

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CORPORATE AND PARTNERSHIP OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held at County Hall, Northallerton on 20 September 2010.

PRESENT:-

County Councillors Liz Casling (Chairman), Karl Arthur, Phillip Barrett, John Batt (as Substitute for David Jeffels), Bernard Bateman, David Ireton, Andrew Lee, John McCartney, Steve Shaw, and Geoff Webber.

Co-opted Member: Dr Craig Shaw (Police Authority)

Present by Invitation: Nigel Hutchinson (Chief Fire Officer), Jeremy Holderness (Police Authority) and Ian Wolstenholme (Local Accountability and Scrutiny Support Office, Police Authority).

Officers: John Moore, (Corporate Director Finance and Central Services), Neil Irving (Head of Policy and Performance), Ray Busby (Scrutiny & Corporate Performance) and Mary Davies (Legal & Democratic Services).

Apologies: County Councillors Val Arnold and Neville Huxtable,

COPIES OF ALL DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED ARE IN THE MINUTE BOOK

4. MINUTES

RESOLVED –

That the Minutes of:

- The last meeting of the Corporate Affairs Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 14 June 2010.
- The last meeting of the Safe and Sustainable Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 21 June 2010.
- The last meeting of the Communications Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 9 July 2010.
- The Corporate and Partnerships Call-in Meeting held on 12 August 2010.

having been printed and circulated, be taken as read and be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

5. PUBLIC QUESTIONS OR STATEMENTS

The Committee was advised that no notice had been received of any public questions or statements to be made at the meeting.

6. SCRUTINY OF COMMUNITY SAFETY AND CRIME AND DISORDER MATTERS

CONSIDERED –

The report of the Head of Scrutiny and Corporate Performance providing an introduction to a range of community safety and crime and disorder matters including the following:

- (a) A presentation by Jeremy Holderness: Chief Officer of the North Yorkshire Police Authority, on the Police Authority's responsibilities and relationship to Community Safety and Policing matters generally.

Jeremy Holderness (Chief Officer of the North Yorkshire Police Authority) presented a powerpoint presentation to the Committee (a copy of the presentation is included in the Minute Book).

Members made the following comments:

- In regard to community engagement, how would the Police Authority formulate its Strategic plan. Jeremy Holderness highlighted the work being carried out over the last few years to integrate a joint approach to community engagement at various tiers of delivery. He recognised partnership work taking place between the Local Authority and the Police Authority; work with Councillors in Safer Neighbourhood Teams and Local Engagement Forums. Jeremy Holderness also highlighted periodic surveys at various levels to make sure community engagement work was being carried out as effectively as possible.
 - In reply to a question on the Police Authority's powers to intervene in Police operational matters, Jeremy Holderness acknowledged that at present there were limited options available as the Police Authority could only intervene on the 'quality of service' issues. Jeremy Holderness agreed that the Police Authority needed to have the ability to respond to any concerns.
 - In regard to public parades, it was noted that the Chief Constable had the final decision on whether parades should take place.
 - Praise on the work undertaken at community level by PCSOs and concern for these posts if there were budget cuts to the Police. Jeremy Holderness highlighted ongoing work concerning operational effectiveness, community expectations and a value for money service.
 - Safer neighbourhoods needed to be a top priority for the Police. Jeremy Holderness acknowledged that communities needed to know who was policing them and that time was needed to build these relationships.
 - That retired Police Officers may be elected as a Policing and Crime Commissioner in future. Jeremy Holderness acknowledged that this could lead to concerns in operational independence. The Chairman highlighted page 106 of the report and possible restriction to the eligibility of directly elected Policing and Crime Commissioners.
- (b) The implications of the Consultation Document, Policing in the 21st Century: Reconnecting police and the people, and the responses made by both the North Yorkshire Police Authority and the County Council respectively.

The Chairman highlighted the business plan on page 34 of the report and she also highlighted the safety report taken to each of the Area Committees. Members agreed that it was a useful report at Area Committees with strong links to oversee what was happening in the community.

Members made the following comments:

- In reply to a question on the business plan and the impact of possible economic cuts, Jeremy Holderness agreed there were financial challenges ahead. In the short term there may be a freeze in recruiting. He highlighted restructuring taken place and a service review next year to look at the way policing is delivered and he noted potential budget cuts of up to 25%. Jeremy Holderness advised that North Yorkshire Police were well positioned to continue to deliver front line services with a re-engineered support structure in place.
- Concern that front line policing will be cut. Jeremy Holderness replied that North Yorkshire Police had always sought to protect frontline services.
- That the Police Authority had recently raised its precept. Jeremy Holderness advised that the Police had needed to invest in IT, buildings and vehicles to sustain the authority in the long term. He said that it was not prudent to carry on as a low resourced organisation; there needed to be security for the reliability of the organisation.

Members made the following comments to Appendix 2 on page 52 of the report:

- What was the difference between the Police Authority and an Elected Commissioner with a Police Panel. Jeremy Holderness replied that this would depend on the powers given to the Commissioner; the Commissioner would be elected on a mandate. The Commissioner would not have the power to tell the Chief Constable what to do.
- Could anyone apply for a position as an elected Commissioner and would the candidate have to be politically impartial. Jeremy Holderness explained the process to the Committee and advised on recent suggestions from the Home Secretary to the Police Authority Association.

Neil Irving highlighted the County Council three key responses.

1. That the Police were not the only authority involved in tackling Crime and Disorder – local authorities play a key role alongside local communities and other partners.
 2. The County Council had similar views to those of the Police Authority regarding the election of a Commissioner, he highlighted the view of the Executive Member pointing out the risks involved.
 3. The County Council and many partners including the Police have worked hard to create generic community engagement mechanisms in North Yorkshire and the County Council did not want to see future community engagement carried out separately by the Police.
- (c) The updated Community Safety Agreement – Introduced by Nigel Hutchinson, Chief Fire Officer and Chair of the North Yorkshire Safer Communities Forum.

Nigel Hutchinson introduced the report as the Chairman of the York and North Yorkshire Safer Communities Forum. He advised that the Forum was a body of authorities and agencies across the County area and the City of York who came together to look at the strategic overview of community safety across the sub region and also carry out the legislative requirement for community safety in the County.

Nigel Hutchinson highlighted priorities within the document bringing together 7 District Councils, the City of York, the County Council and the Police to work together on community safety needs. In regard to strategic intelligence assessment the document was used to set out priority areas and key objectives for service delivery in the community.

Nigel Hutchinson advised the Committee of the Forums key objectives in 2010:

- Public confidence.
- Violent crime.
- Anti social behaviour.
- Alcohol related crime and disorder.
- Health.
- Domestic Violence.
- Road Safety.

Members made the following comments:

- A Member noted that District Councils received funding from the license to sell alcohol fees. Nigel Hutchinson advised of contributions from the Forum partners.
- There was support for the work on alcohol as it was seen to benefit other areas of need such as vandalism and domestic violence.

RESOLVED –

That the report and Members comments be noted.

7. CARBON REDUCTION COMMITMENT / ENERGY EFFICIENCY SCHEME

The Chairman agreed that the Committee could hear this extra item of business due to special urgent circumstances, the Executive would be considering the Carbon Reduction/Energy Efficiency Scheme report at its 28 September 2010 meeting and this would be the only opportunity for the Committee to consider the report before that date.

CONSIDERED –

The report of the Corporate Director, Finance and Central Services to consider the implications for the County Council of the Carbon Reduction Commitment.

John Moore, Corporate Director, Finance and Central Services, introduced the report explaining how the Carbon Reduction/Energy Efficiency Scheme will operate and its impact on the County Council. John Moore explained that there was a statutory responsibility on the Council to implement the Scheme which covered carbon emissions from large public and private sector organisations. John Moore advised that Management Board supported the Scheme and he outlined their recommendations which would be going to the 28 September Executive meeting. John Moore had some concerns with the level of bureaucracy involved in administering the scheme but considered joining the Scheme would be of greater benefit than not doing so.

Members made the following comments:

- In reply to a question on whether the County Council had to participate in the Scheme, John Moore said that the Council had a statutory responsibility to

- Energy efficient schools should not be penalised. John Moore explained how the internal league table would work. If after the first year there was a reduction in energy usage then schools could benefit from any bonuses. John Moore said that the Energy Team in Finance and Central Services were working closely with schools to help them understand the Scheme.
- In reply to a question on the data from the automatic meter reading (AMR) system, John Moore said that the system would be purchased from a third party who would verify data obtained from it, collate that information and make it available on line to the County Council. Purchasing and installing an AMR also helped the County Council's status in the national Carbon Reduction Scheme.

The Committee supported Management Board and asked that an update report be brought back to the Committee in a years time or whenever is appropriate.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the report be noted.
- (b) That a report be brought back to the Committee in a year's time or whenever appropriate.

8. POLICE PERFORMANCE REPORT: FOURTH QUARTILE

CONSIDERED –

The covering report by the Head of Scrutiny and Corporate Performance to receive the North Yorkshire Police Policing Pledge local (Force Wide) performance indicators.

RESOLVED –

That the report be noted.

9. WORK PROGRAMME

CONSIDERED –

The report by the Head of Scrutiny and Corporate Performance inviting the Committee to consider the Work Programme.

Ray Busby (Scrutiny Support Officer), gave additional information to the Committee highlighting proposals for the Work Programme. (A copy of the additional information is included in the Minute Book). The information related to three previous Work Programmes and Members agreed this should be merged into one Work Programme for the Corporate and Partnership Overview and Scrutiny Committee to follow. Ray Busby went through the paper with the Committee and noted proposed In-depth Scrutiny Projects for the Committee and also Overview Reports which would come to Committee once a year.

Ray Busby highlighted the following items for the Committee's consideration:

- On going work on Community Safety.
- Probation Office presentation from Peter Brown (Chief Probation Officer).
- Chief Constable - Graham Maxwell – one item agenda.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the content of the report be noted.
- (b) That the comments and resolutions of the Committee made during the meeting be incorporated into the Committee's Work Programme and Forward Plan.

MD/ALJ