

Crawley Borough Council



Minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Commission Monday 4 September 2017 at 7.30pm

Present:

Councillor B A Smith (Chair)
Councillor T G Belben (Vice-Chair)
Councillors M L Ayling, Dr H S Bloom, R G Burgess, C A Cheshire, I T Irvine, T Lunnon,
A Pendlington, T Rana and K Sudan

Also in Attendance:

Councillors M G Jones, P K Lamb and G Thomas

District Commander for Crawley and Mid-Sussex, Chief Inspector Ross

Apologies for Absence:

Councillors R A Lanzer and L Vitler

Officers Present:

Lindsay Adams Community Development Manager
Natalie Brahma-Pearl Chief Executive
Trish Emmans Community Safety Officer
Heather Girling Democratic Services Officer
Chris Harris Head of Community Services
Graham Rowe Partnership Services Manager

11. Members' Disclosure of Interests and Whipping Declarations

No disclosures of interests or whipping declarations were made.

12. Minutes and Matters Arising

The minutes of the meeting of the Commission held on 26 June 2017 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

13. Public Question Time

No questions from the public were asked.

14. Safer Crawley Partnership Annual Review 2016-17 and Priorities for 2017-18

The Commission received an update from Chief Inspector Ross, the Community Development Manager, the Community Safety Officer together with the Chair of the Safer Crawley Partnership on the annual performance report of the Community Safer Partnership along with the future priorities.

During the discussion, the following points were expressed:

- Recognition of the good partnership working within the council together with external partners.
- Acknowledgement of key achievements, including the CSE awareness training with hoteliers and increased flexible communication plus shared information which unlocks barriers.
- Successful joint working has been undertaken in relation to tackling the issue of street homelessness, begging and street drinking, resulting in better engagement and access to services.
- Recognition that reporting was key, particularly in relation to hate crime.
- Acceptance that further challenges still remained and priorities for 2017-2018 included serious and organised crime, street community and protecting vulnerable individuals.
- Confirmation that further Members' seminars would be programmed.

RESOLVED

That the Chair thanked the Community Development Manager and Community Safety Officer for their contribution. Particular thanks was made to Chief Inspector Ross for her attendance at the Commission. The presentation had been very interesting and informative.

15. Reduction, Reuse and Recycling of Plastic Bottles

The Commission considered report HPS/10. The report updated the Commission on the management and delivery of the reduction in use and recycling of plastic, marketing and plans for future service provision.

During the discussion Members made the following observations:

- Acknowledgement of the importance of the waste hierarchy, in particular waste reduction and re-use.
- Different recycling containers were being trialled in flats and it was understood that occasionally there was a compromise between the quality and quantity in recyclable materials received.
- Recognition that work was underway in delivering waste education for secondary schools.
- There was a suggestion that water fountains could promote the reduction in plastic bottles, however there was a perception that these would require regular maintenance.
- Proposal for separate bins to be provided at community events together with the suggestion for volunteers to assist in litter collection throughout the town.
- Support for further publicity in Crawley Live, noticeboards and website on waste minimisation, waste prevention and recycling issues.

16. Budget Strategy 2018/19 – 2022/23

The Commission considered report FIN/417 of the Head of Finance, Revenues and Benefits with the Leader of the Council. The report set out the projected financial position for 2018/19 to 2022/23 for the General Fund, Housing Revenue Account, capital programme and the underlying assumptions.

During the discussion, the following points were expressed:

- Acknowledgement that the local government finance system had become increasing complex.

- Recognition that there was a need to ensure an effective use of capital. There was an appreciation that additional capital bids would be for maintaining existing assets, for environmental obligations 'spend for save' bids or 'spend to earn' investment income.
- Acknowledgement that reserves would continue to be available for investment properties.
- Confirmation sought and obtained regarding the pay award. Pay was subject to negotiations and whilst a lift on the pay cap may be positive for recruitment there would be consequences for the base budget.
- The HRA 30 year plan was continually updated and reported to the Strategic Housing Board.

RESOLVED

That the Commission supported the recommendations to the Cabinet.

17. Health and Adult Social Care Select Committee (HASC)

An update was provided from the most recent HASC meeting. Key items of discussion included:

- Radiotherapy services in West Sussex – patient travel time to radiotherapy services was sometimes taking up to 90 minutes. There was a satellite radiotherapy unit at East Surrey hospital that meant patients from East Grinstead and Crawley did not have to travel to Guildford.
- Adult Social Care Grant – improved Better Care Fund (iBCF) – this fund would provide West Sussex with £25m extra over the next three years. However it was acknowledged that this was a small amount compared to what the system actually needed.
- Further information had been requested following the placing of Clinical Commissioning Groups into 'special measures' and its effects. Feedback would follow when available.
- The minutes of the HASC (web hyperlink) would be circulated to all OSC Members.

18. Forward Plan – October 2017 and Provisional List of Reports for the following meetings of the Commission

The Commission confirmed the following reports:

2 October 2017

- Amendments to the Allocations Policy
- Crawley Economic Growth Programme
- Community Infrastructure Levy – Governance, Allocation & Spend Proposals
- Town Centre Signage & Wayfinding
- Local Development Scheme – provisional referral.

27 November 2017

- Treasury Management Mid-Year Review 2017-2018
- District Heat Network
- Future Delivery of Crawley's Building Control Service
- Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Documents – provisional referral

19. Closure of Meeting

The meeting ended at 9.47pm.

B A Smith
Chair