

## **SCRUTINY BOARD (SAFER AND STRONGER COMMUNITIES)**

**MONDAY, 18TH JUNE, 2012**

**PRESENT:** Councillor B Anderson in the Chair

Councillors A Blackburn, Buckley,  
P Grahame, R Harington, P Harrand,  
G Hyde, J Jarosz, S Lay, K Mitchell and  
N Walshaw

### **1 Apologies for Absence and Notification of Substitutes**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors P Davey, R Grahame and M Harland. The Chair reported that Councillor R Grahame had been called away urgently in relation to other Council business.

Councillors P Grahame and R Harington were in attendance as substitute Members

### **2 Minutes - 3 April 2012**

**RESOLVED** – That the minutes of the meeting held on 3 April 2012 be confirmed as a correct record.

### **3 Changes to the Council's Constitution**

The report of the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development provided the Board with information on recent amendments to the Council's Constitution, as agreed by Council on 21 May 2012 which directly related to and/or impacted on the work of Scrutiny Boards.

Issues highlighted in the report included the following:

- The Localism Act 2011.
- Links to Strategic Partnership Boards – Scrutiny Boards were no longer tasked to undertake reviews linked to City Priority Plans but would act as 'critical friend' to the relevant Partnership.
- Changes to the Board's remit – housing matters would now be with the Scrutiny Board (Housing and Regeneration)
- Changes to the call in process – Area Committee decisions would now be exempt from call in.

**RESOLVED** – That the report be noted.

### **4 Co-opted Members**

The report of the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development sought the Board's formal consideration for the appointment of Co-opted Members.

The Board was informed that they could appoint the following:

- Up to five non-voting co-opted members for a term of office that does not go beyond the next Annual Meeting of Council; and/or
- Up to two non-voting co-opted members for a term of office that relates to the duration of a particular and specific scrutiny inquiry.

It was suggested that the Board could appoint co-opted members on an ad-hoc basis for any inquiries where it was considered necessary.

**RESOLVED** – That the report be noted.

## **5 Crime and Disorder Scrutiny**

The report of the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development informed the Board of its role as the Council's Crime and Disorder Committee and included the Protocol between Scrutiny and the Community Safety Partnership in Leeds. Members were reminded of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 and the pending replacement of the Police Authority with a Police and Crime Commissioner.

Councillor Gruen, Executive Member for Neighbourhoods, Planning and Support Services and Neil Evans, Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods were in attendance for this item.

The following issues were highlighted:

- The election for a Police and Crime Commissioner would take place in November 2012.
- It was proposed that the Board works with the Safer Leeds Partnership to develop the Leeds Community Safety Business plan in preparation for the introduction of the Police and Crime Commissioner. As this needed to be completed by September, this would be undertaken via working group meetings, to which all Board Members would be invited to attend. These would be arranged by the Principal Scrutiny Adviser following the meeting.
- Arrangements for scrutiny of Crime and Disorder issues.

**RESOLVED** –

- (1) That the report be noted.
- (2) That the joint protocol between Scrutiny and the local Community Partnership be noted.
- (3) That the Board works with the Safer Leeds Partnership to develop the Leeds Community Safety business plan in preparation for the introduction of the Police and Crime Commissioner. This will be undertaken via working group meetings during July/August to which

all Board Members will be invited to attend. An update report will be brought back to the Board's September meeting.

## **6 Equality Improvement Priorities 2011-2015**

The report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Customer Access and Performance) introduced the new Equality Improvement Priorities and the revised Equality and Diversity Policy. It also set out the Council's continued commitment to equality, outlined the Council's equality objectives, identified how progress would be measured and how the Council would continue to improve and further embed the equality agenda.

**RESOLVED** – That the report be noted.

## **7 Sources of work for the Scrutiny Board and 2011/12 Quarter 4 Performance Report.**

The report of the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development provided information and guidance on potential sources of work and areas of priority within the Board's terms of reference. In consultation with the relevant Director(s), Executive Board Member(s) and Partnership Chair, the Board was requested to consider and confirm the areas of Scrutiny for the forthcoming municipal year.

The joint report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Customer Access and Performance)/Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods provided a summary of performance against the strategic priorities for the Council and City related to the Scrutiny Board (Safer and Stronger Communities).

The following were in attendance for this item:

- Councillor P Gruen - Executive Member for Neighbourhoods, Planning and Support Services.
- Councillor M Dobson – Executive Member for Environment
- Neil Evans – Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods

The following issues were highlighted as potential areas for the Scrutiny Board to consider:

- Preparing for the introduction of the Police and Crime Commissioner
- Domestic Noise Nuisance – it was reported that as the service was currently undergoing change, it may be better to review this later in the year.
- Non-emergency Police service and the introduction of the '101' contact number.
- Stronger Communities – strengthening relationships with Town and Parish Councils.
- Waste collection – including development of IT systems.
- Round two of the Service Level Agreement for the delegation of Streetscene services.

- Waste Management Strategy
- Transfer of the Parks and Countryside service to the Environment and Neighbourhoods Directorate.

In response to Members comments and questions, the following issues were discussed:

- Publication of the '101' non-emergency Police number.
- Responsibility for allotments.
- Improving communications for residents with respect to waste collection.
- Bespoke waste collection services.
- Arrangements for Police Community Support Officers.
- Vandalism in Parks and Cemeteries – role of 'Friends of' groups.
- Graffiti – there had been improvement with the removal of graffiti although there were concerns with graffiti at the side of railways in and around the City.
- A request had been made for a review of the new grass cutting contract – it was suggested that a working group be established to consider this.
- Dog Control Orders – the Board was due an update regarding this at its July meeting.
- The Board noted and welcomed the proposed changes made to the Council Business Plan – such changes were reflective of the Council's improved performance in increasing the percentage of waste recycled and also in reducing numbers of burglaries.

#### **RESOLVED –**

(1) That the reports and discussion be noted.

#### **8 Work Schedule**

The report of the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development presented the draft work schedule for the forthcoming municipal year. Further suggestions for the Board's work schedule had been discussed during the previous item.

**RESOLVED –** That the Board's work schedule be updated to reflect the key issues discussed during today's meeting.

#### **9 Date and Time of Next Meeting**

Monday, 30 July 2012 at 10.00 a.m. (Pre-meeting for all Board Members at 9.30 a.m.)