

SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Partnerships Review Committee held on
Friday, 11 April 2014 at 11.00 a.m.

PRESENT: Councillor Ben Shelton – Chairman
Councillor James Hockney – Vice-Chairman

Councillors: Alison Elcox
Jose Hales
Janet Lockwood
Kevin Cuffley

Andrew Fraser
Roger Hall
Tim Scott

Officers: Alex Colyer
Jean Hunter
Victoria Wallace

Executive Director, Corporate Services
Chief Executive
Democratic Services Officer

38. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor Neil Scarr.

39. 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 South Cambridgeshire District Council, member of the South Cambridgeshire Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership, and a member of the Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Panel.

40. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 21 January 2014, were **AGREED** as a correct record.

41. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

No public questions had been received.

42. POLICING, CRIME AND DISORDER

The Chairman welcomed Assistant Chief Constable Mark Hopkins, Chief Inspector Darren Alderson and Sergeant Paul Rogerson from the Cambridgeshire Constabulary, as well as Anna Horne, Head of Communications and Engagement from the Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Commissioner's Office, and Jean Hunter Chief Executive of South Cambridgeshire District Council.

The Chief Executive provided an update on the work of the South Cambridgeshire Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP):

- Three locality groups had been set up and were embedded in all agencies. The E-CINS system was being used by all agencies involved in the CDRP, which was used to share information between the organisations and made the working of the locality groups very effective.
- New priorities for 2014-15 had been agreed by the CDRP, which were:
 1. Helping to keep people safe in their homes (including tackling rogue trading)
 2. Supporting victims and repeat victims, particularly of violence

3. Preventing and tackling anti-social behaviour and supporting 'Together for families'
4. Continued support for the Integrated Offender Management scheme.

Assistant Chief Constable Mark Hopkins, Darren Alderson and Sergeant Paul Rogerson provided updates on policing and crime in South Cambridgeshire. Discussion ensued:

- Rogue traders targeting the vulnerable elderly was an area of focus for Cambridgeshire Constabulary.
- Members were informed that South Cambridgeshire was top in its benchmarking group of local authorities for the lowest level of crime, with a slight increase of 0.3% last year.
- Rates of criminal damage was down 13.8% and damage to buildings and graffiti down 48%.
- Domestic abuse levels were rising, but this was an indication that the rate of reporting was increasing
- The perception of crime in South Cambridgeshire was discussed. It was recognised that whilst the district was amongst the safest areas in the country, Members were aware of a perception amongst South Cambridgeshire residents of crime increasing.
- Members were informed of Operation Oaklands which focussed on tackling home and shed burglaries. The Police had sold shed alarms through this operation, with good uptake by residents. The option of selling house alarms through the CDRP was being investigated.

Members were updated on the work being undertaken around anti-social behaviour (ASB):

- Training was being undertaken with local authority partners to up-skill staff for the new ASB legislation being passed through Parliament.
- The Police was working with registered landlords regarding ASB, to ensure landlords understood their responsibilities.

Anna Horne, Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Commissioner's (PCC) Head of Communications and Engagement, provided an update on the work of the PCC:

- An Outreach Worker was being recruited to cover the South Cambridgeshire area, through which members of the public would be able to communicate any concerns.
- The Police and Crime Commissioner's office would be undertaking 'street surgeries' throughout July and August.
- A Cadet Scheme would be in place by September 2014, for which a volunteer coordinator was being recruited.
- The Police and Crime Commissioner had been undertaking work to raise the profile of mental health and alcohol awareness. A round table event would take place on 1 July 2014, focussing on implementation of a mental health action plan. The Police and Crime Commissioner would co-chair this event with Maureen Donnelly, Chair of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Clinical Commissioning Group.
- A crime and disorder reduction grant of £16,625 for 2014-2015 was being awarded to the CDRP, to fund activities to discourage young people from becoming involved in crime.
- Members were informed that victim support would become a responsibility of the PCC and a 'victim hub' was being developed.

Members were updated on the review of Police Community Support Officers:

- Cambridgeshire Constabulary was keen for PCSOs to have the maximum powers available to them, in order to support the Police as much as possible.
- The review had made 19 recommendations, which had been broadly accepted by Cambridgeshire Constabulary. Some of the key recommendations were:
 - PCSO shift patterns would be reshaped to be more productive.
 - The Countryside Watch PCSO post would be maintained.
 - PCSOs would have a remit to keep an eye on vulnerable people in communities.
- The number of PCSOs would be reduced from 195 to 150. Members were informed that the transition to this number had already been managed in South Cambridgeshire, where there were no more than 150 PCSOs.

PCSO communication with local businesses was discussed:

- Members were informed that communication had been targeted initially at victims of repeat business crime and those businesses profiled as vulnerable.
- PCSOs were feeding information into patrol plans, identifying areas of vulnerability that needed to be targeted by patrols.

The use of technology was discussed. Members were informed that:

- Officers were using mobile technology.
- Cambridgeshire Constabulary was looking at ways in which the current technology they used could be optimised.
- The Home Office had made available an innovation fund, from which the Cambridgeshire police force had been awarded £8 million. Their aim was to use technology more intelligently and increase the ability to deliver duty hours by using technology and reducing bureaucracy.

Rural crime was discussed:

- The challenges of recording and dealing with rural crime were discussed. Members were informed that Cambridgeshire Constabulary supported Countryside Watch and that more awareness and reporting of rural crime was being promoted.
- Fly tipping and tractor theft were discussed. Reporting of fly tipping was encouraged and Members were informed that discussions with tractor manufacturers had been taking place regarding the installation of tracking devices.

Speeding was discussed:

- Members were informed that Parish Councils had been written to by Cambridgeshire Constabulary, requesting they made speeding part of their parish and traffic management plans. They were also asked to nominate a representative to work with the Police. Uptake from parish councils had been disappointing.
- A parish toolkit day for managing traffic and speeding would be organised for parish councils.

Cyber crime was discussed:

- Members were informed that this was an area of concern, though locally there was not yet the capacity to deal with the issue. Capacity of police forces across the country to deal with cyber crime was a concern.
- Cambridgeshire Constabulary was working to establish the extent of cyber crime in the region, in order to establish the capacity needed to tackle it.

The Chairman thanked representatives from the Cambridgeshire Constabulary and Police and Crime Commissioner's Office for their attendance and contributions at the meeting.

43. GREATER CAMBRIDGE CITY DEAL - GOVERNMENT OFFER

Alex Colyer, Executive Director (Corporate Services) updated the committee on the Greater Cambridge City Deal.

Members were informed that:

- An outline deal had been approved and Greater Cambridge would be awarded up to £500 million of new funding in three tranches from April 2015.
- Until a combined authority was formed, which would take approximately a year and require a change in legislation, a joint committee would take forward the work on the City Deal and agree the projects on which the funding would be invested. The joint committee would be in place by April 2015.
- The City Deal would give much local control on how government funding was invested. This was new funding; existing grants would still be available to bid for in addition to the City Deal funding.
- The exact triggers for the funding tranches would not be known before the City Deal would have to be signed.
- A change in Government and Government policy was recognised as a risk.

Assistant Chief Constable Mark Hopkins informed the Executive Director and Members that Cambridgeshire Constabulary was keen to assist with any research carried out into the impact of investment on the area.

The Chairman informed members that he had discussed with the Chairman of the Scrutiny and Overview Committee, formation of a joint working group to look at issues around the City Deal as they arose. This working group would consist of a number of members of the Partnerships Review Committee, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Corporate Governance Committee. The Chairman invited members interested in being part of this to contact him outside the meeting.

44. REPORTS FROM MEMBERS APPOINTED TO OUTSIDE BODIES

The Committee **NOTED** the update reports from Members appointed to represent the Council on outside bodies.

Councillor Sue Ellington provided a verbal update on the Health and Wellbeing Board:

- Members were informed that the Health and Wellbeing Board was looking at the Better Care Fund, which provided a £38 million fund to develop new and innovative ways to provide care to people. Proposals for spending had to be submitted by May 2014, which had been challenging in terms of allowing for in depth engagement as notification of the funding was only given in November 2013.
- Concern was raised by Councillor Ellington that the Health and Wellbeing Board was becoming a 'tick box' organisation as a result of the changes to the County Council's committee system. Copies of the new County Council committee system were circulated to Members.
- Under the new County Council committee system, the Health Committee would have responsibility for all Public Health funding, but it sat a long way from the Health and Wellbeing Board in the new structures. Councillor Ellington proposed that representatives from the County Council, including Public Health, be asked

to attend a meeting of the Partnerships Review Committee in order to explain the implications of the new committee system and address these concerns. The committee **AGREED** this should be the focus of the next meeting of the Partnerships Review Committee, which should be scheduled as soon after the May 2014 elections as possible.

45. SCRUTINY AND OVERVIEW ANNUAL REPORT 2013/14

Members noted the Scrutiny and Overview Annual Report for 2013/14, which provided an account of all the work that had been undertaken by the Partnerships Review Committee during the year.

46. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Members noted the proposed dates of future meetings.

It was **AGREED** that an additional meeting would be scheduled for as soon after the May 2014 elections as possible, to allow for discussion of the Health and Wellbeing Board and the implications of the new County Council committee system. It was suggested that the Chairman of the Health and Wellbeing Board and the Director of Public Health be invited to attend the meeting.

It was **AGREED** that the meeting scheduled for 17 July 2014 would be rescheduled, as this coincided with the Tour de France in Cambridge.

Further agenda items for future meetings were suggested. These were:

- Highways
- Countryside Watch

These were in addition to those already proposed, which were the Environment Agency and flooding, and the East of England Ambulance Trust.

The Meeting ended at 1.00 p.m.
