

Scrutiny Committee

- Venue: Committee Room
- Date: 22 January 2013
- Present: Councillors W Nichols (Chair), R Price (Vice Chair), I Chilvers, M Dyson, M Hobson, C Pearson, D Mackay and D Peart.
- Apologies for Absence: Councillors R Sweeting.
- Also Present: Councillor M Crane, Colin Moreton – Community Safety Partnership, Chief Inspector Mark Iveson – North Yorkshire Police and Jez Rushworth – North Yorkshire Fire Authority.
- Officers Present: Keith Dawson – Director of Community Services, Karen Iveson – Executive Director (s151), Richard Sunter – Lead Officer, Planning and Palbinder Mann - Democratic Services Officer.
- Press: None

31. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

32. MINUTES

RESOLVED:

- i) **That the minutes of the Scrutiny Committee held on 23 October 2012 be APPROVED and that they are signed by the Chair.**

33. CHAIR'S ADDRESS TO THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

The Chair informed the Committee of an amendment to the running order of the agenda. The item on the Crime and Disorder Review would be taken first and the North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue item would be taken second. The Chair also informed the Committee that the item on Health Service provision

would be deferred as the Yorkshire Ambulance Service had stated they were the subject of Care Quality Commission inspection. The Ambulance Service had stated they would attend if a deferral was not possible however the Chair informed the Committee that it was thought best to defer the item.

34. CALL IN

No items had been called in.

35. CRIME AND DISORDER REVIEW

Chief Inspector Mark Iveson from North Yorkshire Police and Colin Moreton from the Community Safety Partnership were present to discuss the latest position with regard to crime in the district.

Chief Inspector Iveson referred to data which had been included with the agenda and explained that the data was measured between 1 April to 31 March. The Committee were informed that crime was down 5.2% overall which essentially meant 150 less reports of crime from last year. Chief Inspector Iveson reported on the following key areas:

Burglary in a dwelling - With regard to helping victims of burglary, the Committee were informed that a handyman scheme had been funded which provided victims with equipment to prevent further burglary incidents. There was also work being done to educate people on preventing burglary.

Other Burglary - The Committee were informed the Committee on an initiative call 'Sheducation' which had helped prevent burglaries to non dwellings.

ASB/Drug Offences - It was reported that overall incidents of anti social behaviour and drug offences had fallen.

Domestic Violence - The Committee were informed that domestic violence remained a concern with the data 1% higher than last year. Chief Inspector Iveson stated that it was important to address the causes of domestic violence and there was an initiative where in cases of domestic violence, the partner was removed from the property and work was done to improve their behaviour.

The Committee were also informed that the Selby North area had the highest levels of domestic violence and that the Police were working with partners to take a holistic approach to the issue within the ward. This meant looking at asking the community what would lead to an improvement in their life.

Theft from Motor Vehicles - It was reported that there were 13 more offences of thefts from motor vehicles compared to last year. It was explained that this was due in part to a spate of catalytic converter thefts. Chief Inspector Iveson explained that an initiative had been launched to tackle this

type of theft however due to the valuation of metal prices, this type of theft was unlikely to go away.

There had also been a significant amount of number plate thefts and an increase in taking off without payments. The Committee was informed that there was equipment which could be bought to make it difficult to steal the number plate.

It was queried whether it was possible to identify the ethnicity of domestic violence victims. Chief Inspector Iveson stated that data could possibly be broken down to do this. It was also possible that some issues were not to do with the Police however and involved other agencies such as Adult Social Care.

In response to a query concerning partnership work between other forces, Chief Inspector Iveson stated that work was done in partnership as similar crimes were committed in other areas as well.

It was queried whether shops were identified of potential shoplifters. Chief Inspector Iveson stated that images of people who had committed offences were passed onto shops and work was done with shops to tackle offenders. The Committee were also informed that every two months, meetings with shop owners were held to discuss what they could or could not do when faced with shoplifters.

A query was raised concerning how the financial cutbacks would affect the Police. Chief Inspector Iveson stated that the previous Chief Constable of North Yorkshire Police had left the force in a stable financial situation. The Committee were informed that two Contact Centres had been merged into one which had produced some savings. With regard to the frontline, it was stated the force were in the position they needed to be. Chief Inspector Iveson explained that some officers who retired would be replaced however there should not be too much difference noticed as the force were on top of crime and the cutbacks should not place too much pressure on them.

A question was raised with regard to the opening of nine centres for reporting hate crime. Chief Inspector Iveson explained that this would give people a chance to come forward in confidence if they were a victim of hate crime.

RESOLVED:

- i) That the Committee receive and note the report.**

36. NORTH YORKSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

Jez Rushworth from North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service was present to provide an update on the position of North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service within the district.

Mr Rushworth explained that there were three strands to the work of the Fire Service. These were:

Fire Safety Audits

It was explained that there were two different types of audit and data was presented in the report which displayed the performance of the audits. Mr Rushworth explained the audit was a risk based assessment and if a risk to life was identified, this would be followed more closely. The Committee was informed that close work was done with the Police and the UK Border Agency on issues.

Fire Prevention Activities

Mr Rushworth explained that there was now a more qualitative approach with regard to home fire checks. This was due to installing specialist equipment and there had also been a lot of training around this. Due to this, there had been a reduction in community safety activity however the performance of the district was holding up well.

Emergency response

The Committee were informed that the average time taken from answering a call to the creation of a fire call and mobilisation of appliances was 1 minute 46 seconds.

Mr Rushworth explained that the regional control centre had been cancelled and it had been agreed to install a new mobile system. The Committee were informed that one of the benefits of the system was that better data about call handling was received. The system also allowed mobilisation of the nearest fire engine to the incident. It was explained that the new system was due to go live in April 2013.

The Committee were informed that the average time taken from the time of mobilisation to the time of arrival was 6 minutes 34 seconds. Mr Rushworth explained that in some instances, repeat calls were received about car fires and suspected malicious calls were challenged by control staff

In response to a query concerning the costs for the new system, Mr Rushworth stated that the proposed regional control centre would have cost more than four individual control centres and therefore the new system would be more cost effective. With regard to downsides of the new system, Mr Rushworth stated that a better evaluation of this would be achieved when the system went live.

RESOLVED:

- i) That the Committee receive and note the report.**

**37. ACCESS SELBY 2ND INTERIM KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATOR
PROGRESS REPORT: APRIL 2012 TO SEPTEMBER 2012 AND
SLA DEVELOPMENT PROGRESS REPORT**

Councillor M Crane, Leader of the Council and Keith Dawson, Director of Community Services presented the report which provided details of Access Selby key performance indicators following the second quarter of reporting for the financial year 2012/13

The Committee were informed that the data for this quarter was reported up to September 2012. There was currently one red indicator and four amber indicators.

In response to a query concerning customer service, the Leader of the Council stated that there was data which would be made available for Members concerning call stats identifying areas such as time taken to answer a call received.

A query was raised concerning indicator around satisfaction with the leisure service as people's comments recorded as 'no comment' may have been recorded as pleased with the service. The Director of Community Services stated that this survey had been conducted in March 2012. It was stated that dates should be included on the information stating when the consultation was undertaken.

A query was raised concerning which areas of Access Selby were there commercial development opportunities. The Director of Community Services stated that he would send a response to the Committee regarding this.

RESOLVED:

- i) That the Committee receive and note the report.**
- ii) That the accountable officers take the necessary action to ensure that performance indicators and projects under development achieve the targets set at the beginning of the financial year, as defined in the Service Level Agreement (SLA).**

**38. HEALTH SERVICE PROVISION – YORKSHIRE AMBULANCE
SERVICE**

As mentioned in the Chair's address, this item was deferred until the Committee meeting in April 2013.

RESOLVED:

- i) That the item be deferred.**

39. ACCESS SELBY SERVICE PROVISION – DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT SERVICE

The Lead Officer, Planning presented a report which detailed the work and performance of the Development Management Service.

The Lead Officer, Planning explained that the work of the service was outlined in the report and included working on a range of applications other than planning applications. These included, amongst other, Tree Preservation Orders Consents and Conservation Area Consents. There was also pre application advice provided by the service.

The Committee were referred to the information in the report outlining the number of applications. The Lead Officer, Planning reported that 70% of the applications were dealt with in time. It was explained that there had been problems at the beginning of the year when the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) had been implemented and this had implications for the Council's Core Strategy which had led to a backlog of applications being built up. In response to this, an action plan was implemented and an agreement was reached with Consultants, Capita Symonds who had assisted with the workload and this had worked well.

A query was raised with regard to whether planning advice was offered to residents. The Lead Officer, Planning stated that this was offered and that there was a duty Planning Officer based at the Access Selby Customer Contact Centre every Tuesday and Thursday. The Lead Officer, Planning explained that the service for pre application advice had to be weighed up with processing planning applications as the applicants had paid a fee. It was explained that different ways of providing advice were being considered and a possible consideration for the future was that the pre application advice would not be free.

RESOLVED:

- i) That the Committee receive and note the report.**

40. SCRUTINY DEVELOPMENT

Karen Iveson, Executive Director (s151) presented a report which summarised the comments by the Scrutiny Committee members at the Scrutiny Development Workshop on Tuesday 23 October 2012.

An error was pointed out in the report as recommendation two should have stated "under 2.3 – 2.5" rather than "2.5.1".

A matrix outlining criteria with which the Scrutiny Committee could use to select topics for the work programme was circulated to the Committee. It was suggested that the matrix be including as a standing item on future agenda.

The Chair suggested that Executive Members could be programmed into the work programme to talk about decisions which were outlined in the Forward Plan and fell inside their portfolio. Issues such as areas of responsibility and how they were delivered could be discussed.

It was agreed that the next workshop would be held on 20 February 2013.

RESOLVED:

- i) That the Committee receive and note the report.**

41. WORK PROGRAMME 2013/14

It was agreed that if Members had any comments on the proposed work programme for 2013/14, they would email the Democratic Services Officer. It was also stated that the proposed work programme would come back to the Committee before it went to Council for approval.

RESOLVED:

- i) That the Members email the Democratic Services Officer with any comments they have on the work programme for 2013/14 and that the work programme come back before the Committee before being submitted to Council for approval.**

42. SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

The Scrutiny Committee were informed that it would be aimed for the officer from the Police and Crime Panel to attend the meeting in April to outline how the Panel worked and for the Police and Crime Commissioner to attend a future meeting.

RESOLVED:

- i) That the Committee receive and note the work programme and the above amendment be made.**

The meeting closed at 7:03pm