

At a meeting of the COMMUNITY AND SAFER CITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE held in the CIVIC CENTRE on MONDAY, 15TH JUNE, 2009 AT 5.30 P.M.

Present:-

Councillor B. Heron in the Chair

Councillors Ball, Copeland, Paul Maddison, O'Connor, Scaplehorn, D. Smith, Timmins, Wake and J. Walton.

Also Present:-

Councillor R.D. Tate – Chairman of the Management Scrutiny Committee.

Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence submitted to the meeting.

Minutes of the last meeting of the Regeneration and Community Review Committee held on 22nd April, 2009

Councillor D. Smith enquired if the requested meeting between Gentoo and local Ward Councillors in relation to the Hahnemann Court development had taken place.

Councillor Copeland confirmed that the meeting had taken place and that Gentoo hoped to have residents moved into the new complex within six months. Residents that did not want to move into the complex could relocate to an available alternative within the City.

Councillor Copeland also advised that she hoped for a further meeting with Gentoo in relation to housing the residents closer together.

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting of the Regeneration and Community Review Committee held on 22nd April, 2009 (copy circulated) be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

Declarations of Interest (including Whipping Declarations)

There were no interests declared.

Response from Cabinet 3rd June, 2009 – Policy Review – Fear of Crime

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) to provide feedback from the Cabinet meeting held on 3rd June, 2009, which considered the Regeneration and Community Review Committee's policy report into fear of crime in the City.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Jim Diamond, Review Co-ordinator (Scrutiny), advised that Cabinet had approved all of the recommendations set out in the report and that the Committee would receive updates on the issue.

Councillor Copeland commented that there would always be an issue with fear of crime and that there were many programmes and recommendations that could hopefully be carried forward by the Committee.

2. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

Annual Work Programme and Policy Review 2009-2010

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) for Members to determine the Annual Work Programme for the Scrutiny Committee during 2009-10, including the main theme for a detailed policy review.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Mr Diamond presented the report and advised that there were many diverse issues that could be linked together for a more in depth study with the majority of the work taken up through policy review.

Councillor Copeland commented that a policy review on licensing would cut across a number of issues such as violent crime, alcohol and community cohesion.

The Chairman advised that the Committee would not be able to scrutinise licensing decisions that had been made but agreed that the policies could be looked at.

The Chairman suggested that the policy review focus on the Youth Justice Plan as the Committee could look at under-age drinking, licensing, anti-social behaviour and the LMAPs.

The Chairman also commented that the Police and Fire Authority perform a great deal of work behind the scenes with young people

Councillor Copeland commented on the work done by the Fire Authority in engaging with young offenders through the Phoenix Project and believed it was a fantastic project which needed to be publicised more.

Councillor J. Walton enquired if the Committee could summon outside bodies to attend a meeting.

Charlotte Burnham, Head of Scrutiny, advised of new legislation upon which outside bodies have a duty to attend meetings.

Councillor Paul Maddison enquired if the duty was to be reciprocated by the Council.

Ms. Burnham advised that in regards to the best interests of partnership working, a two way relationship was needed, something which the Regeneration and Community Review Committee had already established with a number of partners.

Councillor Scaplehorn commented that violent crime, LMAPs and the work of the Fire Authority were all connected and could be linked in with licensing.

Ms. Burnham advised that the Scrutiny Committee would have more emphasis on the policy review with consideration given on better ways for Members to receive single item reports for better use of their time.

The Chairman commented on the possible need for daytime meetings when dealing with certain outside bodies.

Councillor J. Walton commented that if possible the meetings be kept to evenings to allow for Members that work during the day.

The Chairman proposed that if such a circumstance occurred where a meeting needed to be held during the day, he would be happy for Members to submit any questions via a colleague.

The Chairman also informed the Committee of the request for a report on the issue of pubs using plastic glasses in the City, which was raised at the Annual Scrutiny Conference.

Councillor Copeland commented that she was most passionate to see alcohol free zones introduced and would like the issue to be looked at through the LMAPs.

The Chairman advised that the issue could be looked at and the Committee should be able to raise any questions at an appropriate time.

As Members had concurred that the Committee's policy review topic centre on Anti-Social Behaviour and alcohol, Mr Diamond advised that he would provide a more detailed work programme for the July meeting of the Committee.

Accordingly it was:-

3. RESOLVED that:-

- i) approval be given to 'Alcohol and Anti-Social Behaviour' as the Policy Review Topic for 2009/10; and
- ii) the report be received and noted.

(Signed) B. HERON,
Chairman.