

Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel, 19 September 2013

COMMUNITY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL
19 September 2013

PRESENT: Councillor Michael Weinhonig - Chairman; Councillor John Adams - Vice Chairman; Councillors Carol Ainge, Dennis Gritt, Cheryl Johnson, Allister Russell, Rae Stollard

ALSO PRESENT: Councillor Nicola Greene - Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Education and Children's Services; Councillor Jane Kelly - Cabinet Member for Partnerships and Regeneration; Councillor David Smith - Cabinet Member for Planning and Environment; Councillor Lawrence Williams - Cabinet Member for Tourism, Leisure and Culture.

ALSO ATTENDING

Neil Goddard	Service Director, Community Learning & Commissioning
Matthew King	Community Enforcement Officer
Rob White	Head of Regulatory Services
Andrew Williams	Policy, Strategy and Community Safety Manager

The meeting commenced at 6:00 p.m.

Note: To see a copy of the public reports that were considered by the Panel at this meeting please visit:

<http://www.bournemouth.gov.uk/CouncilDemocracy/Councillors/BoardsPanels/Community-Overview-Scrutiny-Panel.aspx>

SECTION I - BUSINESS RECOMMENDED TO THE COUNCIL

No items

SECTION II - BUSINESS DECIDED UNDER DELEGATED POWERS

26. APOLOGIES AND SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

Apologies were received from Councillor Gill Seymour and from Jane Portman, Deputy Chief Executive and Executive Director, Adults and Children.

27. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

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28. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

DECISION MADE:

The minutes of the meeting held on 15 May 2013 were agreed.

29. PUBLIC ISSUES

There were no public questions, deputations or requests to present a petition to the meeting.

30. UPDATE ON CORE SERVICE TRANSFORMATION - CST - PROJECTS

The Panel received updates on Core Service Transformation projects in the following areas -

- **Environment and Economy CST - Regulation**

The Head of Regulatory Services reported on proposals to set up a task and finish group to look at the Council's regulatory provision. This had been identified as one of the key work streams for O&S input. This work would include further analysis of the results of the Winton community enforcement pilot and its potential for adaptation and application elsewhere.

The Officer undertaking this pilot work for the Council gave an outline of his role in being the first point of contact for a range of enforcement matters. He had developed and improved co-ordination between all parties in the community, using the Council's enforcement powers if necessary where a friendly community liaison/contact approach failed to produce the appropriate co-operation/compliance. This holistic approach ensured a single, consistent response to enforcement was provided to the community, without the need to contact different enforcement teams on separate issues. Although performance indicators had not yet been developed to measure the success of the project the local community had provided very positive feedback.

Councillors Ainge and Johnson, Ward Members for Queens Park which was included in the pilot area, agreed that the project had worked very well and had the support of local residents.

The Chairman and the Head of Regulatory Services talked about to the importance of identifying the 'tipping point' - the right time in the process to refer matters to core specialist officers, and the need to maintain specialist enforcement functions as a key part of the overall delivery.

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DECISION MADE -

The Panel agreed to set up a Task and Finish Group to assist in the review of regulatory services arising from the Environment & Economy CST - the Community O&S Panel to be the lead Panel with representation invited from the Environment & Transport and Economy & Tourism O&S Panels.

- **Environment and Economy CST - Regeneration of Arts and Museums - Russell Cotes**

The Panel was asked to include a reserve item on its work programme for potential future review. This item had arisen from the Tourism Services Business Case as part of the Environment and Economy CST and related to the regeneration of arts and museums, specifically the Russell Cotes Art Gallery and Museum.

Councillor Lawrence Williams, Cabinet Member for Tourism, Leisure and Culture, reported on the timetable and methodology for implementing the Tourism strands of the CST.

DECISION MADE -

The Panel agreed to include the Regeneration of Arts and Museums - Russell Cotes - on its work programme as a reserve item.

- **Libraries CST**

The Service Director for Community Learning and Commissioning updated members on the implementation of the Libraries CST and responded to questions. The current phase was focussing on transformational changes, including lending e books, enabling users to book longer timeslots for ICT, and upgrading internet and WiFi services. It was also working with partners to bring more services into libraries to create access points and develop community hubs.

The Service Director confirmed that library staff and volunteers were available to assist people in using the public computers and accessing the internet. He commended the library staff for the positive way in which they had responded to the significant changes in staffing structure. Part of the CST was also looking at ways to maximise the use of library facilities, such as The Bennett Suite at The Kinson Hub.

DECISION MADE:

That the updates on Core Service Transformation Projects be noted.

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31. ADULT LEARNING SERVICES

The Service Director for Community Learning and Commissioning provided an update on the successful merger of Skills and Learning Bournemouth and Poole - S&LBP - with Dorset Adult Learning - DAL - on 1 August 2013 following the completion of the due diligence examination.

The reasons for the merger and the process by which the merger project had been managed were set out in the report circulated at 'A'. The Service Director welcomed any comments the Panel might have on the business plan for the new service, known as Skills and Learning Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole - S&LBDP - which was attached as an appendix to the report.

Councillor Nicola Greene, Cabinet Member for Education and Children's Services, explained that the business plan was based on analysis of the needs and requirements of the local population. Any efficiencies arising from the merger would be reinvested into the new service.

The Service Director and the Cabinet Member responded to questions on the vision, mission and priorities of S&LBDP. The Cabinet Member referred to The Leaf Academy in North Bournemouth as a model for the mixed economy of service delivery. She explained that S&LBDP was developing a more joined up approach with the Local Enterprise Partnership and the 14 -19 Participation Team to improve access to adult learning.

The Service Director agreed to circulate the final outturn report from Skills and Learning Bournemouth and Poole to members once available, together with the new course brochure.

DECISION MADE -

The Panel noted the successful completion of the due diligence and merger of Skills and Learning with Dorset Adult Learning and endorsed the new Skills and Learning Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole 2013/14 Business Plan.

32. PERFORMANCE OF CORPORATE PRIORITY OUTCOMES

The Panel considered a report on the performance of corporate priority outcomes allocated to the Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel.

The Chairman updated the Panel on proposed changes to the report as set out in detail at section 3 of the report. He also gave an update on a number of areas within the current performance report including -

- AC2.1a - Incidents of anti social behaviour - there was a juxtaposition between the downward trend in incidents of anti social behaviour with public perception of incidents increasing
- AC2.6b - Number of new affordable homes delivered - the backlog had been addressed and the target was back on track

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- AC2.6c/d - Number of households in temporary accommodation / B&B accommodation - members agreed that it would be helpful for the Panel to undertake a visit to Morrell House.

Members discussed the measures being taken to address anti social behaviour, particularly in Boscombe and West Howe. The Policy, Strategy and Community Safety Manager reported that the work being undertaken to reduce prostitution in Boscombe West was making a difference. It was noted that the Police and Crime Commissioner had pledged to provide funding to address this issue. He also reported on actions being taken to reduce recent incidents of fire setting in the West Howe area.

Councillor Jane Kelly, Cabinet Member for Partnerships and Regeneration, agreed to provide a response to Councillor Ainge's question on licensing requirements for busking and what would qualify as a public order offence.

Councillor David Smith, Cabinet Member for Planning and Environment, referred to a recent decision by Bournemouth Magistrates to overturn the Licensing Board's decision to refuse an application for the sale of alcohol off the premises at The Crescent Food Hall in Boscombe. He expressed his disappointment at the decision and the manner in which officers of the Council had been publicly named and criticised. He reported that the Council would be writing to the Magistrates on this matter.

DECISION MADE:

- a. The Panel received and noted the quarterly report on the performance of corporate priority outcomes for Community and the actions being taken to address performance where required, including the inclusion of the new Boscombe and West Howe Regeneration indicators;
- b. The Panel agreed the following recommendations -
 - To remove the Housing Tenants Satisfaction indicator, AC2.5a, from the report;
 - To remove the e-panel indicators AC2.5b (i) and (ii) from the report and replace them with two consultation and engagement indicators;
 - To remove the Additional Licensing Scheme indicator AC2.6a and replace with a new indicator on the number of accredited Landlords.

33. COMMUNITY RESOLUTION PANEL

The Panel considered a report from the Policy, Strategy and Community Safety Manager on the progress of the Community Resolution Panel pilot in North Bournemouth.

The Service Manager explained that the current position had not changed significantly since reported in January, in that the Community Resolution

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Panel had received a low level of referrals, with no crimes being referred by Dorset Police. The Panel had dealt with a number of neighbour disputes, but the vast majority of low level incidents of crime and disorder were being handled by the Police as part of its 'on street' restorative justice approach, as a quick and efficient method of resolution. As such the Panel was not operating as originally intended. However the volunteers had enhanced existing services in supporting victims of anti social behaviour and were happy to continue in the work they were doing.

The Panel discussed the recommendation to put the formal Resolution Panel on hold pending further discussions with the Police and Crime Commissioner - PCC - and the outcome of the national evaluation of the Ministry of Justice pilot areas. It was noted that in retaining the volunteers the formal Panel could be quickly reconstituted should the number of referrals start to increase.

Members were disappointed that the formal Panel had not operated as first envisaged. It was acknowledged that referrals could be made by other services, and there had been some housing related referrals in the early stages of the project, but the majority had been expected to come from Dorset Police. Members also questioned the lack of youth crime referrals but this had not been included within the original scope of the pilot.

The Vice Chairman confirmed that he had spoken to the PCC who had indicated his support for the project. The Service Manager reported that following a meeting the PCC had agreed to provide further research on the potential demand for the Community Resolution Panel.

DECISION MADE -

The Panel agreed to put the Community Resolution Panel pilot on hold pending the results of the following -

- The Vice Chairman will liaise further with the Police and Crime Commissioner and will report back his views on the Community Resolution Panel pilot including whether it should be rolled out across the Borough;
- The Police, Strategy and Community Safety Manager will report back once the national evaluation of the Ministry of Justice pilot areas has been published.

34. TASK AND FINISH GROUP UPDATES

The Panel received verbal updates on the progress of its task and finish groups since the last meeting in July -

- **Anti Social Behaviour Enforcement Legislation** - Councillor Michael Weinhonig - Lead Member; Councillors John Adams, Carol Ainge, Rae Stollard

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The Bill was still progressing through Parliament, its third reading being on 16 October with enactment expected in late 2013. Task and finish group members would be invited to a joint Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole seminar on the proposed legislation.

- **Coroners Service** - Councillor Carol Ainge - Lead Member; Councillors John Adams, Cheryl Johnson, Rae Stollard

Councillor Ainge gave a detailed report on work done so far, attached as an appendix to these minutes. She explained the value of each member of the group bringing their own area of expertise to the review. The next meeting of the group was being held at the Coroners Court on 7 October.

Councillor Ainge thanked Rob Adams for his assistance in preparing the update.

- **Ward Working** - Councillor Michael Weinhonig - Lead Member; Councillors Sue Levell, Lynda Price

The Chairman reported that the group had held its initial discussions on 8 August. Further work was required before a draft report could be circulated to all members for their comments. The next meeting was on 9 October.

- **Domestic Violence** - Councillors Michael Weinhonig - Lead Member; Councillors John Adams, Gill Seymour, Rae Stollard, Chris Wakefield

The Chairman reported that the group had met on 13 August to start the initial scope of the review. To increase knowledge of this difficult and complex subject a learning workshop had been held on 12 September, followed by a second meeting. It was already clear to the group that raising awareness of and increased reporting domestic violence were key priorities, as was encouraging more businesses to provide appropriate outreach and pastoral care in the workplace. This was something the Council already had in place and could therefore lead by example.

DECISION MADE -

The Panel thanked members and officers for their updates which were received and noted.

35. WORK PROGRAMME UPDATES

The Panel consider its work programme and noted the items to be considered at its next meeting on 20 November 2013 which would be focussing on a number of housing issues.

The Panel was advised that the Turnaround Project had transferred service area from Community Safety to Children's Social Care. This was on the

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Panel's work programme for consideration in March 2014. Members agreed to refer the item to Children's Services O&S as the new lead Panel with potential for Community O&S input as and when appropriate.

DECISION MADE -

The Panel agreed to refer the item on Turnaround Project to the Children's Services O&S Panel for inclusion on its work programme as lead Panel, with input from Community O&S as and when appropriate.

The meeting closed at 8.10 p.m.

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Please note that the next meeting of the Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel will be at the Town Hall at 6:00 pm on Wednesday 20 November 2013. It is recommended that you double check this information with Democratic Services nearer the scheduled date of the next meeting in case the arrangements have been changed.

34. TASK AND FINISH GROUP UPDATES - CORONERS SERVICE**Full report from Councillor Ainge**

The task and finish group to review the Coroners Service met on 26th July. For those not familiar with the Coroners Service, Bournemouth Council is the Lead Authority and delivers and operationally manages this service on behalf Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole Councils.

Key points from discussion at the meeting included:

- With effect from July - the boundaries of the Coroners District have changed and Dorset will now be one Coroners District. Historically, West Dorset has been a separate District.
- A legal agreement between Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole Councils is in its near final stages of completion and it is envisaged that this will be signed in the coming months by each of the Council's Monitoring Officers.
- The budget modelling has been completed by the Council's Finance team and now sets out the costings for the delivery of the service, to include the provision and running of the Mortuary in King's Park.
- Tanya Coulter will be meeting with her fellow Monitoring Officers for Dorset and Poole to finalise the agreement and agree the budget model. It is anticipated that the Monitoring Officers will meet regularly to discuss the running of the service to include a review of the financial model to ensure that expenditure is on track and any issues can be identified and planned for.
- A lean review of the business support element of the Coroners Service is planned to be undertaken, to ensure processes are business and cost efficient, and that efficiencies can be achieved where possible.
- The next task and finish group meeting will take place on Monday 7 October at the Coroners Court itself, giving members the opportunity to meet staff on the day and see how the service operates. Dorset Police who employ the Coroners will be in attendance to discuss the operational delivery of the service in detail. This will inform future action plans and changes in joint working arrangements to ensure the service reflects current requirements and efficiencies can be achieved where possible.
- The requirement for statistical information on the running of the service will be pursued. This will also include consideration being given to time recording of the Coroners officers to demonstrate time spent on individual cases and inform future staffing requirements. An update will be provided at the next T&F Group meeting on 7 October.