



Leicester
City Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the
OVERVIEW SELECT COMMITTEE

Held: THURSDAY, 1 NOVEMBER 2018 at 5:30 pm

P R E S E N T :

Councillor Singh (Chair)
Councillor Govind (Vice Chair)

Councillor Bajaj
Councillor Cleaver

Councillor Gugnani
Councillor Khote

Councillor Cutkelvin
Councillor Grant

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In Attendance

Councillor Myers – Assistant City Mayor, Entrepreneurial Councils' Agenda

35. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Dawood and Westley. The City Mayor also submitted his apologies.

36. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Govind declared that in respect of the Scrutiny Report into the review of the Bus Services Act 2017, he worked for a bus company.

37. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair paid tribute to Councillor Mo Chohan who had passed away very suddenly, and also Vichai Srivaddhanaprabha who along with four others had lost their lives in the helicopter crash at King Power Stadium. The Chair said that there was deep regret that Leicester had lost such great ambassadors.

At the request of the Chair, Members, all present observed a one-minute silence as a mark of respect.

38. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Members were asked to agree that the minutes of the previous meeting of the Overview Select Committee held 13 September 2018, were a correct record.

At the request of Cllr Grant, an amendment was agreed to minute item 29: Questions for the City Mayor – CAGE, to insert the words '*quite rightly*' to the first sentence of the text as follows:

Councillor Grant said that concerns had been raised with him, that while the council had '*quite rightly*' expressed strong views about far-right extremism in the city, the council had not apparently expressed similar concerns about an organisation called CAGE.

AGREED:

that the minutes of the meeting of the Overview Select Committee held 13 September 2018, subject to the above amendment, be confirmed as a correct record.

39. PROGRESS ON ACTIONS AGREED AT THE LAST MEETING

No updates were given on actions previously agreed.

40. QUESTIONS, REPRESENTATIONS AND STATEMENTS OF CASE

The Monitoring Officer reported that there were no questions, representations or statements of case.

41. PETITIONS

The Monitoring Officer reported that no petitions had been received.

42. TRACKING OF PETITIONS - MONITORING REPORT

AGREED:

that the current position be noted and petitions referenced 29/06/2018, 19/07/2018, 27/07/2018 and 22/05/2018 marked petitions process complete, be removed from the monitoring report.

43. PRESENTATION ON THE PREVENT PROGRAMME

Daxa Pancholi, the Head of Community Safety and Protection, Sean Abruthnot, Prevent Co-ordinator and Police Inspector William Knopp were present to deliver a power-point presentation on Prevent.

The Head of Community Safety and Protection introduced the presentation, a copy of which is attached to the back of the minutes and stated that Leicester was a multicultural city with a long-standing reputation for community cohesion; from time to time however there were people who posed a threat to the community.

Members considered the presentation and comments and queries raised included the following:

- In response to a question about referrals from schools, Members heard that schools submitted the largest numbers of referrals, possibly because teachers heard conversations and comments which concerned them.
- The Home Office provided funding for a Prevent Education officer who worked with local schools; Members heard that schools had a duty in respect of Prevent.
- In response to a question about training on Prevent for Councillors, the meeting heard that Prevent training was held as part of the Member Development Programme and a further session could be arranged if required. The Member suggested that it would be most appropriate to hold this in the new municipal year.
- Councillor Grant referred to a question about CAGE that he had raised at the previous meeting of the Overview Select Committee. Councillor Grant asked how an organisation such as CAGE, which was not prescribed fitted in with the Prevent Programme.

Inspector Knopp replied that CAGE was an extremist group and as such if the group was meeting in the city, they would look to see that the venue was appropriately sighted on the risks associated with that group. The Prevent partnership would look to see if it was appropriately chaired and ideally that a counter narrative would be offered.

Members heard that CAGE had held a meeting in a private venue in July and the group that hosted them had allowed Prevent to attend. At that event, representatives from Prevent had been permitted to challenge some of the views expressed. Inspector Knopp added that when groups such as CAGE visited, it was important that there was a robust response from partners and that an alternative view put forward to what was an exaggerated grievance narrative.

- A Member asked about the number of radical groups existing in Leicester and Inspector Knopp responded that they were seeing an increase in the number of far right and extreme right-wing groups. Some of the groups appeared on the surface to be acceptable, but had anti-migrant and anti-Islam views
- A Member asked about the role the Youth Commissioner had in the Prevent Programme and the Prevent Co-ordinator said that as he was relatively new to Leicester, he had not yet had the opportunity to work with the Youth Commissioner but was keen to do so. The Head of Community Safety and Protection added that the Young People's Council were very interested and engaged in this agenda.

- In relation to the emergence of far-right groups, a Member asked as to what point the Ward Councillors might be involved if that emergence was happening in their community. Inspector Knopp said that they were trying to map prevent referrals to where there were incidents of hate crimes to see where there was an overlap. Councillors should expect to be briefed where there was a real impact on community safety.
- It was noted that Leicester City chaired the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Prevent Steering Group and the Head of Community Safety and Protection explained that there was some work to be done to improve communications as people were not always aware what the Prevent Programme was about. She and the Prevent Co-ordinator were working on a communication plan to ensure council officers and the wider city were more aware and they were constantly reviewing the situation. Members heard that the Home Office had issued some good practice guidance and the work that Leicester was doing had been extensively fed into that.
- A Member expressed concerns that there were lots of groups that Prevent were not engaging with and Inspector Knopp responded that they were keen to engage with the wider community. He referred to a product funded by the Home Officer called Channel Positive Messages by which they worked with lay audiences and demystified the channel process by which information was received and safeguarding measures were implemented. They were trying to put this across to as many people as possible but finding groups that wanted to engage with Prevent was proving to be problematic. Inspector Knopp welcomed any suggestions for groups that they could take this product to. Members heard that Prevent officers were working to establish whether there was a range of representative groups across all the different protective characteristics, to enable a wider representation. The Head of Community Safety and Protection reiterated that they welcomed contact details of people that they could talk to.
- A Member commented that she would like more information on Channel Positive Messages and was informed that the next event would be held on 14 November at St Philip's Centre from 6 – 9 pm. A separate event could be held for Councillors if requested.
- A Member commented that as a Muslim she had suffered from a lot racism and discrimination. She said that Prevent engaged with children and men at Mosques, and also with the Youth Council but questioned how the Prevent officers engaged with women and mothers of those children, some of whom spoke different languages. She also asked how Prevent engaged with the white community, as Muslims suffered from racism from them. Inspector Knopp replied that women had been identified as a key demographic group that they needed to engage with; women knew what was happening in the home and were a strong influence. However, this was a challenge, as for some women there were barriers in attending meetings. It may be that there was a need for women only or men only meetings. Measures were being taken to address this issue, but it was recognised that more needed to be done. The Prevent Co-ordinator added that an interfaith women's only forum

met monthly at St Philip's Centre, to discuss issues such as hate crime and radicalisation.

- A Member commented that many sporting clubs and groups were required to have a child protection co-ordinator, and he suggested that Prevent officers might find it useful to contact them as a way forward in engaging with the wider community.

The Chair drew the discussion to a close and commented that the efforts the Prevent Officers were making was focussed and going in the right direction. He thanked the officers for their presentation.

AGREED:

that the presentation and comments from Members be noted.

44. QUESTIONS FOR THE CITY MAYOR

No questions were raised for the City Mayor, or for Councillor Myers, Assistant City Mayor for Entrepreneurial Councils' Agenda.

A Member commented that he would like all the Assistant City Mayors to attend meetings of the Overview Select Committee. The Chair responded that this was a suggestion that should be discussed with the Executive.

45. DRAFT SCRUTINY REPORT 2016-2018

Councillor Singh, Chair of the Overview Select Committee presented the Draft Scrutiny Report 2016-2018 and said that this had also been sent to the previous Chairs of the different Commissions to seek their views. The Scrutiny Report would be submitted to Full Council on Thursday 15 November 2018.

The Chair invited comments and questions. Comments from Members, included the following:

- Councillor Cutkelvin, Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Commission stated that the Commission had been pleased that the Local Authority had kept the sports services 'in house' rather than contracting them out to other providers. Councillor Cutkelvin added that the Leisure Centres were a very important part of the city's health economy and health and wellbeing going forward.
- Councillor Cleaver, Chair of the Adult Social Care Scrutiny Commission welcomed the references in the report to the Commission's in depth look at communication relating to autism. She expressed concerns that there were people with little knowledge of autism and suggested that everyone needed to try for a better understanding of the condition. It may be that someone was not mis-behaving in a public place, but just had different communication skills. Councillor Cleaver thanked everyone who had contributed towards this work on autism.

The Chair thanked all the Scrutiny Chairs and Members for their work in the Commissions over the previous two years and stated that Members would have a further chance to comment on the report at Full Council.

AGREED:

that the Draft Scrutiny Report 2016-2018 and Members' comments be noted and forwarded to the meeting of Full Council on 15 November 2018.

Councillor Cutkelvin left the meeting at this point and did not return.

46. SCRUTINY COMMISSIONS' WORK PROGRAMMES

Scoping Document: Community Asset Transfer Strategy

Members were asked to receive and endorse the scoping document for the Community Asset Transfer Strategy; a review of the Neighbourhood Services and Community Involvement Scrutiny Commission. The scoping document was presented by Councillor Gugnani, Chair of the Scrutiny Commission.

AGREED:

that the Overview Select Committee endorse the Community Asset Transfer Review Scoping Document.

Members were asked to receive and endorse the following reports of reviews carried out by Scrutiny Commissions:

Review of the Bus Services Act 2017 – the impacts and opportunities. A report of the Economic Development, Transport and Tourism Scrutiny Commission.

Councillor Khote, Chair of the Economic Development, Transport and Tourism Scrutiny Commission presented the review and said that positive progress had been made by the Council and bus companies, including extra bus lanes and the Haymarket Bus Station. There were still challenges however to increase bus use, make it more affordable and attractive and to improve the customer experience.

The Chair commented that he looked forward to the time when the City Mayor had more powers relating to bus services in Leicester.

It was noted that there were issues with the technology which didn't always work with the different bus companies. Councillor Khote explained that there were five different bus companies in Leicester and they were working towards a multi ticketing system. The Assistant City Mayor for Entrepreneurial Councils' Agenda commented that an integrated bus system worked very well in London, but he said that it appeared that this sort of common sense approach did not apply elsewhere.

AGREED:

that the Review of the Bus Services Act 2017 by the Economic Development and Transport and Tourism Scrutiny Commission be endorsed and forwarded to the Executive.

End of Life Care – A review report of the Adult Social Care Scrutiny Commission

The review report was presented by Councillor Cleaver, Chair of the Adult Social Care Scrutiny Commission. Councillor Cleaver commented that people were often fearful to talk about death but those early conversations were important. Councillor Cleaver commended the Adult Social Care service saying that they did a very good job in providing quality end of life care.

AGREED:

that the Review of End of Life Care by the Adult Social Care Scrutiny Commission be endorsed and forwarded to the Executive.

Members were thanked for their work on the Scrutiny Commission Review reports.

47. OVERVIEW SELECT COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

The Overview Select Committee Work Programme was considered and noted.

48. PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS

The Chair asked Scrutiny Chairs to be mindful of items on the Plan of Key Decisions, that related to their Commissions.

AGREED:

that the Plan of Key Decisions be noted.

49. CLOSE OF MEETING

The meeting closed at 7.03 pm.

Prevent Presentation

Overview Scrutiny Committee



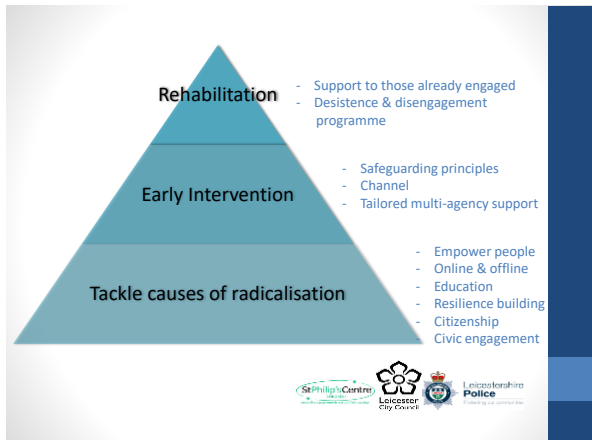
Partnership Approach

- The Prevent Duty & Local Delivery – Sean Arbuthnot, Prevent Co-Ordinator
- Counter Terrorism Local Plan – Insp. Bill Knopp
- Leicester/ Leicestershire Approach – Daxa Pancholi, Head of Community Safety & Protection



Prevent Duty

Under the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015, public authorities have a duty to **“have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism”**, known as the Prevent duty.



Channel

- Mental Health
- Social Services
- Health
- Education
- Probation & Prisons
- Youth Offending Service
- Mentoring



It exists in **non-criminal** space, providing interventions and support where necessary to individuals who have come to the attention of partner agencies and the general public for exhibiting behaviours that suggest they may be going down an extremist route



Counter Terrorist Local Profile

- Document - describes national threat from CT related to local communities
- Indicates priorities
- Informs engagement strategy, Prevent Delivery plan and commissioning decisions
- Produced yearly and refreshed every quarter
- Helps partners understand their local risk
- Official Sensitive so not a public facing document



Leicester/ Leicestershire Approach

- Prevent Steering Group (LLR)
 - To share information - risks & threats in LLR;
 - To develop/ deliver a local Prevent Action Plan;
 - To commission activity with partners;
 - To communicate Prevent work;
 - To manage performance outcomes.



Multi-Agency Partnerships supported by a VCS embedded Prevent Co-Ordinator



Leicester City Council

- Leicester City - one of 30 national "priority areas" .
- Executive Lead - Cllr Master, Assistant City Mayor (Neighbourhood Services)
- Head of Community Safety & Protection acts as the council's Prevent Lead.
- Worked with key council teams across the council
- Over 50 champions
- On-going training programme



Leicester Delivery Model Via SPC

- Nationally recognised model of good practice
- Supporting LCC and a wide range of other statutory and voluntary organisations
- Identifying and establishing new and emerging projects
- Working with existing projects to address new threats.



Reclaim Radical

- LCC Young Advisors
- Toolkit to enable difficult conversations
- Global issues, terrorism, extremism, radicalisation
- Practical steps to create a 'safe space'
- Participatory approach to youth engagement
- Exercises and films to promote discussion



<http://www.leicesterprevent.co.uk/reclaim-radical/>



LCFC Community Trust

- Sport & engagement
- Provision in areas highlighted by CTLP
- Community champions, leaders and coaches
- Workshops on radicalisation and extremism
- Female-only activities and workshops
- Work with faith institutions



Real Talk

- Streetvibe YPS
- Augmented reality workshop
- Far right extremism
- Challenges stereotypes
- Fake news, propaganda, critical thinking
- Building resilience to radicalisation



Real Talk



20,349 likes
 Great first day recording for my upcoming @bbc5live report on tackling the proliferation of extremist content online. I was lucky enough to join Prevent coordinators as they delivered an open workshop for interested students in Leicester - more details to follow



Thank You For Listening



Daxa.Pancholi@leicester.gov.uk
spcprevent@gmail.com
William.Knopp@leicestershire.pnn.police.uk



