



CRIME AND DISORDER SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT COUNCIL OFFICES, TREDOMEN PARK ON THURSDAY, 13TH SEPTEMBER 2012 AT 5.00 P.M.

PRESENT:

Councillor H.W. David - Chairman
Councillor Mrs. J. Summers - Vice-Chairman

Councillors:

L. Binding, C.J. Cuss, C.P. Mann, D. Rees

Cabinet Members: Councillors C. Forehead (Human Resources and Governance/Business Manager), D.V. Poole (Community and Leisure Services), K. Reynolds (Corporate Services) and T.J. Williams (Highways, Transportation and Planning)

Together with:

R. Hartshorn (Head of Public Protection), K. Peters (Community Safety Manager), J. Jones (Democratic Services Manager), R.J. Thomas (Committee Services Officer)

Outside Bodies: Inspector K. Childs (Caerphilly Local Policing Unit)

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors D.G. Carter, Mrs. D. Ellis, J.E. Fussell, C. Hawker, G. Kirby, A. Lewis, Ms. J.G. Jones, S. Morgan, R. Saralis and J. Taylor. Together with Shelley Bosson (Gwent Police Authority), Jon Burley (Safer Caerphilly Community Safety Partnership) and Nic Davies (Wales Probation Trust).

CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

The Chairman welcomed all parties to the meeting and introductions were made. He referred to the forthcoming departure of Superintendent Jon Burley and commented that this would be a loss to the Safer Caerphilly Community Safety Partnership Strategy Group, which he Chaired.

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made at the beginning or during the meeting.

2. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting of the Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee, held on 15th March 2012 (minute nos. 1 - 8, on page nos. 1 - 4) be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

3. MATTERS ARISING

Requests for an Item to be Included on the Next Available Agenda (Minute No. 7)

Members received confirmation that the report was in draft form and would be presented to the Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee when finalised.

4. CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS

The Chairman referred to the Scrutiny Committee's remit and reminded Members that the purpose of the Committee was to scrutinise the work of the Safer Caerphilly Community Safety Partnerships (SCCSP), rather than focus on individual partners or ward issues.

He then invited the Community Safety Manager to give an overview of the Community Safety Partnership and to respond to questions from Members. Confirmation was given that the Scrutiny Committee would continue once the Single Integrated Partnership commenced.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

Consideration was given to the following reports.

5. AUTOMATIC NUMBER PLATE RECOGNITION (ANPR) CAMERAS

The report reviewed the use of Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) cameras following a request by a Member that when CCTV cameras are replaced by the Authority, consideration be given to replacing them with cameras with ANPR capability.

Members were asked to note the current number and use of CCTV cameras across town and village centre locations within the county borough versus the practical application and use of ANPR cameras. In addition, officers highlighted the differences between the computerised data handling stores, connectivity and data/image relay options. Should the Authority wish to explore the use of ANPR, consideration would have to be given to server storage implications and costs, data ownership and protection, additional workload placed on Control Room staff as regards monitoring, increased issues surrounding response expectations, and site security.

Members discussed the report and officers responded to general queries. It was confirmed that Gwent Police currently had 27 ANPR cameras through a joint arrangement with Traffic Wales, many of which monitored the M4 corridor.

The Scrutiny Committee noted the contents of the report.

6. STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT 2011-2012 TOGETHER WITH A PRESENTATION ON PERFORMANCE DATA 2011-2012 AND TARGETS 2012-2013

Partnership Inspector Kevin Childs, Caerphilly Local Policing Unit, gave an apology on behalf of Superintendent Jon Burley and advised he would be presenting agenda item numbers 3(2) and 3(3) together.

Members' attention was drawn to the Partnership Strategic Assessment 2011-2012 and a presentation on the key elements was given to the Scrutiny Committee. The successful reduction in crime figures were reviewed and reasons for increases in other crimes (such as shoplifting) were detailed.

Inspector Childs praised the partnership working arrangements and effective targeting of crimes and informed Members that the techniques employed by the Partners were now being recognised as best practice and put forward across England and Wales.

An update was also given regarding metal thefts and identification of priority areas (listed below):

1. reduce anti-social behaviour and improve the street scene;
2. reduce the harm caused by alcohol; and
3. partnership development.

Members thanked Inspector Kevin Childs for his informative presentation and a full discussion followed. Several Members expressed concerns regarding substance misuse, in particular the increased use of Mephadrone, especially by young people. Officers confirmed they were aware of the substance as this was a national problem. The drug made the user highly aggressive and volatile, then caused low mood swings and suicidal ideation. Members were assured preventative measures were being taken and Rob Hartshorn offered to send information to them on action taken to combat Mephedrone, following the meeting.

The complexity of a sustainable and successful approach to deal with all issues was addressed. Members acknowledged that it was difficult to receive a continual narrative of action undertaken by the Partnership, as the Scrutiny Committee only met every six months. To allow consideration of ward issues, Inspector Childs recommended that Members make an appointment to see their local Sergeant or Inspector. This was something that already happened on a regular basis across the county borough.

7. PRESENTATION ON GWENT POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

The Democratic Services Manager gave Members a presentation to update them on the background and introduction of the Gwent Police and Crime Panel (PCP), together with the creation of the new role of an elected Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC).

Members were asked to note that Caerphilly County Borough Council will act as 'host authority' for the PCP. Its membership must be politically and demographically balanced and will consist of 2 elected Members from each of the five local authorities in the Gwent Police area plus two Independent Members. Discussions were still ongoing as to how to proceed with the disclosure of exempt information in open sessions meetings.

In closing the Police and Crime Panel's terms of reference were detailed and the following timetable of important dates highlighted:

- Police and Crime Commissioner Election 15th November 2012.
- Police and Crime Panel will begin meeting in October 2012.
- Independent Members of PCP to be appointed November 2012.

Members thanked the officer for the informative presentation and a brief discussion followed in which the composition of the PCP's membership was explained in further detail.

8. REQUESTS FOR AN ITEM TO BE INCLUDED ON THE NEXT AVAILABLE AGENDA

Requests for reports to be prepared for consideration at future meetings of the Scrutiny Committee were made as follows:

1. Councillor L. Binding requested a report on the number of local authorities that successfully engage companies to warn and fine constituents that do not clean up after their dogs. Numbers of litter bins, detection rates and fines were also requested. The Member was advised this was a matter for the Regeneration and Environment Scrutiny Committee, and regular reports were tabled on this subject. It was highlighted however, that obtaining some of that information from other local authorities may prove difficult. Officers have seen figures for the number of fines issued in areas using private companies and whilst there had increases this tended to be in relation to littering rather than dog fouling and cigarette related litter in particular.
2. Councillor H.W. David requested a report to update Members on the role of the Police and Crime Commissioner and suggested that he / she be invited to the Scrutiny Committee.

9. INFORMATION ITEMS

The following reports were received and noted:

1. Minutes of the Safer Caerphilly Community Safety Partnership Strategy Group held on 2nd March 2012.

The meeting closed at 6.43 p.m.

Approved as a correct record, and subject to any amendments or corrections agreed and recorded in the minutes of the meeting held on 21st March 2013, they were signed by the Chairman.

CHAIRMAN