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Community Leadership Overview and
Scrutiny Committee

7 October 2019

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP OVERVIEW AND
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE,
HELD ON MONDAY, 7TH OCTOBER, 2019 AT 7.30 PM
IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER - COUNCIL OFFICES, THORPE ROAD, WEELEY,
CO16 9AJ**

Present:	Councillors Skeels (Chairman), Alexander, Amos, Davidson, Knowles, Miles and Overton
Also Present:	Councillors G V Guglielmi and McWilliams
In Attendance:	Head of Democratic Services & Elections (Keith Simmons), Head of People, Performance & Projects (Anastasia Simpson), Human Resources and Business Manager (Katie Wilkins), Community Safety Manager (Leanne Thornton) and Committee Services Officer (Charlotte Cooper)

67. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Chittock (with Councillor Alexander as a substitute), Councillor Davis (with no substitute), and Councillor Clifton (with Councillor Knowles as substitute).

68. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 5 August 2019 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

In respect of the record of the meeting of the Committee on 5 August, Councillor Miles reflected on the need for Overview and Scrutiny Committees to be free to undertake its work free for undue influence from the Cabinet. She noted the item on the agenda for this meeting in respect of the Statutory Guidance for Councils in relation to Scrutiny and that this Guidance made the important point around the independence of the Scrutiny function.

69. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none on this occasion.

70. CORPORATE PLAN

With the approval of the Committee, the Chairman advised that agenda item 11 would be considered at this point in the meeting.

The Committee had before it a Report of the Deputy Chief Executive – New Corporate Plan 2020-24, which invited the Committee to note the emerging Corporate Plan and determined whether it has any comments or recommendations it wished to put forward to the relevant Portfolio Holder or Cabinet.

The report included that considered by the Cabinet at its meeting on 13 September 2019 (minute 34 refers) in respect of the Draft Corporate Plan, Corporate Plan Timetable and Consultation Proposals.

With the agreement of the Committee, the relevant Portfolio Holder, Councillor G. Guglielmi (Portfolio Holder for Corporate Finance and Governance), attended the meeting and explained the emerging Corporate Plan and the process of its development to the Committee.

The Council's Head of People, Performance and Projects was also in attendance and presented to the Committee information on; the emerging Corporate Plan, Our Vision, 5 key themes, Our values, Community Engagement, and the Corporate Plan Timetable 2020-24. This presentation was then circulated to the Committee after the meeting.

Members of the Committee asked questions of the Portfolio Holder and the Head of People, Performance and Projects including in relation to the consultation with stakeholders.

After some deliberation by the Committee it was **RESOLVED**:

- (1) **TO RECOMMEND TO THE CABINET** that the work put into the comprehensive consultation on the emerging Corporate Plan be commended; and
- (2) To note the contents of the emerging Corporate Plan 2020-2024 and the deadline for consultation responses of 21 October 2019.

71. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 387

On this occasion no Councillor had submitted notice of a question.

72. STATUTORY GUIDANCE

The Committee had before it the Report of the Head of Democratic Services and Elections – New Statutory Guidance on Overview and Scrutiny in Local and Combined Authorities, which invited the Committee to note the content of the report and determines whether it has any comments or recommendations it wishes to put forward to Council / the Cabinet and otherwise records it will be mindful of the guidance when it undertakes its work.

It was reported that on the 7 May 2019, the Government published new statutory guidance on overview and scrutiny in local and combined authorities. The guidance itself was issued following the report of the House of Commons' Communities and Local Government Committee of 15 December 2017 into the 'Effectiveness of Local Authority overview and scrutiny committees'. The Council's Constitution already sets out its compliance with statutory requirements for overview and scrutiny committees, the appointment of Members of those Committees, the appointment of Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of the same, the procedures for such matters as call-in, and work programming, access to information for Members of the committees and Member-Officer protocols etc. Officers will consider the statutory guidance in their work, through the Monitoring Officer, to ensure that the constitution is kept up-to-date.

The Committee were also made aware that training for officers who present or write reports for Committees and Cabinet is being proposed for the forthcoming period and it is intended that this training will also reference the new statutory guidance.

The debate on this item referenced the extent to which there was 'parity of esteem' between the executive and scrutiny elements of the decision making processes of the Council. The promotion in the guidance of the development of an Executive-Scrutiny protocol to embed a positive and productive culture of collaborative working that respects the independence of those two elements was commented upon.

After some deliberation It was **RESOLVED**:

- (1) **TO RECOMMEND TO THE CABINET** that it receives the new Statutory Guidance on Scrutiny in Councils and considers the potential of developing an Executive-Scrutiny Protocol to address the way in which both will work together for the benefit of the Council as a whole while confirming the independence of both elements of the decision making process of the Council.
- (2) To records that the Committee will be mindful of the guidance when it undertakes its work.

73. RECOMMENDATIONS MONITORING REPORT

The Committee had before it the current Recommendations Monitoring Report. The Committee were aware that this report outlined any recommendations it has made to the Cabinet, the Cabinet's response and any relevant updates. There were no recommendations nor updates to report on this occasion.

The Committee noted the contents of the report.

74. SCRUTINY OF PROPOSED DECISIONS

Pursuant to the Provisions of Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rule 13, the Committee reviewed any new and / or amended published forthcoming decisions relevant to its terms of reference with a view to deciding whether it wished to enquire into any such decision before it was taken. The relevant forthcoming decisions were before the Committee.

The Committee was advised that the report referenced the lead Officers rather than the decision maker. The decision maker for the proposed Creative and Culture Strategy would be the Cabinet and the decision maker for the revised Housing Allocations Policy would be the Portfolio Holder for Housing.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Committee noted the published list of relevant forthcoming decisions with the amendments to the decision maker as reported to it.

75. PERFORMANCE REPORT QUARTER 1 2019/20

The Committee had before it a report of the Deputy Chief Executive which presented the Performance Report for Quarter One (April – June 2019) including the Corporate Plan and Priorities and Projects 2018/19. The Committee was invited to scrutinise the

performance monitoring system and whether it is capturing the right level of data to support delivery of the Corporate Plan and its priorities and projects, and to make recommendations thereon. In addition, the Committee was requested to scrutinise whether there was performance, as identified in the monitoring data, that warranted scrutiny of an activity and to determine whether and how that scrutiny should take place; including it as appropriate in the Work Programme.

Appendix A to that report contained details of the indicators and projects relevant to the terms of reference of this Committee. Those indicators and projects were deemed 'non measureable' as this Council's role was that of 'influence only'.

Members were informed that the Performance Report for Quarter four had been presented to Cabinet on 14 June 2019. Any feedback from this Committee would be presented to a future meeting of the Cabinet as a separate reference report.

After some deliberation by the Committee it was **RESOLVED**:

- (1) That the Deputy Chief Executive be requested to consider what training should be provided to Councillors on the new format of the performance reports once these were finalised for the new Corporate Plan and the priorities under that Plan with a view to securing a wide understanding of the performance data available and improving the capacity of Members to utilise that data in their various roles.
- (2) To note the contents of the report.

76. REVIEW OF THE WORK PROGRAMME

The Committee had before it a updated work programme 2019/20. It had been expanded from that originally approved following discussions undertaken by the Head of Democratic Services and Elections with officer colleagues and the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Committee. Scrutiny must be Member led and as such the Committee was asked to consider the detail now submitted and confirm or amend the scope of the reviews in the work programme. This detail now included whether the relevant Portfolio Holder and others were to be invited to give evidence as part of those reviews and the expectations of this Committee for the scrutiny reviews.

After some deliberation it was **RESOLVED**:

- (1) That the Committee notes the Work Programme, endorses the new format for it and the detail of the scrutiny work of the Committee as submitted; and
- (2) To encourage Members of the Committee to further consider the detail of the Work Programme and submit comments thereon if the detail needed further refinement.

77. NORTH ESSEX GARDEN COMMUNITIES JOINT SCRUTINY PANEL

The Committee were aware that at its meeting on the 5 August 2019 (minute 66 refers) it was resolved to create a new North Essex Garden Communities (NEGC) Joint Scrutiny Panel with the Resources and Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

At the meeting the Council's Head of Democratic Services and Elections provided the Committee with a verbal update on the decisions taken by the Chairmen of the two

Overview and Scrutiny Committees following a process of considering the membership of the Panel. The two Chairmen proposed that the membership of the Joint Scrutiny Panel should comprise of;

Councillor M. Stephenson (Chairman)
Councillor Bush
Councillor Griffiths
Councillor Steady
Councillor Turner

Notice of the above had been submitted to the Committee in an email of 3 October 2019 from the Head of Democratic Services and Elections on behalf of the Chairmen of the Council's two Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

It was also updated that the NEGC Joint Scrutiny Panel would be holding its first meeting on 16 October 2019.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Committee endorses the decision of the Chairmen of this Committee and the Resources and Services Committee on the membership of the new NEGC Joint Scrutiny Panel.

78. SCRUTINY OF ELEMENTS OF COMMUNITY SAFETY

Further to the concerns raised at the meeting of the Committee on 1 July 2019 (Minute 55 refers), the Committee had sought to examine Community Safety issues at this meeting. The Committee's work programme identified several elements of Community Safety that were to be scrutinised at this meeting as follows:

(a) An outline of the challenges and priorities over the coming period as identified by the new Divisional Police Commander. An assessment of the issue of County Lines/Cuckooing etc. and the proliferation of drugs and the response to it.

(b) Anti-Social Behaviour – looking at data on this, hot spots in the District and changes over time. The outcome of the partnership funding of £10,000 by this Council/Essex Police for additional police patrols in July/August (did it work, how did it compare with 2018, what would be the impact if not repeated in 2020 etc), delivery of the new Anti-Social Patrol Officer (looking at the justification for the post and how it had operated, had it delivered against the rationale for being established), and the arrangements for and work involved in Community and Street Action Days – are their measures of their success?

With the agreement of the Committee, the relevant Portfolio Holder, Councillor L. McWilliams (Portfolio Holder for Partnerships) attended the meeting and expressed her appreciation for the Committee's interest in this matter and the collaborative work being undertaken.

The Committee had before it a Report of the Head of People, Performance and Projects – Speaker(s) With a Focus on Community Safety. This report sought that the Committee determines whether it has any comments or recommendations it wishes to put forward to the relevant Portfolio Holder or Cabinet.

In addressing the elements identified for scrutiny at this meeting, Tendring Community Policing Team Inspector Darren Deex was present at the meeting. He provided the Committee with a presentation and outlined the four key challenges and priorities for the Force locally were:

- Reducing Serious Violence / Knife Crime,
- Tackling County Lines & Drug Supply,
- Protecting Vulnerable People,
- Community Engagement,

The presentation then addressed all of the above separately. In respect of community engagement it was noted that the Police would producing a regular briefing document that would be sent to all Councillors advising them of key facts and progress against the above key challenges/priorities. Community engagement by the Police in Jaywick Sands was specifically touched upon at the meeting.

Details of Operation Spider were provided to the Committee. This Operation was put in place with matched funding from this Council and Essex Police to provide £20k towards additional policing of Clacton Town Centre between 1st July and 3rd September 2019. Against the objective of Operation Spider, the Committee was advised that in 2018 there had been a decline in anti-social behaviour in Clacton Town Centre, this had risen in 2019 back to similar levels as there were in 2017. However, this was mainly originating with one individual. If that additional presence had not been provided, the response to that spike in criminal behaviour would have further impacted on visible policing across the District as officers sought to respond to it. In this case, the response of the Police would also not have been as effective as it was this year due to the Council's funding. The response of the Police to the spike in criminal behaviour appeared to have been well received by businesses in the Clacton Town Centre area.

The perception and fear of crime in Clacton Town Centre at night and the impact on the late evening and night time economy in that Town Centre remained an issue to be addressed.

The Councils Safer Communities Manager was in attendance and presented to the Committee information on; Community Safety Priorities, the Safer Communities Team, The Anti-Social Behaviour Patrol Officer, and Street Action Days.

The priorities of the Community Safety Team of the Council were:

- Tackling Anti-Social Behaviour and Acquisitive Crime
- To reduce harm to and safeguard vulnerable victims (including Children)
- Reducing Violence and Knife Crime

In respect of the new Ant-Social Behaviour Patrol Officer in Clacton Town Centre, the Committee was advised that the post holder had been in post for 30 days. The following were indicators of the work in that 30 day period:

- The work pattern was 3 day time shifts, 3 late shifts followed by 3 rest days – giving a 9 day shift pattern)
- 68.5 hrs - Foot Patrol Hours
- 30.5 hrs – Admin / Briefings / Intelligence Gathering

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- 6 Verbal Warnings for ASB (cycling, flytipping, kicking street furniture, fire in rubbish bin on promenade – youths caught and taken home and advice given to parents)
 - 21 PSPO Warnings (begging / street drinking / loitering)
 - 19 knife sweeps in town centre and periphery
 - 122 active engagements with members of public and businesses

The presentation also referenced the seven Street Action Days co-ordinated by the Community Safety Team this calendar year; in Jaywick Sands, Walton-on-the-Naze, Harwich and Clacton Town Centre (Pier Ward). The numbers of streets canvassed, agencies involved, forms completed and referrals made were reported to the Committee.

Both presentations were circulated by email to the Committee's Members after the meeting.

After some deliberation it was **RESOLVED** that

- (1) The positive early evidence from the deployment of the newly established Anti-Social Behaviour Patrol Officer post at the Council be welcomed and to record that the Cabinet decision to approve the funds for this to be a permanent position appeared to be justified by this early evidence.
- (2) The Committee notes the evidence that has been received from Operation Spider, and **RECOMMENDS TO CABINET** to look favourably on any application received for achieving the same level of high visibility policing over the summer in 2020 in Clacton Town Centre.
- (3) The work programme for the Committee be amended to provide for scrutiny of the work of the new/revived Multi-Agency Coordination Panel; that has the remit of examining enforcement powers and protocols between various agencies locally to ensure that the most effective response possible is put in place to a range of criminal and anti-social behaviour. The scrutiny will be programmed for the Committee's meeting on 6 April 2020 when the Committee would envisage receiving a written report setting out the work of the MACP over the 6 months and the intentions for the following year. Indicators for success of the MCAP should be included with a commentary on progress towards those.
- (4) The Committee's view be recorded that the announcement by the Police of monthly written briefings that will be circulated to Councillors (amongst others) is a welcome move in their community engagement.

The meeting was declared closed at 9.53 pm

Chairman

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