

HARBOROUGH DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE SCRUTINY PANEL FOR PEOPLE

held in the Council Chamber,
Adam and Eve Street, Market Harborough

3rd March 2011

commencing at 6.30pm

Present:

Councillor Graves (Chairman)

Councillors: Davies, Dunton, Holyoak, Mrs. Robinson and Hart (Ex Officio).

Officers: R. Abbott, E. O'Neill, A. Paul, D. Peacock and P. Rowbotham.

Also Present:

Councillors Dann and Glding (Portfolio Holders).

W. Martin (Community Safety Partnership Chair) and Inspector
N. Holland (Leicestershire Police Authority).

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Beaty and Mrs. A. Hill.

583 NOTIFICATION OF SUBSTITUTIONS

None were received.

584 MINUTES

RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Scrutiny Panel for People held on 10th February 2011 be taken as read and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

585 DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

None were received.

586 COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

This report was presented by Councillor Golding who outlined the three-year plan for the Community Safety Partnership.

Community Safety Partnerships have made significant progress over the past ten years, but further development is always required. There have been a number of changes made as a result of recent reforms leading to reductions in bureaucracy, devolution of responsibilities to the local level, and the streamlining of processes. The powers now given within the Police and Justice Act 2006 enable Councillors to scrutinise the Community Safety Partnership.

The Police and Justice Act 2006 introduced a requirement for local authorities to have a crime and disorder committee with the power to review or scrutinise decisions made, or other action taken by Responsible Authorities in relation to the discharge of their crime and disorder functions. In July 2008 the Council designated the Scrutiny Panel for People as the 'crime and disorder committee' for this purpose.

The Community Safety Partnership Plan is a three-year plan required by the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 that describes how the Community Safety Partnership will fulfil its statutory obligation to reduce crime, antisocial behaviour, substance misuse and reduce re-offending. The Council is a responsible

authority under the 1998 Crime and Disorder Act and the Plan will form part of the Council's Policy Framework.

The Council is a key partner in the Community Safety Partnership and has a statutory obligation to work in partnership to tackle crime, anti social behaviour, substance misuse and to reduce reoffending. There is also a statutory duty to have a plan about how this will be carried out based on an annual Strategic Intelligence Assessment.

The Community Safety Partnership is chaired by Wendy Martin, a representative from the Police Authority. The vice-chair is Councillor Golding who is the Portfolio Holder for Community Safety and Enforcement.

This new three year plan will see the Community Safety Partnership focusing on serious acquisitive crime, anti social behaviour, violent crime, road traffic accidents and reoffending. Anti-social behaviour is a high concern both nationally and locally and while there have been some successes locally; the Community Safety Partnership wants to build on this further.

Following discussion of the The Community Safety Partnership three-year plan, the Panel NOTED that:

- (i) throughout the report, and attached documents, the following terms appear and are inappropriate: 'Market Harborough District', 'Harborough Community Safety Partnership'.
- (ii) the Welland Ward was used as a pilot ward for 'SmartWater'. Several hundred kits were distributed to households in this area. Recent figures show a reduction in burglary in this area as a result of the campaign. No convictions were issued during this campaign. The Smartwater campaign will now be directed at rural areas.
- (iii) numbers of reported Hate Crimes have doubled. Although the number of reported Hate Crimes has doubled, this does not necessarily mean that the number of actual crimes committed has doubled. It could be that more crimes are now being reported than previously.
- (iv) The Community Safety Partnership monitor Hate Crime incidents throughout the district. Inspector Neil Holland, of the Leicestershire Constabulary, confirmed that the surcharge that is paid on fines, paid to the Leicestershire Police, is used to help support vulnerable victims and victim support.
- (v) 'Street Pastors' are currently only designated to Market Harborough, but it is hoped that this can be extended to Lutterworth.
- (vi) regular campaigns are carried out in Market Harborough throughout the year on the use of mobile phones while driving.
- (vii) Anti-social behaviour in identified 'hotspots' has markedly decreased.

The Panel RECOMMENDED that:

- (i) an update to be brought back to the panel on further details on the dispersal and allocation of funding for victim support.
- (ii) Page 19 of the Community Safety Partnership Three-year Plan refers to the term 'criminogenic'. This section should be revised into simple English for ease of understanding.
- (iii) numerical and statistical errors in the Community Safety Partnership Three-year Plan be corrected.
- (iv) the terms 'Market Harborough District' and 'Harborough Community Safety Partnership', which appear in the report documents, be reworded appropriately.

587 CONSULTATION STRATEGY

R. Abbott, Communication and Consultation Manager, presented this report. The purpose of the report was to review the Council's new Consultation Strategy and ensure that it was fit for purpose, prior to submission to the Executive in April 2011.

The Council's mission, as noted in the strategy of 2006, was to provide through partnership and consultation innovation, accessible and responsive services that ensured the district of Harborough was a healthy and happy place to live, work and visit.

Community engagement in Harborough district was driven by the Harborough District 2010 Vision and the core values and the priorities in the Council's business plan. The Council's core values underpin the services it provides and how it consults and communicates with the public and its partners.

The report outlined plans to implement improved use of I.T. facilities to help engage with the younger generation.

The Panel RECOMMENDED that:

- (i) Officers consider using previously-completed consultation exercises as case studies to help design future improvements.
- (ii) a Briefing Note be produced and sent to all Members to advise them of the changes to the consultation processes.

588 MATTERS OF URGENCY

None were noted.

The Meeting ended at 7.50p.m.