

Minutes of a meeting of the **Overview & Scrutiny Committee** held at Thorpe Lodge, 1 Yarmouth Road, Thorpe St Andrew, Norwich on **Tuesday 20 March 2018** at **10.00 am** when there were present:

Mr D G Harrison – Chairman

Mr A D Adams
Mrs C H Bannock
Mr D Buck
Mr J J Emsell

Mr R F Grady
Mrs L H Hemsall
Mr K G Leggett
Mr G K Nurden

Mr M D Snowling
Mr V B Tapp
Mrs K A Vincent

Mr F Whymark also attended the meeting for item 156 - Police and Crime Panel Update.

Also in attendance were the Head of Democratic Services and Monitoring Officer, Emergency Planning Manager, Housing Manager, Overview and Scrutiny Research Officer and the Committee Officer (JO).

152 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs Coplestone, Mr Everett, Mr Peck, Mr Ray-Mortlock and Mr D Ward.

153 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 27 February 2018 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

154 RESILIENCE UPDATE

The Emergency Planning Manager advised the meeting that there had been no major incidents since the last Committee update.

Warnings of the recent snow had been given well in advance, so the Council had been well prepared. Broadland's Business Continuity Plans had been initiated; with Emergency Management Team meetings held twice a day during the period, as well as teleconferences with the emergency services to assess the situation.

Waste collection had been affected, with bins only being emptied on main routes. The waste contractor had managed its own procedures for normalising collections following the bad weather.

The Council's emergency text system was utilised to contact staff and many of those living nearby managed to get to the offices. HR had agreed procedures for those staff who were unable to get into the office or who were able to work from home. A formal policy was to be drafted shortly to cover similar situations in the future.

Volunteers had helped across Norfolk; some were coordinated by the Police, but many others had been self-motivated to help their neighbours in the difficult conditions.

Anglian Water had focused on the reconnection of households that had lost supply during the period, which was thankfully short lived.

In response to a Member's complaint that Greater Anglia had cancelled trains in advance of the snow, it was confirmed that this was a precautionary measure at the request of Network Rail. The Emergency Planning Manager confirmed that he would raise the issue at the multi-agency debriefing on the response to the weather that would be held shortly.

In answer to a query about vulnerable residents, the meeting was advised that the emergency services could call on a number of agencies to identify those that might need assistance.

The Severe Weather Emergency Protocol was activated to provide extra support for rough sleepers. This was coordinated by Norwich City Council with support from Broadland and South Norfolk. There were no rough sleepers in Broadland, although some of Broadland clients did sleep rough in the City.

155 COMMUNITY SAFETY UPDATE

The report provided an update on the Council's community safety work to reduce crime and disorder in Broadland since the last update in September 2017.

Highlights included the Root Causes project, which identified connections between hoarding and/or extremely unkempt gardens and mental health and/or substance misuse problems. Members were advised that these were indicators that an individual was likely to be considered either a perpetrator or a victim of anti-social behaviour.

It was noted that if a person did not want help it could be difficult to remedy their situation. Members were advised that any concerns about specific issues should be raised with the Community Safety Manager.

A Member noted that although complaints had ceased about noise from cars

and motorbikes racing at Broadland Business Park, vehicles were now driving on footpaths adjoining the Northern Distributor Road. The Housing Manager confirmed that she would check if this was being monitored and report back to Members.

Another highlight of the community safety activity was the Walk, Bike, Scoot Project, which was developed as a response to reduce the number of vehicles being used to transport children to school and increase walking, cycling and scooting. The scheme also had the added benefit of reducing childhood obesity and increasing school attainment levels. Kinsale Infant and Junior Schools had agreed to participate in a pilot, which Norfolk County Council had been so impressed with that they had signed a Service Level Agreement to roll the scheme out across the district.

RESOLVED:

to note the report.

156 POLICE AND CRIME PANEL UPDATE

The Council's representative on the Police and Crime Panel confirmed that he had attended meetings of the Panel on 28 November 2017, 22 January and 6 February 2018.

At the 28 November meeting the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) had confirmed that he had commissioned Grant Thornton to explore the viability of the PCC taking on responsibility for the governance of local Fire and Rescue Services (FRS), following the introduction of the Policing and Crime Act 2017. Grant Thornton had recommended forming a new organisation comprising the Fire and Rescue Authority (FRA) and FRS, with the PCC then becoming the Norfolk Police Fire and Crime Commissioner (PFCC). This could lead to ongoing savings of £1.6 million over the next 10 years. Norfolk County Council did not support the proposal; however eight Norfolk MPs had expressed their unanimous support. The PCC was to explore a full business case for the proposal.

The PCC had proposed a precept increase for 2018/19 of 5.51 percent (£11.97 per annum for a band D property). The increase, which would allow 23 additional staff members, included 17 additional PCs on the streets and six police officers dedicated to working in schools to improve engagement, was unanimously supported by the Panel. There were also plans to make further long term savings across seven counties through collaboration in procurement, ICT and HR. More collaboration with Suffolk in the future was also desired.

Technology was being used to further enhance the efficiency of the Police force. Body worn video cameras had led to a change in the behaviour of

members of the public that the Police came into contact with and tablets had allowed tasks to be completed in the field much more efficiently.

Operation Moonshot (which targeted drug dealers) had led to 600 vehicles being seized and 400 criminals being arrested.

There been a number of new initiatives for the prevention and rehabilitation of offenders, most notably a court mentor role which was currently being piloted. The mentor was a serving category D prisoner from Norwich Prison, who attended Norwich Magistrates Court two days a week to offer advice, guidance and support to defendants and their family.

Since February 2018 there had also been a pilot to support women entering the criminal justice system and to identify the underlying causes of their offending behaviour.

The Vice-Chairman suggested that the PCC should remain focused on community safety, rather than seeking to take on responsibility for the governance for the Fire and Rescue Service.

RESOLVED:

to note the report.

157 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT 2017-18

The report presented the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report for 2017-18, which provided details of the work carried out by the Committee over the last year as well as its outcomes and achievements. The report also included a record of recommendations that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee made between April 2017 and March 2018 when scrutinising Cabinet papers. Details of work undertaken outside of the Committee, for example joint scrutiny committees, joint budget discussions with the Cabinet and Time and Task Limited Panels, was also included in the report.

In response to a suggestion it was agreed that the report be amended to confirm that the Neighbourhood Development Plan Time and Task Limited Panel was ongoing and would conclude its review in 2018/19.

RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL:

to approve the Annual Report to Council, as amended.

158 NORFOLK HEALTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Council's Member representative on the Norfolk Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee advised the meeting that the Norfolk and Suffolk Mental Health Trust wanted to move away from providing more acute beds, which could lead to patients losing the skills to look after themselves, in favour of early intervention. A pilot scheme to roll out mental wellbeing hubs or 'crisis cafes', in the form of drop-in centres that would offer a suitable and safe environment for people experiencing mental ill-health and distress was being trialled. It was hoped that this would meet with the recommendations of the Care Quality Commission, which had previously put the Trust on special measures for not having enough beds. The Trust was being re-assessed this week.

The Committee was advised that many healthcare professionals considered that a reorganisation of the way they worked, rather than more funding, was a better solution for easing pressure on the NHS.

Members were requested to speak to the Council's Member representative if they had any suggestions for items to be considered by the Norfolk Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The best means of addressing any specific issues, however, was to use the NHS complaints procedure.

The Chairman left the meeting at 11.19am.

Mr Emsell in the Chair

159 CORPORATE EQUALITIES GROUP

The main item considered at the 14 March 2018 meeting of the Corporate Equalities Group was an Evidence Review into Barriers to Independence and Access in Norfolk. The Review would be forwarded to the Committee for information, following the meeting

160 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

The meeting was advised that the Committee's Work Programme was complete. A workshop session would be held on the afternoon of 3 April 2018 to set the Work Programme for 2018/19.

In advance of the Workshop Members were asked to consider any service issues that they wanted to review that could be delegated to the Performance Management Sub-Committee or if they would like to invite any public bodies to attend a meeting of the Committee.

A Member suggested that the Western Link of the Northern Distributor Road might be a topic worth exploring further. The support provided by the Council for tourism was also suggested as a subject for Work Programme.

Following a suggestion that the General Data Protection Regulation be included on the Work Programme, the Head of Democratic Services and Monitoring Officer confirmed that this would not be necessary, as briefing sessions were being organised for all Members on the implications of the new legislation. He added that the Council was utilising the expertise of an officer from South Norfolk Council to ensure that Broadland was compliant ahead of the introduction of the Regulation in May.

The Chairman advised the meeting that the Neighbourhood Development Plan Time and Task Panel had held two very positive meetings with Neighbourhood Plan Steering Groups. It was noted that the weight given to Neighbourhood Plans would increase now that Broadland had a five year housing land supply.

The meeting closed at 11.34am