

Minutes



To: All Members of the Community Safety and Waste Management Cabinet Panel, Chief Executive, Chief Officers, All officers named for 'actions'

From: Legal, Democratic & Statutory Services
Ask for: Nikki Cahill
Ext: 25554

COMMUNITY SAFETY AND WASTE MANAGEMENT CABINET PANEL

21 OCTOBER 2015

ATTENDANCE

MEMBERS OF THE PANEL

M J Cook, R J Henry, N A Hollinghurst, A Plancey (substituting for M Bright), T Hunter (Vice- Chairman), T R Hutchings, A Lee, M D M Muir, A M R Searing, R A C Thake (Chairman), C B Woodward

Also in attendance:

D E Lloyd – Police and Crime Commissioner
P A Ruffles – PCP Representative

Upon consideration of the agenda for the Community Safety and Waste Management Cabinet Panel meeting 21 October 2015 as circulated, copy annexed, conclusions were reached and are recorded below:

Note: No conflicts of interest were declared by any member of the Cabinet Panel in relation to the matters on which conclusions were reached at this meeting.

PART I ('OPEN') BUSINESS

1. MINUTES

- 1.1 The Minutes of the Community Safety and Planning Cabinet Panel meeting held on 7 July 2015 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

2. PUBLIC PETITIONS

- 2.1 Lorna Kercher presented a petition as outlined below:

'The closure of the Letchworth Household Waste Recycling site for two days a week by Hertfordshire County Council has caused absolute chaos. Since Easter, irate drivers have had to queue for

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between half an hour to two hours to unload rubbish. This has led to anger and frustration. Entrances to businesses along Blackhorse Road have been blocked, and the business inconvenienced. Some drivers have been using the wrong side of the road to enter their own premises, which has caused concern to the Police.

We the undersigned request the Hertfordshire County Council to revert to seven day a week opening at the site, in the interest of public safety and need.'

3. POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER (PCC)

[Officer Contact: Roy Wilsher, (01992 507501)

- 3.1 The Cabinet Panel considered a brief update report which provided the Members with an overview of the work undertaken by the PCC' s office since the Panel had last met.
- 3.2 The Police and Crime Commissioner advised that development on the Crisis Care Concordat was progressing well, with governance structures in place to deliver the action plan.
- 3.3 It was highlighted to Members that partnership working between the Police and Community Protection Directorate was underway in order to target Rogue Traders.
- 3.4 The Cabinet Panel welcomed the updated approach to Stop and Search, it was acknowledged that the work was underway to establish policy on what was considered to be a fair Stop and Search encounter. In October the Stop and Search Panel begin recruitment in order to create greater diversity on the Panel, and in particular sought greater representation from North Herts, East Herts, Broxbourne, Welwyn Hatfield and St Albans.
- 3.5 In general discussion the Cabinet Panel highlighted their support for the proposals to recruit to PCSO posts across Hertfordshire and highlighted issues surrounding Women's Refuges. Owing to the lack of placements to be moved on to, refuges often became long-term placements, leading to accommodation issues where new emergency cases arose.

Conclusion:

The Cabinet Panel thanked the Police and Crime Commissioner for his presentation and welcomed the report.

4. POLICE AND CRIME PANEL (PCP)

- 4.1 Peter Ruffles, Hertfordshire County Council’s representative appointed to the Police and Crime Panel advised that the PCP had not met since his last update.
- 4.2 The Cabinet Panel welcomed the news that since the PCP Topic Group held by Hertfordshire County Council had made its recommendation regarding changes to appointees training had been undertaken for the new membership.
- 4.3 The PCP representative welcomed representations to be fielded via himself to the PCP, feedback from which would be reported to the Cabinet Panel as appropriate.

Conclusion:

The Cabinet Panel welcomed the PCP representative’s presentation.

5. HOUSEHOLD WASTE RECYCLING CENTRE SERVICE

[Officer Contact: Mark Simpkins , Waste Manager, (01992 556175)]

- 5.1 The Cabinet Panel considered a report which provided an update and review of the service changes implemented by Amey at the County Council Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs) on 5 January 2015.
- 5.2 The Members of the Cabinet Panel were advised that the contract with Amey had been in operation for one year, with the significant changes to site operations having commenced in January 2015. The contractor had implemented changes as agreed by Cabinet with regards to alterations to opening times and the introduction of a van permit scheme.
- 5.3 The Cabinet Panel were advised that Hemel Hempstead, Letchworth and Cole Green Household Recycling Centres accounted for 24% of the complaints received in relation to HWRCs. It was also noted that owing to the pressure on the network, certain sites had experienced capacity issues. This had meant some service users had been directed to alternative sites when containers were full for the material they wished to dispose of. There had been 5 early closures owing to capacity at HWRCs and, under normal circumstances, the contractor planned site maintenance such as changing over full containers around closure days, or outside of operational hours, wherever possible. However, occasions had arisen where containers had become full and sites had been unable to accept certain materials at that time, so a temporary closure for collection had been necessary.
- 5.4 The Cabinet Panel were advised that a significant number of van

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permits had been issued beyond what had been anticipated. Amey had issued over 16,000 permits, 11,000 more than had been predicted at the time Amey had tendered the contract based on their experience elsewhere in the country. Concerns were raised regarding the potential for permits to be misused for commercial purposes as although a permit was valid for 12 visits, once fully utilised, drivers could reapply.

- 5.5 Members raised concerns regarding fly-tipping. Whilst available to the County Council did not indicate that there had been an overall rise, it was acknowledged that there may be localised increases in fly-tipping incidents.
- 5.6 The Cabinet Panel were advised that fly-tipping incidents were usually perpetrated by commercial traders. It was noted that as part of the approach to deter suspected improper usage of the Household Waste Recycling Plants, Amey had implemented a commercial waste service at the St Albans depot to allow traders and commercial waste organisations to pay for their waste to be disposed of legitimately, but to date there had been very limited use of this facility.
- 5.7 The results of a survey carried out at four sites indicated that in some instances visits to Household Waste Recycling Centres had arisen as the result of capacity issues with kerbside recycling. In general debate it was noted that residents were able to contact their local District or Borough council as the Waste Collection Authority to request roadside collection of large or awkward items for a small fee.
- 5.8 Officers undertook to investigate instances where improved signage may speed up service user's transition through Household Waste Recycling Sites, which would impact positively upon waiting times. In addition the proposed improvements and developments at both Letchworth and Hemel Hempstead HWRCs were highlighted which were expected to mitigate some of the current problems.

Conclusion:

- 5.9 The Cabinet Panel noted the report.

6. RESIDUAL WASTE TREATMENT PROGRAMME UPDATE

[Officer Contact: Simon Aries, Business Manager , (01992 555255)]

- 6.1 The Cabinet Panel were provided with an update on the progress of the Residual Waste Treatment Programme.
- 6.2 The Members of the Cabinet Panel were informed of the appeal made by Veolia to the Secretary of State in July 2015 regarding the New Barnfield application for a Recycling and Energy Recovery

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Facility. Anticipating that the rejection of the appeal was a possibility, Veolia were asked to submit a Revised Project Plan, which was received in July. Detailed evaluation of the draft Revised Project Plan was underway, along with wider examination of affordability and alternative disposal options.

- 6.3 The Cabinet Panel were advised that informal discussions were underway with representatives from industry providers to gain an understanding of alternative options available. At this time Hertfordshire County Council remained in contract with Veolia and as such discussions remained informal with other interested parties. It was noted that the Revised Project Plan submitted by Veolia was a draft and in accordance with the RWTP contract would be subject to updates. Final price and technical information would be made available to officers at the end of November 2015, with a detailed report to be submitted for consideration by Members in March 2016.
- 6.4 It was acknowledged that a short extension to the Deed of Variation to allow complete and thorough evaluation of the Revised Project Plan may be needed. The extension was likely to run until the end of March 2016 and would be considered by Cabinet if necessary.

Conclusion:

- 6.5 The Cabinet Panel noted the report.

7. ENABLING CLOSER WORKING BETWEEN THE EMERGENCY SERVICES

[Officer Contact: Roy Wisher, Director of Community Protection and Chief Fire Officer, (01992 5555576)]

- 7.1 The Community Safety and Waste Management Cabinet Panel considered a joint report provided by Hertfordshire County Council and the Police and Crime Commissioner for Hertfordshire, which advised as to the response to the Government Office Consultation on enabling greater collaboration between emergency services. It was noted that the consultation deadline was 23 October, the Cabinet Panel were asked to endorse the joint response.
- 7.2 Members were advised that the proposal to enable Police and Crime Commissioners to have responsibility for Fire and Rescue may prove effective in some areas. The Fire and Rescue service in Hertfordshire had a completely shared back office and had strong links with social care and public health as a result of its integration with Hertfordshire County Council. It was highlighted that Hertfordshire Fire and Rescue Service already benefited from close working relationships with the Hertfordshire Police and as such it would not be beneficial for the PCC to have direct responsibility as it was anticipated that existing partnership arrangements were well

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placed to support continued improvement.

- 7.3 In general discussion it was noted that whilst formalising partnership working may prove effective in embedding existing arrangements between the Fire and Rescue Service and the Police and Crime Commissioner full transition of responsibility was unnecessary and overly complex with little or no benefit for the residents of Hertfordshire.

Conclusion:

- 7.4 The Cabinet Panel supported the collaborative response to the Government Department's Consultation on 'Enabling closer working between the emergency services' as outlined at Appendix A to the report.

8. EMERGENCY SERVICES MOBILE COMMUNICATIONS PROGRAMME

[Officer Contact: Darryl Keen Tel: (01992 507504)]

- 8.1 The Cabinet Panel considered a report which provided an update on progress and next steps in relation to the Emergency Services Mobile Communication Programme (ESMCP). Members were reminded that a key driver for the Programme was that contractual arrangements for the current communication system, Airwave, were set to expire at the end of 2019.

- 8.2 The Cabinet Panel were advised that the ESMCP was a cross-government programme to provide a replacement for the existing mobile communications system used for the Emergency Services. It was highlighted that it was likely that the Emergency Services would move away from utilising a private network with the contract award likely to be for replacement by way of commercial 4G networks. Officers advised that cost implications were unclear at this time, however it was not anticipated that Hertfordshire's net cost contribution would vary significantly from current costs.

CONCLUSIONS

- 8.3 The Cabinet Panel noted the contents of the report and acknowledged the uncertainty around the costs associated with the Programme which may impact upon Hertfordshire County Council.

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9. COMMUNITY PROTECTION DIRECTORATE Q2 2015/16 PERFORMANCE UPDATE

[Officer Contact: Darryl Keen Tel: (01992 507504)]

- 9.1 The Cabinet Panel received an overview report outlining the performance of the Community Protection Directorate to the end of Q2 2015/16.
- 9.2 Members were pleased to note that in spite of a number of unusual incidents within the quarter, the performance of the Community Protection Directorate had been positive.
- 9.3 The Cabinet Panel noted that the number of false alarms caused by Automatic Fire Alarms had increased from 1,194 in Quarter 1 to 1,285 in Quarter 2. Members noted that overall sickness levels had reduced when compared to Q2 in the previous year.
- 9.4 It was highlighted that there had believed to have been one fire death in the year to the end of Quarter 2, however the coroner had yet to confirm whether this was attributable to fire, this would represent a reduction from 3 to 1 fire death against the corresponding quarter last year. The Cabinet Panel thanked Fire Officers and the Police for their efforts in recent incidents which had led to fire deaths in both Hoddesdon and Hitchin. The Local Member for Bishops Stortford highlighted the effectiveness of the Fire Officers and in particular of the retained Fire Officer function when pupils and staff had to be evacuated from a boarding house at Bishop's Stortford College in September.

Following the meeting an error within the papers at P2 of the report was identified as outlined below:

'The number of primary fires (a fire which involves property e.g. buildings, crops, equipment etc) attended **increased by 6** from the same period last year, down from **671** in Q2 2014-15 to **677** in Q2 2015-16. This represents a **slight increase** of **0.9%** overall and slightly exceeds, by one, the target of no more than **676** for the quarter. Significantly dwelling fires **reduced** by **12.4%** compared to the previous year.'

The figures for each year were transposed and should in fact have reported a decrease in primary fires as follows:

'The number of primary fires (a fire which involves property e.g. buildings, crops, equipment etc) attended **decreased by 6** from the same period last year, down from **677** in Q2 2014-15 to **671** in Q2 2015-16. This represents a **slight decrease** of **0.9%** overall and is within the target of no more than **676** for the quarter. Significantly dwelling fires **reduced** by **12.4%** compared to the previous year.'

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9.5 **CONCLUSION**

The Cabinet Panel noted the performance summary for the end of the Community Protection Directorate in the year to the end of Quarter 2 2015/16 and noted that the full mid-year report would be published in due course.

KATHRYN PETTITT
CHIEF LEGAL OFFICER

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