme 2016/17 as set out in the report; and
- (b) agrees that a number of Committee Members shadow Neighbourhood Officers in preparation for the consideration of the item on the Housing+

Model at the Committee's April meeting and requests that the Policy and Improvement Officer contacts Committee Members to arrange these visits.

7. SAFER AND STRONGER COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY HATE CRIME TASK GROUP

- 7.1 The Committee received the draft report of the Hate Crime Task Group which outlined its findings and recommendations. In presenting the report, the Policy and Improvement Officer referred to the set of recommendations which aim to, raise awareness of hate crime, increase reporting, support partnership working, and improve the data available in the city. The report included specific recommendations including the possibility of introducing a 24/7 helpline for those victims who did not want to contact the Police directly, improved communication materials and targeted awareness raising campaigns. The report requested an initial response from Cabinet to the recommendations by July 2017, so this should be available for the Committee's first meeting of the next municipal year. A more detailed update can then be requested later in the year.
- 7.2 Members thanked the Policy and Improvement Officer and other contributing officers for their work with the Task Group and felt that the cross party working group had worked well together on what the local authority wanted to achieve in tackling hate crime.
- 7.3 RESOLVED: That the Committee:-
- (a) notes the information contained in the report; and
 - (b) notes that the report of the Hate Crime Task Group would be submitted to Cabinet in March/April, 2017 and subsequently to the Sheffield Safer and Sustainable Communities Partnership Board.

8. SAFER AND SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES PARTNERSHIP

- 8.1 The Committee received a presentation which gave an annual update on the work of the Sheffield Safer and Sustainable Communities Partnership. The presentation described the priorities and key issues which had been faced by the Partnership over the last year and looked ahead to 2017/18. Copies of the presentation had been circulated prior to the meeting, together with the Safer and Sustainable Communities Partnership Plan 2014-17.
- 8.2 In attendance for this item was Maxine Stavrianakos (Head of Neighbourhood Intervention and Tenant Support).
- 8.3 In giving the presentation, Maxine Stavrianakos stated that there was a statutory requirement to have a local strategy tackling community safety issues and that members of the Partnership were from South Yorkshire Police, the Local Authority, the Fire and Rescue Service, the Probation Service, the Health Commissioning Group and the Voluntary Sector. She outlined the priorities and key issues which had been faced by the Partnership during the past 12 months and looked ahead to 2017/18. She went on to refer to the current budget and

decreasing budget for 2017/18 and the need for effective partnership working to tackle issues with little or no additional resource. Reference was also made to performance, the changing performance landscape, the new multi-agency team, communities and restorative justice.

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

- Improvements within communities could be seen in the Abbeydale Road area following incidents of anti-social behaviour on 5th November, 2015, and this was an excellent example of how local communities, working with the Police and other agencies, had achieved this. Community engagement and community cohesion was also seen to be working in other areas such as Exeter Drive.
- Recent news reports had shown that Sheffield was still the safest large city in the country.
- With regard to the Prevent Strategy, the City received a total of £150,000 funding from the Home Office. Part of this funding was to be used in the recruitment of a Prevent Co-ordinator.
- A Working Group, looking at ways to deliver the Prevent Strategy in Sheffield had been set up.
- Portfolios across the Council were working together, along with South Yorkshire Trading Standards and the Licensing Service, to tackle safeguarding issues. Work and training was also being undertaken with local groups to come up with innovative ways of working.

8.5 RESOLVED: That the Committee:-

- (a) thanks Maxine Stavrianakos for her contribution to the meeting;
- (b) notes the contents of the presentation and the responses provided; and
- (c) requests that an information session be arranged, to which all Councillors were to be invited, to provide an update on the operation and work of the Sheffield Safer and Sustainable Communities Partnership.

9. NEIGHBOURHOOD WORKING: A NEW APPROACH FOR SHEFFIELD

9.1 The Committee received a presentation outlining the initial thinking on a new approach to neighbourhood level working in Sheffield which would enhance the existing Local Area Partnership (LAPs) and bring greater focus on developing community resilience across the City.

9.2 In attendance for this item were Councillor Jack Scott (Cabinet Member for Community Services and Libraries) and Laurie Brennan (Policy and Improvement Manager).

- 9.3 Councillor Jack Scott introduced the presentation and stated that the LAP Chairs had been given the presentation the previous day and following feedback, it was his intention to present the model for a new approach to Neighbourhood Working to all Members of the City Council. He said a useful focus for the session would be three areas, if the analysis was correct in terms of current challenges with LAP system, whether the principles were right (and anything people don't agree with) and suggestions about how to move forward.
- 9.4 Laurie Brennan outlined the two main strands to effective Neighbourhood Working, the first being community leadership, empowerment and engagement, and secondly, public service delivery. He stated that that the current model was working well but there was a need to build on it by strengthening community leadership and community resilience. He outlined the challenges faced by Councillors and communities with LAPs and stated that due to the reduction in funding, there was a need for a community framework to ensure co-ordinated local service provision from the City Council, its partners and the voluntary sector. He went on to suggest that the way forward was to consider a number of options on how to deliver an enhanced approach to neighbourhood working, to submit a proposal to Cabinet in the next few months and then review the new model after one year.
- 9.5 Councillor Jack Scott summed up by stating that there were approximately 50 different models that you could choose from and the Council needed to develop the model that was right for Sheffield and there was an expectation for everyone to get involved to make it happen.
- 9.6 Members made various comments and asked a number of questions, to which responses were provided as follows:-
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- Meetings could be held jointly with housing providers and local Area Housing Fora.
 - Not everything was about where funding was used, but rather the way things were done.
 - Perhaps the LAPs were too big and communities might struggle to identify with them.
 - There was a need to get communities more involved, not only by attending local meetings but by being more flexible across Ward boundaries.
 - It was felt that austerity over the past few years had been designed to set people against each other and this was something that needed to be addressed.
 - Officers had looked at best practice and worst practice in other cities regarding what worked and what didn't.
 - The budget for LAPs was £600,000, half of which was put into Ward "pots".

It was felt that there was a need to maintain individual Ward pots, with a separate pot of money being set aside for Sheffield-wide initiatives, which could be used in agreement with LAP Chairs and the Cabinet Member.

- Councillor Scott was preparing five or six bullet points on how being a Member in this new system would feel and what it would look like and this would be circulated to the Committee .
- The model would be reviewed after 12 months.

9.8 RESOLVED: That this Committee:-

- (a) thanks Councillor Jack Scott and Laurie Brennan for their contribution to the meeting;
- (b) notes the contents of the presentation and the responses to questions;
- (c) notes that a report on the new approach to Neighbourhood Working in Sheffield was to be submitted to Cabinet in the near future;
- (d) notes that there would be at least one session for all Councillors on the new approach to Neighbourhood Working in Sheffield; and
- (e) agrees that an update at around 3-6 months into implementation be given and this would be added to the draft Work Programme for 2017-18.

10. HATE CRIME AND HATE INCIDENTS 1ST FEBRUARY 2015 - 30TH JANUARY 2016

10.1 RESOLVED: That the Committee notes the contents of the Hate Crime and Hate Incidents 2015/16 report.

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

11.1 It was noted that the next meeting of the Committee would be held on Thursday, 6th April, at 4.00 pm, in the Town Hall.

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