

Cabinet
Wednesday 6 September 2023

Comments from the Overview and Scrutiny Commission
at its meeting on Monday 4 September 2023
OSC/313

1. Cabinet Agenda Item 8 – Review of the Community Warden Service and the Creation of Community Protection Team

Exempt Paragraphs 1 & 4 –
Information Relating to an Individual; and

Information relating to any consultations or negotiations, or contemplated consultations or negotiations, in connection with any labour relations matter arising between the authority or a Minister of the Crown and employees of, or office holders under the authority.

Comments and Recommendations

The Commission considered report HCS/064 of the Head of Community Services.

During the discussion with the Cabinet Member for Public Protection, the Head of Community Services and the Public Protection and Enforcement Manager, the following comments were made:

- Acknowledgement that following a review, it was determined that the current service model was, in parts, no longer fit for purpose and was not currently designed to meet the increased level of demand for more complex enforcement activity.
- Recognition that meaningful change was required, and the proposed revised Community Protection model sought to modernise the service in order to meet the identified demands. It would provide local residents with an enhanced enforcement response to anti-social behaviour, low level public-space crime and environmental crime.
- It was remarked that it would be beneficial to consider the future financial longevity of the service.
- Confirmation was sought and explanation provided on the financial aspects documented in the appendix, along with clarification on the service resources, which was confirmed were of a similar nature to those benchmarked.
- Clarity was also sought on the straying dogs service and its future provision.
- Recognition that it was paramount that any change needed to be clearly communicated to the public and this included reporting mechanisms, monitoring systems and analysis.
- General support for option 2, which was felt would deliver an improved service for the benefits of residents, stakeholders and the community. Given the importance of the service, it was moved by Councillor Ayling (seconded by Councillor Hellier) that the OSC receive an update on the newly formed Community Protection Team in approximately 18 months' time (subject to timescales and resources).

RESOLVED

That the Commission noted the report and requested that the views expressed during the debate, including the recommendation above, were fed back to the Cabinet through the Commission's Comment sheet.

Councillor Ayling
Chair, Overview and Scrutiny Commission
4 September 2023