

HARBOROUGH DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Communities Overview & Scrutiny Panel

Held at Council Chamber

Council Offices, Adam and Eve Street, Market Harborough.

On Wednesday, 11 October 2023

Commencing at 18:30

Present:

**Councillors:** Neil Bannister, Peter James, Barbara Johnson, Amanda Nunn, Simon Whelband, Jo Asher, David Gair, James Hallam

**Officers:** Liz Elliot (Chief Executive) (via Teams) Clare Pattinson (Director of Law and Governance), Vicki Jessop (Director of Communities and Wellbeing) Russell Smith (Head of Environmental Services), Christine Elsasser (Democratic Services Officer)

1. Election of Chairman for 2023/24

Councillor James was proposed as Chairman, the vote was **CARRIED** and Councillor James was elected Chairman.

Councillor Whelband and Taylor were proposed as Vice Chairman, the vote for Councillor Whelband was **NOT CARRIED** and the vote for Councillor Taylor was **CARRIED** and therefore Councillor Taylor was elected Vice Chairman.

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Sarfas (Councillor Gair substituted) and Taylor (Councillor Asher substituted).

3. Declarations of Members' Interests

Councillor Bannister pecuniary declared an interest in Item 5b as he was a Member of Strategy Board and also was employed by the Crown Prosecution.

4. Draft Communities Scrutiny Panel Minutes - 27 April 2023

The minutes of the meeting 27 April were accepted as a true and accurate record and signed by the Chairman after the following amendments were made:

Apologies and who substituted needed to be made clear.

It was requested that in future the Cabinet Portfolio Holder of the report presented attend the meeting if possible, send a substitute Member or provide a verbal or briefing note.

5. Consider the following reports:

The Draft Communities Scrutiny Workplan 2023.24 for noting.

Community Safety Action Plan update 2023/24 for noting.

a. Draft Communities Scrutiny Workplan 2023.24

The Draft Communities Scrutiny Workplan 2023.24 was noted.

Comments were made around when the Panel would scrutinise on the results and if that could be built into the work plan.

It was **AGREED** to note the report.

b. Community Safety Action Plan update 2023/24 (To Follow)

The Head of Environmental Services presented the report. The action plan had been through Cabinet and the idea was to review the content contained in Appendix A.

It was explained that partners including the police decided the priorities of the Plan and the ability to change and be flexible to accommodate resident's priorities depended on funding.

The community van was seen as a key aspect to this as it enabled engagement with all residents to ensure the communities needs/wants were met. There was an opportunity to use CACI which would provide statistics, dashboards and databases.

It was agreed this information would be presented at future meetings and furthermore as a Member Briefing. There was also a plan to work with the Wellbeing team and talk about more serious issues for future meetings.

It was **AGREED** to note the report.

Any Urgent Business

There was no urgent business.

The meeting ended at 19:00