

## Minutes



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

From: Legal, Democratic & Statutory Services  
Ask for: Elaine Manzi  
Ext: 28062

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### **COMMUNITY SAFETY & WASTE MANAGEMENT 7 FEBRUARY 2017**

#### **ATTENDANCE**

#### **MEMBERS OF THE PANEL**

M Bright, M J Cook, R J Henry, N A Hollinghurst, T Hunter (Vice- Chairman),  
T R Hutchings, R G Prowse, A M R Searing, R A C Thake (Chairman) C B Woodward

#### **OTHER MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE**

M D M Muir

Upon consideration of the agenda for the Community Safety & Waste Management meeting on 7 February 2017 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 Cabinet Panel meeting held on 1 November 2016 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

##### **2. PUBLIC PETITIONS**

- 2.1 There were no public petitions.

##### **3. POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER**

[Officer Contact: David Gibson, Deputy Police & Crime Commissioner]

- 3.1 The Cabinet Panel considered a report providing an update on the work of the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) for Hertfordshire and the work of the Commissioner's Office.

- 3.2 Members thanked Officers for the positive work undertaken in local policing, particularly within the Stevenage area.
- 3.3 The Panel were advised that the proposed cost increase in the police section of Council Tax bills for 2017/18 was due to costs incurred due the delay in the rollout of a collaborated IT programme and a reduction in the Government grant of £1.5m.
- 3.4 Panel were assured that the application process for the new Hertfordshire Community Foundation grant was planned to be straightforward as practicable.
- 3.5 The information on the Modern Slavery Conference was welcomed by Members, who were pleased to note that the profile of this important issue was being raised by Hertfordshire.

**Conclusion:**

- 3.6 The report of the Police and Crime Commissioner was noted by the Panel.

**4. POLICE & CRIME PANEL**

Officer contact: Debbie Barker

- 4.1 Members were briefed that at the most recent meeting of the Police and Crime Panel, members of the meeting were introduced to the Police and Crime Commissioner's new Chief Executive.
- 4.2 The Police and Crime Panel had also endorsed the Police and Crime Plan 2017-2022, and discussed the proposed budget.
- 4.3 It was noted that the Police & Crime Panel had also reflected on the sad death of Cllr Sherma Batson. Members took the opportunity to express their own condolences and it was noted that the amount of support since Cllr Batson's passing had been 'overwhelming'.

**Conclusion:**

- 4.4 The update from the Police and Crime Panel was noted.

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**5. INTEGRATED PLAN 2017/18-2019/20 (COMMUNITY SAFETY & WASTE MANAGEMENT)**

Officer Contact: Lindsey McLeod Head of Accountancy Services  
(Tel 01992 556431)  
Mike Collier Assistant Director (Environment)  
(Tel 01992 555792)

- 5.1 The Cabinet Panel considered a report which highlighted the areas of the Integrated Plan for 2017/18-2019/20 which related to Community Safety and Waste Management in order for the Cabinet Panel to consider these and provide comment.
- 5.2 Members heard that a detailed online questionnaire was completed as part of the public consultation to which 1937 responses were received. 61% of those who responded said that in a choice between service reductions and further council tax increases they would rather see an increase in council tax and 34% a reduction in services. It was also noted that the percentage of respondents supporting a reduction in expenditure on disposing of waste was 28% and 22% a reduction in community protection.
- 5.3 Members noted that the total budget for the county council had been set at £810m for 2017/18 falling to £807m in 2018/19 before increasing to £813m in 2019/20. The Revenue Support Grant would fall by 98% between 2016/17 and 2019/20 from almost £80m to under £2m. Basic Council Tax income was projected to increase by just over 9% over the same period from £499m to £545m. In addition, it was estimated that £44m could be raised from the social care precept.
- 5.4 The Panel raised some concerns relating to the uncertainty and risk of committing to a 30 year contract for waste disposal within the county. The Chairman clarified that this was also raised at the full Overview & Scrutiny Committee on the 26 January 2017 and he had since provided a written response to the Scrutiny Officer.
- 5.5 The Panel received assurance of the mitigated risk attached to reducing the non-pay inflation to zero.

**Conclusion:**

- 5.6 The Panel noted the proposals relating to the Integrated Plan in respect of Community Safety and Waste Management.

**6. FLY TIPPING IN HERTFORDSHIRE**

Officer Contact: Duncan Jones, Hertfordshire Waste Partnership,

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Partnership Development Manager & Chairman of the Hertfordshire Fly Tipping Group (Tel: 01992 556150) / Matt King, Head of Waste Management & Environmental Resource Planning (Tel: 01992 556207)

- 6.1 In 2015/16, 14,716 incidents of fly tipping were recorded in Hertfordshire. A multi-agency Fly Tipping Group meets quarterly to work on initiatives to reduce further incidents across the county. There have been some early successes with the group such as the adoption of common approach to the use of Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) under new regulations introduced last year.
- 6.2 Members learned that the Fly Tipping Group did dictate policy, and there was technically no official definition of what was meant by fly tipping, although guidelines were available to assist officers with practice.
- 6.3 The Panel were advised that work had been undertaken with the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) for Hertfordshire, and as a result of this funding had been received from the OPCC which had allowed projects to be rolled out across the county to help tackle fly tipping.
- 6.4 On discussing the statistics for fly tipping, Members learnt that the figures for incidents within Hertfordshire were similar to those from other counties and there were no particular spike periods throughout the year when incidents occurred.
- 6.5 Members were reminded of the £100k cost to clear a wax like liquid substance from a site near the A10 in 2016.
- 6.6 The Panel discussed the matter of providing facilities for the dumping of commercial waste and noted that this was not a viable option to broaden the use of Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRC's) to accommodate this, as due to size and layout considerations on many sites, priority had to be given to Household waste recycling.
- 6.7 It was noted that there was ongoing dialogue with commercial operators to find a workable solution to the deposition of commercial waste.
- 6.8 Members suggested consideration should be given to further work being undertaken to publicise the work of the HWRC's.

**Conclusion:**

- 6.9 The Panel noted the report.

**7. ORGANIC WASTE UPDATE**

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Officer Contact: James Holt, Waste Manager- Contract Development  
(Tel: 01992 556318)

- 7.1 Members were provided with an update on organic waste arrangements. It was noted that there were very low levels of contamination in the garden and food waste streams after much work with the Hertfordshire Waste Partnership (HWP).
- 7.2 The Panel discussed the use of the words 'to be welcomed' in the report in relation to the service charges to residents associated with the waste collection of green garden waste, and it was clarified that this was from a waste disposal viewpoint as charging for collection of the material leads to less waste and the material can be disposed of at a lower rate, thereby reducing costs to the County Council, however, it was noted that any service changes should be conducted in a managed way across the HWP such that existing contractual commitments were not negatively affected.
- 7.3 Members advised that they would welcome an update in due course to detail the financial savings achieved by this new contractual arrangement.

**Conclusion:**

- 7.4 Members noted the report.

**8. WASTE MANAGEMENT PERFORMANCE MONITOR**

Officer Contact: Simon Aries- Assistant Director Transport, Waste & Environmental Management (Tel: 01992 555255)

- 8.1 Members were presented with the Waste Management Performance Monitor for Quarter 3, 2016/17.
- 8.2 It was noted that performance indicators demonstrated that the authority are performing well in all areas and indicators were better than the Eastern Region and National average.
- 8.3 Members' attention was also drawn to the increase of visits to HWRC's, which had increased from 2.2 million visits in 2016 to 2.4 million visits in 2016. It was noted however, that a number of the HWRCs were no longer considered 'fit for purpose' to sustain future service delivery and investment would be required. Members were reminded that an Annex to the County Council's Waste Spatial Strategy considering the HWRCs was being developed and was set to be brought to the Panel in Summer 2017.
- 8.4 Members suggested officers should consider working closely with development control colleagues, and should plan appropriate

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consultation periods regarding any future developments regarding residual waste treatment

**Conclusion:**

8.5 The Cabinet Panel noted and commented on the report.

**9. COMMUNITY PROTECTION MID YEAR PERFORMANCE REPORT**  
Officer Contact: Darryl Keen, Deputy Chief Fire Officer (Tel: 01992 507502)

9.1 The Cabinet Panel considered the Community Protection Mid-Year Performance Report.

9.2 Members challenged the sickness statistics, which had increased in the last year. It was noted that due to the high physical nature of the role, the range of reasons and periods of sickness was higher than it would be in a non-physical role. It was also noted that the long term sickness statistics related to 2-3 personnel. Members heard that appropriate action was being undertaken to address this, but acknowledged that the appropriate timeframe for HR procedures and Union regulations needed to be adhered to.

9.3 Assurance was given that Managers worked diligently to ensure short term absences were monitored and managed appropriately.

9.4 Members learnt that hospitals were the main cause of callouts for automatic fire alarms and this was the case nationally. Ongoing work was being undertaken with the county's hospitals to improve on this.

9.5 For other organisations with automatic fire alarms, a significant reduction in call outs had been achieved by crews only attending callouts during normal business hours where a fire had been reported.

**Conclusion:**

9.6 The Community Protection Mid-year Performance Report was noted.

**10 HERTFORDSHIRE FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE 2016 FIRE PEER REVIEW**

Officer Contact: John Johnstone, Senior Business Support Manager (Tel: 01992 507537)

The Cabinet Panel considered the report on the Hertfordshire Fire & Rescue Service 2016 Fire Peer Review.

10.1 A planning day had been scheduled for February 2017 to discuss the

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10.2 next steps and agree the timescales of the Action Plan that had been created following the review.

10.3 Members learnt that consideration was being given to transforming the smaller retained fire stations into multi-use sites and touchdowns for other organisations. This would enable investment to their repairs.

10.4 It was noted that the new emergency services communication system, called the Emergency Services Mobile Communications Project (ESMCP), which replaces the current 'Airwave' provision, was not likely to be implemented before the end of 2019.

10.5 The Chairman asked for the Panels thanks to be relayed to the service for the very commendable report.

**Conclusion:**

10.6 The Hertfordshire Fire & Rescue Service 2016 Fire Peer Review report was endorsed by the Panel.

**OTHER PART I BUSINESS**

11. There was no other Part I business.

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**KATHRYN PETTITT  
CHIEF LEGAL OFFICER**

**CHAIRMAN** \_\_\_\_\_

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