

SAFER & STRONGER COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MINUTES of the meeting held on Monday, 6 September 2010 commencing at 10.00 am and finishing at 12.45 pm

Present:

Voting Members: Councillor Lawrie Stratford – in the Chair

Councillor Patrick Greene
Councillor Stewart Lilly
Councillor Lorraine Lindsay-Gale
Councillor Sajjad Hussain Malik (Saj)
Councillor Susanna Pressel
Councillor Bill Service
Councillor Alan Thompson
Councillor Carol Viney (Deputy Chairman)

Other Members in Attendance: Cabinet Member for Safer & Stronger Communities:
Councillor Mrs J. Heathcoat
Cabinet Member for Police & Policy Co-ordination:
Councillor Kieron Mallon

Officers:

Whole of meeting K. Coldwell (Corporate Core); D. Etheridge, N. Wilson & C. Thomas (Social & Community Services); R. Edwards (Corporate Core).

Part of meeting

Agenda Item

Officer Attending

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| 5. | D. Etheridge (Social & Community Services) |
| 6. | J. Jackson, D. Etheridge, C. J. Taylor, M. Brown & K. Warren (Social & Community Services) |
| 7. | C. Thomas (Social & Community Services) |
| 8. | B. Morgan (Social & Community Services) |
| 9. | R. Edwards (Corporate Core) |
| 10. | R. Edwards (Corporate Core) |
| 11. | R. Webb (Social & Community Services) |

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.

78/10 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND TEMPORARY APPOINTMENTS

(Agenda No. 1)

Apologies were received from Councillor Goddard.

79/10 MINUTES

(Agenda No. 3)

The minutes of the meeting held on 5 July 2010 were approved and signed.

Matters Arising

Minute 69/10 – Community Pride and Self Help Select Committee – Ms Coldwell undertook to chase up the information on community development workers as requested by Councillor Pressel.

Minute 72/10 – Draft Action Plan Arising from the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) Inspection of Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service (OFRS) – the Chief Fire Officer stated that OFRS was still awaiting formal HSE approval of the Service's action plan. Once this had been received costings for Recommendation 3 (delivery of operational training policy) would be provided to the Committee.

Minute 77/10 – Forward Plan – the Committee noted that the report on Cogges Trust was now due for consideration at the 19 October Cabinet meeting.

80/10 DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

(Agenda No. 5)

The Committee received the update as part of Agenda Item 6.

81/10 SERVICE AND RESOURCE PLANNING PRESENTATION

(Agenda No. 6)

The Chief Fire Officer and Director for Social & Community Services gave presentations to the Committee which provided a high level overview of services provided and the challenges which will need to be addressed to meet the savings targets. Copies of the presentations are attached to these Minutes and to the signed Minutes.

The County Librarian undertook to provide the following data to all members of the Committee:

- Number of visits per week to each of the county's mobile libraries 2009/10 (based on sample week count)
- Cost per visit per mobile library 2009/10
- Issues by mobile library 2009/10
- Cost per issue per mobile library 2009/10

82/10 FIRE SERVICE COMMAND AND CONTROL ROOM - THE FIRECONTROL AND FIRELINK PROJECTS

(Agenda No. 7)

The Committee noted the update from Mr Thomas and thanked him for his tireless work in relation to the rollout of the mobile data terminals and for maintaining the morale of the control room staff.

Mr Thomas undertook to provide the Committee with a report in six months' time which would detail the benefits of the new systems.

83/10 PAPER ON PROGRESS MADE IN RELATION TO INCREASING THE COUNTY'S RESILIENCE TO FLOODING

(Agenda No. 8)

The Committee thanked Ms Morgan for her report and conducted a question and answer session.

Ms Morgan undertook to provide:

- the draft version of the Joint Extreme Weather Response Plan to a future meeting of this Committee for comment prior to sign off (it is currently anticipated that the joint plan will be prepared by November 2010 in order for training to be provided to staff by January and testing in March 2011).
- an update on financial accountability in relation to flooding response to the Committee.

Ms Morgan undertook to provide a copy of the most recent report of the Oxfordshire Strategic Flooding Group (OSFG) to Councillor Pressel at her request.

84/10 NOMINATIONS TO SCRUTINY REVIEW IN RELATION TO YOUTH CENTRES

(Agenda No. 9)

The Committee noted that the Lead Member Review Group would consider the Directorate's review report prior to commencing scrutiny activity (due at the end of October/early November) and **AGREED** to nominate Councillors Viney and Service to join the Lead Member Review Group.

85/10 FUTURE ITEMS FOR POSSIBLE SCRUTINY CONSIDERATION

(Agenda No. 10)

The Committee **AGREED** to request that statistics pre and post the removal of speed cameras be provided for its February meeting. Data should include levels of speeding, the age and gender of offenders, numbers and types of accidents and numbers of serious injuries and deaths. The purpose would be to enable a comparison to be made between the periods when speed cameras were in operation and following their removal.

SSC3

This report would:

- be considered in conjunction with the business plan for the integrated road safety approach within the Council if the latter document was available for the February 2011 meeting. (This Committee intends to consider the business plan in light of the current and anticipated further reduction in funding to the Thames Valley Road Safety Partnership);
- also be brought to the attention of the Growth and Infrastructure Scrutiny Committee on the grounds that those areas of road safety not covered by this Committee (SSC Scrutiny Committee covers road safety in terms of Fire & Rescue, the Police and Trading Standards) sit within its remit.

It was also **AGREED** that an update in relation to the latest position on the Coroner's Service Scrutiny Review be provided to a future meeting and that updates on the current position of all the service areas that sit under the remit of this Committee be provided at least annually to all members of this Committee (possibly on the rising of the meeting).

A number of suggestions were made for items to be incorporated into this Committee's future work programme; these will be considered when the work programme is next reviewed and decisions are made about resource availability.

(a) **Tracking Scrutiny Items**

The Committee noted the information as listed on the face of the agenda.

(b) **INFORMATION SHARE**

- **Tackling Illegal Money Lending Progress Report**

The Committee thanked Mr Webb for his informative report and **AGREED** to express its appreciation of the way in which the team had rolled out its work in Oxfordshire during its first year of operation in this county.

Mr Webb undertook to provide a breakdown of the number of reports of activity the team had received to date in time for the next update to Committee.

86/10 FORWARD PLAN (Agenda No. 12)

No items were identified for consideration.

87/10 CLOSE OF MEETING - PRESENTATION ON THE REGISTRATION SERVICE

(Agenda No. 13)

The Committee received information on the Registration Service from Mrs Jacquie Bugeja, Head of Registration, on the rising of this meeting.

..... in the Chair

Date of signing