

BATH AND NORTH EAST SOMERSET

ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND SCRUTINY PANEL

Thursday, 14th March, 2013

Present:- Councillors Robin Moss (Chair), Ben Stevens (Vice-Chair), Patrick Anketell-Jones, Brian Simmons, Michael Evans, Lisa Brett and Manda Rigby

66 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

67 EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURE

The Chairman drew attention to the emergency evacuation procedure.

68 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS

Councillors Cherry Beath (Cabinet Member for Sustainable Development) and David Dixon (Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods) sent their apologies.

69 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Patrick Anketell-Jones declared an other interest in the agenda item 9 (Community Safety Plan: Anti-Social Behaviour Government review) as the property landlord.

70 TO ANNOUNCE ANY URGENT BUSINESS AGREED BY THE CHAIRMAN

The Chairman informed the meeting that this morning all Members of the Panel received an email from Councillor Lisa Brett (Member of this Panel and also a member of the Police and Crime Panel) asking them to read and comment on the final draft of the strategic priorities for crime reduction measures in B&NES 2013-2017.

Councillor Lisa Brett explained that the document arrived from the Police & Crime Commissioners office on Wednesday 13th March afternoon with an urgent mark. The Police and Crime Panel will meet at 10am Friday 15th March meet to approve the Commissioners Police & Crime Plans.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Brett for bringing this document to Panel's attention as soon as she was aware of it.

The Chairman felt that the Panel did not have enough time to digest this document and send their feedback.

The Chairman also said that the message from the Panel is that the Police and Crime Commissioner should engage this Panel much earlier in future consultations.

Nevertheless, it was **AGREED** that Members of the Panel will send their individual comments to Councillor Brett by 10am Friday 15th March.

71 ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC OR COUNCILLORS - TO RECEIVE DEPUTATIONS, STATEMENTS, PETITIONS OR QUESTIONS RELATING TO THE BUSINESS OF THIS MEETING

The Chairman informed the meeting that David Redgewell will address the Panel under item 9 on the agenda.

72 MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON 24TH JANUARY 2013

The Panel confirmed the minutes of the previous meeting as a true record and they were duly signed by the Chairman with the following amendment:

- Page 3 of the minutes, para 6, should read: ‘...in terms of **reliability**...’

73 CABINET MEMBER FOR NEIGHBOURHOODS UPDATE

It was **RESOLVED** to note the report. Members of the Panel also **AGREED** to have ‘Connecting Communities’ item at one of the Panel’s future meetings.

74 COMMUNITY SAFETY PLAN: ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR GOVERNMENT REVIEW (30 MINUTES)

The Chairman invited David Redgewell to address the Panel.

David Redgewell said that there is a vast amount of graffiti at Keynsham and Oldfield Park station which cost tax payers quite a lot of money. Also, these stations were the last stations not having the CCTV in Avon area. David Redgewell pointed out that the Council, together with the newly appointed Police and Crime Commissioner and British Transport Police, should look into providing the CCTV on those two stations. The Anti-Social Behaviour Bill will enable closer co-operation between Local Authorities and the Police forces.

The Chairman invited Sue Dicks (Community Manager for Partnership Delivery) to give the presentation.

Sue Dicks replied to points raised in David Redgewell’s statement by saying that the Council has already had the discussion with the British Transport Police on the areas to fit the CCTV and the outcomes are quite positive. Sue Dicks also informed the Panel that the Council are leading on this matter.

Sue Dicks then gave the presentation where she highlighted the following:

- Landscape of reform for Anti-Social Behaviour
- Why is reducing anti-social behaviour a government priority?
- Reasons behind Government's commitment
- What did the Government do so far?
- What did the White Paper say?
- Current ASB Tools and Powers
- ASB proposed bill
- Part one – Crime Prevention Injunction
- Part two – Criminal Behaviour Order
- Part three – Police Dispersal Power
- Part four – Community Protection Notice
- Community Protection Order (Public Space)
- Tackling Environmental ASB
- Part five – recovery of possession of dwelling houses: ASB Grounds
- Part six – Empowering communities 'Community Trigger' – A new right to victims and communities
- Empowering victims
- Next steps

A full copy of the presentation is available on the Minute Book in Democratic Services.

The Panel made the following points:

Some Members of the Panel found part 3 of the Bill (Police dispersal power) most useful and asked if the consultation would slow down the process.

Sue Dicks responded that no advance consultation would be required, so it wouldn't slow down the process.

The Panel asked if the part five of the Bill (Recovery of possession of dwelling-houses: ASB grounds) would speed up the process particularly in the areas with the high density of student accommodation/houses considering that currently it takes 6 months to ratify noise or other disturbance in those areas.

Sue Dicks replied that there is no reason why landlords could not sort these issues straight away now though part five of the Bill will make these cases easier to manage.

The Panel asked if the part six of the Bill (Community Trigger) could be used maliciously and should elected Members be involved more in the actual provision of the Act (once it gets Royal Assent in 2014).

Sue Dicks responded that part of the Local Government Association's concerns was part six of the Bill and the Police now will have a system identifying vulnerability of victims of anti-social behaviour and people who make regular complaints. The evidence from the community trigger pilots will be important in assessing the value

and reach of the community trigger proposal. Sue Dicks also said that it would be excellent 'best practice' if elected Members get involved in the provision of the Act.

It was **RESOLVED** to note the report and presentation.

75 POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER: UPDATE (30 MINUTES)

The Chairman invited Sue Dicks to introduce the report.

Sue Dicks took the Panel through the report and added that the new Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC), Sue Mountstevens, will visit Midsomer Norton on 22nd March and talk to the Community Alcohol Partnership (CAP) and DPO. Sue Mountstevens will also visit Southside Project in Bath and meet with Curo staff and residents. More visits are planned for 14th May, in particular to Radstock and Keynsham (including 'Community@67' project).

Sue Dicks informed the Panel that the budget for the Community Safety in B&NES is £60k with the focus on reduction in domestic violence, Anti-Social behaviour and hate crime. Sue Dicks explained that £60k is for projects only and not for the staff salaries.

The Panel noted that bullet point 4.4 of the report listed the PCC's priorities. One of the priorities is 'To tackle violent crime, particularly against women and girls'. The Panel commented that this doesn't seem to include men and boys who could be also victims of the violent crime.

Sue Dicks responded that B&NES priorities do include men and boys in this category.

The Panel commented that B&NES seem to be managing well community protection with less funding and asked if there is a case that we should invest in this matter as business, to sell it to other authorities.

The Chairman said that he and Councillor Brett debated this issue on number of occasions and came across unwillingness of some parts of the Authority to look at the options to sell this to other authorities.

It was **RESOLVED** to note the report and instruct the Democratic Services Officer to send the future Panel dates to Sue Mountstevens (Police and Crime Commissioner).

76 WORKPLAN

It was **RESOLVED** to note the future workplan and to invite the new relevant Cabinet Members, subject to the May meeting of the Council, at the next meeting of the Panel.

The meeting ended at 2.30 pm

Chair(person)

Date Confirmed and Signed

Prepared by Democratic Services