

AT A MEETING of the POLICY AND RESOURCES SELECT COMMITTEE of the COUNTY COUNCIL held at The Castle, Winchester on Thursday, 26 November 2015.

PRESENT

Chairman:
p Councillor Elaine Still

Vice-Chairman
p Councillor Keith Evans

Councillors:

p Ray Bolton	p Anna McNair Scott
p Adrian Collett	p Andy Moore
p Criss Connor	p Mark Staplehurst
a Keith House	p Bruce Tennent
p Roger Huxstep	p Ken Thornber
p Robin McIntosh	a Sharyn Wheale

Also in attendance: Councillor Peter Latham, Hampshire County Council representative on the Hampshire Police and Crime Panel, in relation to Item 6 on the agenda (community safety update)

100. **BROADCASTING ANNOUNCEMENT**

The Chairman announced that the press and members of the public were permitted to film and broadcast the meeting. Those remaining at the meeting were consenting to being filmed and recorded, and to the possible use of those images and recording for broadcasting purposes.

101. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Keith House. The Liberal Democrat substitute Member Cllr David Harrison attended in his place. Apologies for absence were also given on behalf of Cllr Sharyn Wheale for health reasons. The Conservative substitute Member was unable to attend in her place.

Apologies for absence were also tendered on behalf of Cllr Roy Perry, Executive Member for Policy & Resources.

102. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Members were mindful that where they believed they had a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in any matter considered at the meeting they must declare that interest at the time of the relevant debate and, having regard to the circumstances described in Part 3 Paragraph 1.5 of the County Council's Members' Code of Conduct, leave the meeting while the matter was discussed, save for exercising any right to

speaking in accordance with Paragraph 1.6 of the Code. Furthermore Members were mindful that where they believed they had a Personal interest in a matter being considered at the meeting they considered whether such interest should be declared, and having regard to Part 5, Paragraph 4 of the Code, considered whether it was appropriate to leave the meeting whilst the matter was discussed, save for exercising any right to speak in accordance with the Code.

103. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Policy & Resources Select Committee meeting held on 18 September 2015 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

Matters Arising: Minute 97

At the last meeting, the committee made a recommendation to the Executive Member for Policy & Resources requesting the proposed reduction to Members grants budgets be re-considered. It was reported that at his decision day the following Monday, the Executive Member took a decision to approve the proposed savings options (including the reduction to member grants), however the reduction to member grants was not due to come in until April 2017. In addition, he requested 'that an internal analysis of the effectiveness of Member devolved grants be carried out and reported back to the Executive Member for further consideration, and that a copy of this report be made available to the Policy & Resources Select Committee'. The Chairman reported that she had been briefed by the officer who would be undertaking the analysis, and had requested that the Scrutiny Officer be kept informed, so that the resulting report could be shared with committee members when available.

104. **DEPUTATIONS**

No deputations were received at this meeting.

105. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Spending Review & Autumn Statement 2015

The Chairman highlighted that the government had announced the Spending Review and Autumn Statement the previous day. The Spending Review covered the financial years 2016/17 to 2019/20. It was noted that a briefing on the initial headlines of interest to Hampshire County Council had been circulated by email to Members. Officers would be giving further consideration to the implications of the spending review announcements for the County Council over coming days.

Devolution

The Chairman also reported that over recent months discussions had been ongoing with central government regarding a potential devolution deal for the Hampshire region. The Hampshire bid was focused around the following themes:

- business and skills
- housing delivery
- infrastructure investment
- public service transformation

The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government hosted a meeting on 17 November 2015 to learn more about the bid, and work to progress the devolution deal would be taking place between his officials and local council and business leaders. The Chairman indicated that she had asked officers to provide an update on the situation as an item on a Policy & Resources Select Committee agenda in early 2016.

Community Buildings Grants Sub Committee

The Chairman reminded Members that at the July meeting, the Select Committee agreed to establish a sub committee to consider applications for large grants for works to improve community buildings. The sub committee was due to meet on 2 March 2016 to receive presentations from the short listed organisations, and make recommendations regarding funding awards to the Executive Member for Policy & Resources. In the lead up to this, the Chairman would be visiting the short listed applicants with the Assistant Director for Community Services.

106. **COMMUNITY SAFETY UPDATE**

The Committee considered a report and supporting presentation from the Director of Transformation, Policy and Governance (see Item 6 in the Minute Book) regarding the County Council's partnership role in promoting community safety.

The Chairman reminded Members that the duty to scrutinise crime and disorder issues had transferred to this committee in 2014. It was noted that under the 'Crime and Disorder (Overview and Scrutiny) Regulations 2009' the committee had the remit 'to review or scrutinise decisions made, or other action taken, in connection with the discharge by the responsible authorities of their crime and disorder functions'.

Cllr Andrew Joy, Executive Member for Communities Partnerships and External Affairs, had been invited to attend, as his portfolio included community safety. However, he had presented his apologies due to a conflicting

engagement.

It was noted that the Crime and Disorder scrutiny duty was introduced prior to the creation of Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs), who now play a key leadership role around community safety as well as policing. Alongside PCCs, Police and Crime Panels (PCPs) were introduced, which scrutinise the work of the PCC. Therefore, Cllr Peter Latham, the Hampshire County Council representative on the Hampshire PCP, had been invited to attend, to provide assurance around the aspects of crime and disorder that were being scrutinised by that Panel.

Officers attended to present and take questions from: the Corporate Services team who provide support for partnership working; Public Health; and the Hampton Trust (the main provider of services for perpetrators of domestic abuse).

Members heard:

- That the County Council works with partners, including local Community Safety Partnerships and the Police and Crime Commissioner for Hampshire & the Isle of Wight, on a range of county wide programmes which impact on the causes of crime and disorder
 - Over the last twelve months there had been a focus on provision of services for perpetrators of domestic abuse
 - Previously, these services had been supported by small annual grant funding. This year, there had been a move to a commissioned service, to provide more security for the service provider, to provide the opportunity to develop these services
 - A strategy had been put together with the following objectives; identification of perpetrators is increased, good assessments are undertaken, individuals are well managed, suitable support is provided to those affected, and the impact of services provided is reviewed to check effectiveness
 - A number of priorities had been established to achieve these objectives, for example creating a single point of contact for recording perpetrator details within a central hub
 - The project was underpinned by joint investment between County Council Departments, the Police & Crime Commissioner, and Southampton City Council/Clinical Commissioning Group
 - Portsmouth and the Isle of Wight were only involved in the identification part of the programme, as they had their own programmes or plans for perpetrator interventions
 - The Police would be involved, although they were not a commissioning partner on the project
 - A procurement exercise had been undertaken, and the contract awarded to a consortium. The Domestic Abuse

Prevention Partnership (DAPP) which won the contract was made up of The Hampton Trust as lead partner, Aurora New Dawn and Baseline Consultancy. The contract started on 1 November 2015 and would run for 17 months

- Aurora New Dawn was a service focusing on helping victims of domestic abuse. Involving them would help with identification of perpetrators, and help cross check claims of perpetrators regarding their improvement

- Baseline Consultancy specialised in working with offenders with substance misuse and mental health issues. They were being involved in order to help perpetrators with any mental health or substance misuse issues, prior to tackling any abusive behaviour

- The project would be evaluated by the Public Health Faculty at the University of Southampton, based on outcomes at both an individual and community level. Increased reporting of abuse would be an indicator of success, and potentially preventing escalation of issues if perpetrators were managed better. Discussions were underway with the University about how the project would be evaluated

- The project aimed to work with a small number of clients, and assess the impact

- Staff from the Domestic Abuse Prevention Partnership would be co-located with existing multi agency front line teams, in order to help upskill and increase the confidence of staff from other agencies in dealing with contacts with perpetrators of domestic abuse. This would be short term, with those staff moving on to other teams. At the end of the project this approach and its effectiveness would be assessed. It was considered that co-location of staff was an important mechanism to encourage culture change, for example around information sharing

- It was estimated there are around 800/900 'serial' perpetrators (who abuse multiple victims). The project aimed to target 10% of these priority perpetrators over a 12 month period

- Work with perpetrators was relatively new nationally. There had been academic research on a method to identify priority perpetrators, and consideration was being given to trialling this in Hampshire

Following questions, Members heard:

- That the accountability for the project would be to the Domestic Abuse Forum, which was Chaired by the Interim Director of Adult Services

- There was greater focus on encouraging public sector workers with front line contact with the public to ask people if everything is ok at home, to encourage reporting of any issues

- That self referral to services for perpetrators was being encouraged. It was acknowledged that care would need to be taken with any database of perpetrators, to avoid

any impact for those not convicted of an offence which may prevent them from seeking help (e.g. information being shared in relation to child custody issues)

- That a recent change meant that offenders would be required to spend the last six months of their sentence in a local prison, and to work with local services over a plan for when they are released. It was noted that community rehabilitation services were now privately run, however providers working on domestic violence would liaise with them appropriately

- The value of the contract was £270,000, with the input from Southampton around £40,000 and the input from the Police and Crime Commissioner around £100,000 (the University were not charging for undertaking the evaluation)

- The County Council has the lead responsibility for Youth Justice, and also works on Integrated Offender Management for adults, to reduce re-offending. It was a statutory requirement that offenders receive 12 months of supervision following their release from prison. This now sits with the Community Rehabilitation Company which was a private provider. In future, the Police and Crime Commissioner would take the lead in commissioning rehabilitation services. The County Council would continue to provide input to this, as many of that cohort had substance misuse issues, and the County Council commissions services for substance misuse

- That new legislation would be coming into force in December 2015 which enabled coercive control to be considered a factor in domestic abuse. The Domestic Abuse Prevention Partnership would be providing training on the implications of this change

Cllr Peter Latham was invited to speak about the work of the Police and Crime Panel (PCP). He reported that the PCP covers Hampshire and the Isle of Wight and can hold the Police & Crime Commissioner (PCC) to account. The PCP includes 18 Councillors from Hampshire Local Authorities and two independent members, and meets four times a year, as well as convening a finance sub committee, complaints sub committee and Police & Crime Plan sub committee as required. The PCP reviews the Police and Crime Plan, the PCC's annual report, his general conduct, and his budget and precept. The PCP had also undertaken scrutiny of particular topics, recently covering domestic abuse, mental health, witnesses, and traffic offences. For these topics evidence was invited from relevant stakeholders and the findings summarised in a report.

Members queried whether the change in trends in types of crime, from burglary to cybercrime and terrorism etc, had implications for how police time was focused. Cllr Latham responded that it was a priority for the PCC to maintain officers 'on the beat' as this visibility was important to the

public and their perception of crime/safety.

Members commented:

- That a presentation had been given in another forum regarding radicalisation, and members were interested in what more could be done to identify those at risk of radicalisation
- That it was good to see a focus on the underlying causes of offending such as substance misuse, employment prospects and ability to settle into a community following a prison stay

The Chairman thanked the officers for the presentation.

RESOLVED:

That the Select Committee note the update, and support the work being undertaken with perpetrators of domestic abuse.

That the Select Committee consider crime and disorder issues again next year, including an update on progress with this project.

Work programme be updated

107. **WORK PROGRAMME AND ONGOING WORK ACROSS ALL SCRUTINY COMMITTEES**

Members noted the work programme for the Committee and the overview of scrutiny activity across all Committees (see Item 7 in the Minute Book).

Cllr Thornber queried the entry regarding scrutiny of the budget, noting that the work programme states this committee will consider the proposed budget for the Policy & Resources portfolio. It was requested that, as this Select Committee has a remit for scrutiny of overall financial management, that the January 2016 meeting include the opportunity to scrutinise the overall budget for the County Council. The Chairman agreed to consider the request.

Budget topic request be investigated

RESOLVED:

That the work programme is agreed, subject to any amendments arising from this meeting.

Chairman, 25 January 2016