

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

3 DECEMBER 2015

ATTENDANCE

MEMBERS OF THE PANEL

M Bright, M J Cook, R J Henry, T Hunter (Vice- Chairman), T R Hutchings, P F J Knell,
M D M Muir, I M Reay (substituting for C B Woodward), A M R Searing,
R A C Thake (Chairman)

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 3 December 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

ACTION

1. MINUTES

- 1.1 The Minutes of the Community Safety and Planning Cabinet Panel meeting held on 21 October 2015 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman, subject to it being noted that following the meeting a correction to the Community Protection Directorate Q2 Summary Performance Report it was reported that '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.'

2. PUBLIC PETITIONS

- 2.1 No petitions were received.

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 Police and Crime Commissioner's (PCC) office since the Panel had last met.
- 3.2 The Police and Crime Commissioner advised that the Comprehensive Spending Review which had set out the budget for the next three years had announced that overall spending on policing would not be cut further, although the exact allocation to each individual force was not yet clear as funding for some important non-local services such as counter-terrorism would come from the same budget. The Cabinet Panel were advised that the PCC did not envisage the need to raise the Police and Crime Commissioner council tax precept, or make unnecessary cuts to frontline services.
- 3.3 The Panel were advised that Hertfordshire's crime rates were broadly one of the lowest in the Country, however, as recording methods had changed the number of records of incidents of crime had increased.
- 3.4 Hertfordshire was committed to continue with existing policing methods, placing the victim at the centre of its work. The Cabinet Panel were reminded as to the work being undertaken regarding the Mental Health Crisis Care Concordat, since June significant progress had been made to support the concordat with a range of responsible partners to develop appropriate governance structures to deliver the multi-agency Crisis Care Action Plan. The PCC restated the importance of the work as many of those whom found themselves in police custody required Mental Health provision, greater focus upon Mental Health Services will assist in reducing the number with mental health issues being retained in custody.
- 3.5 Following a question from a Member the PCC provided an update regarding resilience in the County, a rating of 'severe' with regards to the terror threat level had been in place for some months. The Police were undertaking work both to monitor those at risk of radicalisation and to protect individuals that maybe at subjected to racial hate crime. Members were advised that with regards to Community Protection there were three main focus areas; the maintenance of a specialist fire operations team, Director of Community Protection acting as the lead on the 'Prevent' agenda for the County and the ongoing work that the County Community Safety Unit – a joint team

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between the Council and the police – which continued to monitor and address hate crime.

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 met once since the last update. The members at that meeting had expressed broad support for the work of the PCC and expressed their support for the work undertaken with regards to the road safety fund, Mental Health Crisis Care Concordat, Stop and Search Scrutiny Panel, Countywide Business Crime Strategy, Serious and Organised Crime, Operation Beacon and Restorative Justice.
- 4.2 The PCP believed the PCC's decision to move away from measurable outcomes to be positive, in particular with regards to the Mental Health Concordat where intervention pilot schemes for individuals suffering for mental health issues were being undertaken.
- 4.3 The PCP representative advised that the PCP had shared best practice with comparator authorities and neighbours.

Conclusion:

- 4.4 The Cabinet Panel welcomed the PCP representative's presentation.

5. COMMUNITY PROTECTION MID-YEAR PERFORMANCE REPORT 2015/16

[Officer Contact: Darryl Keen , Deputy Chief Fire Officer, (01992 507502)]

- 5.1 The Cabinet Panel considered a report which provided an overview of the Community Protection Directorate (CPD) mid- year performance for 2015/16. The paper highlighted areas where the Directorate had performed well and identified areas for further investigation or action.
- 5.2 The Members welcomed the updated, extended mid-year performance monitor. It was noted that there had been an increase in the number of incidents of deliberate fires which had risen by 11.7% compared with the previous year. However, it was noted that the total number of deliberate fires had decreased by 34% in the last 5 years. A number of multi-agency community events had been undertaken

as part of the Hertfordshire Fire and Rescue's (HFRS) to educate, with the aim of reducing the number of deliberate fires.

- 5.3 The Cabinet Panel were advised that the report had identified 346 Risk Based Inspections as having taken place in 2015/16 these had been recorded on the electronic records system which was being replaced, an analysis directly with those that undertake the inspections revealed the true figure to be in excess of 600 inspections which had taken place in premises that present the highest risk to the community. The up to date figures should be available from the system in the end of year report.
- 5.4 In the second quarter of 2015/16 there had been 21 occasions where the attendance standards had not been met by HFRS, further investigation was being undertaken by managers. The Panel were advised that in 2015/16 the most common reason for delays resulting in attendance standards not being met were heavy traffic and poor weather.
- 5.5 Following the implementation of a new policy to no longer automatically respond to calls from Automatic Fire Alarms in most business premises between the hours of 9 am and 5 pm, Monday to Friday unless a fire was confirmed, the total number of AFA attendances had fallen by 14% in 2014/15, at mid- year of the second quarter of 2015/16 the service had experienced a rise of 7.6% in the number of false alarms attended caused by AFAs. The number of attendances to non-domestic premises rose by 8.8% and to domestic premises by 6.1%, however the number of calls successfully challenged by Fire Control where no attendance was made had risen by a very positive 31.3% and overall the Service attended 68.8% of false alarm calls generated by AFAs compared to 72.8% last year.
- 5.6 The Cabinet Panel were advised that owing to the considerable number of new recruits only 34% of in-scope personnel had completed a Breathing Apparatus (BA) CPD course from the 2015/16 training programme. Members highlighted that this represented good news in relation to new recruits and welcomed the news that additional instructors would be available in the next 6 months to maximise the number of BA training courses that could take place to ensure that the BA CPD requirement is met. It was noted that each trainer was limited in the number of courses that they can deliver for health monitoring reasons.
- 5.7 Sickness levels had improved significantly compared with the previous year across all areas of the Community Protection Directorate. In particular the positive decrease in long-term sickness was highlighted. The dedicated Occupational Health team ensured that those on long-term sickness absence had access to rehabilitative support to facilitate their return to work as soon as was

practicable.

Conclusion:

- 5.8 The Cabinet Panel noted the mid- year performance of the Community Protection Directorate to the end of Quarter 2 2015/16 and acknowledged the content of the report for publication to the wider organisation and general public.

6. HERTFORDSHIRE WASTE PARTNERSHIP: ANNUAL REPORT 2014/15

[Officer Contact: James Holt, Waste Manager, (01992 556318)]

- 6.1 The Cabinet Panel were presented with the 2014/15 Hertfordshire Waste Partnership's (HWP) annual report which was presented to the HWP's Member group in October 2015. The information report provided an overview of Hertfordshire County Council's contribution, through the Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) network, to the county wide recycling scheme.
- 6.2 The Members of the Cabinet Panel welcomed the news that the HWP's countywide recycling rate (all Waste Collection Authority and Household Waste Recycling Centre waste) improved slightly in 2014/15 from 49.3% to 49.4% compared with the previous year. It was noted that these figures included approximately 1,200 additional tonnes that remained in the transfer station at the end of the year, but excluded HWRC wood waste which constituted approximately 6,500 tonnes diverted from landfill.
- 6.3 The Cabinet Panel were pleased to note that HWP partner authorities Dacorum Borough Council and Three Rivers District Council implemented separate food waste collections during the latter half of 2014. Separate food and garden waste collection from these authorities allowed processing using anaerobic digestion and open windrow composting which had generated savings of £389,000. The funds had largely been returned to the partner authorities and so did not create financial benefit for the County Council, however it had made a significant contribution to diversions in the waste stream. Members highlighted the efficiency savings that could be achieved via partnership working and alignment of collection services to maximise the savings that could be generated via the Alternative Financial Model.
- 6.4 Members highlighted the importance of Waste Prevention work, by educating residents about the importance of recycling and encouraging individuals to take responsibility for items that could be reused, material would be diverted away from landfill. The Panel were advised that officers were studying best practice from

comparator authorities with regards to re-use sites located within Household Waste Recycling Centres.

Conclusion:

- 6.5 The Cabinet Panel noted the 2014/15 Hertfordshire Waste Partnership's (HWP) annual report and commented on Hertfordshire County Council's contribution to the countywide recycling programme via the Household Recycling Centre network.

7. WASTE MANAGEMENT PERFORMANCE MONITOR

[Officer Contact: Simon Aires (01992 555255)]

- 7.1 The Community Safety and Waste Management Cabinet Panel considered a report which reviewed the performance of Waste Management for the second quarter of 2015 against the Environment Department Service Plan 2015/16 including key performance indicators, major projects, contracts and identified risks.
- 7.2 Members were alerted to the RAG status for the Residual Waste Treatment Programme which remained at red owing to its high profile nature. Interim measures were in place while the County Council awaited the evaluation of the Revised Project Plan from Veolia Environmental Services Limited following the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government's decision to reject the planning application for the construction and operation of a Recycling and Energy Recovery Facility on land at New Barnfield Hatfield.
- 7.3 The Cabinet Panel welcomed the news that the total amount of collected household waste per household in 2014/15 was 1,046 kg, an improvement on the figure of 1,062kg in 2013/14. This had arisen as the result of a number of factors including; less favourable growing conditions, changes in frequency in collections and because a number of authorities had diverted cardboard into, and provided, co-mingled collections.

Conclusion:

- 7.4 The Cabinet Panel noted the report and commented on the performance monitor for the second quarter of 2015-16 as outlined above.

8. BETTER BUSINESS FOR ALL (BBfA)

[Officer Contact: John Boulter Tel: (01992 555951)]

- 8.1 The Cabinet Panel considered a report which informed them as to the work of Hertfordshire's Better Business for All Partnership in

which the staff from the Community Protection Directorate, notably Trading Standards and Fire and Rescue Services have had a leading role.

- 8.2 The Cabinet Panel welcomed the news that Hertfordshire County Council was playing a leading role in Hertfordshire's Better Business for All (BBfA) partnership which brought together businesses and regulators with the aim of developing a new relationship to support growth by identifying issues faced by local businesses and shaping the provision of effective support service to them. The partnership comprised key stakeholders such as the Federation of Small Businesses, Chambers of Commerce and the Local Enterprise Partnership. Members were pleased to note that Hertfordshire had been identified in the BBfA's recent publication as being one of the leading BBfA partnerships in the country.
- 8.3 The BBfA partnership had produced a 'Charter' which provided a virtual 'one stop shop' for all things related to regulation and the delivery of a major training initiative.

CONCLUSIONS

- 8.4 The Cabinet Panel confirmed their support for the Better Business for All initiative and the work being undertaken within the Authority to work collaboratively to support the County's business community, provide a fair and level regulatory playing field and embed the sort of approach to regulation which fosters growth and prosperity.

KATHRYN PETTITT
CHIEF LEGAL OFFICER

CHAIRMAN_____

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