

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CRIME & SAFETY SCRUTINY PANEL
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 5 JANUARY 2011**

COUNCILLORS

PRESENT Martin Prescott (Chairman), Yusuf Cicek (Vice-Chairman), Kate Anolue, Yasemin Brett, Nneka Keazor, Paul McCannah and Ozzie Uzoanya

ABSENT Jonas Hall and Glynis Vince

CO-OPTED Adrian Bishop-Laggett (Enfield Police Partnership Group Management Committee)

OFFICERS: Mike Ahuja (Head of Corporate Scrutiny), Richard Tyler (Acting Assistant Director Corporate Finance), Gary Barnes (Assistant Director of Environment and Street Scene), Rod Bennett (Community Safety Unit) and James Kinsella (Democratic Services)

Also Attending: Superintendent Lucy D'Orsi (Metropolitan Police) and 10 members of the public/CAPE representatives.

635

WELCOME & APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Jonas Hall and Glynis Vince. An apology for lateness was received from Councillor Ozzie Uzoanya.

636

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No members of the Panel had any interests to declare in respect of items on the agenda.

637

BUDGET CONSULTATION: ENFIELD SPENDING REVIEW 2011/12

The Panel received, for consideration, the Enfield Spending Review 2011/12 Information and Consultation paper together with an appendix from the Director of Finance & Corporate Resources providing a more detailed breakdown on the impact of the consultation proposals on services within the remit of the Panel.

1.1 Budget Presentation

CRIME & SAFETY SCRUTINY PANEL - 5.1.2011

Richard Tyler, Acting Assistant Director of Finance & Corporate Resources (Corporate Finance) gave a brief presentation outlining the main elements within the Spending Review. Key issues highlighted were as follows:

- The budget pressures and growth proposals that the Council was consulting upon. Included within the growth proposals had been the introduction of a Residents ward based Priority Fund as well as additional funding for youth workers to enhance activities designed to address the risk of youth crime and anti social behaviour.
- The final Government settlement for Enfield had now been received with the Council's 2011/12 formula grant having been reduced by 8% (£12M). In addition the grant allocation had been subject to a "damping" mechanism which had resulted in Enfield losing £15m from its original formula grant allocation and a further £1m of Early Intervention Grant.
- The Governments spending review had been front loaded which meant that the largest reductions in the core budget would be required in the first two years. The settlement had also only been confirmed for two years with further potential changes in grant distribution possible from 2013/14.
- The Spending Review being undertaken by the Council had been based on an estimated reduction of core funding averaging the level confirmed within the Government settlement spread over the 4 year life of the current Administration.
- Budget pressures on the Council identified in 2011/12 would add up to approximately £29.6m, with £10.2m worth of savings relating to improved working practices already identified and approved by Cabinet, leaving a potential gap of £19.4 million. This has been based on no increase in Council Tax for 2011/12, although an increase of 3% had been assumed (subject to review) over the remaining three years.
- A series of budget savings had been identified in order to address the budget gap, which were detailed within the Council's Spending Review consultation paper and more detailed impact assessment provided for the Panel. The total level of savings identified across the Council for consultation purposes had been approx £21m, which provided some scope for choices and priorities to be identified around the reductions to be agreed.
- A significant level of consultation had already been undertaken seeking views on priority service areas, which had identified community safety as the 4th highest priority.
- Views were being sought from a wide range of stakeholders, as part of the budget consultation process which included each of the Scrutiny Panels and Area Forums.
- The significant challenge needing to be addressed in relation to the uncertain economic climate and overall level of the budget gap to be addressed, alongside a significant reduction in grants for various Children Service's activities. In addition confirmation was still awaited from the Government on the final level of grant funding to be provided for a range of various community safety activities.

1.2 Issues raised on presentation & consultation proposals

CRIME & SAFETY SCRUTINY PANEL - 5.1.2011

- (a) a resident raised a query regarding the cost of refuse disposal and landfill charges, which the chairman advised would need to be answered outside of the meeting, as it did not relate to the Panel's remit.
- (b) further details were sought on the potential impact of the following proposals set out under the review of service section in the budget consultation impact assessment provided for the Panel:
- reduction in overtime payments and withdrawal of one hire vehicle for Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs). Rod Bennett (Community Safety) confirmed that this proposal related to the Safer Parks unit and that he would need to provide details on the level of reduction proposed as a percentage of the overall budget, following the meeting. Superintendent Lucy D'Orsi (Metropolitan Police) pointed out that the reduction in overtime would have an impact on staffing levels available for patrol at any one time and the ability to provide "value added policing". The proposal had, however, also been accompanied by a realignment of shift patterns, designed to reflect the fact that the crime profile in parks did not follow a standard shift pattern. Under the realignment it would, for example be possible to increase the cover available in parks during the summer period albeit with fewer officers on duty. The withdrawal of the hire vehicle could be addressed through increased access to the fleet of vehicles operated by the Metropolitan Police to support operational delivery. **Action: Rod Bennett (Community Safety)**
 - £10k reduction in funding to the Police as a contribution towards delivery of the Youth Engagement Panel, LEAP training programme, Fit4Life diversionary activity scheme and number of crime talks. Superintendent D'Orsi advised that it was anticipated this would have a limited impact, given the more robust approach towards management of the budget for these initiatives and also as it may be possible to secure alternative funding contributions from other sources (although these were still to be confirmed).

As a general point, Rod Bennett again highlighted that a detail announcement was still awaited from the Home Office on the allocation of grant funding for a range of community safety initiatives. Until the final allocations had been confirmed it would be difficult to comment in any more detail on the availability of funding sources.

- (c) clarification was sought on the reasons for the Council funding the provision of PCSOs within the Safer Parks Unit. Superintendent D'Orsi explained that the Council had taken a decision to fund the provision of PCSOs, in place of park wardens, when the unit had been established given the increased powers available to them in terms of dealing with anti social behaviour.

CRIME & SAFETY SCRUTINY PANEL - 5.1.2011

- (d) details were sought on the final budget settlement for the Metropolitan Police as a result of the Government's Spending Review, and the potential impact of any reduction on the police service within Enfield. Superintendent D'Orsi advised that:
- whilst the Government had indicated an overall reduction in the budget allocation to the police service as a whole of approx 16% the final allocation made by the Metropolitan Police Authority (MPA) to each individual London Borough (including Enfield) was still to be announced. It would not, therefore, be possible to comment on any potential impact at this stage pending the settlement from the MPA;
 - it was anticipated that the budget allocations from the MPA would be planned on a pre and post Olympics delivery basis;
- (e) a query was raised on the potential for the police to address any gaps in their budget allocation through the disposal of assets. Superintendent D'Orsi advised these type of decisions would need to be taken centrally via the MPA. The Authority had produced an Asset Management Strategy, which included a list of potential sites for disposal, but any receipt achieved as a result would be held centrally and not ring fenced for local use.
- (f) further details were sought on the proposal to capitalise the costs associated with the alleygating scheme, as detailed under the efficiency proposals section of the budget consultation impact assessment provided for the Panel. The Panel remained supportive of the scheme with concerns focussed around the impact on the overall level of funding available to deliver schemes as a result of staff and design costs being absorbed through the allocation of capital funding for this programme. Richard Tyler (Acting Assistant Director of Corporate Finance) and Gary Barnes (Assistant Director Environment & Street Scene) outlined how the capitalisation of these costs would impact on the Council's overall revenue budget position and confirmed that this practice was already followed in relation to highway improvement schemes funded through the Local Improvement Programme (LiP) via Transport for London. Confirmation was provided that this proposal would reduce the overall level of funding (within the fixed capital allocation provided) available to deliver alleygating schemes.
- (g) Concerns were raised at the high number of properties (5 out of a total of 25 across London) being operated under the bail accommodation and support scheme (BASS) within the borough. Details were sought on any funding provided for the police or other service providers in the local area within which these properties were located to support any additional activities or service required in terms of the local management of offenders placed in the properties. Superintendent D'Orsi advised that the service was managed through an appointed contractor in London (Stonham) on behalf of the National Offender Management Scheme (NOMS) within the Ministry of Justice. No additional budget allocation was provided for local service providers in areas where the properties

CRIME & SAFETY SCRUTINY PANEL - 5.1.2011

were located. The Panel felt this was unfair and supported the need for continued lobbying to address this issue, particularly in view of:

- the potential impact arising from the change in Housing Benefit Regulations on the use and availability of private rented accommodation, which was how these properties were currently sourced; and
- the consideration being given by the Government to the increased use of community based sentencing as a means of punishing certain offences.

As no further issues were raised the chairman thanked Richard Tyler for the update provided.

AGREED that the comments made by the Panel be passed on to Budget Scrutiny Commission for consideration as part of the overall scrutiny response on the budget consultation proposals.

638

SAFER STRONGER COMMUNITIES BOARD - STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT & PARTNERSHIP PLAN UPDATE

The Panel received a verbal update (accompanied by a brief presentation) from Rod Bennett (Community Safety) providing an update on progress with the Safer Stronger Communities Board (SSCB) Strategic Assessment and consultation process.

The key issues highlighted were as follows:

- The draft strategic assessment had been completed for consultation purposes. Five broad priorities had been identified, which covered the following themes
 - young people as victims and offenders;
 - domestic violence and sexual offences;
 - public spaces;
 - community engagement
 - anti-social behaviour – especially substance misuse & sex work; integrated offender management & street scene
- The consultation process on the assessment and suggested priorities would include:
 - A “face the public” consultation meeting at the Civic Centre to be held at 7pm on Wednesday 23 February 2011;
 - Token box scheme to be operated at the Civic Centre & John Wilkes House, with attempts being made to expand coverage via local businesses;
 - Visits to Area Forums – including Over 50’s & Youth Area Forums & Youth Parliament;
 - A questionnaire available to complete in hard copy at various locations, and on-line (www.enfield.gov.uk/crimesurvey);
 - The use of focus groups (undertaken via Corporate Scrutiny on behalf of the Panel) to target more “hard to reach” sections on the community;

CRIME & SAFETY SCRUTINY PANEL - 5.1.2011

- The potential use of train stations (operated by National Express East Anglia and First Capital Connect) across the borough to seek views from commuters, although this was subject to approval by the train operating companies. Stations likely to be targeted would include Enfield Town, Enfield Lock, Turkey Street & Ponders End as well as Edmonton Green & Palmers Green (subject to discussion with the operating companies). The Panel also felt that consideration should be given to the inclusion of bus interchanges.

The following issues were raised in response to the update:

- (a) concern was expressed at the potential reduction being considered by the Home Office to Operation Trident, given the success achieved through the project and impact upon young people. Superintendent D'Orsi informed the Panel that no final decision had yet been made on this. Whilst recognising the success and benefits of the operation these would need to be considered and prioritised against other equally successful schemes as resources available to the police were reduced. In addition the Panel was reminded of a successful operation recently undertaken locally within the borough to tackle gun related crime, with more focus likely on this type of approach if Operation Trident were to be reduced.
- (b) the Panel supported the comprehensive nature of the planned consultation approach outlined at the meeting, although further details were sought on:
 - the type of areas to be covered under the focus on public spaces. As an example, Councillor Brett highlighted a specific issue relating to a section of land within Bowes ward owned by Thames Water on which problems of anti-social behaviour were being experienced. Rod Bennett advised that specific areas of public space to be targeted would be identified through the usual intelligence led tasking approach. Given the difficulty in establishing links between Thames Water and the local Safer Neighbourhood Police a request was made for this specific area to be highlighted through the SAFE tasking process. **Action: Rod Bennett (Community Safety);**
 - the proposals being developed to involve "hard to reach" groups within the local community. Mike Ahuja (Head of Corporate Scrutiny) outlined the approach taken during the last consultation process to engage with specific groups of young people, Muslim women, people with mental health issues and the Turkish community. Examples of activities undertaken included focus groups, breakfast meetings and a large scale event at Southgate College. A similar outreach approach was planned again this year with groups being targeted including people with Learning & Physical Difficulties. The key would be to engage these groups in a way and environment they found comfortable recognising that not all groups responded well to the more traditional methods of consultation such as a Face the Public session. Rod Bennett advised that he would welcome any additional suggestions and

CRIME & SAFETY SCRUTINY PANEL - 5.1.2011

links that members of the Panel may be able to provide to assist in reaching specific and more “hard to reach” sections of the community. Use had previously been made of the community press but this had not achieved any significant increase in the levels of engagement. Councillor Brett highlighted links to a website run for Turkish and Kurdish young people and the Eastern European community that it may be possible to use as a means of extending the engagement process along with clinics offering support to specific community groups and doctors surgeries. Councillor Cicek also highlighted ongoing work within the Turkish & Kurdish community, with which he was engaged, focussed around young people and gangs. **Action: Councillors Brett & Cicek to liaise with Mike Ahuja & Rod Bennett with on development of the potential links identified.**

- Plans being developed to increase the level of community engagement in the work of the SSCB. Rob Bennett reminded the Panel that this had been identified as one of the priorities under the strategic assessment. The range of activities being developed would however be dependent on the allocation of community safety grant funding by the Home Office. Links were already being developed with groups such as the Hate Crime Forum, Faith Forum, Safeguarding Adults and Children’s teams and Youth Area Forums as part of the process. In addition membership of the SSCB included a representative from Enfield Community Empowerment Network (ECEN) and the Board also offered a range of small grants to local community groups for specific crime and safety related projects.
- (c) details were sought on the way in which any under spend on the Metropolitan Police and Council budgets at the end of financial year would be dealt with. Mike Ahuja advised that the Council planned and closely monitored spend throughout the year with the aim of achieving a balanced budget. In the event that an under spend was identified, this would normally be taken back and held in a corporate reserve. In some cases a carry forward would be permitted but this would require specific project approval. Superintendent D’Orsi advised the police followed a similar approach in terms of the management of their budget.
- (d) support was expressed at the specific reference to the sex trade and workers within the priorities identified under the strategic assessment, in view of particular problems highlighted by residents at the meeting in the Bowes and New Southgate area.
- (e) A resident queried the varying level of engagement between ward councillors and local residents and ways in which this could be enhanced. The chairman, supported by other members of the Panel, felt there were already sufficient methods for local residents to communicate and raise issues with their ward councillors including the Area Forums and ward member surgeries. In addition many ward councillors had well established links with local Resident Association groups.

CRIME & SAFETY SCRUTINY PANEL - 5.1.2011

- (f) In response to a suggestion, Rod Bennett confirmed that details on the key outcomes achieved in relation to the priorities and activities identified from the previous years assessment process would be included, for information, as part of the questionnaire within the current consultation.
- (g) disappointment was expressed at the lack of any reference to hate crime within the draft SSCB priorities, although the inclusion of domestic violence was welcomed and strongly supported. Rod Bennett advised the Panel that although not identified as a draft priority, this would not prevent work to address issues around hate crime being undertaken or continued.

AGREED that the Panel note the draft priorities identified through the strategic assessment process and support the ongoing efforts being made to develop the consultation process, including the outreach work designed to engage with the more “hard to reach” communities across the borough.

639

SPECIFIC ITEMS TO BE REFERRED TO OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

NOTED that with the exception of the comments made by the Panel on the budget consultation proposals, no other issues were identified for referral onto Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

640

SPECIFIC ITEMS TO BE REFERRED TO CABINET

No issues were identified by the Panel for referral onto Cabinet.

641

MINUTES

NOTED the action sheet circulated with the minutes from the last meeting highlighting the main action points agreed and progress made against each of them. The action sheet had been requested by members of the Panel, at the last meeting.

AGREED that the minutes from the Panel meeting held on Tuesday 16 November 2010 be received and confirmed as a correct record.

642

CRIME & SAFETY SCRUTINY PANEL WORK PROGRAMME 2010/11 & DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

1.1 Panel Work Programme 2010/11

(a) Update on 2010/11 work programme

CRIME & SAFETY SCRUTINY PANEL - 5.1.2011

NOTED

1. The progress on the Panel's work programme for 2010/11.
2. The following issues highlighted in relation to the Panel's future work programme:
 - a. the suggested inclusion of a review on the impact of the illegal sex trade within the borough, including the associated health and well being issues. Superintendent D'Orsi informed the Panel of action being planned jointly between the police and community safety unit to address the issues highlighted within Bowes ward. A further meeting was planned later in January to look at additional options, with consideration also being given as to how best include local ward councillors. Mike Ahuja advised that in view of the concerns expressed on this issue, Corporate Scrutiny were in the process of gathering information to enable a review scope to be prepared. As this issue had now been included within the draft SSCB priorities, it was recommended that the matter be flagged for consideration as one of the Panels main reviews for 2011/12.
 - b. disappointed was expressed at the fact that despite a number of attempts by Corporate Scrutiny, it had not been possible to get the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) to engage with the Panel on its planned review around the case management of hate crimes. The efforts made by the Panel Support officer to establish contact with the CPS on this issue were recognised by the Panel and members expressed concern at the lack of response, which had led to the review being put on hold. Mike Ahuja advised the Panel that he would review what further action could be taken to establish the necessary level of contact within the CPS on this issue.
3. The update provided by Superintendent D'Orsi on a consultation currently being undertaken by the Metropolitan Police on the future delivery of Safer Neighbourhood Policing. As part of the process Superintendent D'Orsi advised:
 - a. that she was keen to seek views from members of the Panel, with the deadline for comments being Friday 21 January 2011;
 - b. the key focus of the consultation was on the approach towards the delivery of Safer Neighbourhood policing (if provided with a blank page from which to start). This could, for example, be by ward (as currently) or targeted around specific hotspots/geographic hubs e.g. town centres, transport interchanges, across borough boundaries etc.
 - c. initial comments highlighted at the meeting included:
 - the potential to extend use of the Community Help Point Scheme to support adults as well as young people;
 - the need to focus on the approach towards tackling anti social behaviour, particularly involving repeat victimisation. Superintendent D'Orsi, supported by Rod Bennett, highlighted what they felt to be the robust system already operating on a partnership basis within the borough towards tackling incidents of anti social behaviour;
 - support was expressed for the proactive nature of the safer neighbourhood policing team within Bowes ward;

CRIME & SAFETY SCRUTINY PANEL - 5.1.2011

- the need to consider how the interaction between the police and those people suffering with mental health issues (both as victims and offenders) could be improved. This was recognised as a challenging issue, although Superintendent D'Orsi advised that two officers within Enfield were already allocated to work with the mental health service on these issues.

AGREED that

- (1) the impact of the illegal sex trade within the borough, including the associated health and well being issues be flagged for consideration as one of the Panels main reviews for 2011/12, given its link to the draft SSCB priorities currently being consulted upon. **Action: Mike Ahuja**
- (2) the Head of Corporate Scrutiny review what further action could be taken to establish the necessary contact with the Crown Prosecution Service to enable the Panel's planned review on the case management of Hate Crimes to progress. **Action: Mike Ahuja**
- (3) Panel members be requested to submit any comments they may have on the consultation currently being undertaken by the Metropolitan Police on the delivery of Safer Neighbourhood Policing to Sue Payne (Panel Support Officer) for collation and forwarding on to the police. **Action: All Panel members & Sue Payne (Corporate Scrutiny)**

(b) Panel Working Groups: Update

NOTED the verbal updates provided at the meeting in relation to the following reviews being undertaken by Working Groups on behalf of the Panel:

1. Gangs, Young People and knife enabled crime Working Group – work on the review was progressing with links also being established to development of the Parent Engagement Panel.
2. Edmonton Green Area Review Working Group:
 - a. Janet Marshall (Edmonton Green CAPE) advised the Panel that the Working Group had undertaken a "walk through" of the area and identified a number of actions to improve the appearance and general tidiness of the area. These actions were now in the process of being undertaken;
 - b. a further "walk through" of the housing estates in the area had been arranged for the end of January 2011 with estate managers and representatives from the police;
 - c. a local resident (Sam Bell) took the opportunity to highlight problems being caused by the repeated dumping of rubbish at a location in Findon Road. Mike Ahuja advised he would follow this up outside of the meeting with the resident and officers concerned.
Action: Mike Ahuja
3. Safer Travel to Schools Working Group – work was continuing on the review with plans now being made to meet with representatives from local schools. The Panel was reminded that the aim was to link the

CRIME & SAFETY SCRUTINY PANEL - 5.1.2011

Panel review into activity being undertaken through an Executive lead review on the same issue.

1.2 Dates of Future meetings

NOTED the programme of dates for future meetings of the Panel during 2010/11 with all meetings to commence at 7:30pm:

Monday 7 March 2011

Wednesday 27 April 2011