

**At a meeting of the COMMUNITY AND SAFER CITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE held in the CIVIC CENTRE on TUESDAY, 20<sup>TH</sup> APRIL, 2010 at 5.30 p.m.**

**Present:-**

Councillor Heron in the Chair

Councillors O'Connor, Scaplehorn and Timmins

**Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were submitted to the meeting on behalf of Councillors Ball, Copeland, Paul Maddison, Morrissey, D. Smith and J. Walton.

**Minutes of the Last Meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> March, 2010**

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 9<sup>th</sup> March, 2010 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

**Declarations of Interest (including Whipping Declarations)**

There were no declarations of interest.

**Developing Confidence in the Criminal Justice System – Magistrates' Court**

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) to receive an update from Lisa Shotton, Legal Advisor, and John Scott, Chairman of the Houghton Bench with Sunderland Magistrates' Court, on the work of the Courts and measures being taken to develop confidence in the criminal justice system.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Ms. Shotton informed the Committee of a number of events the Magistrates attended, including the Policing Pledge road show, Witness Charter road show, Community Crime Fighters, Safer Sunderland Partnership Annual Forum and a number of resident meetings which had enabled Magistrates to move onto a higher level of community engagement.

Councillor Scaplehorn commented on the great improvements in the support he had received as a witness for the prosecution compared to previous experiences.

Ms. Shotton advised that a witness support system was now in place and had been well thought out to address people's concerns in relation to fears over repercussions etc, so now it was just about getting the message across to people.

The Chairman commented that in the past Police Officer community engagement had been poor, but now Officers were much more proactive and he was pleased to see the Magistrates following suit. The Chairman also hoped the good practice would continue.

Ms. Shotton advised that it was a long term initiative.

2. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

### **XL Youth Village – Update**

The Chief Executive submitted a report and Powerpoint presentation (copy circulated) for the Committee to receive an update from Andy Neal, Youth Development Group Manager, on the progress and achievements of the XL Youth Villages.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

The Chairman commented that after a recent visit to the youth villages he had been most impressed with the interaction between the Youth Workers and young people.

Councillor Timmins commented that he was delighted to see the Youth Development Group looking at the information and intelligence gathered from the events and that it would be interesting to establish why participation from youths seemed to decrease at age 17 and if the right age groups were being targeted.

Mr. Neal commented that it was a valid point that participation trailed off at around age 17 and that the younger children tended to be more involved. The Group were looking at targeting the 13-19 age range.

The Chairman encouraged Members to visit the villages.

Councillor Scaplehorn commented that he had visited three different youth villages and felt that they offered an excellent service.

In response to Councillor O'Connor's query, Mr. Neal advised that there was a good mix of cultures, especially at the Hendon location and whilst the participation numbers were low, the outcomes were the best.

The Chairman requested that Mr. Neal inform all Members of the Council of the locations of the youth villages to enable them to attend.

3. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

### **Performance Report Quarter 3 (April-December 2009)**

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) to provide the Committee with a performance update relating to the period April to December 2009. This quarter included:-

- Progress in the relation to the LAA targets and other national indicators;
- Progress in relation to the Fear of Crime Policy Review Recommendations;
- Results of the annual budget consultation which took place during October/ November 2009.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

The Chairman commented that some of the issues had been discussed under the Total Place programme, such as alcohol misuse and the effects this had on families and that he was pleased to see the Council had progressed a great deal in just one year.

4. RESOLVED that the Committee considered the continued good progress made by the Council and the Sunderland Partnership and those areas requiring further development to ensure that performance is actively managed.

### **Study into Anti Social Behaviour – Draft Final Report**

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) for the Committee to consider the draft final review into the action being taken by the Safer Sunderland Partnership (SSP) to tackle anti social behaviour and perceptions of anti social behaviour in the City.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Bill Blackett, ASB Strategy Manager, presented the report and advised that he would bring the results from the consultation carried out with young people on their views of anti social behaviour to a future meeting of the Committee.

The Chairman commented on the improvements made by the Sunderland Echo on highlighting the positive stories in the Echo, such as the XL Youth Villages.

5. RESOLVED that the key recommendations to the Cabinet include:-
  - i) that the comments and recommendations of the report be incorporated into the forthcoming SSP Anti Social Behaviour Strategy;
  - ii) the partnership consider the options for a more unified system of data capture, particularly across the housing sector, in order to improve the response of partners to ASB;

- iii) the partnership investigate how they might better identify potential victims of anti social behaviour;
- iv) the partnership review the enforcement measures available to partners and provide staff with guidance on the powers currently available for tackling ASB;
- v) the Council and its partners investigate options for improving the enforcement of environmental ASB and combat issues such as graffiti, litter and fly-tipping;
- vi) that partners investigate ways of expanding the operation of the Phoenix Project in order to help tackle areas experiencing higher levels of ASB fires;
- vii) that partners investigate the potential of expanding the operation of the XL Village concept throughout the City;
- viii) that partners investigate the potential of introducing improved security on houses and the potential of the youth work pilot operating working with young people;
- ix) that the Council and its partners consider the extension of the CCTV monitoring system subject to the availability of resources.

### **End of Year Report 2009/10**

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) seeking the views of Members on the operation and achievements of the Committee over the last year. The report, together with the comments of Members, would be submitted to the Management Scrutiny Committee on 29<sup>th</sup> April, 2010. The report would then be incorporated into an Annual Scrutiny Report which was being prepared for the service as a whole.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Councillor Timmins commented on the difficulties partners faced in information sharing due to different systems of recording and that a central database for all may be of benefit.

Jim Diamond, Scrutiny Officer, advised that he believed Mr. Blackett was investigating the matter further with partners.

The Chairman referred to the ongoing Polycarbonate Glass Scheme and commented that whilst we may never know how successful it had been, it was an important piece of work.

6. RESOLVED that:-

- i) Members considered the operation, achievements and impact of the Committee during 2009/10; and

- ii) the report, together with the comments of Members, be submitted to the Management Scrutiny Committee on 29<sup>th</sup> April, 2010 and incorporated into the Annual Scrutiny Report.

**Forward Plan – Key Decisions for the period 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2010 – 31<sup>st</sup> July, 2010**

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) to update Members on the position with regard to the Executive's Forward Plan for the period 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2010 to 31<sup>st</sup> July, 2010.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

- 7. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

**Work Programme 2009-10**

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) providing for Members' information the current Work Programme for the Committee's work during the 2009/10 Council year.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

- 8. RESOLVED that the information contained in the Work Programme be noted.

The Chairman wished to thank Officers for their hard work over the year and closed the meeting.

(Signed) R. HERON,  
Chairman.