

**HEALTH AND PUBLIC PROTECTION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
16TH MARCH 2004**

PRESENT: The Chair (Councillor Muldoon)
The Vice-chair (Councillor Pacey)
Councillors Bentley, Blanchard, Campbell, Edwards, A.M. Kershaw,
R. Kershaw, Snartt and Williams

APOLOGY: Councillor Brown

82. MINUTES

The minutes of the meetings of the Committee held on 20th January and 3rd February 2004 were confirmed and signed.

83. DISCLOSURE OF PERSONAL INTEREST

Councillor Edwards disclosed a personal interest in respect of the discussions of the arrangements for the scrutiny of ambulance provision in Charnwood as a member of the St John Ambulance.

84. DECLARATIONS – THE PARTY WHIP

No declarations of the existence of the Party Whip were made.

PART 2 (DELEGATED)

85. REVIEW OF CCTV SYSTEMS

In accordance with the Committee's work programme, a report of the Head of Policy and Economic Regeneration to consider the issues in respect of CCTV systems was submitted.

CCTV was one of a range of tools used to reduce crime and promote community safety and a method had been adopted to assess future CCTV proposals in conjunction with the Police. The Charnwood Community Safety Partnership had undertaken trials of mobile CCTV equipment in conjunction with North West Leicestershire District Council. A review of the current approach to CCTV systems was being undertaken which would include an evaluation of the mobile CCTV trial.

The Head of Policy and Economic Regeneration and the Community Safety Officer attended the meeting to assist with the consideration of the item.

The following issues were raised and comments made by members of the Committee:

- (i) Monitored CCTV was far more effective than unmonitored CCTV. It was important that monitoring was undertaken in a strategic way and that anyone employed to monitor CCTV had been subject to appropriate security checks.

- (ii) The review of CCTV systems should include analysis of their effect on crime patterns as it was possible that criminal activity had been moved elsewhere. It was important that the effectiveness of different CCTV systems was assessed as part of the review. CCTV systems also had a positive effect on public confidence. It was important that the needs of villages were included in the review.
- (iii) Cameras enclosed in an obscure glazed dome would be more effective because the movements of the camera could not be seen. Digital cameras would also be more effective.
- (iv) The CCTV scheme in Syston had originally been envisaged as a focus for further CCTV schemes in surrounding towns and villages such as Birstall, East Goscote and Thurmaston.
- (v) It was of concern that the CCTV system at Beehive Lane Car Park did not prevent anti-social behaviour in the evenings.
- (vi) Reports had appeared in the press that a mobile CCTV system would not be funded. Additional funding could be obtained by hiring out the system for events. The effectiveness of the mobile CCTV system was reduced by the need to publicise its location and make it visible.
- (vii) Following the trial of the mobile CCTV system in Anstey, an offer had been made to locate a fixed CCTV camera there.
- (viii) There was a danger of a knee-jerk reaction to have CCTV cameras on every street corner.

In response to issues raised, comments made and questions, officers stated:

- (a) In Loughborough, CCTV footage was recorded continually using a programmed pattern of camera movement. One person was employed full-time to monitor the CCTV footage with shifts based on peak instances of criminal or anti-social behaviour. That person was a former Police officer. Other people, such as community support officers, were trained to monitor the CCTV footage if an incident occurred at other times. Monitoring of CCTV footage would form part of the review of CCTV systems.
- (b) The Annual Report of the Loughborough CCTV scheme included data on changes in the pattern of criminal activity. Between 250 and 300 arrests per year resulted from the use of CCTV. A visit could be arranged for members of the Committee to see the CCTV control room.
- (c) The review of CCTV systems would include the whole Borough. Consultants had been engaged to conduct a questionnaire of parish/town councils. There would be consultation on the review once it was published.

- (d) Any expansion of the area covered by CCTV would be considered in the review of CCTV systems and in the light of the method adopted to assess future CCTV proposals.
- (e) The footage from the CCTV cameras at Beehive Lane Car Park was recorded and could be used if an incident was reported. Car Park staff also patrolled the Car Park which acted as a deterrent.
- (f) The Charnwood Community Safety Partnership had earmarked funding for CCTV, but the allocation of that money was dependent on the outcome of the review of CCTV systems. Partners also contributed; the Police provided officer time and, in Loughborough, the private sector provided financial support. The review would include consideration of proposals for seeking contributions from parish/town councils for a mobile CCTV system. Any mobile CCTV system would be a public resource and would require all legislative requirements, including the Data Protection Act 1998, to be complied with in its use. It was possible to use mobile CCTV covertly, but in that case the procedures under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 must be followed.

RESOLVED

1. that the report be noted;
2. that officers be asked to include the following items in the current review of CCTV systems:
 - the needs of villages;
 - the monitoring of systems;
 - analysis of the effectiveness of CCTV and of different systems;
 - the potential benefits of using digital cameras;
 - the potential benefits of using cameras enclosed in obscure glazed domes;
3. that officers be asked to circulate copies of the review to members and reserve members of the Committee when it is completed;
4. that officers be asked to circulate details of the times when CCTV systems are monitored to members and reserve members of the Committee;
5. that officers be asked to circulate copies of the Annual Report of the Loughborough CCTV system to members and reserve members of the Committee;
6. that officers be asked to pass on the Committee's concerns in respect of Beehive Lane Car Park to the Head of Property Services.

86. REVIEW OF EMERGENCY PLANNING IN CHARNWOOD

In accordance with the Committee's work programme, a report of the Chief Executive to update the Committee on emergency planning in Charnwood was submitted.

The Emergency Plan had been reviewed by the Chief Executive's Team on 18th February 2004. As a consequence of the review, minor changes had been made to the principal emergency planning officers. It was intended to test the Plan in a major emergency exercise in Autumn 2004. Debriefing from the exercise and the effects of the Civil Contingencies Bill, published in January 2004, could result in further changes to the Plan. The development of a full business continuity plan would form part of the work of the new Deputy Chief Executive in 2004/05.

The Chief Executive attended the meeting to assist with the consideration of the item.

The following issues were raised and comments made by members of the Committee:

- (i) The recent attacks in Madrid had shown the importance of the issue. Charnwood was located near Nottingham East Midlands Airport and important motorway links which could be potential targets.
- (ii) It appeared that little progress had been made since the aeroplane crash at Kegworth. It was important that the issue was seen as a priority.
- (iii) The local knowledge of parish and town councils and the use of them as focal points could be very useful during any emergency event. It was important that contact information was kept up to date.

In response to issues raised, comments made and questions, officers stated that the issue was seen as a priority. Work had been done to review the Emergency Plan and to bring forward the date of the emergency exercise. In the event of an emergency, the role of the Council was not as a co-ordinator but to provide those resources which were requested by others. Records of those resources which the Council could provide and contact information were maintained.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

87. REVENUE MONITORING 2003/04

A report of the Head of Financial Services was submitted outlining the actual income and expenditure of the Service Development Plans within the Committee's overview and scrutiny remit compared with the profiled budgets at the end of period 10, the end of January 2004. There was currently an underspending of £156,000 which represented 5% of the profiled budget.

The Environmental Health and Housing Accountant attended the meeting to assist with the consideration of the item.

The following issues were raised and comments made by members of the Committee:

- (i) The budget for Emergency Services was only £1,100 and was currently underspent. That was of concern given the importance of the issue.
- (ii) It was of concern that there appeared to be an underspending on service provision and an overspending on administration.

In response to issues raised, comments made and questions, officers stated:

- (a) The budget for Emergency Services only showed controllable expenditure and not internal recharges. The types of expenditure described in the previous item would mainly involve officer time, which would then be recharged. A written reply could be provided to clarify those issues.
- (b) The underspendings and overspendings were both within tolerance limits. There were still two months left in the financial year and some funds had been held back as a contingency. It was expected that expenditure would be very close to budget at the end of the financial year.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

88. CABINET – CURRENT/RECENT ISSUES CONSIDERED AND RESPONSES TO REPORTS/COMMENTS OF THE COMMITTEE

Details of items within the Committee's overview and scrutiny remit which the Cabinet had considered at its meetings on 12th and 26th February 2004 were submitted.

The following issues were raised and comments made by members of the Committee:

- (i) The Alcohol Consumption in Public Places Order would only cover part of Loughborough. The issue of the effects of alcohol consumption affected the whole of the Borough.
- (ii) The issue of binge drinking, especially by young people, had been highlighted recently by the Government.

RESOLVED

- 1. that the information be noted;
- 2. that the health and community safety issues surrounding alcohol consumption be included in the Committee's work programme.

89. SCRUTINY COMMISSION FEEDBACK

The Chair reported on the meeting of the Scrutiny Commission held on 10th February 2004. The report of the IDeA Peer Challenge Review Team had been discussed and

suggestions made about the greater co-ordination of scrutiny. That would result in a greater impact of scrutiny on the Cabinet, especially in respect of the implementation of the Corporate Plan. It was suggested that the Commission could recommend items for committees to scrutinise but it would reduce the integrity of committees if items were imposed upon them.

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

90. FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS

The current Forward Plan had been published on 16th February 2004. There were no matters within the Committee's overview and scrutiny remit identified in the current Forward Plan.

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

91. WORK PROGRAMME

The current position with the Committee's work programme was submitted. The Committee was asked to consider the programme, any amendments and additions it might wish to make and business for future meetings. That would enable planning for the next two or three meetings of the Committee to be undertaken, for relevant background information to be prepared and for the attendance of officers and/or others to be arranged.

In accordance with the Committee's work programme, the Head of Legal and Democratic Services had submitted the following statement to update the Committee in respect of the arrangements for representatives from East Midlands Ambulance Service, Charnwood and North West Leicestershire and Melton, Rutland and Harborough Primary Care Trusts and St John Ambulance to attend the Committee's scrutiny of ambulance provision in Charnwood.

"East Midlands Ambulance Service has stated that it will no longer attend district council scrutiny committee meetings and issues which district councils wish to raise should be directed via the County Council which has a remit to scrutinise the Health Service.

A decision on the new County Council scrutiny arrangements in respect of the Health Service will be taken on 24th March 2004, following which district councils will be informed of the proposed arrangements.

Charnwood and North West Leicestershire Primary Care Trust, Melton, Rutland and Harborough Primary Care Trust and St John Ambulance have indicated that they are willing to attend a meeting of the Committee to consider the item."

The Head of Environmental Health Services reported that a successful meeting had taken place with the Air Traffic Services Manager and the Community Relations Manager of Nottingham East Midlands Airport, the Chair and Vice Chair of the

Committee and Councillor Slater, who was the Council's representative on the Nottingham East Midlands Airport Independent Consultative Group. There had been broad agreement that the meeting with parish and town councils, held on 8th January 2003, would be repeated to discuss the issue of proposed changes to the airport's airspace. It was important that the terms of reference for the meeting were tightly set.

The Head of Environmental Health Services reported that the date for the transfer of responsibility for licensing to local authorities was likely to be delayed. As a result, the date for the Committee to scrutinise the issue might also have to be delayed.

The following issues were raised and comments made by members of the Committee:

- (i) It was regrettable, but understandable, that East Midlands Ambulance Service were unwilling to attend a further meeting. The position in respect of service provision had not improved and was poor outside Loughborough. The Ambulance Service should be asked for a written statement of the current position which could be considered by the Committee. It was still appropriate to invite the Charnwood and North West Leicestershire and Melton, Rutland and Harborough Primary Care Trusts and St John Ambulance to the meeting.
- (ii) It was unclear what the Council's involvement would be in the new arrangements for the scrutiny of health services by Leicestershire County Council.
- (iii) If a meeting with Nottingham East Midlands Airport was restricted to representatives from parish and town councils, other groups could feel excluded. It was, however, important that a constructive tone was set for the meeting. It was important that the public were made aware that the meeting had taken place and had addressed concerns which had been raised.

In response to the issue raised in (ii) above, officers stated that details of the new arrangements for the scrutiny of health services by the County Council were not yet known. A written answer could be provided to members of the Committee when further information was available.

In response to the issue raised in (iii) above, the Head of Environmental Health Services stated that the effects of changes to the airspace and the policies which the airport already had in place would be clarified at the proposed meeting. The public could be informed of those as part of a press release following the meeting.

In response to a question, the Head of Technical Services stated that, following the introduction of a new performance monitoring system and a review of the establishment, insufficient information would be available for the Committee to scrutinise street cleansing before 6th July 2004 at the earliest.

RESOLVED

1. that the Head of Environmental Health Services be asked to arrange for the additional meeting of the Committee programmed for consideration of

Nottingham East Midlands Airport to take place in May 2004 and for two representatives from each parish/town council to be invited to that meeting;

2. that the agenda for the additional meeting of the Committee programmed for consideration of Nottingham East Midlands Airport be limited to consideration of the issues of airspace and the possible future expansion of the airport;
3. that the Committee proceeds on the basis of the following work programme, which incorporates decisions taken earlier in the meeting:

Issue	Current Position	Meeting Date
Scrutiny of Ambulance Provision within Charnwood	Further consideration of ambulance response times to be considered. Representatives from Charnwood and North West Leicestershire and Melton, Rutland and Harborough Primary Care Trusts and St John Ambulance to be invited to attend. East Midlands Ambulance Service to be asked to provide a written statement describing the current position.	25th May 2004
Out of Hours Service	An update report of the Head of Environmental Health Services to be considered.	25th May 2004
Nottingham East Midlands Airport	Representatives from Nottingham East Midlands Airport and parish councils to be invited to an additional meeting of the Committee to consider items of concern in respect of Nottingham East Midlands Airport.	An additional meeting to be programmed for May 2004
New Licensing Regime	An update report of the Head of Environmental Health Services to be considered.	6th July 2004
Anti-social Behaviour	A report of the Head of Policy and Economic Regeneration to consider further the issues in respect of anti-social behaviour and Police responses to incidents to be considered.	14th September 2004

	The Loughborough Unit Commander from Leicestershire Police to be invited to attend.	
Alcohol Consumption	A report of the Head of Environmental Health Services and the Head of Policy and Economic Regeneration to be considered.	To be programmed
Environmental Pollution, Epinal Way, Loughborough	A report of the Head of Environmental Health Services to be considered in response to issues raised at Council on 16th September 2002.	To be programmed
Review of CCTV Schemes	A report of the Head of Policy and Economic Regeneration to be considered.	To be programmed
Review of Emergency Planning	An update report of the Chief Executive to be considered.	To be programmed
Review of Refuse Collection and Recycling Service	An update report of the Head of Technical Services to be considered.	To be programmed
Scrutiny of the Health Service	A report of the Head of Policy and Economic Regeneration on the re-structured Health Service.	To be programmed
Street Cleansing	An update report of the Head of Technical Services to be considered.	To be programmed

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