

MINUTES OF: OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting: 15th January 2024

Present: Councillor Foxcroft (Chair)
Councillors D.Ashworth, McMahon, Kenyon, Norton, Rooke, Thompson,
and Whitehead.

In attendance: Chief Inspector Ogdin, Lancashire Constabulary
Inspector Grey, Lancashire Constabulary
Sattar Hussain, Legal Officer
David Smurthwaite, Director of Economic Development
Carolyn Sharples, Committee and Member Services Manager

Also Present: Councillor Lythgoe
1 member of the public

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted from Councillor S.Barnes and Coogan.

2. Minutes

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting on 13th November 2023 be approved as a correct record.

3. Declarations of Interest

- Councillor Thompson declared a non-pecuniary interest in relation to the briefing information as a relative worked for Rossendale Citizens Advice.
- Councillor McMahon also declared a non-pecuniary interest in relation to the briefing information as she was a Credit Union Member and also for Rossendale Citizens Advice.

4. Urgent Items of Business

There were no urgent items of business.

5. Question Time

There were no public questions.

6. Chair's Update

- 6.1 Briefing notes had been circulated prior to the meeting to keep members informed of the work of Citizens Advice Rossendale and Hyndburn and the First Choice Credit Union. The committee noted the updates.
- 6.2 Since the committee last met, Cabinet had approved the Housing Assistance Policy 2023, which replaced the Disabled Facilities Grant Policy following review.
- 6.3 As requested at the previous meeting, the Head of Operations would be in attendance when the next quarterly performance report was being considered in February.

ORDINARY BUSINESS

7. Annual Update from Lancashire Constabulary

7.1 Chief Inspector Ogdin and Inspector Grey provided the committee with an annual update which included the changes to the model of operating, crime statistics, current command and division structure, number of service calls and time taken to answer calls, time taken to arrive for calls, vacancies and recruitment, anti-social behaviour update and an update on the local priorities for Rossendale.

7.2 In response to members' questions the following clarification was given:

- Councillor Kenyon would provide details of the enquiry regarding the car left damaged across from the park in Rising Bridge, which was also awaiting a response from Lancashire County Council (LCC).
- The figures provided were county wide.
- The county was broken down into East, South and West divisions.
- Figures in each division were generally comparable.
- Copies of the figures would be provided following the meeting.
- The Police worked with different types of partners and were working closer with victims of domestic violence.
- Domestic Violence (DV) notices had been available to the Police to use for a number of years.
- If a crime had been committed, it would be classed as a crime. If there was no injury or evidence of obvious crime, the Police could only go off the information presented and would look at other powers and options available.
- The Inspector's time was split between Rossendale and Burnley, but also included other duties.
- There was a need for youth engagement officers regarding anti-social behaviour in town centres, and support was needed from other services for this.
- In relation to parking on pavements, if it was obstructing the highway, or someone's driveway, the Police had powers to deal with that, but inconvenient parking was a role for LCC.
- The Police would have a conversation with LCC about inconvenient parking and ask them about what support they could provide. They would also speak to partners about joint working and put pressure on them to bring some further resource in this area.
- Problems with off road bikes had increased since the ranger service had been withdrawn. The Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner had met the Chief Executive with regard to the possibility of reinstating the service in order to identify vehicles offloading bikes and to look to use enforcement.
- In relation to offloading bikes, the Council could enforce these as Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO) breaches or Community Protection Notice warnings (PCNs) or send warning letters.

Resolved:

1. The committee noted the annual update.
2. Cabinet would be asked to ensure that Council officers were working as closely as possible with the Police moving forward in relation to the issue of dirt trail bikes.

The Chair thanked Chief Inspector Ogdin and Inspector Grey for attending. Formal thanks was given for all the hard work that the Police do throughout the year within the borough.

8. Retention and Disposal Policy

8.1 The Legal Officer introduced the Retention and Disposal Policy which was being reviewed and highlighted the main changes including the addition of the reference to electronic documents.

8.2 In response to members' questions the following clarification was given:

- After the required retention period the entire document would be destroyed.
- Anonymity would be achieved by redacting personal data. This included redacting information which did not relate to the person requesting the information regarding Subject Access Requests (SARs).
- The difference between minor and major changes were that minor changes would not materially change the policy or document, whereas major changes would.
- The decision maker for changes would be the Data Protection Officer, in consultation with the responsible officer and the Lead Member.
- The Data Protection Officer role was situated within the Legal Team.
- The Records Management Society was an organisation used for information management and looked at governance.

It was agreed to provide a response back to the committee in relation how the policy fits in with members who use their own device for Council purposes.

Resolved:

The committee recommended Cabinet to approve the updated policy and its related schedule as detailed in the report.

9. The Forward Plan

9.1 Members were updated on the Forward Plan and Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme for February and informed of the officers who would be in attendance.

Members were asked to submit any advance questions by 31st January, particularly if they related to performance report questions for the Head of Operations.

Resolved:

The Forward Plan and Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme items were noted.

(The meeting commenced at 6.30pm and concluded at 7.45pm)

Signed.....
(Chair)

Date