

## **SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

Minutes of a meeting of the Scrutiny and Overview Committee held on  
Tuesday, 30 April 2013 at 6.00 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillor Ben Shelton – Chairman  
Councillor David Whiteman-Downes – Vice-Chairman

Councillors:

Jose Hales	Roger Hall
Lynda Harford	Douglas de Lacey
Janet Lockwood	Bunty Waters

Councillors David Bard and Richard Barrett were in attendance as substitutes for Alison Elcox and Roger Hickford respectively.

Councillor Sue Ellington was in attendance by invitation.

Also in attendance were Chief Inspector Darren Alderson, Area Commander for South Cambridgeshire, Sir Graham Bright, Police and Crime Commissioner for Cambridgeshire and Police Inspector Chris Savage.

Officers:	Graham Aisthorpe-Watts	Democratic Services Team Leader
	Mike Hill	Director, Health & Environmental Services
	Jean Hunter	Chief Executive
	Maggie Jennings	Democratic Services Officer
	Steve Rayment	Head of ICT

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Alison Elcox, Roger Hickford and Bridget Smith.

### **60. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Ben Shelton declared an interest in respect of the Policing, Crime and Disorder item as he was the Police Champion for SCDC, a member of the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership and a member of the Police and Crime Panel.

### **61. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting held on 21 March 2013 were agreed as a correct record, subject to the following additions:

- (a) That reference be made in the minutes relating to Minute 51, sub-minute 45 'Update on the Mechanical Biological Treatment (MBT) Processing Plant' of the on-going legal dispute between AmeyCespa and Bam Nuttall, the sub-contractors.
- (b) The attendance of Councillor Janet Lockwood at a Cambridgeshire County Council Overview and Scrutiny meeting relating to Transport on 27 March 2013.

#### **Minute 45 – Update on the MBT Processing Plant**

Mike Hill, Director of Health and Environmental Services informed the Committee that as a result of the resolution made at the last Scrutiny & Overview Committee meeting he had contacted the County Council and was awaiting a response from them. In the event that a satisfactory response was not received, he would invite representatives from the

County Council and AmeyCespa to attend the next Scrutiny and Overview Committee meeting on 4 July 2013.

### **Minute 53 – Youth Council**

A list of best practice when meeting with young people had been prepared by the Lead Officer for the Youth Council and HR and e-mailed to all SCDC councillors. It was reiterated that councillors should not put themselves in a situation where they were alone with a young person.

## **62. PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

None received.

## **63. POLICING, CRIME AND DISORDER**

The Chairman of the Scrutiny & Overview Committee having declared an interest in the following item, handed over the Chair to Councillor David Whiteman-Downes, Vice-Chairman of the Scrutiny & Overview Committee.

(a) Sir Graham Bright, the Police and Crime Commissioner addressed the Committee and informed those present of the following:

- The changes he had made since his election in November included publishing a budget that had subsequently been approved and publication of the Police & Crime Plan
- South Cambridgeshire was the 3<sup>rd</sup> safest district in the country
- Localised policing was working extremely well
- Consideration was being given to providing Smartphones to police officers that would enable the reduction in paperwork, the ability to check car number plates and the history (if any) of people that had been arrested
- 243 Special Constables were presently employed, the Commissioner would like to see an increase to 350 and give them specific tasks to be undertaken
- A grant had been given to Neighbourhood Watch towards the launch of 'Alert' software that enabled inputting of information that would be available to all PCs. The Commissioner would like Neighbourhood Watch to be more proactive, particularly relating to Victim Support
- The Commissioner's main aims were to reduce crime, protect young people, tackle anti-social behaviour and engage with the public
- The employment of an Outreach Worker, reporting directly to the Commissioner that would enable the engagement with parish councils, schools and businesses was currently being processed
- The Commissioner would like to see the public engage with the Police by reporting crime via the telephone number 101. He had reduced the response time for answering calls from 9 minutes to 30 seconds
- The Commissioner was working with Country Watch and Farm Watch to tackle rural crime

(b) Chief Inspector Darren Alderson, Area Commander for South Cambridgeshire addressed the Committee as follows:

- The Police force had been recently re-structured

- There had been a 4.7% reduction in crime; 233 crimes less than the previous year
- South Cambs had the lowest crime rate in Cambridgeshire, despite it being targeted due to its wealth
- There had been 285 burglaries last year with offenders travelling to commit the offences
- Due to an increase in reporting, Domestic Abuse had increased by 30% to 28 cases with some repeat offenders. Historically 15-18 year olds were not included in the statistics. However, that had now changed and as a result it was anticipated there would be a further rise in the number of offences in the future
- Drug offences had increased by 25%, mainly due to a reactive approach by stopping and searching potential offenders.
- Almost all of the 360 businesses in the South Cambs area had suffered a commercial burglary
- There had been an increase in shed burglaries
- There had been a reduction to 668 offences in criminal damage the previous year
- The satisfaction rate with the Police service had improved from 66.5% to 89.6%
- A target had been set to reduce crime by 4%
- E-CINS, a cloud-based IT solution to manage Anti-social Behaviour casework tasks had been recently purchased
- The Chief Inspector would like to see all villages in South Cambridgeshire engaged in the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme
- Neighbourhood Panels were held on a regular basis in some of the villages, however, some questions raised involved highway and housing matters that the Police were unable to answer. The Chief Inspector, therefore requested that consideration be given to representatives from those services attend future Panel meetings

(c) Mike Hill, Director of Health and Environmental Services was in attendance at the meeting in respect of the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) and informed the Committee of the following:

- A Tasking and Co-ordination Group met on a monthly basis
- The focus was on sharing intelligence, particularly through E-CINS
- A challenge for SCDC was how to use its officers, including the refuse collectors to be aware when criminal behaviour was taking place
- Mr Hill reiterated the need for specialist officers to attend future Neighbourhood Panel meetings in order to answer the non-police specific questions from the public

In response to a number of questions raised at the end of the presentations, the following responses were given by,

(a) the Police and Crime Commissioner:

- Items not already included in the PCC's priorities for 2013/14 could be submitted to the Commissioner for further consideration
- In addition to Peterborough, the Commissioner would like to see outreach workers in the South Cambs area
- Priorities included motorists parking on pavements and the use of mobile devices whilst driving

- There was no budget available for distribution to communities to deal with multi-agency issues without increasing the precept. Savings of £10m were required by 2016
- The Commissioner was actively seeking the recruitment of Special Constables from various businesses
- The telephone number 101 should be used at any time of the day for non-urgent calls
- The Commissioner supported the attendance at Neighbourhood Panel meetings of officers from both the County and District Councils
- Limited engagement had occurred in respect of Northstowe; it was an aspiration to become more involved
- The aim was, following training, to give PCSO's and Special Constables specific responsibilities

(b) Chief Inspector:

- Sickness absence in South Cambridgeshire related to 6 days per month and was one of the lowest in the force
- The use of the telephone number 101 was to gain engagement with the public; when appropriate they would be transferred to the 999 service
- Neighbourhood Panels were well attended and would continue in the foreseeable future
- Support for those coming out of prison included education and life-style choices

(c) The Director of Health and Environmental Services:

- There was no funding allocated for the removal of graffiti. However, SCDC had a partnership arrangement with the probation service that once per week, help was given to remove it. Ideally parish councils would also be involved in the process
- Following restructuring at the County Council, a highway engineer for South Cambridgeshire had been appointed

In conclusion, the Scrutiny & Overview Committee unanimously **AGREED** that the Director of Health and Environmental Services, together with the Chief Inspector canvass representatives from both the County and District Councils, particularly the Highways service to regularly attend all future Neighbourhood Panel meetings.

The Vice-Chairman thanked Sir Graham Bright and Chief Inspector Darren Alderson for attending the meeting.

Sir Graham Bright, Chief Inspector Darren Alderson and Inspector Chris Savage left the meeting following this item.

#### 64. ANNUAL SCRUTINY & OVERVIEW REPORT 2012/13

The Scrutiny & Overview Committee **AGREED** the draft Annual Report prior to presentation to Council on 23 May 2013.

#### 65. ICT INFORMAL WORKING GROUP

The Scrutiny & Overview Committee received the notes of the ICT informal working group held on 16 April 2013 and **NOTED** that an additional informal working group

meeting would be held to discuss the Council's procurement process.

**66. PERFORMANCE MONITORING 2012/13: QUARTERLY HEALTHCARD**

The Scrutiny & Overview Committee **NOTED** that the end of year quarterly report would be considered by the Executive Management Team on 22 May 2013 and circulated to members of the Committee for any comments following that meeting. The report would then be considered by Cabinet on 3 June 2013.

**67. CORPORATE FORWARD PLAN**

The Scrutiny & Overview Committee having noted the contents of the Council's Corporate Forward Plan **AGREED** that a workshop, open to all Members, be arranged in the autumn in respect of the Localised Council Tax Support Scheme 2014/15.

**68. WORK PROGRAMME 2013/14**

The Committee **NOTED** the contents of the draft work programme for 2013/14, together with the addition of update reports to the 4 July 2013 meeting on the ICT Working Groups considering Procurement and Redundant Equipment.

**69. MONITORING THE EXECUTIVE**

Nothing reported.

**70. TO NOTE THE DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

The dates of future meetings were noted as follows:

Thursday, 04 July 2013  
Thursday, 05 September 2013  
Thursday, 07 November 2013  
Thursday, 16 January 2014  
Tuesday, 11 February 2014  
Thursday, 03 April 2014

All meetings to commence at 6pm

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**The Meeting ended at 8.23 p.m.**

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