



Leicester
City Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the
NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT SCRUTINY
COMMISSION

Held: THURSDAY, 17 OCTOBER 2013 at 5:30 pm.

P R E S E N T :

Councillor Gugnani (Vice-Chair in the Chair)

Councillor Bhatti Councillor Cleaver
Councillor Corral Councillor Grant
Councillor Naylor

In attendance :

Councillor Russell – Assistant City Mayor
(Neighbourhood Services)

Councillor Sood – Assistant City Mayor
(Community Involvement, Partnerships and Equalities)

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53. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Cutkelvin (Chair) and Councillor Desai.

54. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest made at this time.

55. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

It was noted that Councillor Sood (Assistant City Mayor, Community Involvement, Partnerships and Equalities) was present at the meeting and that her attendance had been omitted from the Minutes.

RESOLVED:

that, subject to the addition of Councillor Sood's attendance, the minutes of the meeting of the Neighbourhood Services and Community Involvement Scrutiny Commission held on 3 September 2013 be confirmed as a correct record.

56. PETITIONS

In accordance with Council procedures, it was reported that no Petitions had been received by the Monitoring Officer.

57. QUESTIONS, REPRESENTATIONS AND STATEMENTS OF CASE

In accordance with Council procedures, it was reported that no Questions, Representations or Statements of Case had been received by the Monitoring Officer.

58. NOISE CONTROL SERVICE

The Director of Environmental and Enforcement Services presented a report which provided information on the Noise Control Service and detailed staffing levels over the past five years. Information was also provided in relation to the hours the Service currently operated.

The Assistant City Mayor (Neighbourhood Services) was invited to comment on the report. In presenting the report particular comment was made on the investigation of complaints and the formal action which was taken against perpetrators once persistent noise nuisances were witnessed. It was noted that this action could involve the seizure of noise making equipment and/or prosecution.

The methods of obtaining evidence were described and the Commission noted that Digital Audio Tape (DAT) recorders were used which provided information about noise volume. It was also noted that DATs did not however provide evidence concerning the source of the noise and in reply to a question from a Commission member it was confirmed that direct evidence obtained by Officers was preferable.

The report also outlined the elements of the Noise Team's work as a consultee on planning and licensing applications and comment was made on the pressures that the Team were facing to complete consultative work. The

recent review and re-organisation of all enforcement resources was reported and it was noted that an opportunity existed to review the level of resourcing between various enforcement services.

In response to questions it was reported that confiscated equipment was normally disposed of and was not resold, as it generally involved high-bulkage low-value equipment.

In response to a question from the Chair it was confirmed that the restrictions on the Noise Team's budget had not affected the provision or use of monitoring equipment.

The Commission noted the report.

59. ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

The Director of Environmental and Enforcement Services presented a report which outlined the services available to anti-social behaviour (ASB) victims through the Leicester ASB Unit.

The Assistant City Mayor (Neighbourhood Services) was invited to comment on the report. It was noted that changes to the service since the organisational review had led to a streamlined front-facing service with an increase in ASB Investigators. The strategic co-ordination of the Service had also been redesignated.

The Commission were informed of the statistical data of the numbers and types of recorded incidents and the methods of dealing with cases dependent on the severity of the complaint, including referral to the Joint Action Group.

In response to a question from a Commission member concerning the reporting of incidents in the media and the contact made with Ward Councillors it was reported that criminal cases were dealt with separately to the Council's remit. It was further reported that a majority of the cases reported were repeat cases.

In conclusion, it was confirmed that the 'Sentinel' case management system which had recently been introduced was operating effectively and an increased ability to identify and manage those individuals at risk was being realised.

The Commission noted the report.

60. SPECIALIST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SERVICES

The Director of Environmental and Enforcement Services presented a report which provided an update on the Domestic Violence Services and outlined the performance of the service. It was reported that a re-launch of the Service was being arranged which would celebrate the work carried out to date.

The Commission discussed the partnership arrangement of the countywide strategy for Domestic Violence which were to run from 2009-2014 which included prevention, support and protection.

It was reported that as a result of a commissioning exercise four principal services were established to offer support to victims and witnesses of domestic violence. It was noted that support to those perpetrators who wished to change their behaviour was also included in the services offered.

In response to questions it was confirmed that no services had been deleted following the recent organisational review and the integration of functions within the Directorate. It was also reported that Ward data and demographic details showing particularly vulnerable and at-risk sectors could be made available but that incidents were not currently collated on this basis.

Commission members congratulated the Service on its achievements and noted the report.

61. CENSUS DATA ANALYSIS

The Director of Delivery, Communications and Political Governance presented a report which provided an update on progress made with the corporate programme of data and collection analysis arising from the 2011 Census.

It was reported that the next phase involved the production of common core service planning information and that initial analysis had begun. It was confirmed that the information and outputs concerning local communities could be collated on a Ward basis.

The Commission noted the report.

62. DRAFT WORK PROGRAMME 2013/14

The Commission's Work Programme was submitted for information and comment.

It was reported that the report concerning the Impact of Welfare Reform, in joint consideration with Overview Select Committee and Housing Scrutiny Commission, would be submitted to the Commission early in 2014.

The Work Programme was noted.

63. CLOSE OF MEETING

The meeting closed at 6.50 pm.