

SCRUTINY BOARD (SAFER AND STRONGER COMMUNITIES)

MONDAY, 10TH OCTOBER, 2011

PRESENT: Councillor B Anderson in the Chair

Councillors R Grahame, K Groves,
M Hamilton, J Hardy, P Harrand, G Hyde,
J Jarosz, J Marjoram, C Townsley and
N Walshaw

35 Late Items

The following late items had been forwarded to Members in a supplementary agenda:

- Agenda Item 6 – Minutes of the meeting held on 12 September 2011
- Agenda Item 8 – Financial Health Monitoring 2011/12 – Environment and Neighbourhoods Directorate

36 Declarations of Interest

The following declarations of interest were made:

- Councillor G Hyde – Agenda Item 8, Financial Health Monitoring 2011/12 – Environment and Neighbourhoods Directorate – due to his position as a Director of the East North East Homes ALMO Board
- Councillor R Grahame – Agenda Item 8, Financial Health Monitoring 2011/12 – Environment and Neighbourhoods Directorate – due to his position as a Director of the East North East Homes ALMO Board.

37 Minutes - 12 September 2011

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting held on 12 September 2011 be confirmed as a correct record.

38 Recommendation Tracking

The report of the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development set out the progress made in response to the recommendations arising from the previous Scrutiny Inquiry into Integrated Offender Management.

The following were in attendance for this item:

- Samantha Millar – Chief Inspector, Community Safety
- Louise Hackett – Commissioning and Development Manager (Criminal Justice)
- Neil Moloney – Head of Leeds Probation

Members were asked to consider the progress made against recommendations and to agree those which no longer required monitoring.

The following issues were discussed:

- Recommendation 1 – Members sought clarification of the definition and operational management of the rehabilitation and re-settlement strand of the Integrated Offender Management (IOM) model.
- Recommendation 2 – Issues discussed included the support available to ex-offenders on Job Seekers Allowance in line with the new Work Programme model from the Department of Works and Pensions and Jobcentre Plus. The use of European Social Funding to support employment and training was also discussed and Members requested further information on this. It was reported that there was capacity to work with between 75 and 80 offenders per month as part of the Leeds Work and Skills Platform in conjunction with external partners, including support from the third sector. It was further agreed to provide mapping information in relation to the partners involved in IOM and the Drugs Intervention Programme (DIP). Further details around the performance 'outcomes' in relation to IOM was also requested.
- Recommendation 4 – In response to questions regarding budgets, it was reported that whilst Leeds was currently not in a difficult position in terms of resources, it was recognised that in future there may be a need explore opportunities for regional collaboration between forces to tackle cross boundary issues and to share resources.
- Recommendation 7 – In relation to the Deter Young Offenders Scheme, further information was requested on numbers of offenders, targets, timescales and partners involved in delivering this scheme. Reference was made to a team of 5 Police Officers that worked with young offenders across the city.
- Recommendation 9 – It was estimated that there was approximately 262 Priority and Prolific Offenders (PPOs) in the City being actively managed. However, a maximum of 99 PPOs are managed as part of the IOM cohort. Further to the statistical information provided, it was reported that it is often expected to see an initial rise in the conviction figures for those 99 PPOs due to the active management of this group and higher detection rates. There had been a significant reduction in the numbers of PPOs involved with drugs in recent years. It was also reported that there was a tendency for these PPOs to be in the under 25s age group. Members requested more detail around the age range of PPOs and the initiatives in place to manage offenders within this age range appropriately. Members also requested a copy of the recent inspection report on Youth Offending Work in Leeds. Further reference was made to tackling organised crime groups and families within the City.
- Recommendation 11 – Reference was made to sharing information with Ward Councillors through Area Management.

RESOLVED – That those recommendations that no longer require monitoring be agreed and that the Board continues to track the remaining recommendations.

(Councillor Jarosz declared a personal interest in this item due to her employment with the Probation Service as did Councillor Marjoram due to his wife's employment within the Criminal Justice System).

39 Financial Health Monitoring 2011/12 - Environment and Neighbourhoods Directorate

The report of the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development informed Members of the financial health of the Environment and Neighbourhoods Directorate after five months of the financial year 2011/12.

Neil Evans, Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods and Richard Ellis, Head of Finance, Environment and Neighbourhoods were in attendance for this item.

The following issues were discussed:

- Transfer Payments – Changes for funding support charges in sheltered housing through housing benefit were explained. This would realise savings of £1million and this would be covered by central government.
- Whilst the budget makes full provision for 100% performance related pay, it was reported that the true figure was likely to be less due to cases where performance related pay was deducted.
- With reference to figures detailed as 'cross cutting' and 'to be determined' it was reported that these related to a freeze on expenditure that was currently being reviewed
- Role of the Directorate's Delegated Decision Panel.
- Cost issues relating to vehicle repairs, office moves and recycling.

Members were also informed that there would be a Budget Working Group on Thursday, 10 November 2011.

RESOLVED – That the projected financial position of the Environment and Neighbourhoods Directorate after 5 months of the financial year 2011/12 be noted.

40 Scrutiny review of Health and Safety and Food Safety Regulatory Services within Environmental Health - Draft Terms of Reference

The report of the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development referred to the Board's agreement to undertake a review of the Health and Safety and Food Safety Regulatory Services provided by the Council to businesses across the City. Draft terms of reference were appended to the report.

Draft minutes to be approved at the meeting
to be held on Monday, 14th November, 2011

Graham Wilson, Environmental Health Manager attended the meeting for this item.

Members were informed of opportunities for them to accompany officers within the Health and Safety Team and Food Safety Team to visit premises and gain an insight into the inspection regime.

RESOLVED – That the terms of reference for the forthcoming Scrutiny review of Health and Safety and Food Safety Regulatory Services within Environmental Health be agreed.

41 Work Schedule

The report of the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development detailed the Board's work schedule. Also attached were copies of recent Executive Board Minutes and a copy of the Forward Plan relating to the Board's portfolio.

Members were reminded that there was a meeting of the Housing Revenue Account Scrutiny Working Group on Friday, 4 November 2011.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

42 Date and Time of Next Meeting

Monday, 14 November 2011 at 10.00 a.m. (Pre-meeting for all Board Members at 9.30 a.m.)