

## **BATH AND NORTH EAST SOMERSET**

### **ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND SCRUTINY PANEL**

Thursday, 21st July, 2011

**Present:-** Councillors Robin Moss (Chair), Ben Stevens (Vice-Chair), Patrick Anketell-Jones, Brian Simmons, Lisa Brett and David Martin (In place of Manda Rigby)

#### **Also in attendance:**

#### **1 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

#### **2 EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURE**

The Democratic Services Officer read out the emergency evacuation procedure.

#### **3 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS**

Councillors Manda Rigby and Michael Evans had sent their apologies to the Panel. Councillor David Martin was a substitute for Councillor Rigby. Councillor Cherry Beath (Cabinet Member for Sustainable Development) also sent her apology to the Panel.

#### **4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST UNDER THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

Councillor Brian Simmons declared non-prejudicial interest on item 7 of the agenda (Proposed analysis of Bath & North East Somerset Council's funding of the third sector) as the Chairman of the 'Keynsham and District Dial-A-Ride' which receives funding from the Council. Councillor Lisa Brett declared non-prejudicial interest on item 9 of the agenda (Economic Development – Overview) as the treasurer of the London Road and Snow Hill Partnership.

#### **5 TO ANNOUNCE ANY URGENT BUSINESS AGREED BY THE CHAIRMAN**

There was none.

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

Rae Harris suggested that the Panel should look into the economic aspect of the Riverside Footpath in the Walcot Street area as a suitable agenda Item for one of the

future meetings. The Chairman responded that the panel would debate the proposal under the agenda item 10 (Panel Workplan).

David Redgewell addressed the Panel with his concerns about the community safety on public transport and also about the issues raised at the PACT meeting in Bath on 1<sup>st</sup> March. The Chairman responded that he is aware that David Redgewell addressed the Cabinet with these and other relevant issues and that the relevant Cabinet Member, along with the relevant officers, took these issues on board.

## **7 PROPOSED ANALYSIS OF BATH & NORTH EAST SOMERSET COUNCIL'S FUNDING OF THE THIRD SECTOR**

The Chairman invited David Trethewey (Divisional Director for Policy and Partnerships) to introduce the report.

The Chairman said it would be useful to have some sort of database of funding for the 3<sup>rd</sup> and voluntary sector. The database would not only show what funding had been provided by the Council on commissioning services to the 3<sup>rd</sup> and voluntary sector but also to show areas where the funding could come from other sources (eg National Lottery) and which areas within 3<sup>rd</sup> and voluntary sector had been missed out. This would fit within the Big Society agenda and is an ongoing piece of work. The final recommendations would be submitted to the relevant Cabinet Member for consideration as a part of the budget.

The Panel debated the issue and highlighted the following points:

The funding of the 3<sup>rd</sup>/voluntary sector could be seen as the 'invest to save' opportunity. 'Dial-A-Ride' is one example where organisation helps people to live independently and provides financial savings for the Council.

The analysis of the Council's funding should include specific objectives for each project.

The Council is quite proactive with the support of our non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in attracting European and national funding.

The Panel suggested that the other organisations, such as the RUH, should also be involved in funding 3<sup>rd</sup>/voluntary or providing service/s identified by the community needs. One such example could be for the RUH to consider provision of the community transport in the area, once they become Foundation Trust.

David Trethewey informed the Panel that the Council would need to identify what are the priorities for the area and what 3<sup>rd</sup>/voluntary sector fit the community needs. He also said that the 3<sup>rd</sup>/voluntary sector should have the necessary skills to provide services and that the Council could consider promoting required skills if necessary.

The Chairman thanked everyone who participated in the debate.

It was **RESOLVED** to note the objectives, scope and deliverables of the brief and for the officers to take on board comments made by the Panel for the ongoing work. It

was also **RESOLVED** that the report containing the data and analysis be brought to the Panel's meeting in November 2011.

## **8 FIRE AND RESCUE HOME SAFETY**

The Chairman invited Denis McCann (Unitary Manager for Bath & North East Somerset Avon Fire & Rescue Service) to read a brief on Fire & Rescue Service approach in managing community risk.

Denis McCann read a brief (attached as Appendix 1 to these minutes) and highlighted the following areas:

- Introduction and working in a partnership with Council's Community Safety Team
- Home Safety visits
- Working in the partnership with other organisations and community groups
- Fire Safety Awareness
- Emerging Risks; and
- Engagement with the public

The Panel debated the issue and highlighted the following points:

The Panel expressed their concern that there were 91 accidental dwelling fires in Bath and North East Somerset during 2010/11 and pleased to find out that the rate of the accidental dwelling fires for this year was on decrease in comparison to 2009/10 as a result of the Home Safety Visits.

The Panel were impressed with the range of activities used to engage the public in raising the fire safety awareness. They were also impressed that the other agencies had been working in the partnership and supported by the Fire and Rescue Services.

Some Panel Members questioned the fire safety around the single entry/exit buildings. Denis McCann informed the Panel that such premises had been designed to contain the fire longer inside and those premises were assessed by the technical fire safety services. Denis McCann also offered to be contacted outside the meeting on queries/questions for the specific premises.

The Panel asked about the home safety visits to student accommodations and how fire safety information had been provided to the occupants of those premises. Denis McCann responded that the Council has a programme called Student Watch that amongst other issues includes fire safety awareness.

It was **RESOLVED** to note the brief and to thank Denis McCann for the information provided.

### **Appendix 1**

## **9 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - OVERVIEW**

Amanda Leon (Radstock Action Group) made a statement (*full copy of the statement is available in the Minute Book at Democratic Services*) about the proposals for the redesign of the roads around Radstock Town Centre. She said that new roads would be wide enough for emergency services to turn around and that the new scheme would bring everything to the halt. She also presented two signed petitions to be forwarded to the relevant Cabinet Member.

Petition number 1 stated: 'We, the undersigned, support the repositioning of the electricity sub-station and the conversion of the two mini-roundabouts into one larger one at the junction of the Frome Road (A362) and the A 367'. Petition number 2 stated: 'We, the undersigned, are totally opposed to the proposals to create a new road by diverting the Frome Road (A362) through the middle of Radstock'.

The Chairman received the petitions and informed the meeting that both petitions will be given to Councillor Cherry Beath (Cabinet Member for Sustainable Development) who will provide the response.

Councillor Eleanor Jackson read her statement (*full copy of the statement is available in the Minute Book at Democratic Services*) where she said that she was here to 'because of a manifesto pledge to do something about the constipation from which central Radstock suffers with regard to economic development as a result of the master planning failure.'

Councillor Jackson asked the Panel to set up a Task and Finish Group to discover whether in the areas outside Bath, there is any *effective* work being done by the Council to encourage economic development; and that the Task and Finish Group explore nobody took the post of the tourism officer based at The Hollies whether on seconded or on a temporary basis.

Councillor Jackson also produced the 'Work Plan Suggestion Form' with the request for Panel to set up the Task and Finish Group (as above).

The Chairman thanked Councillor Jackson for her statement and also for her workplan suggestion and informed the meeting that the request would be considered under agenda item 10 (Panel Workplan).

The Chairman invited John Wilkinson (Economic Enterprise & Business Development Manager) to introduce the report.

The Panel debated the issue and highlighted the following points:

The tour of Development and Major Projects' sites will be happening on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> July.

There is a huge economic opportunity for the low carbon sector, and the Economic Enterprise & Business Development team were keen to focus on that area together with the Corporate Sustainability Manager.

The Chairman commented that, subject to Panel's agreement, every future meeting of the Panel should have an item from the Economic Enterprise and Business Development team. The report today gives a broad view on the work that the team

does and the Panel could choose which areas to explore further at their future meetings.

It was **RESOLVED** to note the update and discuss under Panel's Workplan future reporting format.

## 10 PANEL WORKPLAN

The Chairman informed the Panel that the agenda for this meeting had been created as a result of the meeting/s between the Chairman, vice-Chair and officers. He felt that the remit of the Panel is quite broad and covers wide range of Council services and statutory duties. Therefore, the Chairman suggested that the Panel Members (only) have the informal meeting beginning of September 2011 and discuss the workplan for the next year and so.

The Panel **RESOLVED** to accept the proposal from the Chairman and instructed the Democratic Services Officer to set the informal meeting for the Panel (Members only) first week in September 2011.

The meeting ended at 2.35 pm

Chair(person) .....

Date Confirmed and Signed .....

**Prepared by Democratic Services**

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### **Fire and Rescue Home Safety brief to the Economic and Community Development PDS Panel meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> July 2011**

I have been asked by the BaNES Community Safety team to give a brief talk on Fire & Rescue Service approach in managing community risk

If I may firstly look at the historical perspective.

Within our community there used to be a general polarisation of views and agendas – crime belongs to the police, the council has a wide portfolio, and fire does well fires, car crashes and of course cats up trees.

Each agency would work hard to resolve their world and their targets, today things are much more different.

Following on from a lead set by BaNES Council's Community Safety team agencies today are working together more closely, more supportively and more cross discipline than ever before.

As a society we tend to ascribe artificial boundaries to what in truth is a complete broad spectrum issue.

Breaking these boundaries is key to successful management of community risk.

Many of the indicators of risk that the FRS and other agencies use would use also indicate risk or triggers for other organisations.

Social deprivation, fuel poverty, substance miss use, to name but a few there are a whole range of issues that bring multiple agencies together supporting an individual.

We can now profile incidents statistically and determine the community and societal risk factors, this allows us to effectively target our resources and interventions on a mapping based system.

We utilise a whole range of data to analyse risk

- Mosaic – social demographics, lifestyles and behaviour traits.
- Indices of child wellbeing
- Top 20% Areas of social deprivation
- Percentage change and proportion reports
- And of course our own Incident data

This profile information along with our incident data we share with the council community safety team on a regular basis.

Thanks to the BaNES Community Safety team our deliberate fire data now also sits alongside ASB data giving a more complete picture of ASB related activity.

### **Home Safety Visits**

One intervention we have is the home safety visit; this provides a series of scalable packages.

- 1 – Risk Assessment and information package – Very Low Risk
- 2 – Home Safety Visit – standard package Crews – Low to Moderate Risk
- 3 – Home Safety Visit level 2 – Bespoke package specialist team for High and Very High Risk.

Since 2007 we have completed almost 7500 home safety visits in BaNES, and almost 1800 in the last year.

Despite all this activity there were 91 accidental dwelling fires in BaNES during 2010/11, and it is this along with a number of other community safety issues such as water safety that we are working hard to address.

### **Partnership working:**

We now work supportively with a number of agencies such as the fantastic village agent's scheme in the Chew Magna area, which has just been successful in gaining continued funding, where their interactions in the community generates referrals for us.



Working with Somer Housing the largest social housing provider in BaNES is providing some fantastic support for both agencies as well as gaining unprecedented access to home safety advice to their clients.

Each new tenancy will receive fire risk assessment information, FRS will embed community safety staff into Somer staff training, and provide a referral scheme for higher risk properties.

Working in support of the affordable warmth scheme we were able to provide an informal assessment, information and referral advice whilst conducting our Home Safety visits, in a hope that we could influence excess winter deaths, as well as reducing domestic fires.

Safeguarding Adults and Children is another key area of activity, where we are able to report issues of concern as well as playing an active part in the adults, and children's safeguarding boards, and the adults safeguarding quality assurance group which we chair.

We work with and support a number of other agencies such as:

Age concern- They have a home from hospital scheme which refers people newly returning home from hospital. They also offer our service generally to their customers.

Banes community alarms- providers of the telecom care systems.

Adult care social work team

Bath Islamic society- provides support for the Islamic community and also runs awareness for non- Islamic community.

Care and repair- provides low cost repair services for older people, fit alarms and generate referrals for us.

Way ahead care

Guardian homecare

Care South- all 3 provide domiciliary care for older people in their homes.

Deafplus and vision plus- provide support to deaf and hard of hearing people and visually impaired people.

Family placement team- Foster care placement team.

Developing Health and Independence- Drug and alcohol counselling and support

Intermediate care teams- banes- team of nurses occupational therapists and physiotherapists who treat people in their homes to lower hospital admissions.

Banes PCT, child safety equipment- We provide a service of fitting child safety equipment for the PCT.

Southside family support- based in Twerton providing all manner of family support and domestic violence support.

Specialist Drug Advisory Service- prescribers and counselors form people suffering with addictions.

### Fire safety awareness

To date, 15 of these agencies have received fire safety awareness training. This involves members of staff being up skilled so that they are able to recognise fire risk and remove it when they enter peoples home to carry out their normal day job. This translates to around 140 staff members.

If the risk is too great or the situation too complex they are also given a method of referring their client to the fire service for further intervention from us.

### Emerging Risks

Its not just our managing a static situation we also have to be aware of new and emerging risks for example :

There has been a noticeable increase in the amount of fires involving ceramic hobs in the bath area. 5% of fires in Bath 2009/10 involved materials other than food stuff being left in the hob area.

This included shopping, linen baskets and a high chair tray and shows how modern flush cookers are being utilised as work surfaces in compact modern kitchens resulting in controls being inadvertently activated.

We are also recognising an increasing trend for example that younger adults people alone in the home are more susceptible to distraction fires.

### Engaging with the public

We complete in excess of 140 home visits in Banes every month.

We visit all schools in the Bath area at year 5, age 9- 10. during this visit we address smoke alarms, escape routes and false alarms.

We have just piloted our first visit to Key stage 3 children, age 13- 14. This looks at the modern role of the fire service and the consequences of playing with fire.

We attend fete's and fun days, engaging with the public, answering questions and offering Home Safety Visits.

We present displays to the public involving RTC's and cooking fires.

We were involved in a number of safety demonstrations at the universities in Bath with the aim of reducing cooking fires.

Last year we assisted the police and ambulance to launch operation tonic, the drink driving campaign in the centre of bath with a televised RTC involving 2 vehicles and a drunk driver.

We do group presentations, such as the 'Spring into life' event where 50 people came together in the Chew Valley to listen to various agencies talk is one example.

We also presented at the Drug and Alcohol action team's annual conference and the Child safety seminar organised by Avonsafe

We engage with the public through our partner agencies.

Our work to date across BaNES has delivered a 23% reduction in accidental kitchen fires compared to 2009/10 figures.

This not only does this make the public safer, but also when combined with the work of our technical fire safety team helps protect valuable heritage buildings from damage by fire.

Moving forwards we will continue to work with the whole range of key partners such as the BaNES community safety team to work to increase public safety across a whole range of local issues.

Thank you.

Denis McCann  
Unitary Manager  
Bath & North East Somerset  
Avon Fire & Rescue Service

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