

---

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP  
AND PARTNERSHIPS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE  
HELD ON MONDAY 22 FEBRUARY 2016 AT 7.30PM IN THE COUNCIL OFFICES, WEELEY**

**Present:** Councillors Miles (Chairman), Baker (Vice-Chairman), Bennison, I J Henderson, Land, Newton and Yallop.

**In Attendance:** Management and Members' Support Manager (Karen Neath), Democratic Services Officer (Janey Nice) and Democratic Services Officer (Katie Sullivan)

**19. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS**

An apology was received from Councillor Poonian. There were no substitutes.

**20. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

The minutes of the special meeting of the Committee, held on 7 December 2015, were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**21. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were none.

**REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR (CORPORATE SERVICES)**

**22. NEW CORPORATE ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR POLICY (Report A.1)**

The Chairman welcomed the Management and Members' Support Manager (Karen Neath) to the meeting and informed the Committee that Karen Neath was present to introduce the Council's new Corporate Antisocial Behaviour Policy, on behalf of the Council's Community Safety Manager, who was unable to attend the meeting as she was recovering from an operation.

Miss Neath explained that she was reviewing the new Antisocial Behaviour (ASB) Policy which had been drafted to bring it in line with the additional tools and powers granted to Local Authorities in the Antisocial Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014.

Miss Neath explained that the new ASB Policy set out the Council's policy and the procedures that were to be followed on receipt of a complaint of ASB to the Council. She said that the Policy explained what was meant by 'antisocial behaviour' and set out the guiding principles for the Officers in the Council that dealt with ASB.

She said that the draft Policy gave a Policy Statement which said that the Council recognised the need to tackle ASB as it could have a detrimental impact upon the District's residents, communities and visitors and that the Council would work in partnership with other agencies to assist those persons who had been experiencing ASB.

Miss Neath outlined the definition of ASB which was: "Behaviour by a person, which causes, or is likely to cause, harassment, alarm or distress to one or more persons, not of the same household, as the perpetrator" and she gave examples of ASB.

ASB, she said, could be reported to a number of agencies that could help, a victim could contact individual teams within the Council, the Police, landlord letting agencies etc. She added that once a complaint had been logged it was a matter of evidence gathering and risk

assessment and it was important that the complainant recorded what was happening to them so there was evidence for the matter to proceed either by the Council or by another agency.

Miss Neath also mentioned restorative justice with a Hub being launched in October 2015 which was based at the office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC), this would offer mediation for neighbour disputes and low level ASB as well as referrals for Restorative Justice and added that the Council had two Restorative Justice Champions within the Council.

Miss Neath said that the Council had its own housing stock and was responsible for reminding tenants and leaseholders of their responsibilities and obligations which were outlined in their tenancy agreements and then listed the issues that could reasonably be resolved through the tenancy management processes. These were:

- Noisy neighbours;
- Car parking disputes – not Council owned public fee paying car parks – see Seafronts and Parking services;
- Property/Boundary disputes;
- Damage to Property;
- Untidy gardens;
- High hedges/overhanging trees and shrubs (liaison with Planning Services);
- Uncontrolled animals/pets;
- Dog fouling;
- Inappropriate use of premises (car repairs etc.);
- Abandoned cars;
- Impeding access to communal areas; and
- Ball Games/Games in restricted areas

When asked a question on whether lower level offences would be addressed, Miss Neath responded and said this issue was being addressed and that the Council's website would be reviewed to assist in directing people to the appropriate agency. Concern was also raised if an issue was not a regular occurrence whether this would need to be policed by the Council, however Miss Neath said that the Police would need the relevant evidence.

A Member also said that more and more resources were being used by the Council and it could only provide support if there were enough resources to cope and asked how resources were being used. Miss Neath responded by saying that the Council needed to focus its resources on cases where assistance was required.

The discussion amongst the Committee members also considered the extra responsibilities on Council staff, and gave examples of where their residents had been affected by Antisocial behaviour. It was also raised that it was important to evaluate what the Council could deliver before the Policy went out to the public and not to give the false impression that the Council could do everything.

The Chairman commented that this had been an excellent piece of work and was the start of a good process and suggested that this new policy should be re-considered by the Committee in six months time.

It was **AGREED** by the Committee that:

- (a) There was a need to evaluate the resources available and what the Council could deliver before the Policy went public;
- (b) It was essential that the Council did not give the impression that it could deliver solutions for all requests for assistance;

- (c) That performance monitoring be undertaken to evaluate the operation of the Policy;
- (d) The Committee would like to review the new Corporate Antisocial Behaviour Policy six months after implementation; and
- (e) The presentation of information on Antisocial Behaviour on the Council's website be reviewed.

**23. ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED BY THE COMMITTEE AT A FUTURE MEETING**

1. Transport issues within the Tendring District;
2. The Locality Board; and
3. Issues within Revenues and Benefits.

The meeting was declared closed at 8.35 p.m.

Chairman