

Scrutiny Committee

Venue:	Committee Room
Date:	Wednesday 23 April 2014
Present:	Councillors J Crawford (Chair), I Chilvers, M Dyson, M Hobson and D Mackay.
Also Present:	Councillors M Crane, Mrs G Ivey and Julia Mulligan, Police and Crime Commissioner, North Yorkshire
Apologies for Absence:	Mrs L Casling and D Peart
Officers Present:	Mary Weastell – Chief Executive, Karen Iveson – Executive Director (s151), Drew Fussey – Development Manager, Dave Maycock – Lead Officer, Assets, Keith Cadman – Lead Officer, Contracts and Palbinder Mann, Democratic Services Officer.
Press:	None

45. MINUTES

RESOLVED:

To APPROVE the minutes of the Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 26 March 2014 and they be signed by the Chair.

46. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

47. CHAIR'S ADDRESS TO THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

There was no address by the Chair.

48. CALL IN

No items were called in.

49. JULIA MULLIGAN, POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER, NORTH YORKSHIRE

The Chair agreed to amend the running order of the agenda to take this item first.

Julia Mulligan, Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC), North Yorkshire was present to provide an overview of her role and answer questions from the Committee.

The PCC explained that the Government had changed the way that services were being funded with the Commissioner given funding to be provided at a local level. Two aspects of the changes included a new process of funding for victims and for victim referral services. The Committee were informed that the calculation of the funding was done so by per head of population rather than per crime.

The PCC explained that a victim needs assessment was currently being carried out and there would be an emphasis on the victims with the highest needs.

The Committee were also informed of the proposed changes to Community Safety Partnerships (CSP) with it being proposed to have one CSP for North Yorkshire and one for York. The PCC explained that it would be up to each Partnership to determine on how it spent its money. The PCC explained that in some areas, outcomes had been poorly evidenced and it was important to demonstrate value for money.

The PCC also informed the Committee that the Police and Crime Plan was currently being revised and this was the plan which set out the priorities of the Commissioner. This would be based on the evidence of demand and need. The Committee were invited to submit their comments on the plan which would be released in the next couple of weeks. It was also explained that North Yorkshire was one of the few Police Forces to increase Police numbers.

A query was raised regarding funding being withdrawn from projects such as youth clubs and whether funding could be found from the Police. The Police and Crime Commissioner explained that it was difficult to always fill gaps left by other withdrawals of funding. It was explained that the Government had stopped community safety funding and money for this now came directly from the core Policing budget. The Committee were informed that numerous requests for funding were received however it was difficult to meet every single one and therefore it was important any projects that were funded were able to be self-sustainable in the future.

A query was raised with regard to how the funding formula was arrived at. The Police and Crime Commissioner explained that the funding formula was based on the demand for the specific area.

Members raised concern at the withdrawal of the Night Marshalls service. The Police and Crime Commissioner explained that what services wanted to be funded would be decided locally however there was doubt on whether the Night Marshalls service was delivering value for money.

Concern was raised at the amount of paperwork needing to be completed by Police Officers. The Police and Crime Commissioner explained that further work was required with regard to using technology in this area as other forces were equipped with mobile technology to allow paperwork to be filled in remotely instead of coming back to the station each time.

The Committee were informed of the issues with regard to mental health and it was stated that there was now a mental health concordat between the Police and the National Health Service.

The Chair thanked the Police and Crime Commissioner for her attendance.

RESOLVED:

- i) **To note the verbal report.**

50. ACCESS SELBY 3RD INTERIM KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATOR PROGRESS REPORT APRIL 2013 TO DECEMBER 2013

Councillor Mark Crane, Leader of the Council presented the Access Selby third Interim Key Performance Indicator Progress Report.

Concern was raised that some of the satisfaction figures in the report did not match the feedback being given by residents. Councillor Crane explained that at the end of a service or repair, residents were asked to provide their views on the service received. It was explained that other methods of receiving a broader range of feedback were being looked into.

A query was raised regarding performance indication SLA_025 around which units were failing to meet the target. The Executive Director (s151) explained that the Council was struggling to let some of the larger units however through the Asset Management Strategy, it was aimed to receive a certain amount of return from these units. With regard to which units were underperforming, it was agreed this would be looked into.

A query was raised regarding the performance indicator monitoring the percentage of Council Tax debt recovered. Councillor Crane explained that the amount of Council Tax debt recovered had not been helped by the welfare changes and that there had been an increase in overall debt. It was explained that the figures were approximate and that debt could also be recovered in the new financial year.

RESOLVED:

- i) **To receive and note the report.**

50. ACCESS SELBY SERVICE PROVISION – ASSETS

Dave Maycock, Lead Officer, Assets presented the report which gave an overview of the Assets service and current levels of service and performance

Concern was raised at complaints received at repairs to garage doors on properties on the Woodlands Estate. It was agreed the Member would pass on the list of properties to the Lead Officer, Assets to look into.

A Member raised concerns at the state of car parks, in particular the one located behind the Town Hall. The Lead Officer, Assets stated that reports of any disrepair were received from Car Park Wardens. Further concern was raised regarding the operation of the coin machine at that specific car park.

In response to a query regarding a review of all assets, the Lead Officer, Assets explained that as part of the Asset Management Strategy, all industrial units would be looked into to see if they were achieving best value.

A query was raised around the key challenges for the Asset Management Strategy. The Lead Officer, Assets explained that challenges included maintaining the condition of the current stock of housing due to the inflation on the building work being forecasted to rise.

RESOLVED:

- i) To receive and note the report.**

52. WASTE AND RECYCLING TASK AND FINISH GROUP FINAL REPORT

The Committee considered the findings of Task and Finish Group's review into Waste and Recycling.

Concerns were raised at the difficulties elderly residents may have in moving the bags when the waste would be collected although it was acknowledged, this was a problem also with the current recycling boxes. It was also noted that any change of policy would involve an Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA) where issues such as this would be picked up.

RESOLVED:

- i) To endorse the recommendations proposed by the Task and Finish Group and submit the report to the Executive for consideration.**

53. SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT 2013/14

The Committee considered the Annual Report which provided an update on the work of the Scrutiny Committee during 2013/14.

RESOLVED:

- i) **To receive and note the report.**

54. WORK PROGRAMME 2014/15

The Chair stated that it was aimed to have an item on bus timetables for the meeting in June following on from the previous discussion on cuts to public transport.

RESOLVED:

- i) **To receive and note the work programme with the above amendment.**

The meeting closed at 6.30pm