

16 JANUARY 2018

NEW FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

COMMUNITY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL

Minutes of a meeting of the Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel held in The Bradbury Room, Appletree Court, Lyndhurst on Tuesday, 16 January 2018

- * Cllr S P Davies (Chairman)
- * Cllr D J Russell (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors:

- * D A Britton
- * Mrs L D Cerasoli
- * S J Clarke
- * I C Coombes

Councillors:

- * Ms K V Crisell
- * A H G Davis
- * N S Penman
- * M L White

*Present

In attendance:

Councillors:

Mrs D E Andrews (Community Affairs Portfolio Holder)
J E Binns (Leisure & Wellbeing Portfolio Holder)
Mrs J L Cleary (Housing Services Portfolio Holder)
A K Penson
Mrs F Carpenter
A D O'Sullivan
J M Olliff-Cooper
M A Steele

Also In Attendance:

Ch Insp R Mitchell, Hampshire Police

Officers Attending:

J Burton, B Byrne, C Read, Mrs R Rutins, Ms M Stephens and Mrs M Sandhu

Apologies:

Cllr Clarke

34 MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 14 November 2017 be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

35 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made by members in connection with an agenda item.

36 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No issues were raised during the public participation period.

37 KEY ACTIONS AND SERVICE REVIEW PROGRAMME UPDATE

The Panel received an update on the work undertaken as part of the Council's delivery action plan and service reviews pertinent to the Panel.

In relation to the Leisure Service review, Senior Officers were currently in the process of examining staffing structures within the Leisure Service. Once this had been completed, a revised terms of reference for a Task & Finish Group would be drafted for Panel approval shortly. Officers suggested that the Task & Finish Group be re-appointed with new membership, in light of the changes to the remit of the Group. The Panel agreed with this approach.

RESOLVED:

That the progress updates contained in the report be noted.

38 SAFER NEW FOREST PARTNERSHIP - STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT & PRIORITIES FOR PARTNERSHIP PLAN

The Panel reviewed the strategic assessment prepared by the Safer New Forest Strategy and Delivery Group, setting out the Group's assessment of performance against the actions identified in the 2017/18 Partnership Plan for the reduction of crime and disorder in the District Council's area. It also considered draft actions for inclusion in the 2018/19 Partnership Plan.

With regard to the strategic assessment, the Panel noted that, overall crime in the District had increased by 16% compared with the previous year. This was marginally higher than the overall countywide rise of 13%, with increase in crime being partly attributed to changes in crime reporting and data integrity. Whilst there had been a slight increase in residential burglary rates in the Forest, the Forest continued to be one of the safest places to live in the UK.

In assessing the strategic risks and threats affecting the communities of Hampshire and scoring these risks against the MoRILE (Management of Risk In Law Enforcement) the following areas had been identified as priorities for the coming year: -

- Children at Risk
- Modern Slavery & Human Trafficking
- Drug Related Harm
- Domestic Abuse

The priorities of the previous year had been embedded in the work of the strategic partners and would continue to receive focus and momentum, in conjunction with the four priorities above.

In discussing the number of visible police officers in local neighbourhoods, the Panel was informed that the nature of policing had changed considerably in light of restrictions on police resources. Hampshire Constabulary now concentrated police resource in tackling crime that carried the most harm/risk. The new scoring

mechanisms of crime incidents also affected the targeting of resources. Nonetheless, local neighbourhood Police teams would continue to build relationships within their localities to enhance knowledge of the issues affecting their local neighbourhood.

The strategic assessment and partnership plan would be discussed with Town and Parish Council's shortly, before being approved by the full Council in April.

The Panel supported the four priorities for inclusion in the 2018/19 Partnership Plan.

RESOLVED:

That the Partnership Plan for 2018/19 be supported for adoption by the Council.

39 COMMUNITY GRANTS TASK & FINISH GROUP

The Panel considered the recommendations of the Community Grants Task & Finish Group. The Panel supported the allocation of grants as set out in paragraph 4.1 of the Report.

After receiving written representation from Lymington Community Association and a verbal submission from the local ward member requesting that the Association's Application be reviewed, the Panel discussed whether this organisation should be allowed to re-submit a revised application. Whilst acknowledging that there had been a material change to the Association's financial position (namely match funding had been obtained), some members felt that allowing one organisation the opportunity to re-submit an application outside of the application timeframe, would be unfair to other applicants, who might well be in a similar position. Members expressed the view that the improvements made in the grants process, namely ensuring greater transparency and fairness, could be jeopardised. Upon a vote, it was agreed that the re-submission of this application not be supported.

In light of the increasing number of applications and the high sums of money being sought from applicants, set against the increasing pressure on the Council's finances, the Panel recommended that a comprehensive review of the community grants process and eligibility criteria be reviewed in advance of the 2018 application deadline.

RESOLVED:

- a) That the grant awards as set out in paragraph 4.1 of the Report to the Panel be recommended to the Cabinet for approval; and
- b) That a comprehensive review of the community grants process and eligibility criteria be reviewed in advance of the 2018 application deadline.

40 WORK PROGRAMME

RESOLVED:

That the Panel's work programme set out in Appendix 1 to these minutes be agreed.

41 PORTFOLIO HOLDERS' UPDATES

It was agreed that the Portfolio Holders would email their updates to the Panel after the meeting.

CHAIRMAN

COMMUNITY OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY PANEL WORK PROGRAMME 2018/2019

ITEM	OBJECTIVE	METHOD	LEAD OFFICER
13 MARCH 2018			
Homelessness Reduction Act 2017	To consider the implications of the Act and steps to be taken by the Council including the establishment of a Homelessness Task & Finish Group.	Brief Verbal Update	Grainne O'Rourke
Sheltered Accommodation	To receive an update on current provision in the District and the re-modelling of current schemes.	Presentation to Panel	Grainne O'Rourke
Leisure Service Review	To re-appoint a new Task & Finish Group with revised Terms of Reference	Report to Panel/Task & Finish Group appointment	Joanne Bailey/Colin Read
Community Grants – Review of process and Eligibility Criteria	To re-appoint the Task & Finish Group to review the current process and criteria in advance of receipt of the grant applications in Summer 2018	Report to Panel/Task & Finish Group appointment	Colin Read
Dibden Golf Centre	To receive the bi-annual update from the Chairman of the Task & Finish Group	Verbal update to Panel	Cllr B Andrews/Colin Read
19 JUNE 2018			
Health & Wellbeing Agenda	To consider health and wellbeing matters in the District	Report to Panel	Jamie Burton/Colin Read
New Forest Policing	To consider current Policing resources in the District	Presentation from Chief Inspector Rob Mitchell	Chief Inspector Rob Mitchell/Brian Byrne

ITEM	OBJECTIVE	METHOD	LEAD OFFICER
18 SEPTEMBER 2018			
Housing Allocation Policy Review	To consider the current policy and need for future changes	Report to Panel	Grainne O'Rourke
Universal Credit	To consider the current situation and whether any local initiatives/joint working have been undertaken to assist local residents	Presentation to Panel	Ryan Stevens
Community Strategy		Report to Panel	Manjit Sandhu
CCTV	To a review the benefits of the CCTV service going forward.	Report to Panel	Rebecca Drummond
20 NOVEMBER 2018			
Dibden Golf Centre	To receive the bi-annual update from the Chairman of the Task & Finish Group	Verbal update to Panel	Cllr B Andrews/Colin Read
Young People - Wellbeing	To understand the issues affect the wellbeing of young people living in the District (Mental Health)	Presentation to the Panel	Colin Read/Cllr Binns
15 JANUARY 2019			
Community Grants Task & Finish Group	To consider Task & Finish Group findings	Report to Panel	Colin Read
Safer New Forest Partnership Plan	To consider inputting into the Plan.	Report to Panel	Rosemary Rutins/Brian Byrne