

**SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD
28TH MARCH 2018**

PRESENT: The Vice-chair (Councillor Parsons)
Councillors Draycott, Fryer, K. Harris, Lowe,
Seaton and Taylor

Councillor Page, Cabinet Lead Member for Communities,
Safety and Wellbeing (for item 6 on the agenda)

Chief Executive
Strategic Director of Corporate Services
Strategic Director of Neighbourhoods and Community
Wellbeing
Democratic Services Manager
Democratic Services Officer (LS)

Sergeant Latham (Leicestershire Police)

APOLOGIES: Councillors Bebbington and Miah

The Vice-chair stated that this meeting would be recorded and the sound recording subsequently made available via the Council's website. He also advised that, under the Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014, other people may film, record, tweet or blog from this meeting, and the use of any such images or sound recordings was not under the Council's control.

39. MINUTES

The minutes of the meetings held on 24th January and 13th February 2018 were confirmed as correct records and signed.

40. DISCLOSURES OF PECUNIARY AND PERSONAL INTEREST

No disclosures were made.

41. DECLARATIONS – THE PARTY WHIP

No declarations were made.

42. QUESTIONS UNDER SCRUTINY COMMITTEE PROCEDURES 11.16

No questions had been submitted.

43. CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

Considered a report of the Head of Neighbourhood Services providing a review of the work of the Community Safety Partnership so that the statutory

responsibility to scrutinise the Community Safety Partnership (CSP), at least every six months, was undertaken and to ensure the continued monitoring of incidences of crime in Charnwood and the identification of issues requiring further scrutiny (if any) (item 6 on the agenda filed with these minutes).

The Cabinet Lead Member for Communities, Safety and Wellbeing, the Strategic Director of Neighbourhoods and Community Wellbeing and Sergeant Latham assisted with the consideration of the report.

The following provides a brief summary of the Board's scrutiny of this matter, including responses given to questions:

- (i) Changes to the way crime was recorded had resulted in large increases in the reported incidence of some crimes. It was also considered that increased willingness to report crime was a factor in those increases.
- (ii) Reporting crime of any type was important and people were encouraged to do so, particularly as it informed the use of resources.
- (iii) Charnwood remained a safe community. Residents were generally happy that reported crime was dealt with.
- (iv) Begging could take several forms, these were briefly discussed, all should be reported.
- (v) Prevention and disruption of crime in Charnwood was important, to make it as difficult as possible for criminals to operate in the Borough.
- (vi) Rural areas were policed in the same way as urban areas. Resources could be moved around if needed, but reporting was needed to inform that. Work was both preventative and reactive. Residents could assist, for example, by ensuring property was locked.
- (vii) The successful closing down of several crack houses in Loughborough and the associated respite for residents was welcomed.
- (viii) The effect of service cuts and welfare changes on domestic abuse and the support available was commented upon. Reassurance was given that resources were used as effectively as possible, referring in particular to the support available via UAVA (United Against Violence and Abuse) and that more information could be provided on that in the next update report to the Board, also to Leicestershire County Council's Early Help Review, on which this Council had commented.
- (ix) Performance data in respect of specific beat areas was briefly discussed, including reasons for variance and successful partnership working to address particular issues in some of those areas.
- (x) Crime had increased in the Borough, but Charnwood was doing well when compared against the national trend.
- (xi) Drug-related crime was a particular concern for all affected. Partnership work to combat that was briefly outlined, but it was a significant problem and demand for drugs was not easily resolved. The importance of reporting was reiterated, intelligence was key.
- (xii) Crime in areas with high student populations and work to combat that was briefly discussed, together with Loughborough University's support in that respect. Resources were targeted to address crime.

- (xiii) Resources did not allow crime data to be provided at parish level.
- (xiv) The Board was required to scrutinise the discharge of crime and disorder functions by the Council and other agencies through the CSP. The Board understood that all partners were working to reduce crime and supported that work. However, continual changes to the way crime was recorded made assessment of progress, and therefore effective scrutiny, difficult. Consideration needed to be given to how progress against Plan could be better illustrated. That would assist the Board in its role. The Board may wish to make a recommendation(s) in that respect at a future meeting, or to be more challenging it its approach to the matter moving forward.

The Strategic Director of Neighbourhoods and Community Wellbeing agreed to check that the Council's waste collection contractor, Serco, reported to the Police as a matter of course any finds of refuse related to the cultivation of cannabis.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

Reason

To acknowledge the work undertaken by the Community Safety Partnership and to ensure that the statutory responsibility to scrutinise the Partnership is met.

44. SCRUTINY OF THE COUNCIL'S BUDGET

Considered a report of the Strategic Director of Corporate Services to consider the process for scrutiny of the 2019/20 budget (item 7 on the agenda filed with these minutes).

The Strategic Director of Corporate Services and the Chief Executive assisted with the consideration of the report.

The Board agreed that the following suggestions should be incorporated in the process for scrutiny of the 2019/20 budget:

- (i) Meeting 1 (May/June) – Information submitted to the Panel in respect of the final outturn position for the previous financial year to be at the same level of detail/presentation style as the budget report, to assist comparison. Last year, the outturn information had been much less detailed (at departmental level only).
- (ii) Meeting 2 (October) – Information to be provided by Leader/Cabinet Lead Member who will be invited to this meeting that will assist the Panel in scrutinising the policy background to and the rationale behind the draft budget being proposed. In particular, what scenarios had been considered, for example a budget based on statutory requirements, a budget based on maintaining services or a budget

based on providing additional services to meet the Corporate Plan, and the reasons for the option then chosen.

RESOLVED that the process for scrutiny of the 2019/20 budget be as set out in Paragraph 9 of Part B of the report of the Strategic Director of Corporate Services, amended to incorporate the suggestions set out in (i) and (ii) above.

Reason

To ensure effective scrutiny of the 2019/20 budget.

45. DRAFT ANNUAL SCRUTINY REPORT 2017/18

Considered a report of the Head of Strategic Support presenting a draft Annual Scrutiny Report 2017/18, with a view to it being recommended to Council for approval (item 8 on the agenda filed with these minutes).

The Democratic Services Manager assisted with consideration of the report.

It was suggested that future reports have increased focus on the impact of scrutiny.

RESOLVED that it be recommended to Council that the Annual Scrutiny Report 2017/18, as set out in the report of the Head of Strategic Support, be approved, subject to the following amendments:

- (i) the reference to “Single Local Plan” in the Policy Scrutiny Group section of the report to be corrected to “Single Development Scheme”, as proposed by the Democratic Services Manager at this meeting;
- (ii) where the Chair of a scrutiny body had changed during 2017/18, that be stated in the report in a consistent style, to include reference to the councillors concerned and the month of the change.

Reason

To report annually, as required by the Council’s Constitution, on the operation and workings of Scrutiny.

46. SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME AND ISSUES ARISING FROM SCRUTINY GROUPS AND PANELS

Councillor Seaton left the meeting briefly during the introduction of this report.

Considered a report of the Head of Strategic Support to enable the Board to agree the Scrutiny Work Programme, including considering requests from other scrutiny bodies and updates on the delivery of the Work Programme, and identify Key Decisions on which scrutiny could be undertaken, also to consider whether scrutiny of any procurement activity should be programmed. The report also set out the Cabinet’s response to a recommendation made by

the Board at its meeting on 24th January 2018 (Budget Scrutiny Panel) (item 9 on the agenda filed with these minutes).

The Chief Executive assisted with consideration of the report.

As part of this item, the Board briefly discussed how the Scrutiny Work Programme might be decided differently in the future and in view the recent review of the Council's scrutiny function by the Centre for Public Scrutiny.

RESOLVED

1. that the following item be added to the Performance Scrutiny Panel's Work Programme, to be undertaken six clear months after commencement of the scheme:

monitoring of the performance of the Charnwood Lottery;

2. that the following item be removed from the Policy Scrutiny Group's Work Programme:

Asset Management Strategy 2018-19 to 2022-23;

3. that the following items be added to the Policy Scrutiny Group's Work Programme, to be considered at the Group's meeting on 24th April 2018:

Corporate Enforcement Policy;
Climate Change Strategy;

4. that the following recommendation of the Policy Scrutiny Group be submitted to the Cabinet when it considers the matter:

"that the final version of the Private Sector Housing Enforcement Policy include as an objective that enforcement activity should involve the minimum of stages that was consistent with the Council's legal obligations and did not put the Council at risk";

5. that the following comment of the Policy Scrutiny Group be submitted to the Cabinet when it considers the matter:

"that the Group supports the draft Corporate Anti-social Behaviour and Hate Incident Policy 2018-2021";

6. that it be noted that no additional performance indicators for scrutiny by the Performance Scrutiny Panel have been identified in relation to the Housing Revenue Account Business Plan 2014-44 and the Housing Asset Management Strategy 2014-19;

7. that the additional meeting which the Board wished to hold in March/April 2018 for the purpose of planning and identifying potential topics for

scrutiny in 2018/19 be postponed, pending the outcome of the recent review of the Council's scrutiny function by the Centre for Public Scrutiny;

8. that forthcoming Executive Key Decisions or decisions to be taken in private by the Executive, set out in the updated Appendix 1 to the report, and scheduled scrutiny of those matters, be noted;
9. that the Annual Procurement Plan, set out in Appendix 2 to the report, be noted;
10. that the Scrutiny Work Programme, set out in Appendix 3 to the report, be noted and updated in accordance with decisions taken above and at this meeting;
11. that the Cabinet's response to the recommendation made by the Board at its meeting on 24th January 2018 (Budget Scrutiny Panel), as detailed on page 6 of the report, be noted.

Reasons

1. To agree a request made by the Performance Scrutiny Panel at its meeting on 14th February 2018 (Minute 49). The Panel considered it important to scrutinise the Charnwood Lottery a period of time after it had been implemented to monitor its performance and its ability to provide money for good causes.
2. To agree a request made by the Policy Scrutiny Group at its meeting on 6th February 2018 (Minute 38). The Policy Scrutiny Group noted that the Scrutiny Management Board had recently added the matter to the Overview Scrutiny Group's Work Programme and the timing of the submission of the report to the Cabinet had been brought forward. It was not considered necessary for the matter to be scrutinised by two different groups and it was more timely for the matter to be considered by the Overview Scrutiny Group.
3. To agree requests made by the Chair and Vice-chair of the Policy Scrutiny Group. The Corporate Enforcement Policy had been added to the Notice of Forthcoming Key Decisions after the most recent meeting of the Group and was an important, overarching policy. The Group had considered a number of items related to enforcement at its recent meetings. The Climate Change Strategy had been identified as being submitted to the Cabinet meeting in May 2018 after the most recent meeting of the Group.
4. To agree a request made by the Policy Scrutiny Group at its meeting on 6th February 2018 (Minute 34). The Group was keen to ensure that enforcement activity was undertaken swiftly and effectively. If the preliminary part of the incremental approach did not lead to matters

being rectified, the Council should make use of its more formal legal powers without undue delay.

5. To agree a request made by the Policy Scrutiny Group at its meeting on 6th February 2018 (Minute 36). Having scrutinised the draft policy, the Group considered that the draft policy provided a clear statement of the Council's approach to dealing with anti-social behaviour by the different teams across the Council with powers to deal with anti-social behaviour. As a result, residents would be aware of how cases would be dealt with and the legislative framework in which the Council operated.
6. Following a resolution of the Policy Scrutiny Group at its meeting on 21st November 2017 (Minute 25) and subsequent deferral of the matter by the Board at its meeting on 24th January 2018 (Minute 35.4), discussion with officers had been identified that performance against appropriate indicators was already being reported to the Performance Scrutiny Panel through the Business Plan and the Climate Local Action Plan.
7. To enable the outcome of the review to be taken into account before significant work on planning and identifying scrutiny for the forthcoming year is undertaken by the Board, as proposed in Scrutiny Management Board Minute 26.8, 25th October 2017.
8. To ensure timely and effective scrutiny.
9. The Board has decided to consider the Annual Procurement Plan and Quarterly Updates (submitted to Cabinet) to ensure that timely and effective scrutiny of any procurement activity is programmed or to ensure that the Cabinet is informed of any views of the Board on procurement matters.
10. To ensure that the information contained within the Work Programme is up to date.
11. To ensure that the Board is informed of the outcome of its recommendation.

NOTES

1. No reference may be made to these minutes at Council on 25th June 2018 unless notice to that effect is given to the Democratic Services Manager by five members of the Council by noon on the fifth working day following publication of the minutes.
2. These minutes are subject to confirmation as a correct record at the next ordinary meeting of Scrutiny Management Board.