



Minutes

of the
Meeting of the
**Community Safety and Waste Management Cabinet
Panel**
on
Thursday, 14 February 2019

1. 01 Agenda

3 - 12

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: Deborah Jeffery
Ext: 25563

COMMUNITY SAFETY & WASTE MANAGEMENT CABINET PANEL THURSDAY 14 FEBRUARY 2019

ATTENDANCE

MEMBERS OF THE PANEL

J Bennett-Lovell; S N Bloxham; M Bright; S J Featherstone; B A Gibson; J S Hale; F R G Hill; T W Hone (*Chairman*); J G L King; P V Mason; T J Williams; C B Woodward (*Vice Chairman*); J F Wyllie

OTHER MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Upon consideration of the agenda for the Community Safety & Waste Management meeting on Thursday 14 February 2019 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 9 November 2018 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman subject to minor typographical amendments at 5.8 and 7.5. In addition, the OPCC advised that at 3.2 of the minutes, the event highlighted was a refresh not a relaunch, and 3.5 the Serious Violence Strategy was being drafted by the police in collaboration with partners.

2. PUBLIC PETITIONS

- 2.1 There were no public petitions received.

3. HERTFORDSHIRE POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER UPDATE REPORT

Officer Contact: Dr Amie Birkhamshaw, Director of Delivery & Commissioning (Tel: 01707 806154)

3.1 The Panel considered the Police & Crime Commissioner report detailing the update in activity undertaken by the Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner (OPCC) since the last meeting of the Panel.

3.2 In response to member challenge, the difference between establishment figures and actual strength was clarified. The Budgeted Establishment (which is FTE) relates to the 'Post'. Actual Strength (which is FTE) relates to the 'Person'. The precept will be used to fund the recruitment of a total of 75 additional officers which will increase police officer numbers further above establishment by the end of 2019/20. In addition, the establishment figure itself was being increased to reflect the long term expansion of the force. It was confirmed that the Constabulary expected to have over 2000 officers by the end of the financial year.

3.3 Further to a Member question, it was agreed that consideration would be made to presenting the refreshed Community Safety & Criminal Justice Plan to a future meeting of the Community Safety & Waste Management Cabinet Panel.

OPCC

3.4 It was noted that details of the Cyber Crime Strategy were available online and the Serious Violence Strategy was scheduled to be discussed at Cabinet on 18 February 2019:

<https://democracy.hertfordshire.gov.uk/mgConvert2PDF.aspx?ID=5815&ISATT=1#search=%22serious%20violence%20strategy%22>

3.5 Members discussed the use of the police use of social media to raise awareness of criminal incidents and appeal for information. It was noted that further to a recent incident posted online, a number of abusive comments had been made in response to it. It was broadly agreed that it would not be an efficient use of police time to continually monitor postings, but consideration would be made as to how these would be moderated in the future.

OPCC

3.6 In response to a Member question, it was confirmed that Hertfordshire Constabulary had no plans to introduce a civilian scene guarding scheme, as was being introduced by Norfolk Police:

<https://www.itv.com/news/anglia/2019-02-08/norfolk-police-hire->

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[civilians-to-guard-crimes-scenes/](#)

It was noted that Norfolk had introduced the scheme further to reducing the number of PCSO's in the county, which was a policy that had not been mirrored in Hertfordshire.

CONCLUSION:

- 3.7 The report of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Hertfordshire was noted.

4. POLICE AND CRIME PANEL UPDATE

Colin Woodward – Vice-Chairman of the Community Safety and Waste Management Cabinet Panel and Police & Crime Panel Representative

- 4.1 Members noted that due to illness, the council's Police & Crime Panel representative had not been able to attend the meeting held on 15 November 2018, and minutes were as yet unavailable.
- 4.2 The panel discussed the importance of council representation at the panel, and in response to a Member challenge, it was noted that as the panel is independent to the council, the council cannot prescribe how the meetings are structured or administered. The Panel noted that it appeared that substitute Members were permissible as it was known that two District Councils had appointed substitute representatives.

Admin note: Further to the meeting, the Chairman of the Community Safety & Waste Management Cabinet Panel has discussed the matter with the Chairman of the Police & Crime Panel. It has been suggested that it was permissible for the County Council to have a substitute representative on the Police & Crime Panel, but their appointment would be at the discretion of the Council through its constitutional directive on the appointment to Outside Bodies, outlined at Annexes 10 and 20 of the council's constitution here:

<https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/media-library/documents/about-the-council/data-and-information/constitution1.pdf>

- 4.3 In response to a further Member challenge regarding the perceived restriction of public interaction with the panel, it was noted that questions from the public at the meeting are taken and discussed at the discretion of the Chairman of the Police & Crime Panel. It was advised that the current ruling for written questions for the panel to be submitted seven days in advance had been agreed by the panel in order to allow sufficient time for a comprehensive response to be provided. The Lead Liberal Democrat Spokesman challenged that 23 written questions had been submitted by the public in advance of the panel, but had not been circulated, discussed or even referred to in the

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meeting.

Admin note: Further to the meeting, the Vice Chairman of the Community Safety & Waste Management Cabinet Panel has discussed the matter with the Chairman of the Police & Crime Panel. It has been agreed that the 23 questions submitted, including those of the Hertfordshire County Council representative, will be attached as an appendice to the minutes of the Police & Crime Panel. In addition, it was advised that the 7 day ruling for written questions had been introduced to avoid public disappointment at not receiving comprehensive answers. The Chairman of the Police & Crime Panel has also advised that he allowed 15 minutes for questions from the public at the meeting on 15 November 2018.

- 4.4 Members discussed the notification of the cancellation of the Police and Crime Panel Training Day in October 2018 and it was noted that other than the training provided for the budget discussions, no additional training date had been provided.

Admin note: Further to the meeting, the Vice Chairman of the Community Safety & Waste Management Cabinet Panel has discussed the matter with the Chairman of the Police & Crime Panel. It has been confirmed that no further training dates have been scheduled at this time. It was also emphasised that any training days are not meetings that are held in public.

4.5 **CONCLUSION:**

The update from the Police & Crime Panel representative was noted.

5. **INTEGRATED PLAN 2019/20 - 2022/23 COMMUNITY SAFETY AND WASTE MANAGEMENT**

Officer Contact: Guy Pratt (Deputy Director Community Protection)
Faisal Mir (Assistant Director Finance and Business Support,
Environment and Infrastructure)

- 5.1 It was noted that all Members who had a disclosable pecuniary interest arising from an allowance from the County Council, another local authority in Hertfordshire, or a body to whom they have been appointed by the County Council, had received a dispensation to allow them to participate in debate and vote on the Integrated Plan.

All Members had been granted a dispensation to participate in debate and vote in any business of the County Council relating to setting the council tax or precept when they would otherwise be prevented from doing so in consequence of having a beneficial interest in land which is within the administrative area of Hertfordshire or a licence (alone or

jointly) to occupy such land.

Disclosable Pecuniary Interests:

No Member disclosed a pecuniary interest.

Declarable Interests:

F R G Hill – as she is the Chairman of the Royston and Buntingford Children’s Centre Group which receives funding from the County Council and she is the Council’s representative on the Old Barn Day Centre which receives funding from the County Council

- 5.2 Members were presented with a brief overview of the Integrated Plan for 2019/20 -2022/23 (IP Plan) and were invited to consider the section pertaining to Community Safety and Waste Management.
- 5.3 The Panel were reminded that the IP Plan had been discussed in detail at the recent Overview & Scrutiny Committee, where two recommendations had been identified as follows:
 - 1. That the function of the Alternative Financial Model is kept under review to ensure that it incentivises the district and borough councils to invest in waste management services that support the government’s environmental aspirations and that is used for that purpose.
 - 2. Issues with on-call staff need to be addressed as a priority if the Community Protection Fire & Rescue Service is to maintain attendance and budget targets. Members perceived plans to target stay-at-home parents for recruitment as on call staff as ‘optimistic’
- 5.4 Members received assurance that strategies and options were being considered, or already being undertaken, by the relevant teams to address the requirements identified in the recommendations.
- 5.5 The Chairman confirmed with Members that any individual queries arising as a result of the discussions at the Overview & Scrutiny Committee had been discussed and satisfactorily answered outside of the formal meeting setting.
- 5.6 In response to the Chairman’s invitation, Members confirmed that they had no further comment to make on the proposals outlined in the Integrated Plan in relation to Community Safety and Waste Management.
- 5.7 **CONCLUSION:**

Panel were invited to note and comment on the proposals relating to the Integrated Plan in respect of Community Safety and Waste Management. Panel made no further comment.

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Panel were invited to identify any issues it felt Cabinet Panel should consider in finalising the Integrated Plan proposals. Panel raised no issues.

Panel recommended to Cabinet that the Integrated Plan, in respect of Community Safety & Waste Management, was approved.

6. ACTION PLAN TO ADDRESS 'AREAS OF IMPROVEMENT' IDENTIFIED IN HER MAJESTY'S INSPECTORATE OF CONSTABULARY AND FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES (HMICFRS) INSPECTION REPORT IN TO HERTFORDSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE (HFRS)

Officer Contact: Darryl Keen, Director of Community Protection and Chief Fire Officer (01992 507500)

6.1 Members were presented with a report detailing the action plan which responded to the areas of improvement identified in HMICFRS's inspection of Hertfordshire Fire & Rescue Service.

6.2 The panel's attention was drawn to two areas of the report which had been amended since the publication of the agenda:

The Financial Implications, outlined at 6.1 of the report had been amended from:

'There are no specific financial issues arising from this report, however there is the possibility that it may increase the challenge to make savings under future Integrated Plans'

to read as follows:

'Whilst the Inspection Report highlighted a number of 'areas of improvement' these already form part of existing plans and projects underway within Community Protection. No specific, additional funding is therefore required at this time to respond to the areas identified within the Report.

Considerable reference is made within the Report to the refresh of the Service's Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP), any financial demands or opportunities identified as part of the development of the IRMP will be quantified as part of that process.'

In addition, it had been agreed the final paragraph, as detailed below, of Appendix 1 of the report be removed, as it was felt on balance, it was superfluous to the overall content of the response letter.

'In summary, the Authority welcomes the Report but is disappointed

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that it fails to fully take account of the challenges that the Service has faced over the last 18 months, in particular the potential change of governance which has created considerable difficulty in developing key plans, in particular the IRMP.'

- 6.3 Members heard that although officers felt had not been any surprises in the report, it was believed that on balance, the service had possibly been graded harshly, given the mitigating circumstances surrounding the uncertainty of the future governance of the service at the time of the inspection.
- 6.4 Members were in support of the progress of the action report being monitored at appropriate intervals at future meetings of the Community Safety & Waste Management Panel.
- 6.5 In response to a Member challenge, it was acknowledged that draft response the action plan, as outlined at Appendix 1 of the report, heavily focused on the Integrated Risk Management Plan as this was a key issue identified within the inspection, but Members were reminded that unlike other inspected authorities, the service had not received any recommendations, only areas for improvement.
- 6.6 It was noted that the action plan highlighted a number of positives in areas where work was already in place or being developed to meet the areas of improvement highlighted in the report. It was noted that a fire service who had received 'outstanding' for culture had undertaken a number of years work to achieve the grading.
- 6.7 Members were assured that Hertfordshire Fire & Rescue Service was confident that it would achieve an improved set of ratings at the next inspection.
- 6.8 In response to a Member concern it was acknowledged that IT changes were a challenge, but were something that the service would implement and closely work with staff to ensure they were confident and proficient in its use.
- 6.9 Members discussed the decision to delay the publication of the IMRP , and in response to a Member challenge, it was confirmed that the decision had been made to delay this further due to the uncertainty surrounding the future governance of the service. Members were assured that there had been no gap in risk awareness as the risk profiles already in place had been reviewed and extended until the formal publication of the IRMP. In addition, Members were advised that the preparation for the IRMP had been initiated in 2016 and had continued and developed throughout the extension period.

6.6 **CONCLUSION:**

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Members recommended that Cabinet:

approve the draft letter attached at Appendix 1 to the report, as amended, as the Council's response to the report from Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services on Hertfordshire Fire and Rescue Service dated 20 December 2018 (the 'Report') and the Director of Community Protection and Chief Fire Officer is authorised to sign the letter. In finalising the letter the Chief Fire Officer, in consultation with the Executive Member for Community Safety and Waste Management, may make minor amendments as appropriate.

approve the plan, attached at Appendix 2 to the report, as an appropriate action plan to meet the 'Areas for Improvement' identified within the Report.

agree that progress on the action plan is monitored through regular reports to the Community Safety and Waste Management Cabinet Panel.

7. COMMUNITY PROTECTION MID-YEAR PERFORMANCE REPORT 2018/19

Officer Contact:

Darryl Keen, Director of Community Protection and Chief Fire Officer

7.1 Members considered the community protection mid-year report, outlining areas where the directorate is performing well and highlighting areas requiring further investigation or action.

7.2 The panel discussed and expressed concern at the increasing number of road traffic accidents (RTA's) highlighted in the report. It was noted that there had been successful campaigns with younger age groups to raise awareness of the risks of dangerous driving, and further to Member questions, assurance was received that the older age bracket were also targeted through awareness campaigns at the Hertfordshire County Show and through the Hertfordshire Road Safety Partnership.

Admin note- Subsequent to the meeting, Members were provided with a chart detailing the Road casualty statistics for 2018. This can be found here:

<https://democracy.hertfordshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=209&MId=1296&Ver=4>

7.3 It was confirmed that there were also awareness raising schemes for motorcyclists.

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- 7.4 Members discussed the statistics relating to responses to automatic fire alarms, and received assurance that premises such as care homes also received fire service attendance. It was noted that work had been undertaken with call operators to equip them with the skills to make appropriate, informed decisions with regards to the need for a call out to other premises such as commercial properties.
- 7.5 In response to a Member question it was confirmed that fire engine attendance times were directly affected by issues on the roads causing traffic delays.
- 7.6 Members considered the number of risk based inspections undertaken, and were pleased to note that these were more detailed than inspections undertaken previously. It was noted that the criteria for future risk inspections may change depending on the outcomes of the Hackitt Review.
- 7.7 It was noted that although the number of Stage 1 complaints had risen, this was still low when seen against the amount of interaction the service had with the public. It was noted that the number of compliments should be taken in the context that the report was a mid-year report, and as such it was likely that the number of compliments would increase by year end.
- 7.8 In response to a Member question, it was agreed that further detail would be circulated on the incidents of deliberate fires. Assurance was received that where these fires were attributed to a particular area or district, fire officers worked with the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) to take appropriate multi-agency action.
- 7.9 **CONCLUSION:**
Panel noted the mid-year performance report of the Community Protection Directorate to the end of Quarter 2 2018/19.
- 7.10 Panel agreed the content of the report for the publication to the wider organisation and the general public.
- 8. HERTFORDSHIRE WASTE PARTNERSHIP ANNUAL REPORT 2017/18**
- Officer Contact: James Holt, Waste Manager Contract Development
- 8.1 Members considered the Hertfordshire Waste Partnership's Annual Report 2017/18 which provided an overview of the council's performance as a waste disposal authority.
- 8.2 During discussion, it was noted that the recycling rate within Hertfordshire had plateaued at c50%, and Members debated strategies to improve this. In response to a Member question it was confirmed

Guy Pratt

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that the statistics for charging for green waste within Three Rivers District Council had not had a detrimental effect on the volume of recycling.

- 8.3 The Panel noted that the Environment Bill was scheduled to be debated by government in Spring 2019 and this along with the outcomes of Brexit would have significant influence on the future direction of travel for waste management within the county.
- 8.4 Members' attention was drawn to the fact that the final remaining landfill site within the county, Westmill, was likely to reach capacity and therefore cease accepting waste at the end of 2019, thus increasing the need for waste disposal out of the county. Members were assured that the situation would be subject to ongoing monitoring.

8.5 **CONCLUSION:**
The Panel noted and commented upon the Hertfordshire Waste Partnership's (HWP) annual report.

9. OTHER PART I BUSINESS

None.

**KATHRYN PETTITT
CHIEF LEGAL OFFICER**

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