

SAFER & STRONGER COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MINUTES of the meeting held on Thursday, 15 December 2011 commencing at 10.15 am and finishing at 12.00 pm

Present:

Voting Members: Councillor Lawrie Stratford – in the Chair
Councillor Stewart Lilly (Deputy Chairman)
Councillor John Goddard
Councillor Susanna Pressel
Councillor John Sanders
Councillor Alan Thompson
Councillor Patrick Greene (In place of Councillor Carol Viney)
Councillor Nicholas P. Turner (In place of Councillor Alyas Ahmed)
Councillor Ian Hudspeth (In place of Councillor Anthony Gearing)

Other Members in Attendance: Councillor Judith Heathcoat

Officers:

Whole of meeting Sue Scane, Lorna Baxter (Chief Executive's Office)
Dave Etheridge, Nathan Travis, Richard Webb (Fire & Rescue / Community Safety)
Simon Kearey, Karen Warren (Community Services)
Huw Jones, Vicky Field (Adult Learning)
Peter Clarke, Jacquie Bugeja (Coroners & Registration)
Kathrin Luddecke (Scrutiny Officer)

The Scrutiny Committee considered the matters, reports and recommendations contained or referred to in the agenda for the meeting and agreed as set out below. Copies of the agenda and reports are attached to the signed Minutes.

172/11 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND TEMPORARY APPOINTMENTS

(Agenda No. 1)

Councillor Bill Service had sent his apologies. Councillor Ian Hudspeth substituted for Councillor Anthony Gearing, Councillor Nicholas Turner for Councillor Alyas Ahmed and Councillor Patrick Greene for Councillor Carol Viney.

173/11 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - SEE GUIDANCE NOTE ON THE BACK PAGE

(Agenda No. 2)

Councillor Turner declared an interest as the chairman of the Mill Arts Centre, representing the county council.

Councillor Stratford declared an interest in case of substantive discussions of the Citizen's Advice Bureau.

174/11 SPEAKING TO OR PETITIONING THE COMMITTEE

(Agenda No. 3)

There were no requests to speak.

175/11 SERVICE AND RESOURCE PLANNING 2012/13 - 2016/17

(Agenda No. 4)

Lorna Baxter gave an overview of the report to the committee and responded to members' questions for clarifications.

The discussion was then grouped by service area. Officers gave presentations containing an overview of proposals and responded to questions by members, as follows:

1. Fire & Rescue - Dave Etheridge, Nathan Travis
2. Community Safety – Dave Etheridge, Richard Webb
3. Community Services – Simon Kearey, Karen Warren
4. Adult Learning – Huw Jones, Vicky Field
5. Registration & Coroners – Peter Clarke, Jacquie Bugeja

Summary of discussion:

Members welcomed the focus on prevention within Fire & Rescue but were concerned that it would be difficult to deal with future pressures without affecting frontline services. Officers responded that they were looking to secure national funding to deal with specific pressures, such as upgrading the control room, and to continue making the most of being part of the council rather than stand-alone.

Members were reassured that in Community Safety changes to the service were being managed through smarter working, using intelligence to target investigations and clearer prioritisation.

Proposals for the Library Services had been discussed in detail at Monday's scrutiny meeting. Further details relating to council support for arts organisations will be made available to interested members.

Adult Learning and the Registration Service are part self-funding services. Members commended Jacquie Bugeja, Head of Registration and Coroner's Service, for her work including delivering on the national "Tell us once" initiative as an early adopter.

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The joint effort made by officers and members in working with partners on repatriations was also recognized.

The committee **agreed to support the proposals made for the services listed above in principle**. In giving their support, members stated that:

- The committee wished to receive further information about the potential and experience of transferring council run Gypsy and Traveller sites to the private sector
- The proposed review of the mobile library service should be brought to scrutiny early next year
- The Library Service should continue to remain on the committee's forward plan as proposals are implemented, as will Adult Learning
- They asked services to consider, and keep under review, whether there are any opportunities to generate income

..... in the Chair

Date of signing