

CLEANER GREENER AND SAFER COMMUNITIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Wednesday 9 November 2011

Present:- Councillor John Williams – in the Chair
Councillors Allport, Becket, Miss Cooper, Hailstones, Mrs Johnson, Kearon, Matthews, Richards, Robinson and Tagg S J

1. ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

Councillor Miss Reddish – Portfolio Holder for Environment and Recycling.

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Resolved:- That the minutes of the meeting held on 31 August 2011 be agreed as a correct record subject to the inclusion of Councillor Allport and apologies received from Councillor Robinson.

3. PRIMARY AUTHORITY SCHEME

The Council's Head of Environmental Health Services updated Members on the Primary Authority Scheme which had been approved by the Cabinet on 19 October 2011.

Members were advised that there were 33 potential businesses wishing to join the scheme. Letters would be sent out this week and responses awaited prior to meeting with the businesses to assess their needs.

Resolved:- That the information be received.

4. CARBON MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Council's Head of Housing updated Members on the current position regarding the Carbon Management Plan. Information on this was handed to Members at the meeting.

Questions had been raised at the previous meeting regarding the Midway Car Park and its position during the evenings. One proposed action would be to close the Midway off on all but levels four and five and to switch the lights off on the empty floors. Members were advised that notices would be put up this week explaining which floors were available.

Members also enquired about the Civic Offices and the leasees who would be coming into the building. Would they be responsible for the energy they used or would it be built into the contract.

Members had also enquired about funding for Community Centres and were advised that the Energy Savings Trust and the Carbon Trust may provide funding. The Council's Head of Housing would look into these grants.

The Portfolio Holder for Environment and Recycling advised Members that a grant had been received and a meeting was due to be held on putting it to its best use.

Resolved:- That the information be received.

5. CCTV CONTROL ROOM

Members received a presentation from the Council's Community Safety Officer on the CCTV Control Room Operator Volunteer Scheme.

It had been brought about in order to extend the periods of operation by the use of volunteers.

The Council was looking to appoint approximately ten volunteers over a three month pilot period.

Concerns were raised that there could be a perception that the Council were cutting paid workers to replace with volunteers. This would only supplement the present service and not replace it.

Members asked if the volunteers would be Security Industry Association (SIA) trained. This would be investigated but was not essential. Members requested that it be checked to see if full time employees had to be SIA trained and if so, it should follow that the volunteers should be too.

A request was made for information on the manning levels of the CCTV equipment.

It was felt that there could be a high turn over of staff once they had been trained and could move on to full time paid work.

This had been accounted for in the budget.

Resolved:-

- (a) That the information be received.
- (b) That the position of SIAs be investigated.
- (c) That information on the meaning of the CCTV be forwarded to Members.

6. ALCOHOL HARM REDUCTION STRATEGY

Members received a presentation from the Council's Community Safety Officer on the Council's Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy.

An Alcohol Strategy Priority Action Group had been set up in 2008 looking at alcohol related issues.

The original strategy, which was a statutory responsibility for all Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships had been set up in 2008 and would expire in 2012.

The strategy set out six objectives: prevention, education, health, treatment, crime and disorder.

For the night time economy, St John's Ambulance and the Red Cross run triage operations to keep A&E units for emergencies. It was reported that the Red Cross ran the service for free whilst St John's Ambulance had cut their costs significantly

A statue and mobile juice bar had been set up in 2008/09 in the town centre and the outskirts and Members asked if this could be extended to other areas of the Borough – for example Kidsgrove where there was a large drink problem. This would depend upon capacity and the Chair requested that the Kidsgrove LAP put something forward. The Council's Community Safety Officer would attend a Butt Lane LAP meeting to discuss a way forward.

Cheshire East had raised the price/unit of alcohol by 30p and Newcastle was waiting to see what happened. The information would be brought to this meeting when it was available.

Members requested that Trading Standards be invited to a future meeting to discuss alcohol related problems.

- Resolved:-**
- (a) That the information be received.
 - (b) That the Council's Community Safety Officer attends a Butt Lane LAP meeting.
 - (c) That the outcomes of the Cheshire East Initiative be brought to a future meeting when it becomes available.

7. DRAFT SCRUTINY BRIEFS

(i) Volunteers Staffing of CCTV Control Room

This had been covered earlier in the meeting. Members were advised that there was a new emergency number of 101. The current number of 303030 would phase out over time.

Resolved:- That the information be received.

(ii) Police Reform and Social Security Act

This Act had just received Royal Assent and therefore it would be better to await its implementation. Any information from LAPs should be passed to the Council's Elections and Licensing Manager who would bring the information to a future meeting.

- Resolved:-**
- (a) That the information be received.
 - (b) That following its implementation the item be brought to a future meeting along with any information received by the Council's Election and Licensing Manager.

(iii) Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership

Resolved:- That a report on this be brought to the next meeting.

(iv) Development of a Space and Stronger Communities Strategy

Members requested that a meeting be set up with the Council's Head of Business Improvement and Partnerships to discuss which areas to lead on and to bring the matter to a future meeting. Members would like to see the draft strategy.

Resolved:- That the draft strategy be brought to a future meeting of this Committee.

8. FORWARD PLAN

Consideration was given to a report on items contained within the Forward Plan that were relevant to this Committee.

Two issues were raised from the items:-

(i) Recycling Bring Site Provision

Members requested that draft ideas be brought to this Committee for pre-decision scrutiny.

(ii) North Staffs Green Space Strategy Progress Report

Members requested that an annual update be given to this committee on this item regarding the progress with the delivery of the Action Plan.

- Resolved:-**
- (a) That the Forward Plan be received.
 - (b) That draft ideas for recycling bring site provision be brought to a future meeting.
 - (c) That an annual update on the Green Space Strategy be given to this committee.

9. TREE PRESERVATION ORDERS

Members queried the Tree Preservation Order Process which was managed through the Town and Country Planning Act. Members suggested that the way in which they were interpreted could be scrutinised by this Committee and requested that a presentation be given at a future meeting with particular attention being made to park areas.

- Resolved:-**
- (a) That the information be received and the comments noted.
 - (b) That a presentation be made to the next meeting on Tree Preservation Orders.

**J WILLIAMS
Chair**