



Agenda Item 12

Report to the Safer & stronger Communities Scrutiny & Policy Development Committee

Thursday 6th April 2017

Report of: Policy and Improvement Officer

Subject: Safer & Stronger Communities Scrutiny & Policy Development Committee: Scrutiny Annual Report 2016-17 Draft Content & Work Programme 2017-18

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Summary:

This report provides the Committee with a summary of its activities over the municipal year for inclusion in the Scrutiny Annual Report 2016-17. The Committee is asked to consider and comment on this document (Appendix A).

The report also includes a list of topics which it is recommended be put forward for consideration as part of the 2017-18 Work Programme for this committee.

Type of item: The report author should tick the appropriate box

Reviewing of existing policy	
Informing the development of new policy	
Statutory consultation	
Performance / budget monitoring report	
Cabinet request for scrutiny	
Full Council request for scrutiny	
Community Assembly request for scrutiny	
Call-in of Cabinet decision	
Briefing paper for the Scrutiny Committee	
Other	X

The Scrutiny Committee is being asked to:

- Scrutiny Annual Report 2016-17: S&SC Scrutiny Committee Draft Content: Consider and comment on the draft content – Section 1.0 and Appendix A
- Work Programme 2017-18 - Agree that the list of topics outlined in section 2.0 be put forward for consideration as part of the 2017-18 Work Programme for this committee; and provide any further comment – Section 2.0

Background Papers: None
Category of Report: OPEN

Safer & Stronger Communities Scrutiny & Policy Development Committee, Thursday 6th April 2017

1.0 Scrutiny Annual Report 2016-17

- Each Scrutiny Committee will produce a summary of their activity over the past municipal year for inclusion in the Scrutiny Annual Report 2016-17. A draft summary of this Committee's activity is attached - please see Appendix A.
- The Annual Report will also include an overview of the role of scrutiny within the authority and a summary of some of the activities and outcomes across the five Scrutiny Committees.
- The full list of topics considered by this Committee during 2016-17 is outlined below:

2016	
Challenge for Change: Community Engagement Report	July
The Role and Remit of the Safer & Stronger Communities Scrutiny Committee	July
Work Programme 2016/17	July
Housing and Planning Act 2016 Update	September
Call in of Cabinet Member decision: Asset of Community Value Nomination - The University Arms,	October
Library Review 2016 – Future support arrangements for volunteer run libraries	October
Sheffield City Council's Draft Cohesion and Integration Strategy and Action Plan	October
Briefing Paper - Hate Crime and Hate Incidents 2015/16	October
Briefing Paper - The Work of the Police and Crime Panel	October
Challenge for Change: The Council Housing Service's Preparation for the Implementation of Universal Credit	December
Welfare Reform Update	December
Financial Inclusion	December
Hate Crime Task Group - verbal update	December
Briefing Paper - Hate Crime and Hate Incidents: 1 November 2014 - 31 October 2016	December
2017	
Safer & Sustainable Communities Partnership	February
Neighbourhood Working: a new approach for Sheffield	February
Hate Crime Task Group – Draft Report	February
Briefing Paper - Hate Crime and Hate Incidents 1st Feb 2015 – 30th Jan 2017	February
Housing + Model and Implementation	April
Challenge for Change: Vacants Property Service	April
Call-in – Approval of new Houses of Multiple Occupancy (HMO) Licensing standards	April
Briefing Paper - Police & Crime Panel Update	April
Briefing Paper - Hate Crime and Hate Incidents	April
Briefing Paper - Scrutiny Annual Report 2016-17 Draft Content & Work Programme 2017-18	April

2.0 Work Programme 2017-18

- It is recommended that the list of topics below be put forward for consideration as part of the Work Programme for the 2017-18 municipal year. This includes areas the Committee have requested a further update on:
 - Hate Crime Task Group Report - Cabinet response to the recommendations, July 2017
 - Equality Hub Network – an update on work around hate crime, July 2017
 - Neighbourhood Working - A New Approach for Sheffield, a report 3-6 months into implementation
 - Police & Crime Panel (PCP)
 - Hate Crime Task Group Report – a more detailed response to the recommendations by December 2017

3.0 The Scrutiny Committee is being asked to:

- Scrutiny Annual Report 2016-17: S&SC Scrutiny Committee Draft Content: Consider and comment on the draft content – Section 1.0 and Appendix A
 - Work Programme 2017-18 - Agree that the list of topics outlined in section 2.0 be put forward for consideration as part of the 2017-18 Work Programme for this committee; and provide any further comment – Section 2.0
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Safer & Stronger Communities Scrutiny & Policy Development Committee 2016-17

Chair: Cllr Tony Damms

Deputy Chair: Cllr Richard Shaw

Remit of the committee: Housing, Community Safety and Crime, Community Cohesion, Social Inclusion and Locality Management

Highlights from the work of the committee in 2016-17 included:

Hate Crime

Public awareness and understanding of hate crime has increased in recent years, as have levels of reporting. However, data suggest that it is still significantly underreported. Members were aware of public concern around this issue and following a number of discussions at Full Council at its meeting in September 2016 the Safer & Stronger Communities Scrutiny Committee agreed to set up a cross party Task Group to look at hate crime in more depth.

Following initial discussions around some of the issues involved, and a recognition that there was also work being led by other groups and organisations in the city, including the Equality Hub Network, the Group agreed to focus on the reporting of hate crime, specifically: *“To understand the different ways hate crime can be reported in Sheffield, identifying things that are working well and any areas where improvements could be made”*.

The Task Group used a range of approaches to gather data for their review, including desk top research, evidence gathering sessions and events and workshops. Members met with a number of individuals and organisations, including Sheffield’s Equality Hub Network, Young Advisors from Sheffield Futures, and members of Sheffield Voices, a self-advocacy group for people with a learning disability.

The [Task Group Report](#) outlines their findings and recommendations. The recommendations aim to raise awareness of hate crime, increase reporting, support partnership working, and improve the data we have available in the city. This includes introducing a 24/7 helpline for victims who don’t want to contact the Police directly, improved communication materials, and targeted awareness raising campaigns. The report was approved by the Scrutiny Committee in February 2017 and will be presented to Cabinet in April 2017. Cabinet will be asked for an initial response to their recommendations by July 2017, with a more detailed progress report to be provided by the end of 2017. As a number of the recommendations relate to the work of the Safer & Sustainable Communities Partnership Board, the Scrutiny Community will share their report with the Partnership Board in May 2017.

Linked to this work from October 2016 the Committee agreed to request regular briefing papers on hate crime and hate incidents in the city. These reports were produced by the Anti-social Behaviour and Community Safety Team and were submitted to each bi-monthly meeting. The reports gave a brief overview of the statistical data for the previous 12 months.

APPENDIX A: Scrutiny Annual Report 2016-17 - Draft Content

Neighbourhood Working: A New Approach for Sheffield

In February 2017, in advance of formal decisions being made, the Committee took the opportunity to look at the initial thinking on a new approach to neighbourhood level working in Sheffield. The Scrutiny session was attended by Councillor Jack Scott, Cabinet Member for Community Services and Libraries and Laurie Brennan, Policy and Improvement Manager who outlined that the approach which is designed to enhance the current Local Area Partnership (LAPs) model and bring a greater focus on developing community resilience across the city. The presentation outlined the two main strands of effective neighbourhood working, community leadership, empowerment and engagement and public service delivery. It confirmed that the developing proposals aimed to build upon the strengths of the LAP model and suggest that there is an opportunity to strengthen the support communities and Elected Members.

Scrutiny Members raised questions and discussed a range of areas including: links with housing providers and local Area Housing Forums, best practice from other areas, community engagement, and the size of the current LAP areas. The Committee heard that a Cabinet paper would be brought forward in the coming months to establish the new model, which would then be reviewed after 12 months. The Committee requested an update prior to 12 months into implementation, and has scheduled this into their Draft Work Programme for 2017-18.

Welfare reform

Due to the scale and pace of change in relation to welfare reform in recent years the Committee have continued to receive reports regarding the changes and their impact. In December 2016 the Committee requested a further update, to include specific information on Personal Independence Payments (PIPs) and Universal Credit (UC).

The report set out the most significant current and future welfare benefit changes and provided information about how these had been addressed by the Council and its partners. The Committee heard that there were only a small number of people in Sheffield claiming Universal Credit (UC), with full roll out due to take place from July 2018. Personal Independence Payments (PIPs) had started to replace Disability Living Allowance and, at the moment, the initial impact seemed to be manageable in Sheffield. However, evidence suggested that in other regions, the introduction of PIP had led to a reduction in the awards made. In terms of the lower Benefit Cap from January 2017, it was anticipated that there would be a rise from 113 households affected, to approximately 900.

Members of the Committee discussed the impact on council tenants, debt advice and support, and support for tenants of Registered Social Landlords. The Committee asked for a further briefing note on how the recently announced Autumn Statement was affecting tenants and the financial impact of these changes on the HRA (Housing Revenue Account). The Committee also asked that Officers undertake work to understand the costs incurred by the Council when carrying out an eviction, including rehousing after the eviction, and that this be shared with the Committee once complete.

Safer & Stronger Communities Partnership

In February 2017 the Committee received an annual update on the work of the Safer & Sustainable Communities Partnership. The presentation described the issues which had been faced by the Partnership over the last year and looked to its priorities for 2017/18. The presentation outlined membership of the Partnership Board and confirmed the statutory requirements linked to the board and the development of a strategy. The Committee

APPENDIX A: Scrutiny Annual Report 2016-17 - Draft Content

heard that the board includes representatives from South Yorkshire Police, the Local Authority, the Fire and Rescue Service, the Probation Service, the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and the Voluntary Sector. Budget reductions meant there was a continuing need for effective partnership working to tackle issues with little or no additional resource. Reference was also made to performance, the new multi-agency Anti-Social Behaviour Team, work with local communities, and approaches to restorative justice - including how it can be used to respond to hate crime.

The Committee questioned areas including: resources and budgets, work linked to PREVENT, relationships and joint working with local communities, and the partnership working arrangements with South Yorkshire Trading Standards and the Licensing Service to tackle safeguarding issues. In light of the level of interest from members, the Committee asked that Officers arrange an information session that is open to all Elected Members to provide an update on the work of the Sheffield Safer and Sustainable Communities Partnership. The session will take place in early May 2017.

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