

SCRUTINY BOARD (SAFER AND STRONGER COMMUNITIES)

TUESDAY, 3RD APRIL, 2012

PRESENT: Councillor B Anderson in the Chair

Councillors P Grahame, R Grahame,
J Hardy, P Harrand, G Hyde, J Jarosz,
C Townsley and G Wilkinson

93 Late Items

The following late items had been despatched prior to the meeting:

- Agenda Item 8 – Leeds Anti-Social Behaviour Team
- Agenda Item 10 – Inquiry into Fuel Poverty – Draft Report

94 Declarations of Interest

Councillors R Grahame, J Hardy, G Hyde and G Wilkinson declared a personal interest due to their respective positions as ALMO Directors.

95 Apologies for Absence and Notification of Substitutes

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors M Hamilton, J Marjoram and N Walshaw.

Councillors G Wilkinson and P Grahame were in attendance as substitute members.

96 Minutes - 12 March 2012

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting held on 12 March 2012 be confirmed as a correct record.

97 Inquiry into Private Rented Sector Housing - Draft Report

The report of the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development presented the Board's Draft Report following the Inquiry into Private Rented Sector Housing.

Neil Evans, Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods, was in attendance for this item.

The Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods reported that the Inquiry had been useful and welcomed the recommendations detailed in the report.

RESOLVED – That the Private Rented Sector Housing Draft Report be approved.

98 Inquiry into Fuel Poverty - Draft Report

The report of the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development presented the Board's Draft Report following the Inquiry into Fuel Poverty.

Neil Evans, Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods, was in attendance for this item.

The Board acknowledged that fuel poverty is a distinct and serious problem in view of the differing causes, impacts and solutions relating to fuel poverty. The Board's inquiry report particularly reflected the strong linkage between ill health and fuel poverty and the need to address fuel poverty as a key public health priority. This was welcomed by the Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods.

RESOLVED - That the Fuel Poverty Inquiry Draft Report be approved.

99 Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 - Implications of Elected Police and Crime Commissioner

The report of the Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods provided the Board with a summary of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 and outlined the initial implications to the City in relation to the introduction of an elected Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) from November 2012.

The following were in attendance for this item:

- Neil Evans, Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods
- Keith Gilert, Chief Officer – Community Safety
- Liz Jarmin, Head of Community Safety Partnerships

Members were reminded that the Board had a role as the Council's 'Crime and Disorder Committee' and it was within the Board's remit to review or scrutinise decisions of the local Community Safety Partnership. It was reported that the Board would not have the same remit with respect to the Police and Crime Commissioner as this would sit with a newly formed Police and Crime Panel.

Further issues highlighted from the report included the following:

- Elections for the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) would take place on 15 November 2012 with the successful candidate taking up post on the 22 November.
- A shadow West Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel would be in place in June 2012 and become fully operational following the election of the PCC.

- Funds currently allocated through the Home Office to support local community safety activity would be pooled within the office of the PCC.
- In order to qualify for funding, Community Safety Partnerships would need to ensure their local priorities are reflected in the new Police and Crime Plan
- The PCC would be held to account by the Police and Crime Panel.

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

- The need to develop strong links between Scrutiny and the West Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel.
- Wakefield will be the host authority for the Police and Crime Panel and the Association of West Yorkshire Authorities (AWYA) will provide the secretariat support.
- Members attention was brought to the roles and powers of the Police and Crime Commissioner and Police and Crime Panel.
- Elected Member representation on the Police and Crime Panel.
- The need to ensure that local priorities are reflected in the new Police and Crime Plan

RESOLVED – That the report and discussion be noted.

(Councillor J Jarosz declared a personal interest in this item due to her employment with the Probation Service).

100 Leeds Anti-Social Behaviour Team (LASBT)

The report of the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development provided the Board with an update on the Leeds Anti-Social Behaviour Team. A copy of a report that had been submitted to Executive Board in March 2012 was included with the agenda.

The following were in attendance for this item:

- Neil Evans, Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods
- Harvinder Saimbhi, Head of Anti-Social Behaviour
- Councillor P Gruen, Executive Member for Neighbourhoods, Housing and Regeneration

Members attention was brought to key issues in the report, particularly the recommendation regarding noise nuisance. It was reported that the Domestic Noise service had been moved to the remit of the Anti Social Behaviour Team and it was suggested that this could be a useful area for Scrutiny to consider. Further reference was made to Out of Hours Noise Services and the need to provide consistency across the City.

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

- There had been investment in new equipment to measure levels of noise disturbance.
- Work with private landlords – this was an area of work that was under development and would include other issues including problems with litter and rubbish.
- Noise problems from licensed premises.
- Timescales for dealing with reported problems. It was noted that the average case duration had significantly reduced under the new LASBT structure (average case duration was 70.1 days)
- Work with partners including West Yorkshire Police and the ALMOs.

RESOLVED – That the report and discussion be noted.

101 Chair's closing remarks.

The Chair thanked officers and all Members of the Board for their contribution over the 2011/12 Municipal Year. He also thanked Councillors Dobson and Gruen for their contribution as Executive Members.